

The Revelation of the Tribulation

What I Have Never Read in a Commentary!



By: Robert D. Hassenzahl

Hidden in Plain Sight

Revelation 21:22, *“And I saw no temple therein: for the **Lord God Almighty** and the **Lamb** are the temple of it.”* We know that **the Lamb is Jesus Christ** and if the Lamb is Jesus Christ, then the **Lord God Almighty must be the Father**. This is confirmed by the Apostle Paul in II Corinthians 6:18, *“And (I) will be a **father** to you...says the **Lord Almighty**”*. If the **Lord God Almighty is God the Father**, and He is, then the one speaking in Revelation 1:8, contrary to the red-letter edition and contrary to popular belief, must be **the Father**. *“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the **Almighty**.”* This is not speculation, it is not interpretation, it is simply reading the Bible and understanding what it says. Just this one hidden fact, immediately resolves at least seven confusing issues in Revelation. And when confusing issues start to be resolved it is good evidence that we are on the right trail. The Biblical evidence presented in chapter one of this book is overwhelming. Read it and study it!

Why is not the earth liberated when the 7th seal is opened? What is the interaction between the two scrolls? Do the Jews accept Christ when He comes? Would that not be salvation by sight? When do they then accept Him? Will the Lord suspend salvation in the Tribulation? God suspended Salvation, shut the door of the ark a week before it started to rain. Do the heavens open twice in the Tribulation, once in Rev 6:14 and once in 9:11? The 6th Seal is mentioned at least 6 times in the Bible. Can you identify where and what they teach us? In the parable in Matt 21: 33-46 the householder (God the Father) takes revenge on the husbandmen. Do you know when that is recorded in the book of Revelation? By the way, how can the 7 sealed scroll be the deed to the earth when the householder never sold the land? I could go on and on and it is all scriptural.

I hope you find this book a thoughtful and truthful look at the Word of God. I am an engineer by trade and a Baptist. So, I have tried diligently to be very logical and just let scripture speak for itself. I have taken a literal approach. Also, conservative Biblical doctrines are rigorously defended. To put some of your minds at ease let me say, I believe the next great prophetic event that will happen is the Rapture. Then a short time after that, the antichrist will sign the covenant with Israel which will start the seven years of Tribulation. At the end of the Tribulation, Christ will return to earth to defeat Satan and the antichrist and usher in the Millennium.

Enjoy and may the Lord bless your study,

Robert D. Hassenzahl

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All Biblical quotes are from the KJV unless otherwise noted. I have tried to capitalize all pronouns referring to the Lord.

Chapter I

The Key to Revelation is Hidden in Plain Sight.

(To the Bereans)

In Revelation we are introduced to two individuals of the Godhead by John in chapter 1, verses 4 and 5, “...*Grace be unto you, and peace, from **Him which is, and which was, and which is to come**; and from the seven Spirits which are before His throne; **And from Jesus Christ, Who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead.***” This salutation is very similar to that used by the Apostle Paul numerous times, “Grace and peace from God the Father **“and”** from the Lord Jesus Christ, two individuals. And the second individual, Jesus Christ is, as John said, “*the first begotten of the **dead.***” The first individual, the Father, has always lived and the second individual, Jesus Christ, was dead but now is alive.

Going on in chapter 1 verse 8 one of these two individuals, God the Father, or God the Son, speaks and says, “***I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.***” The question becomes, who is speaking, is it God the Father or God the Son? This is very important because He is mentioned about a dozen times in Revelation. So, understanding who He is and what He does, will not only help our perspective as we read and study Revelation, but will also improve our doctrine as well.

The first thing we see are the red letters which are used to show, in some Bibles, when Jesus Christ is speaking. But they are a device of man and not the Holy Spirit so we cannot use them as a deciding factor.

Secondly, Alpha and Omega, is a title for Christ as He states in 1:11, “...***I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last,***” so it must be Jesus Christ. **At least that is where the conclusion has been left historically.** However, it is also a title for God the Father as stated in Revelation 21:5-7, “*And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for **these words are true and faithful.** And he said unto me, It is done. **I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.** I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his **God**, and he shall be my **son.***” We are joint heirs with Jesus Christ and therefore “sons” to **God the Father** as II Corinthians 6:18 verifies when it says, “***And (I) will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters...***” So, **both the Father and the Son are Alpha and Omega.** So, we must investigate further.

Thirdly, is the Lord, “**who is, and who was, and who is to come.**” Can Christ make this claim? If it was, “which is existing, and which was existing, and which will be existing,” then Christ would be in contention because He has always existed. But John in Revelation 1:4-5 contrasted the Father as the one **which is, and which was, and which is to come** from Jesus Christ who is “*the first begotten of the dead.*” Also, Christ in 1:18 contrasts Himself from the Father with the same exact tenses but in terms of life and death, “***I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore,***” And Christ confirms in 2:8 that He was dead, “*These things saith the first and the last, who was dead, and is alive.*” If we go to the 4th chapter verse 8 for a minute, we find that the “**Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come,**” in verse 8, is also the one “**who liveth forever and ever,**” in verse 9 and for emphasis “**that liveth forever and ever,**” is repeated in verse 10. So, it is not a matter of just existing, it is a matter of living. This distinction is not contrived; it is Biblical and very important. And it is highly unlikely that the one having been dead is the one that liveth forever and ever. Let me repeat that; it is highly unlikely that the one who has been alive forever and ever, is the one that died, the concepts are mutually exclusive.

Fourthly, and the “coup de gras” is the “Almighty.” In Revelation 1:8, the one that is the Alpha and Omega, which is, and which was, and which is to come, is also the “**Almighty.**” Revelation 21:22 makes it clear that the “Almighty” is the Father, “*And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.*” We know that **the Lamb is Jesus Christ** and if the Lamb is Jesus Christ, then the **Lord God Almighty must be the Father**. The only other place in the New Testament outside of Revelation that this Greek word, pantokrato, translated “Almighty” is used, is in II Corinthians 6:18 where the Apostle Paul verifies the above when he says, “**And (I) will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.**”

Another **key** to understanding Revelation is to realize that the title “**God**” is established as “**God the Father**” by Revelation 1:1 when it says, “*The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God (God the Father) gave unto Him (Jesus Christ), to shew unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass; and He sent and signified it by His angel unto His servant John.*” This is validated by Revelation 1:6 when John says, “*And (Christ) hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father; to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*” And if that is not convincing enough, look at Revelation 3:12 where Jesus Christ says, “*Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go no more out:*

*and I will write upon him the name of **My God**, and the name of the city of **My God**, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from **My God**: and I will write upon him My new name.*” So, the title **God** is firmly established as **God the Father** by these three verses, at the beginning of Revelation and therefore, if it is used in any other way, its definition must be reestablished first. And I have not found any place in the first 21 chapters of Revelation where its definition is reestablished and therefore where **God** means anyone other than **God the Father**. So, the “Lord **God** Almighty” in both Revelation 4:8 and 21:22 is definitely the Father. (This does not mean that John did not think Jesus Christ was not God. He had already said in John 1:1, *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word (Jesus Christ) was God.”* It is just how he is going to use the term “God” in the book of Revelation.)

And there is a doctrinal issue besides. I either have to accept who the Holy Spirit says the Almighty is, or deny the Doctrine of the Substitutional, Sacrificial Death of Jesus Christ. As already stated, in chapter 4 the Almighty is not just the one *“Who was and Who is and Who is to come,”* but He is also the One that *“liveth forever and ever,”* the One eternally alive. But Jesus Christ died in my place and for my sins. **He has existed eternally, but He has not lived eternally.** Death simply means separation. For three days and three nights He experienced physical death, He was separated from His body as it lay in the tomb. He experienced spiritual death as well. For three days and three nights He was separated from His Father. *“My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken Me?”* He cried from the cross just before He died, Mark 15:34. He was dead! Separated from life. Separated from His Father, the source of life! Spiritually dead! The depth of which I do not think I will ever be able to comprehend, as He suffered my punishment in hell. He took my vile sins upon Himself and died, a physical death and a spiritual death, in my place for those vile sins. So that I might live with Him and with the Father eternally! He died for you also. He died for all mankind! Our sin, a sin that was totally contrary to His holy character, violated His being and He gave up His eternal life, a life totally unified with His Father, to pay our sin debt.

Even though “pantokrato” is Greek and not Hebrew, let me take the time to see who the Old Testament says the Almighty is. I would like to look at a Messianic Psalm. At least Satan recognized it as one. In Luke 4:9-11 it says, *“And he (Satan) brought Him to Jerusalem, and set Him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto Him, If Thou be the Son of God, cast Thyself down from hence: For it is written, He (God the Father) shall give His angels charge over Thee, to keep Thee: And in their hands they shall bear Thee up, lest at any time Thou dash Thy foot against a stone.”* This is a slight misquote from Psalms 91:11-

12 in that it is a really a prepositional phrase, ***“For He (God the Father) shall give His angels charge over Thee (Jesus Christ), to keep Thee in all Thy ways. They shall bear Thee up in their hands, lest thou dash Thy foot against a stone.”*** So, we must find the subject of this preposition, which is verse 10, ***“There shall no evil befall Thee, neither shall any plague come nigh Thy dwelling.”*** His Father promised Him that He, Jesus Christ, would never be hurt or sick. Why? Verse 9 tells us, ***“Because Thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the Most High, Thy habitation.”*** The LORD, Jehovah (The Triune God) is the writer’s refuge but the Most High (God the Father) within the Triune God is the habitation of Jesus Christ (God the Son). Now let’s look at the most misappropriated verse in this Messianic Psalm, verse one, ***“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.”*** We as Christians like to make this verse ours, but can you tell me where the secret place of the Most High is? I cannot. I doubt that the angels can. It is a secret place. It is where the Trinity dwells. Jesus Christ knows it well. He not only “dwells” in the secret place of the Most High but He also “abides,” His “habitation” is, “under the shadow of the Almighty,” God the Father.

The evidence is overwhelming. The words of Revelation 1:8, ***“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.”*** are spoken by **God the Father**. **This is not speculation; it is not interpretation; it is simply reading the Bible and understanding exactly what it says, including how it relates even to Doctrinal issues.** Many of you **will not take the time to listen to the Bible** when it says something you do not believe. I pray that you will be like the noble Bereans who **received the word** with all readiness of mind and **sought the scriptures daily**, whether those things were so.

This one **who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty, the one who liveth forever and ever**, is mentioned about a dozen times in Revelation, so understanding who He is and what His functions are, will not only change our perspective as we read and study Revelation, but will also improve our doctrine as well.

By now many of you will be thinking that I am messing with the Trinity and the deity of Jesus Christ. No, I am not! Jesus Christ is God! He has always existed and always will exist! And only a **holy, righteous, infinite God, existing outside of time** could pay for my sin and your sin and rise from the dead in three days and three nights. I have just pointed out who the Bible says the “Almighty” is. The historical definition of the Trinity prevents many of you from accepting that the “Almighty” is and only is, God the Father.

Augustine formulated the current accepted definition of the Trinity stressing the oneness of the Godhead. This definition works well in the Old Testament where Jehovah declares, *"I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside me..."* Isaiah 45:5. Well, we know that there are three Gods in the godhead, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. That means that Jehovah must be the triune God. He speaks as one although a plurality is suggested. A common name He uses is the LORD God, Jehovah Elohim. Jehovah is singular but Elohim is plural. And we also know that the world was created by Elohim. But the oneness of God has been ingrained within us. So much so that when the angel Gabriel tells Mary that she will have a Son and He shall be called the **"Son of the Highest,"** Luke 1:32, it does not even register in our consciousness that he just introduced a hierarchy in the Godhead. A father and a son, a hierarchy, but also a hierarchy in which the Father is the **"Highest."** Gabriel knows that there is just one God and therefore he would never imply that God the Father is just the highest of many gods. When he mentioned the **Highest,** he was making a distinction **within the Godhead.** Jesus Christ no less makes the same distinction in Luke 6:35. He said, *"But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the **children (not brethren but children) of the Highest.**"* The great Apostle Paul said that we would not only be children of the Father but made it clear that the Father was the **"Almighty."** II Corinthians 6:18, *"And (I) will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord **Almighty.**"* The Apostle John also agrees that the Father and only the Father, the One Who liveth forever and ever, is the Almighty. Rev 4:8-10, *"...Holy, holy, holy, Lord God **Almighty,** which was, and is, and is to come...**who liveth for ever and ever...that liveth for ever and ever.**"* And only the Father has lived, not just existed, but lived forever and ever, unless you want to deny the Doctrine of the Substitutional, Sacrificial Death of Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul gave further evidence that there is a hierarchy in the Godhead but also gave the reason for it. He said in I Corinthians 15:24- 28, *"Then cometh the end, when He shall have delivered up the kingdom to **God, even the Father;** when He shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign, till He hath put all enemies under His feet...But when He saith all things are put under Him, it is manifest that **He** (God the Father) **is excepted,** which did put all things under Him. And when all things shall be subdued unto Him, **then shall the Son also Himself be subject unto Him (God the Father) that put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.**"* First, God the Father puts all things under Christ, except Himself. Then Jesus Christ subjects Himself to the Father. And the reason for it all is **"that God may be all in all."** What a wonderful purpose!

Shame on you if you do not accept what the Bible says. Shame on you if you do not search the scriptures to see if these things are true. I could go on but for a more detailed discussion of the Godhead and the hierarchy within it please refer to the Appendix of this book. Meanwhile let us continue in Revelation.

I believe this new insight is strong evidence that these days are the last days. But many of you **will not take the time to listen to the Bible when it says something you do not believe**. I pray that you will be like the noble Bereans who **received the word** with all readiness of mind and **searched the scriptures daily**, whether those things were so.

In another doctrinal issue, one commentator concluded that Revelation 21:22, *“And I saw no temple therein: for the **Lord God Almighty and the Lamb** are the temple of it,”* represents the God/man. (The God/man is Jesus Christ who is perfect God and perfect Man.) He concluded that the Lord God Almighty is the divine part of this person, and the Lamb is the human part of this person, since the Lamb had to be human, to die a human death to pay for human sin. Logical? Sounds like it! But this interpretation has a few flaws.

1. It is concluded therefore that the Lord God Almighty is the Son, which conflicts with the Apostle Paul who says that the Father is the Almighty, in II Corinthians 6:18 as quoted previously.
2. If the Lord God Almighty is the Son, then what role does the Father have in eternity? Where is the Father in the eternity? Do we just worship the Son?

The next two are the same fatal mistakes that the Jehovah Witnesses make.

3. The lamb, if only a man, no matter how perfect he was, would still be only a man and therefore could only pay for the sins of one other man. **And since death is forever, he would still be in the grave** paying for the sins of that one man.
4. **The Lamb** had to be human to die a human death for human sin, but He also **had to be infinite God, to pay for all of our sins, especially in three days and three nights and then rise again.**

This is another example that shows how doctrines can go wrong when we do not carefully follow what the Bible says.

Understanding who **“the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty, Who liveth forever and ever”** really is, clears up eight confusing issues immediately.

1. I have always kind of felt that the voice in Revelation 1:11 was from a different person than the voice in 1:8, because of the rather strange way it is introduced, "...I heard **behind me** a great voice..." Now it is clear that they are different voices.
2. Jesus Christ introduces us to the Father's throne as the preeminent throne in heaven in Revelation 3:20-21, *"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne."* But then, John sees Christ's throne first as he steps into heaven? At least, that is what the historical interpretation has had us to believe. Now, we understand that He really sees the Father's throne in chapter 4 of Revelation, the one Jesus Christ had just introduced as the preeminent throne at the end of chapter three, just three verses earlier.
3. If Jesus Christ were sitting on the throne in Chapter 4, as the current popular thought would have us believe. According to Revelation 4:9 He would be the one that "liveth forever and ever." How could the one who is eternally alive, who liveth forever and ever, have ever been dead? These two concepts are mutually exclusive. Now we know it is the Father who is sitting on the throne in chapter 4 as well as chapter 5.
4. If Jesus Christ is sitting on the throne in chapter 4 then verse 8 says that He is the Lord God Almighty whereas the Apostle Paul says the Almighty is the Father in II Corinthians 6:18. Also, the Apostle John makes it clear that the Father is the Almighty in Revelation 21:22. So, there would be conflicts in scripture. But now we see there is not a conflict in scripture.
5. The statement in Revelation 4:5 says, *"And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and **there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God,**"* would seem to indicate that this was the Father's throne, since *Revelation 1:4 had said, "John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;"* referring to the Father's throne. Now we see it actually is the Father's throne also in chapter 4.
6. There is absolutely, absolutely no transition in the narrative between chapter 4 and chapter 5. In the historical understanding there is no clue that the one on the throne has changed from the Son to the Father until verse 6. Now we can see that there is no transition in the narrative because the Father, the Lord God Almighty,

who was, and is, and is to come...who liveth forever and ever, is the one sitting on the throne in chapter 4 as well as chapter 5.

7. Revelation 15:3 says, "*And **they** sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the **Lamb**, saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God **Almighty**; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.*" If Jesus Christ was the Almighty as previously thought then the Lamb would be singing, "great and marvelous are **my** works" and of course Moses could not be singing that, and neither could "**they**."
8. Finally, in Revelation 19:6, "*And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and **like the voice of many waters**, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God **Omnipotent** reigneth.*" Revelation 1:15 tells us that the voice "***like the sound of many waters**,*" is the voice of Jesus Christ, and so Christ is giving praise here also. And since the term "Omnipotent" is the Greek term that is translated as "Almighty" everywhere else in Revelation, Christ would again be praising Himself in terms of a third party which does not make sense.

We can see that a proper understanding of Revelation 1:8 clears up a number of confusing passages in Revelation. **And when confusing issues start to be resolved it is good evidence that we are on the right trail.** It is the Father's throne, the Lord God Almighty's throne, Who was, Who is, and Who is to come, Who liveth forever and ever, that we see in chapter 4 and throughout Revelation contrary to popular belief. As you read thru the book of Revelation take note of the **Fathers throne**, from chapter 4 to chapter 21, and the dozen or so appearances of the one **Who was, Who is, and Who is to come, and/or the Almighty, and/or Who liveth forever and ever.** It will greatly enhance your understanding of Revelation.

It also gives us a better balance between the Father and the Son. Without this understanding we tend to think that Revelation is all about Jesus Christ and miss the Father's roll, the Father's function. Jesus Christ, Himself in John 4:23 and 24 said, "*But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the **Father seeketh such to worship him.** God is a Spirit: **and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.***" So, it is very important for us to know the truth and understand the related doctrines.

Personal Application:

Now each of us have a personal application that we should address, and it is this; are we going to believe God's Word or what man says? Not only have we now seen, who the Bible, says spoke the words in Revelation 1: 8, "***I am Alpha and Omega,***

*the beginning and the ending, saith **the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.***” But we have also seen eight confusing issues in Revelation that this understanding resolves. And there are more. Are we going to believe the Lord or fear man’s response? I am nothing more than a witness to what the Word of God says. May we be like the Samaritans who invited Jesus to stay a couple days to find out for themselves what Jesus said. May we be like the Bereans who received the Word with all readiness of mind and searched the scriptures daily to see if those things were so. May we not be like the Pharisees who “loved the praise of man rather than the praise of God.” **May we not turn the Holy Spirit off!**

Please let me reiterate a very important point before we go on. Let me say right now, when Christ died, He did not cease to exist. Death simply means separation. When we die physically, we are separated from our bodies. We do not cease to exist. Christ died a physical death; He was separated from His body. When we die spiritually, we are separated from the LORD. We do not cease to exist. We know Jesus Christ also died spiritually, was separated from His Father, because He cried out, “My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken Me?” in Matthew 27:46. He suffered the spiritual death we all deserve. He did not cease to exist, He did not cease to be God, He was just separated from His Father, suffering for us the just punishment of our sin. That should not be taken lightly. It was a very very significant event for the Godhead that I do not believe any of us can really comprehend at all. In three days and three nights He suffered an eternity in hell for each of us. He is **alive for evermore**, but He has **not lived forever and ever**.

Now many of you might still be thinking, but they are giving praise to the creator in Revelation 4:11, “...for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.” And John 1:1-3 says, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God**. The same was in the beginning with God. **All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.**” We know this is Jesus Christ that John is talking about and so Jesus Christ is the creator. But Genesis 1:1 says, “In the beginning **God** created the heaven and the earth.” And we know that God is “Elohim” the plural Hebrew word for God. So, more than one of the Godhead is present. We know from Genesis 1:3 that the Holy Spirit was there, “And the **Spirit of God** moved upon the face of the waters.” So, Christ and the Holy Spirit were creating but is there any evidence that the Father was also involved and could be the creator? We have already seen in Hebrews 1:2 that the Father was involved when it said, “Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, **by Whom also He made the worlds.**” In other words, by Christ, God the Father made the worlds. But

someone may want to argue because the Greek word “worlds” means “age” or “indefinite time.” I would remind you that the first thing that God created was time. Genesis 1:1 starts with, “In the beginning.” The beginning of what? The beginning of time. The Lord is eternal, He has always been. He created time and can be in time but He is eternal and outside of time. Now is there any other evidence that the Father was also the creator? Yes there is, Paul says in Ephesians 3:9, *“And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in **God, who created all things by Jesus Christ.**”* So, in Hebrews, and also here in Ephesians we see that God the Father was involved in creation. In fact, both places indicate that the Father created **by** Jesus Christ. And finally, Revelation 3:14 says, *“And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, **the beginning of the creation of God.**”* The Greek word translated as “beginning” means “source.” So again, God started His creation **by** Jesus Christ.

So, to get back to the question of whether the Father was involved in creation, yes He was. In fact, He created by Jesus Christ. It appears that Jesus Christ spoke the worlds into existence for God the Father. No, I do not think that God the Father lacked the capability to do it himself, I just believe He chose to have Jesus Christ do it.

Personal application:

Christ is not the Father, but He accomplished something for us that only He could accomplish. John 3:16 says, *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”* God gave His only begotten Son. But it was His Son, Jesus Christ, who became a human, to die a human death for human sin. *“But we see Jesus, Who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man,”* Hebrews 2:10. That was not an easy thing. Our vile, putrid sin violated His holy righteous character. It must have been emotionally excruciating as that sin was placed on Him and He prayed, *“O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me.”* But there was no other way. Jesus Christ had to take upon Himself our vile sin and die in our place in order to save us, so He added, *“nevertheless, **not as I will, but as Thou wilt.**”* Matthew 26:39. Now He, *“Who, being **the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high,**”* Hebrews 1:3. He now sits at the right hand of the Father and offers a pardon for our sin, but we have to accept that pardon. Romans 10: 9-10, *“That if thou*

*shalt **confess** with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt **believe** in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be **saved**... **For with the mouth confession is made unto salvation** and with the heart man believeth unto righteousness.” Will you accept Jesus Christ today who offers that pardon to purge your sins?*

At the same time something else very important will happen. The above verse ends with the phrase, “...and with the heart man **believeth unto righteousness**.” What does that mean? Well, Romans 4:3 says, “Abraham **believed** God, and it was counted unto him for **righteousness**.” When we put our faith in Jesus Christ, God the Father not only forgives us of our sin, but also imputes Christ’s righteousness to us, “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him,” II Corinthians 5:21. Christ had a righteous faith in His Father. Christ said, “...I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things...I do always those things that please Him,” John 8:28-29. And of course, “Nevertheless, not My will, but Thine be done,” Luke 22:42. These actions demonstrate the faith **of** Jesus Christ in His Father. We are saved, forgiven for our sins, by faith **in** Jesus Christ, but we also at the same time receive the righteousness **of** Christ. Gal 2:20, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith **of** the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” This is not just a theoretical faith but a demonstrated faith, a tested faith. Aren’t you glad there is a hierarchy in the Godhead where faith could be verified and demonstrated for us. Forgiven for our sins! But also, no longer dependent upon our own righteous but possessing the righteousness of Jesus Christ! What a salvation! Accept Christ today!

Chapter II

God the Father's Role in the Judgements

Isaiah 53:6 says, “...the **Lord** hath laid on **him** the iniquity of us all.” And verse 11 of that chapter says, “**He** shall see of the travail of **his** soul, and shall be satisfied” Who is the **Lord** and who is the **He** that shall be satisfied? He is God the Father. Who is **Him** and **His**? This is the Son of God, Jesus Christ. We see in Isaiah, written 700 years before Christ, that our works, our sin, have been placed on Jesus Christ and He has satisfied the justice of God the Father, **who is the Judge**. If someone does not accept the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for their sin then they must answer for themselves before the Judge, the Father. We quote, I John 2:1 with great joy, “*My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an **advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.***” Why do we have an advocate with The Father? Because The Father is the judge and we need an advocate, a lawyer. Hebrews 12:23 emphasizes the fact that God the Father is the Judge of all by capitalizing the term Judge, and also tells us that Jesus Christ is our mediator, our lawyer, “...and to **God** (the Father), **the Judge of all**, ... and to Jesus ,*the mediator of the new covenant,*...” That new covenant was purchased with Christ's blood and when He mediates our guilt, it is on the basis that He has died for us and paid sins debt already. Revelation 3:5 says, “*He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before My Father, and before his angels.*” Why will He confess our name before His Father? Because Christ is our advocate, our lawyer, our mediator, if we have overcome our disbelief. However, if someone has not put their faith in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and thereby made Him their lawyer then they will face the Judge alone. They will be judged for their own sin before The Father. This comports well with I Peter 1:17 when it says, “*But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. And if ye call on **the Father, who** without respect of persons **judgeth according to every man's work**, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear.*” We see here The Father judging according to a man's work. Is that not what we have known from Isaiah 53 all along?

But did not Christ say in John 5:22-23, “**For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath**

sent him.” How does this fit in? This statement of judgement is in regard to salvation since just a verse earlier, John 5:21 says, *“For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.”* This role of Christ is reiterated by Luke in Acts 10:42 when he said, *“it is He (Christ) which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick (living) and dead.”* In both of these passages the judgement is in regard to **salvation**. **Jesus Christ judges our faith. God the Father judges our works.** As a further testimony to this Jesus Christ said in Revelation 3:5, *“He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name* (mediate his name) *before my Father, and before his angels.”* And what is this book of life? Revelation 13:8. *“And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him (the beast), whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”* If a person does not have faith in Jesus Christ, it is Jesus Christ, the Lamb, that blots his name out of the **book of life**. Jesus Christ judges our **faith**.

Now turn back to Rev 15:7 and you will see that the Bowl (Vial) judgements were *“full of the wrath of God, Who liveth forever and ever.”* The Bowl judgements are from God the Father. It is as plain as day. God the Father is credited again for the 3rd Bowl, *“And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because Thou hast judged thus. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and Thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy. And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Thy judgments,”* Revelation 16:4-7.

This should not surprise us too much. God the Father’s wrath is introduced in the 7th Trumpet, in the middle of the Tribulation, in Revelation 11: 17-18 when the twenty-four elders declare, *“We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because Thou hast taken to Thee thy great power, and hast reigned. And the nations were angry, and Thy wrath is come.”* This is the Father’s wrath, the Lord God **Almighty’s** wrath, and is not the wrath of the Lamb which is seen in the 6th Seal. Chapter 15 actually starts by mentioning the wrath of God, *“And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.”* We know this is the Father because in verse 3 they sing the song that the **Lamb** sings saying, *“Great and marvellous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints. Who shall not fear Thee, O Lord, and glorify Thy name? for Thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before Thee; for Thy judgments are made manifest.”* The Lamb is not singing to himself. He is declaring that

these Bowl judgements are the Father's judgements. Also, in Revelation 19:15 we see Jesus treading the winepress of the wrath of God the Father, *"He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and **wrath of Almighty God**".* Remember the parable of the vineyard owner, Luke 20:9-18, who leased it to tenants for a while. But when he sent servants to receive the payment each year the tenants beat the servants. So, finally he sent his son, but they killed his son. What did Christ say the owner would do? *"He shall come and destroy those tenants."* So, never think that it is just Jesus Christ who will seek revenge. The Father, the owner, the owner of this creation will also.

Revelation 14:14-20 gives us a picture of Christ reaping, first the saved of the earth and then the unsaved of the earth. I know that you may think that is a pretty strong statement, but stick with me and let me show you the scriptural proof. Revelation 14:14-16, *"And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud One sat like unto **the Son of man**, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in Thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for Thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And He that sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped."* In 14:14 we see one *"like the Son of man."* (By the way, we sometimes are a little confused in Revelation when the term, *"like the Son of Man"* is used, as here, and also in verse 13 of chapter 1. This is not a metaphor. John recognized Jesus Christ from the three years of His earthly ministry, but now He is different. He is like the Son of Man that he knew but He is now in His glorified state. So, when John says "like," do not think that he has any questions about who it is or that he sees someone who is similar to Christ in some way. No, it is just the glorified Christ that he sees.) Jesus Christ thrust in His sickle and the earth was reaped for the harvest of the earth was ripe. This is the harvest of the saved of the earth. It should not surprise us that Christ reaps the harvest of the saved, since Jesus Christ paid for our ransom, it is His right to reap the saved of the earth, *For the Father ... hath committed all judgment unto the Son.* Jesus Christ is also presented in verse 17 as what we might call the death angel. Another thing we ought to remember is that Revelation, by definition, is "the revelation of Jesus Christ," and therefore we should not be surprised when He shows up in one of the roles He assumed in the Old Testament. This angel was seen back in Isaiah 37:36, *"Then **the angel of the LORD** went forth, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses."* It can be shown that anytime the Old Testament says, *"**the angel of the LORD**"* it is referring to Jesus Christ. Again, Jesus Christ paid for our ransom so He has every right, and the only one with the

right (beside the Father), to slay unbelievers as well, and exercised that right on the Assyrians that night. Now here in Revelation we see Jesus Christ as the death angel coming out of the temple in heaven with a sharp sickle to reap, this time, the unsaved of the earth. Revelation 14:17-20, *"And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into **the great winepress of the wrath of God**. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs."* When He gathers the vine of the earth what does He do with them? He **"cast them into the great winepress of the wrath of God,"** which we know from Revelation 19:15 already quoted is *"the wine press of the fierceness and **wrath of Almighty God**."* So, Christ makes the judgement and cast them into the Father's winepress.

Jesus Christ makes the determination of who it is that has not accepted Him, and it is He who then turns them over to the Father's wrath. **Be careful, I did not say that Jesus Christ determines who to save and who not to save. A righteous God would not do that.** (A god would not be righteous that created a being that he could toy with and then cast into an eternal hell at his whim.) **I just said that Christ makes the judgement of who has accepted Him and who has not. It is our choice whether to accept His sacrifice for us or not.** He just reaps those who have not accepted Him as their savior and casts them into the father's winepress.

Revelation 1:18 says that Jesus has the key of hell and death, *"I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of **death**."* And does that not make sense? Jesus Christ paid for our salvation and so He has the keys of hell and death. Finally, in Revelation 3:5 as quoted before He says, *"He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; **and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess** his name before My Father, and before His angels."* Again, He makes the determination who has overcome (their disbelief) and therefore who not to blot out of the book of life. He will confess the names of the overcomers before His Father.

So, Revelation is consistent with John 5:22. All judgement relative to the quick and the dead, the saved and the unsaved, all judgement relative to **faith**, has been committed

unto the Son. He reaps both the saved and the unsaved. But that does not mean that The Father's wrath and judgement are not also seen. The winepress is "*the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God*" and the Bowl judgements are "*full of the wrath of God, Who liveth forever and ever.*" And does that not make a lot of sense? Would not God the Father who created us thru His Son, Jesus Christ, want some personal retribution on those who refused the precious blood of His Son that was shed for them? "***Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will repay, saith the Lord...It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.***" Hebrews 10:30-31.

Oh, by the way, some of you will have problems identifying the angel with the sickle in Revelation 14:17 as being Jesus Christ. That is ok. Even if Christ only reaps the saved of the earth, He still determines who has put their faith in Him, and therefore, who has not.

Now let us look at the Great White throne judgement. Revelation 20:11-15, "*And I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it, from Whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the **dead**, small and great, **stand before God**; and **the books were opened**: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the **dead** were judged out of those things which were written in the books, **according to their works**. And the sea gave up the **dead** which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the **dead** which were in them: and they were judged every man **according to their works**. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*"

I have always felt that the one sitting on the great white throne was God the Father. First of all, they "stand before **God**," which the first verse of Revelation as noted before establishes Him as God the Father. Secondly, it is the "**dead**" that are standing here. Thirdly, the scene in Daniel 7:9-10 also collaborates this, "*I beheld till the thrones were cast down (placed), and the **Ancient of Days** did sit, Whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head like the pure wool: His throne was like the fiery flame, and His wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him: a thousand thousands ministered unto Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him: the judgment was set, and **the books were opened**.*" We know the Ancient of Days is God the Father because in verse 13 and 14 of this chapter Jesus Christ is brought before Him, "*I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like **the Son of man** (Jesus Christ referred to Himself as the Son of man numerous times during His ministry) **came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him And there was given Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and***

languages, should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.” In both Daniel 7 and Revelation 20 we see that **“the books are opened”** and Revelation adds that the dead (dead in their trespasses and sins) are judged out of those things which were written in the books according to their works. This is what Peter said in I Peter 1:17, **“...the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work,...”** But there is another book opened in Revelation 20, **“and another book was opened, which is the book of life...And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”** What is this book of life? Revelation 13:8 tells us, **“And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him (the beast or antichrist) whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”** This book of life is the Lamb’s book of life. Not the Father’s but the Lamb’s. Jesus Christ said in Revelation 3:5, **“He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels.”**

So, Jesus Christ has a book and those not found in His book is cast into the lake of fire but not before the Father first judges them according to their works. Again, we see the Father judges according to their works but Jesus Christ, judges according to their faith.

Personal application:

Who paid for our sins? Jesus Christ of course. Whose justice did He satisfy? God the Father’s. Isaiah 53:4-6 says **“Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”** Verses 10-11 continue, **“Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He hath put Him to grief: when thou shalt make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand. He (God the Father) shall see of the travail of His (God the Sons) soul, and shall be satisfied:”** It was God the Father that put the sins of the world on Jesus Christ and judged them. Do you not think that He will judge your sin if you reject the One who has **already suffered the just penalty for your sins**. The book of Hebrews, chapter 10 and verses 28-31 says, **“He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the**

Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will repay, saith the Lord. ...It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

Jesus Christ has **already** suffered **your** punishment in hell. **You** have been sanctified, set apart for God's blessing and salvation. When Christ died, the Lord wrote **your** name in the book of life, the book of pardons, and all **you** have to do is to accept **your** pardon.

No wonder this world, that has rejected Jesus Christ, will someday experience the wrath of Almighty God. No wonder the Father will be very angry and full of vengeance against those who have rejected all that his Son has done for them. How about you? How do you want to meet Almighty God? Do you want to meet Him in condemnation or salvation? Jesus Christ said in Revelation 3:5, *"He that overcometh (unbelief), the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels."* **It is your choice.**

John 3:16-17 says, *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, **that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.** For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved."* Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God came into the world and became a man so that He could die a human death for human sin. To die the death, we all deserved. And all we have to do is believe, have faith, in Him. However, John 3:18-20, continues, *"He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but **he that believeth not is condemned already,** because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.* Will you believe today? You hold your future in your hand!

Now I would like to correct an idea that I have heard numerous times from preachers, especially recently. I have heard preachers say something to the effect that if you do not make Jesus Christ your savior then He will be your judge. This is wrong scripturally and judicially. Judicially, if you do not make a lawyer, your lawyer, he does not become your judge. This would be a perversion of justice. Scripturally, the sinner if he has never put his faith and trust in Jesus Christ and therefore not made Christ his lawyer, his mediator; he stands before the Father at the Great White Throne judgement alone without a lawyer and answers for his sinful deeds for himself. The sinful deeds that the Judge's only begotten Son had already paid for, but he has rejected. However, we as believers will never stand before Christ and answer for our sins.

Someone may ask, “What then is the judgement seat of Christ all about?” The judgement seat of Christ mentioned in Romans 14:10 is where the works of Christians are judged and rewards are given as outlined in I Corinthians 3:9-15 for the Spirit filled works Christians have done while here on earth.

Chapter III

Questions That Lead to a Surprising Answer

I would first of all, like to challenge your idea of the grander of the Lord a little. Consider the word pictures, the Lord is painting for us in the following scriptures. Isaiah 40:12 says, *“Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?”* Revelation 20:11 says, *“And I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it, **from whose face** the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.”* No wonder Solomon said, *“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain Thee; how much less this house that I have built?”* I Kings 8:17. Now with that vision of God in your mind lets look at some verses of the end times.

By the way, what does, *“**from whose face**”* indicate?

Are they in His presence?

Is His face visible to them?

Now what can we gleam about the end times from Matthew 26:64? *“Jesus saith unto him, ...Hereafter **shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of Power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.**”* (Mark 14:62. *“And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of Power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.”*)

Who did He say this to (see context)?

Is there an order of events?

What is the order?

Did you notice that it says, “ye shall see?”

Who will they see? Who else?

Will they finally understand that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of Man?
Why at this time?

Isn't it interesting that the proof, the evidence, that Christ will give someday to these unbelievers to make them realize who He is, is not His virgin birth, nor His doctrine, nor His miracles, nor His crucifixion, nor His resurrection, nor His ascension, nor even His judgements although they will have all of

these? He said they will understand who He is when they **see Him with His Father**. But is it a message of salvation or condemnation?

When do you suppose Matt 26:64 occurs?

By the way, some of the questions, like this one, are not always answered explicitly in the context of a passage but are meant to get you thinking what the implications are.

Also, is He revealed when they see Him with the Father or when He comes?

Could not this one verse be called, the revelation of Jesus Christ? Is not Jesus Christ revealed to the world in no uncertain terms?

The Disciples in Matthew 24:3 asked the Lord Jesus Christ, three questions, the second being, “...*And what shall be **the sign** of Thy coming...*?”

Christ said a lot of things would happen which are usually referred to as signs by most commentators. But Christ to answer the question of, “*And what shall be **the sign of thy coming**?*” specifically gave only one “sign” when He said in Matthew 24:30, “*And then shall appear **the sign of the Son of man in heaven**: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and **they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.***”

Notice that this verse does not say, “the sign, the Son of man” which would mean that the Son of man equals the sign. It says “the sign **of** the Son of man” which means there is something that they will see that will uniquely identify the Son of man as the Son of man.

Where will the sign of the Son of man appear? Will they see Him? In heaven?

How can they see “the sign” in heaven?

When will this sign be seen?

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days ... shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven:” Matthew 24:29 and 30.

What does the “tribulation of those days” include (see verses 15 and 21)?

What will the tribes of the earth do?

Will they mourn in joy for the savior or in condemnation?

What then will they see the Son of man doing?

Christ will come in the clouds but with what will He come?

What could the sign of the Son of man be?

Some say that the sign is the Shakina glory. And in chapter 2 of Isaiah, he says that they will go into caves to hide for the fear of the Lord and the glory of His majesty. Matthew says, as we read, that He will come with power and great glory. But that is not the unique feature that John recorded in Revelation 5 when he was introduced to the Son of Man in heaven. We will look at that later.

Is not Matthew 26:64 and 24:30 two aspects, spoken to two audiences, of the same event? Is not Jesus Christ revealed in both verses? Do they not both represent the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Is it reasonable to believe they both take place in heaven?

Are they not both very late in the Tribulation?

Is Jesus Christ seen “... *coming in the clouds of heaven*” in both?

Since they mourn after they see Him and before He comes, could we not conclude that the revelation of Jesus Christ is when they see Him in heaven?

Now where does this event happen in Revelation? Revelation 19:11- 16 says, “*And I saw **heaven opened**, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.*”

What does “And I saw heaven opened,” mean? What does it look like? Does a small door open? Does a big door open? What does it look like? John saw “*a door was opened in heaven*,” Revelation 4:1, which he stepped thru into the throne room of heaven. But do you suppose that it was anything like 19:11 when he “*saw heaven opened*” to allow the King of kings and the Lord of lords to ride forth on a white horse, with millions and millions and millions of the redeemed also on white horses as the 14th verse indicates, to conquer His enemies?

What does, “*And I saw heaven opened*” look like?

Did John see the rider on the white horse in heaven?

Revelation 19:13 continues, “*And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called The Word of God.*”

Who is this with bloodstained garments?

Isaiah 63:3-6, “*I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with Me: for I will tread them in Mine anger, and trample them in My fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon My garments, and I will stain all My raiment. For the day of vengeance is in Mine heart, and the year of My redeemed is come. And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore, Mine own arm brought salvation unto Me; and My fury, it upheld Me. And I will tread down the people in Mine anger, and make them drunk in My fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth.*” Who is this?

What is His name?

Rev 19:13, “...and His name is called The Word of God.”

Jesus Christ is the personified Word of God! “In the beginning was the Word..,” John 1:1.

What other name does He have?

Rev 19:16, “*And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, **King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.***”

Who is the *King of Kings, and Lord of Lords?*” Who does the book of **Revelation** say is the King of kings and the Lord of lords?

Rev 17:12-14, “*And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast (the antichrist). These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with **the Lamb**, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for **He is Lord of lords, and King of kings**: and they that are with Him are called, and chosen, and faithful.*”

Who are with Him?

Rev 19:14, “...armies clothed in fine linen, white and clean.” Rev 17:14, “...they that are with Him are called, and chosen, and faithful.” Are not these two descriptions of the redeemed?

Is the rider on the white horse the Lamb of God?

Could **the sign** be the Lamb?

What would uniquely identify the Son of Man more than the Lamb? Could this Lamb in heaven ever represent anyone else but the Son of man? The one who became a man so that He could die a human death as the sacrifice for human sin.

But some may say that it does not say that He comes on clouds in Revelation 19 as Matthew had said. That is true but Revelation 1:7 looked forward to Revelation 19:11-16 when it said, “Behold, He cometh **with clouds**; and every eye shall see Him (ref. Matthew 24:30), and they also which pierced Him (ref. Matthew 26:64): and all kindreds of the earth **shall wail** because of Him. Even so, Amen.” This word “**wail**” is the exact same word in Greek as the word “**mourn**” in Matthew 24:30.

Some may also say, how can those on the other side of the earth see Him? Well, Matthew 24:27 answers that when it says, “For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” I may not know scientifically how He is going to do it but the whole earth will be able to see Him when He comes (TV’s and cell phones will not be needed). And the next verse Matthew 24:28 adds, “For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together,” alluding to Revelation 19:17-18, “And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.”

Some may say, we do not see Him sitting on the right hand of the Father.

That is because Revelation 19:11-16 is the second part of this event.

Well, where is the first part? Where in the book of Revelation, and the only place in the book of Revelation, do the unsaved see the Father and the Son together, as Matthew 26:64 said they would?

Revelation 6:12-17, “And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely

*figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, **Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:** For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"*

This is Revelations account of the first half of this event that we saw in Matthew. Follow me carefully.

What does the first part of Revelation 6:14 mean? "*And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together...*"

What does that look like?

Isaiah 40:22 says, "*It is He that ...stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in.*" If He has stretched them out like a curtain, can He not roll them up like a scroll? Is it not the same imagery?

When the heaven departs as a scroll what do you suppose can then be seen?

Maybe Revelation 20:11, quoted at the first of this chapter, gives us a clue?

What is outside of the universe? What was there before the universe was created?

Is this, "*And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together...*" what "*and I saw heaven opened*" looks like? Is it not the same event?

Revelation 6:16, "*...Fall on us, and hide us from the **face of Him** that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:*"

Does this not correspond to Matthew 26:64, "*...Hereafter shall ye **see** the Son of Man sitting on the right hand of Power...*"?

Some may say but it does not say that Christ is seated at the right hand of the father here, as Matthew says they shall see Him. Well Revelation 3:21 anticipates this concern when it says, "*To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and **am set down with My Father** in His throne.*" If we look carefully at the Word of God, it has all the answers and verifying evidence of what is true. Sometimes we make an assumption before we see all the evidence. Sometimes we look for **why it can't be** and miss the collaborating **Biblical evidence of why it is!**

Is not this the only place in the book of Revelation where we are told that the **unsaved** see the Father and the Son together?

How do we know that the unsaved see the Father and the Son?

Is not “*hide us from the face of Him*” of Rev 6:16 the same construct as, “*from Whose face*” of Rev 20:11? But have we not always assumed that, “*from the face of Him,*” was a figure of speech? Do men hide in caves from a figure of speech?

I do not think so. Maybe we should assume that the Lord meant exactly what He said. That they are in His presence!

Some may interpret John 1:8, “*No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him,*” to indicate that no man will ever see the Father’s face. But that is not what it says. And Matthew 18:10 says, “*Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven **their angels do always behold the face of my Father** which is in heaven.*” If the angels always see his face why should not we? We are gathered around the throne like the angels.

Have not the heavens “*departed as a scroll when it is rolled together?*” Is not heaven open?

Has any of the judgements caused them to hide?

What has been the normal reaction to the Trumpets and Bowls? Research it. Find out how many of the judgements causes men just to blaspheme instead.

Although very prominent throughout the book of Revelation, the throne is only mentioned by those on the earth in this verse. How do they know there is a throne set up in heaven?

In Revelation 5 when John is told by one of the elders to, “*weep not, behold the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the scroll, and loose its seven seals*” John does not tell us that he beheld a man standing. No, instead of a man he sees a Lamb “*as though it had been slain.*” No, I do not believe John saw a four-footed animal just like I do not believe that John the Baptist saw a four-footed animal when he said, “Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the earth.” But what he saw he described as “a Lamb as though it had been slain.” So, should it be any

surprise that Jesus Christ is seen as a lamb in Revelation 6:16-17 when the men on earth see Him for the first time since His ascension? And the fact that they see a Lamb, does that not indicate very, very strongly that the men on earth actually see Him?

And is it not significant that unbelieving men will see and recognize Him for the first time as Matthew 26:64 said, *“Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of Power,”* as the **Lamb, that they had rejected and slain?** As the Lamb of who Caiaphas had prophesied, *“it is expedient for us, that **one man should die for the people**, and that the whole nation perish not.”* And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation; And not for that nation only, but that also He should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad,” John 11:50-51. They thought that they were rejecting Jesus as the Messiah, the Christ, but they were also crucifying the Lamb of God, the very one they would see in heaven with the God the Father. And now He is angry. No wonder they are absolutely, terrified!

Could not Revelation 6:16 also be called, “the revelation of Jesus Christ,” just like Matthew 26:64? Is Jesus not revealed, in no uncertain terms!

Did you notice that He is revealed to the unsaved of the earth here in Revelation 6:16. They do not have to wait for His coming in chapter 19. **This, Revelation 6:16, is The Revelation of Jesus Christ!**

Revelation 6:17 continues, “For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

Did they say this with conviction?

What is the tenor of verses 16 and 17?

Are they getting ready for salvation or war?

Are they expecting it now or later? What is the tense of the first phrase?

Are they not expecting Him to come at this time?

Is Revelation 6:14-17 not another description of the first part of the event of Matthew 26:64?

Is Revelation 6:14-17 not another description of the first part of the event of Matthew 24:29-30?

Is it not reasonable to believe that the “**Lamb**” of these verses is “***the sign of the Son of Man in heaven***” of Matthew 24:30? How was Christ introduced to the world by John the Baptist? “*The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the **Lamb of God**, which taketh away the sin of the world,*” John 1:29. Also did you catch that in Revelation 5 the Apostle John was actually introduced to **the Son of man in heaven** by one of the elders, “*weep not, behold the Lion of the tribe of Judah (the Messiah), the Root of David (the Son of man), hath prevailed to open the scroll, and loose its seven seals*” And when John looks he sees a **Lamb** “*as though it had been slain.*” Is not the “**Lamb**” of these verses “***the sign of the Son of Man in heaven***” of Matthew 24:30? Another possibility we have in Revelation is the rider on the white horse in 19:11. But the Son of man, the Messiah, was to come on a donkey not on a horse. Zechariah 9:9 says, “*Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem; behold thy King cometh unto thee; He is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt, the foal of an ass.*” And He came the first time, riding upon the colt of a donkey, Matthew 21:1-5. I do not know anywhere in the Bible except in this verse, Revelation 19:11, where the Messiah is said to be sitting or coming on a horse. Therefore the “sign” cannot be the rider on a white horse, or can it be?

We **assume** that the rider on the white horse in 19:11 appears in the form of a man. Have not you always assumed that? But the Bible it seems, argues that He will appear as a Lamb. And remember the Lamb in Revelation is not a four-footed animal. It is Jesus Christ revealed “*as a Lamb as though it had been slain.*” In Rev 19:19 it says that the beast and the kings of the earth are gathered together to make war against the rider on the white horse. It indicates in 19:14 that the armies with Him are the redeemed. Now back in Rev 17:14 it says, “*These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for He is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with Him are called, and chosen, and faithful.*” The ten kings, the kings of the earth that give their rule to the beast, make war with the Lamb. It also indicates that the redeemed come with the Lamb. We know that the rider wins the battle and the Lamb is said to overcome them, because **he is the King of kings and the Lord of lords**, one of the titles of the rider of chapter 19. It seems to me that these two battles are really the same. If they are, and they are, then the Bible makes a very strong argument that the rider on the white horse is the Lamb, yes Jesus Christ, but as a Lamb that was slain. Is my logic wrong anywhere? Do I assume too much?

By the way, the Bible is complete, therefore when they see the Lamb during the 6th Seal, the Lord cannot say, “Oh, I did not mean that sign, I meant the next sign.” So, the first sign of the son of man seen in heaven, the Lamb, is the sign Matthew is talking about.

Is not Rev 6:12-13, “*And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal...and **the sun became black as sackcloth of hair**, and the moon became as blood; And **the stars of heaven fell unto the earth**, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is **shaken** of a mighty wind*” the same event as Matt 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***”? Can you find any other place in Revelation where such a close correlation is made to Matt 24:29? Where is the sun darkened and the stars fall in Revelation? Only during the sixth Seal. Only the description of the moon is different and we know that when the sun becomes black, the moon will not give her light. We also know that when we bleed our blood becomes a dark scab very quickly.

Is not Matthew 26:64 and 24:30, and Revelation 6:16 and 19:11 all the same event? The correlation between these scriptures is absolutely amazing!

Let’s review what we have learned:

And may I reverently say again, please do not look for **why it can’t be** and miss the **Biblical evidence of why it is!** Just let scripture speak! If we look carefully at the Word of God, it has all the answers and verifying evidence of what is true. Please do not make an assumption before seeing all the evidence.

In Matt 24:3 the disciples ask Christ, “*what shall be the **sign** of Thy coming?*” Christ answers that question specifically in Matt 24:30, “*And then shall appear the **sign of the Son of man in heaven... and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.***” In Matt 26:64 answering to the High Priest Jesus said, “*Hereafter shall ye see **the Son of man sitting on the right hand of Power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.***” In both cases the Son of Man will be seen in heaven and coming in the clouds of heaven. In Revelation 19:11-14 we see Him coming, “*And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and ... in righteousness He doth judge and make war... And the armies that were in heaven followed Him...*” Here John saw Jesus Christ, **the King of kings and the Lord of lords** as Revelation 19:16 identifies Him. He is also identified as the Lamb of God, as Rev 17:14 made clear, “*These shall make war with the Lamb, ...for he is **Lord of lords, and King of kings:***”

We know that He comes on clouds here also because Revelation 1:7 looked forward to His coming when it said, *“Behold, he cometh **with clouds**; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth **shall wail** because of him.* The last half of this passage ties right back to Matthew 24:30 when it says, *“and then shall all the tribes of the earth **mourn**.”* Remember the word **“wail”** in Revelation 1:7 is the exact same word in Greek as the word **“mourn”** in Matthew 24:30. So, we know that this is the same event as Matthew 24:30 and 26:64.

Some may say, but we do not see Him sitting on the right hand of the Father. That is because Revelation 19:11-16 is the second part of this event, the first part is seen in Revelation 6:12-17.

Rev 6:14 explains how the heaven opens, *“And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together...”* We know that heaven opened because the people of the earth saw His face, *“...Fall on us, and hide us from the **face** of Him that sitteth on the throne,* Rev 6:16. This is the same construct as Rev 20:11, *“from whose **face** the earth and heaven fled away.”* They also of course at the same time see the Lamb, *“and from the wrath of the **Lamb**,”* the **sign** of the Son of man **in heaven**, which ties right back into Matt 24:30. If there is any concern that the Lamb really is the **sign**, that concern should be resolved by what John saw when the Son of man was introduced **in heaven**, *“...behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda (**the Messiah**), the Root of David (**the Son of man**),...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 though it had been slain.....”* Revelation 5:5-6.

But the argument still stands, it does not specifically say that Christ is seated at the right hand of the father here in Revelation 6:12-17, as Matthew says they shall see Him. Well Revelation 3:21 anticipates this concern when it says, *“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and **am set down with my Father in his throne.**”*

When shall the **sign** of the Son of man appear **in heaven**? *“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: And **then shall appear the sign** of the Son of man **in heaven**...,”* Matt 24:29-30. And did you notice how similar Matt 24:29 is to Rev 6:12-13 and only Rev 6:12-13, *“...and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.”* Of course, the problem is that Rev 6:12-17 is the 6th Seal and we have been told all of our lives that this happens

early in the Tribulation. But we have just seen that it is really “*after the tribulation of those days...*” which is at the end of the Tribulation. I have not misrepresented nor manipulated any scripture. I have just carefully followed what the scriptures say. I have not even quoted famous preachers, professors, or Bible commentators. I have just presented the **Biblical** evidence. I did not look up any experts, I just read the Bible.

One other thing about these four passages of scripture that is very unique is that the appearance of Jesus Christ in each passage, even as The Lamb, is in the context of war and condemnation and not salvation!

Is not Matthew 26:64 and 24:30, and Revelation 6:16 and 19:11 all descriptions of the same event? Do they not lay down the criteria that the Bible specifies to establish the truth? II Corinthians 13:1 “... *In the mouth of **two or three witnesses** shall every word be established.*” And the testimony of Matthew and John is what would be expected of collaborating witnesses. They view the same event from different perspectives, adding to our understanding of the whole, but do not contradict each other. This presents a dilemma since Revelation 6:12-17, the 6th Seal, is thought to be much earlier in the Tribulation by most Bible scholars, rather than at the end as just concluded. Chapter IV will address the problems with the assumptions used to draw that previous conclusion.

One last question, on how many Biblical witnesses does the traditional timing hang? And are there Biblical witnesses or just assumptions?

Before going to the next chapter, let's discuss some of the problematic and confusing issues in Revelation that this new conclusion resolves.

1. If the sequence of events, occur with all the Seals first, which is the current popular thought, what causes this world who have rejected the Lord and creation all their lives to all of a sudden get religion during the 6th Seal?

The first four Seals are things that have occurred throughout history. Maybe a little more intense but nothing supernatural there. The 5th Seal is not even experienced by those on earth. And now the 6th Seal is a disturbance in the heavens that causes further disturbances on earth. For years mankind has convinced themselves that evolution and the aliens have shaped our world. What in these Seals would give mankind a clue that God was sitting on His throne and there was a Lamb with Him, an angry Lamb at that? Does our established eschatology really make sense?

2. Does heaven open up twice, once in Rev 6:14 and once in Rev 19:11?

3. Do the questions in Revelation 13:4 make sense, in light of the question of Revelation 6:17?

Rev 6:16-17, *“And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and **who shall be able to stand?**”*

Rev 13:4, *“And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, **Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?**”*

Which question logically comes first? Is the beast or the Lamb more powerful?

When the beast ascends out of the bottomless pit and makes war with the two witnesses and kills them in Revelation 11:7, the world worships Satan and the beast saying, *“Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?”* Revelation 13:4. They may think that the beast is invincible when he defeats the two witnesses. But will they still think that after they see the LORD in the glory of His majesty, **in heaven**? Does not the majesty of the LORD trump the majesty of the antichrist? They may think that the Beast is invincible before they see the Lamb, but they will never think so after they see the Lamb, the angry Lamb. Yes, they will fight the Lamb but only because they have no other recourse. So, the question in Rev 13:4 obviously comes before the question in Rev 6:17 and thereby resolves a big problem with the traditional timing and supports the concluded timing.

4. Does not Revelation 6:16-17 present a people in total distress, with no more spirit left in them? Does anything happen to relieve that distress, to relieve the finality of that fate?

Now many believe that the Seven Sealed Scroll is the deed to this earth. So, if the Seven Sealed Scroll is the deed to the earth, then why is not the earth liberated when the 7th Seal is broken according to the historical timing? Or does the 7th Seal tie in to this new interpretation of the timing of the sixth Seal? Revelation 8:1, *“And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.”* I have always wondered what would cause one half hour of silence in heaven. Some have said that the silence is in awe of or reverence for the judgements yet to come. But Revelation records rejoicing and praise in heaven, every time the Lord is going to judge, not silence.

So, that is not consistent with the normal reactions in Revelation and so that reason does not seem very logical. It also seems like the 7th Seal has to happen after Satan is thrown out of heaven. Revelation 12:10 says, “...*for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, who accused them before our God, **day and night**.*” Would he ever stop accusing us, even for half an hour? I do not think so, which presents a dilemma for the traditional timing.

So, when is Satan cast out of heaven? He is cast out according to Revelation chapter 12, by the middle of the Tribulation, during the 7th Trumpet (see chapter VII). So, the 7th Seal comes after the 7th Trumpet and of course after the 6th Seal and therefore does tie into the concluded timing. Conquerors, war, famine, and death have all claimed the earth as theirs, but now all have been defeated and so when the 7th Seal is opened there is no one else clamoring for control and so there is silence, blissful silence.

If our current timing of Revelation is wrong, as this third chapter has concluded, then there must have been some wrong assumptions made when that timing was developed. The next chapter addresses those assumptions. First however, we should ask ourselves what is the personal application for us.

Personal application:

Is there another book in all the universe as detailed and accurate as the Bible? Our DNA is a detailed instruction manual to tell our cells how to divide and build a body and make all the organs and parts, which is absolutely amazing. But mutations show up in our DNA perverting these instructions and eventually the human race would become extinct if the Lord tarried. But the Bible is our spiritual instruction manual which the Lord wrote and has preserved. Sixty-six books and 40 authors providing different accounts of various events that all tie together. Different aspects of the same event are presented by different authors, sometimes written hundreds of years apart without contradicting each other. It is a book that can be trusted and explains the end times. Are you ready for the end times? When the Lord appears, on whose side will you be on? Have you made peace with your creator? Jesus Christ says in Revelation 3:20 says, “*Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.*” Will you open your heart? Do it today.

Chapter IV

Content and Context

Some claim that our historic Baptist eschatology of the Tribulation is based on Revelation being chronologically written based on the fact that almost every event is introduced with, “And I saw,” “And after these things I saw,” “And I looked,” “And I stood,” “And I beheld,” etc. But there are obvious parentheticals that are not chronological that are introduced with the same “And after these things I saw,” or “After this I beheld,” etc. They are obvious parentheticals not because of how they are introduced but because of their content and context. For instance, Chapter 7 verses 1-8 start with, “And after these things I saw,” and proceed to record the sealing of the 144,000 which occur before the 7 trumpets (see chapter VII). Then later in the same chapter, verse 9 starts with “After this I beheld,” and a great multitude is revealed standing before the throne which have come out of the great tribulation which is years later in the second half of the tribulation. So, the first and/or second event of the 7th chapter are not in chronological order with the Seals even though they are recorded between the 6th and 7th Seal. This chapter is chronological internally but not with the surrounding events. It is obviously parenthetical not because of how it is introduced but by the content and context. The events of Chapter 12, another parenthetical, introduced by, “And there appeared,” starts way back with Jacob and extends to the last half of the Tribulation. This chapter although again internally chronological starts before the Tribulation and is therefore not in chronological order with what is happening in the Tribulation. My point is, these introductions do not represent a chronological order; they just represent the order in which they were revealed to John by the Lord. It should be obvious that John recorded what he saw in the order the Lord showed them to him.

Therefore, to say Revelation is chronological, based on “And I saw,” “And after these things I saw,” “And I looked,” “And I stood,” “And I beheld,” etc, is an inadequate and inaccurate statement. John wrote each event he saw in the order he saw them, “*what thou seest write*,” Revelation 1:11. The Lord obviously chose the sequence. This should not be surprising. What makes the prophetic books hard to understand is that they, in general, are not written in chronological order. For instance, in just the first two chapters, Isaiah goes from the current events in his time, to the Millennium, and then back to the Tribulation. It is just the way the Lord has chosen to reveal prophecy. And most of prophecy is presented in this way. So, the question becomes how do we then determine the chronology of a prophetic book?

One way to determine the chronology is when the context says things like “*hurt not the earth and the sea **until** the servants of our Lord have been sealed*,” Revelation 7:3. This indicates that the 144,000 are sealed before the Trumpet judgements begin since the angels sounding these Trumpet judgements hurt the earth and sea, (see chapter VII). So, the

context tells us which event must occur first. In the latter part of chapter 7 the great multitude is introduced in the context that they came out of the great tribulation, which is the second half of the tribulation. So, it is the context, not the order recorded and not the introduction, “After this I beheld,” that determines when it occurs. The order in which it was recorded and the introduction give no clue as to when this event actually occurs. Only the context does, just as in Isaiah.

Another way to determine the chronology is the content of the passage. Chapter 12 is about Jacob, and the birth of Christ, and Satan, and the time, times and half a time. So, this chapter spans a number of years before the Tribulation and ends up in the last half, three and a half years, of the Tribulation. Internally this chapter is written in chronological order. And it enhances our understanding of the chronology of Revelation but the content starts before the Tribulation begins, and so the introduction “And there appeared a great wonder in heaven,” does not tell us the timing of when the events happen, it just tells the order that John saw them. It is the content in light of our knowledge of Biblical history that allows us to put this chapter in order in Revelation.

The third way to discover the chronology is when events are numbered as the Seals, the Trumpets, and the Bowls are. The counting of the Seals, Trumpets and the Bowls is a very strong indicator that the Seals occur in order 1-7, that the Trumpets occur in order 1-7, and that the Bowls occur in order 1-7, even though there are parentheticals between the 6th and 7th Seals and the 6th and 7th Trumpets, and between the Trumpets and Bowls. The numbers 1 thru 7 only tell us the order they occur within each series but not when they occur, especially since there are parentheticals mixed in among them. But here is the key thing to understand, the Seals and the Trumpets and the Bowls do not have anything to connect one series to another series in their introductions because the record of the Seals, the Trumpets, and the Bowls are introduced only with, “And I saw,” Revelation 6:1, 8:2, and 15:1. Based upon the fact that almost all events and even the parentheticals are also introduced in like manner, these introductions do not provide any evidence that there is a connection between each series of judgements. It has just been assumed for years.

Let me say that again and let it sink in. Because each series of judgements are numbered, we can surmise that they occur in order 1-7. But there is nothing out of the ordinary in the introduction to each series, to tie each series, to either of the other two series in a chronological order. John just records them in the order he is shown them. To tie them, or anything else in Revelation, together in a chronological order, content or context is needed. So, we need to find content or context to determine when they really occur.

So, is there any content or context in the seventh Seal to tie it into the Trumpet judgements? Well, are there any words in the 7th Seal that mentions or alludes to anything that happens in the Trumpet judgements? The 7th Seal says, “*And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.*” Revelation 8:1. I do not see

any. The Trumpets are introduced by, *“And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.... And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound,”* Revelation 8:2 and 8:6. Again I do not see any content or context in this introduction to tie them to the 7th Seal. The assumption that some have made, as already mentioned in the third chapter, is that the silence of the 7th Seal is in respect for the judgements yet to come. But as noted, Revelation records rejoicing and praise in heaven, every time the Lord is going to judge, not silence. So, that is not even consistent with the normal reactions in Revelation and so that reason does not seem very logical. The connection has just been assumed for many years.

The 7th Trumpet, which proclaims the establishment of the Lord’s kingdom (content), which I would expect to be at the end of the Tribulation is actually in the middle of the Tribulation due to it containing the 3rd Woe (content), which is Satan being thrown out of heaven and persecuting Israel for 3 & 1/2 years (context). We will also see content and context, actual words recorded in the 7th Trumpet that are the actual words used to describe the 7 Bowls. Therefore, the 7th Trumpet is connected to the 7 Bowls. So, the content and context must be carefully analyzed in each case. (See chapter VII for a complete study of these examples.)

Let me mention again a verse in Matthew that contrasts with the style of Revelation. At His trial Jesus Christ put in order, the order of events of His coming to the unbelieving religious leaders when He said in Matthew 26:64, *“Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.”* Christ did not say “and I saw,” He said, *“Hereafter shall ye see.”* What the unbelievers will see is given in the order they will see them and contrasts with how John saw and reported what he saw in the order he saw them in Revelation. As mentioned before, this should not surprise us since very few of the Old Testament prophetic books are written in a chronological order.

The point is content and context is needed to establish the timing in Revelation, just like for most of the other prophetic books. Sometimes that content or context comes from other places in scripture. For instance, Revelation does not even tell us when the seven years of the Tribulation start; Daniel 9:27 does, *“he shall confirm.”* Revelation does not even tell us how long the Tribulation is, again Daniel 9:27 does, *“one week.”* (Prophetic students understand that this one week is one week of years and so is 7 years.) So, do not be surprised when other portions of scripture, like Daniel 9:27 and Matthew 24:29 just mentioned, help us understand the timing of the events in Revelation.

And last of all remember II Corinthians 13:1 *“... In the mouth of **two or three witnesses** shall every word be established.”* When you think you see something in the Bible, look for collaborating witnesses elsewhere in the Bible before drawing a conclusion. I do not know

of a second witness in scripture that collaborates the historic timing that the Seals occur first, the Trumpets occur second and the Bowls occur third. **Do you?** But in Chapter V we will find a third witness, in the Old Testament, where the 6th Seal is mentioned and our concluded timing is collaborated.

Personal Application:

Some people think that the Bible says things it doesn't really say. As this chapter shows we need to understand what the Bible says. Some people think that the Bible says that we must live a good life to gain salvation. The thief on the cross did not have time to live a good life, but yet the Lord saved him. Read it, Luke 23:39-43. The Bible puts just one requirement before us, the same one that saved the thief on the cross. Ephesians 2:8-10, *"For by grace are ye saved through **faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."* We are saved by our faith thru the grace of God. But faith in who? Ephesians makes it clear that it is faith in Jesus Christ. We are saved by faith alone and not by our works or good deeds. We are saved by faith in what Jesus Christ accomplished on the cross in dying for the sins of the world but that faith should then result in the good works the Lord has ordained for us to do as the above verses indicate. Do you have that kind of faith? Is your faith in what you are or what you do, or in what He has done?

Chapter V

Isaiah 2 and the 6th Seal

Let's now look and see if the Old Testament has anything to add to confirm the conclusion of chapter III, that the 6th Seal occurs late in the Tribulation.

What does Isaiah 2:10 mean? *“Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of his majesty.”*

Does not the Lord command them to hide in the rocks for fear of Him, just like they do in Revelation 6:15-17? *“And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?”*

Do you know anyone who has hid in a cave or bomb shelter for fear of the Lord? What would have to happen for that to occur? Do they fear the Lord after the judgements or do they just continue to blaspheme the Lord?

Did Pharaoh hide in a cave from the fear of the Lord when he experienced 10 terrible plagues from the Lord and he knew they were from the Lord?

Does not Revelation 6:16 answer to Isaiah 2:10?

It may be argued that men have hidden in caves at other times. Probably when Nebuchadnezzar or Titus destroyed Jerusalem, but those times, if they did happen were for the fear of man, and not for fear of the Lord as Isaiah 2:10 specifically says. That does not happen until here in Revelation 6.

Another passage that answers to Isaiah 2:10 is Isaiah 2:11-21, *“The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the **Lord alone shall be exalted** in that day. For the **day of the Lord of hosts** shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low: ...And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day... And they shall go into the **holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of his majesty**, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.... To go into the clefts of the rocks,*

*and into the tops of the ragged rocks, **for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of his majesty**, when he ariseth **to shake** terribly the earth.”*

In Isaiah 2:19, and 21 men hide in the caves of the earth “*for fear of the Lord and for the glory of His majesty.*” Do they not hide themselves in the rocks of the mountains also in Revelation 6:16 for fear of the Lord?

What is the “*glory of His majesty*” like? Is it something that can be explained in such detail that people will hide in caves for fear of it? Isaiah saw it as described in the sixth chapter of Isaiah. Ezekiel saw it and described it in the first chapter of Ezekiel and actually said it was “the glory of the LORD,” in verse 28. But did any of you hide in caves or bomb shelters when you read these portions of scripture? I Kings 10:4-7 says, “*And when the queen of Sheba had seen all Solomon's wisdom, and the house that he had built, And the meat of his table, and the sitting of his servants, and the attendance of his ministers, and their apparel, and his cupbearers, and his ascent by which he went up unto the house of the Lord; there was no more spirit in her. And she said to the king, It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thy acts and of thy wisdom. Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard.*”

What made her believe in the majesty of Solomon?

She saw it! She had heard about it but would not believe it until she saw it, and then “*there was no more spirit in her.*”

Did not Matt 24:30 say that Christ would come “*with power and **great glory***”?

Does not Matt 16:27 say, “*For the Son of man shall come in **the glory of his Father**...* ”?

Is not “*the glory of the LORD,*” that they see, “*the glory of His majesty,*” that they hide from, not the glory of His attributes, nor the glory of his creation, nor the glory of His miracles, nor even the glory of His judgements but, the glory of His Person? If Pharaoh had seen the Lord and the glory of His person, he would have hidden but he did not.

Isaiah 40:5 says, “*And the **glory of the Lord** shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.*”

What does, “*and all flesh shall see it together,*” indicate?

They shall see it. And when they see it, Isaiah 2:19 says they shall hide in caves. Is that not what happens during the 6th Seal?

By the way, has it dawned upon you what the Glory of His majesty will be like when those on earth see it? Do you remember what Isaiah as quoted earlier said? “*Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?*” Isaiah 40:12. I do not know if this is exactly what we will see but I can guarantee you that we will not need binoculars to see Him.

How shall they all see it together?

Isaiah 34:4 says, “*And all the host of heaven shall be **dissolved**, and **the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll**: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree.*”

Where else did we read that the heaven shall depart like a scroll when it is rolled together?

During the 6th Seal, Rev 6:14, “And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together.”

Where did we read of the host of heaven falling like a leaf from off the vine?

Matt 24:29, “*...and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:*” And Rev 6:13, “*And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.*” Both are descriptions of the 6th Seal as we concluded in chapter III.

Therefore, doesn't Isaiah 34:4, 40:5, and 2:11-21 contain Isaiah's description of the 6th Seal?

Do unsaved men on earth give this kind of homage to the Lord anywhere in Revelation other than during the 6th Seal?

I should make one comment here. Isaiah is a lot like Revelation and actually much of the prophetic books, in that Isaiah jumps around a lot and the content and context quite often determines when things happen. In the case of Isaiah 34:4 and 40:5, Matthew and Revelation actually help us determine the timing.

Now let's look at Isaiah 2:11-21 more closely.

Did you notice that almost everything is mentioned twice, adding to the credibility and finality of what is said?

Can it be said that this description adds anything contrary to Revelation 6:14-17?

Is not this Isaiah's description of the 6th Seal? Do men hide in the earth? Do they hide in the earth in the 6th Seal? Why do they hide in the earth? Is it the same reason they hide in the earth as the 6th Seal? In both cases do they not fear the Lord?

Do they see the majesty of the Lord? They will sure see it in Matthew 26:64 when they see Jesus sitting on the right hand of Power. They also see it and are terrified in Revelation 6:16-17, the 6th Seal.

Does the Lord shake the earth terribly as He also does in the 6th Seal?

Rev 6:13-14, *"...when she is shaken of a mighty wind ...every mountain and island were moved out of their places."*

Is 2:19 and 21, " He ariseth to shake terribly the earth."

Is the Lord alone exalted in that day?

Did that happen when Christ, to whom belongs all the glory, was on this earth?

Has that happened to this day?

Is it then in our future?

Does it happen when the Lord sends the Judgements of Revelation?

Is not this what happens in Revelation 6:15-17, *"And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"* (By the way, later we will see that they get their wish.)

Did you notice Isaiah said that this was the **day of the Lord**? Is not Rev 6:12-17 the day of the Lord, *"...**For the great day of his wrath is come**"*?

Does, the lofty looks of man being humbled, and the haughtiness of men being bowed down mean that this must happen after all the other judgements, since they blaspheme the Lord throughout the Trumpet and Bowl judgements?

Is not this Isaiah's description of the 6th Seal? If not, what is it? What else makes more sense?

Does not Isaiah 2 affirm that the 6th Seal occurs very late in the Tribulation just like we concluded from the New Testament?

Are not Isaiah 2:11-21 and Revelation 6:12-17, two records of the same event? Have I misrepresented what each has said? Have I added to what either has said? Are they not very typical of two witnesses of the same event? Do they not see the same event from different perspectives and record those perspectives without contradicting each other? In both events they hide in caves, not for the fear of man, nor for fear of the stars falling, but for the fear of the LORD. Both events are future and in the day of the LORD. Both events contain a great shaking of the earth. In both events men are finally humbled. Therefore, both events must occur very late in the Tribulation.

I quoted Isaiah 40:5 previously, and you may have been thinking he is jumping to Isaiah 40 to prove Isaiah 2 is the 6th Seal. But did you read the context? Isaiah 40:1-5 says, *"Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that **her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned:** for she hath received of the LORD's hand double for all her sins. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, **prepare ye the way of the LORD**, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. **Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low:** and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the **glory of the LORD shall be revealed**, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it."*

"The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together," Is 40:5. When will this happen? When Jerusalem's, *"**warfare is accomplished, her iniquity is pardoned.**"* This is recorded in Revelation 16:17 after the 7th Bowl is poured out as, *"It is finished."* When will it happen? When *"**Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low.**"* This is again recorded in Revelation 16:20 after the 7th Bowl is poured out as, *"And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found."* And the context to it all is the return of Christ, *"Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."* That is when, *"the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together."* All at the end of the Tribulation. Maybe the Bible is a lot more literal than we give it credit for.

Has the Bible not added a third witness to define the 6th Seal? We have already read the witnesses of Mathew and John and now Isaiah as well. Satisfying II Corinthians 13:1 fully,

*“... In the mouth of two or **three witnesses** shall every word be established.”* When I study the popular interpretation of the timing of the Seals, I find only a couple of assumptions about Revelation that are used to establish that timing. But here not only are there two witnesses in the New Testament but also a witness in the Old Testament as well. And Isaiah should not be a surprise since it is in Isaiah that the Lord says, *“I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the **end** from the beginning...”* Isaiah 46:9-10.

To conclude that the 6th Seal does not occur until the end or near the end of the Tribulation was not an easy one to make. I have always believed that the Seals are first, the Trumpets are second, and the Bowls are third. I did not start with a preconceived idea of where my studies would lead. I have not manipulated the scriptures. I have just let the Lord lead. I have just followed the scriptures as the Lord gave me understanding. I believe the scriptures are clear. And I have not found **any content or context** to indicate otherwise. I believe the Biblical evidence is overwhelming. I believe that the 6th Seal is at or very near the end of the Tribulation. Study it, but study it with an open mind. Let the Bible be your guide, not what I or someone else has said. Fear the Lord, not man. Let the Holy Spirit be your teacher. It is what the Word of God says that is important and that is all I have presented.

When I step back, and accept what the Bible says rather than what tradition says, and think about it a little, it makes a lot more sense to me. The subject of the seven sealed scroll is the Revelation of Jesus Christ and the emancipation of the Kingdom, (See chapter IX). Conquerors, wars, famines, and death have reigned over the earth but now they have all been defeated. When the 7th seal is opened all of heaven pauses to see if there are any others who would claim it. The beast and the false prophet have been thrown in the lake of fire. Their armies have been slain. Satan has been bound and cast into the bottomless pit. There are no more challengers and Christ reigns supreme so there is silence, blissful silence.

The job is done, not just a third of the way thru. Doesn't that really make more sense? Think about it. I will admit that it took me about three days to be comfortable with this timing but the Lord has now made me very comfortable with it. After all, it is what the Word of God says.

Personal application:

In Isaiah, written 700 years BC, the Lord said He would explain the end from the beginning. Here in Chapter 2 of Isaiah is an example of the end which blends seamlessly with Matthew and Revelation written 700 years later. But Isaiah has an even more amazing chapter in it and that is chapter 53. In chapter 53, Isaiah paints an amazing picture of Christ and His sacrifice for us, 700 years before He lived and died. Read Isaiah 53 and see what Christ did for you.

Isaiah 53:

Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. Surely, He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth: He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He opened not His mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare His generation? for He was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was He stricken. And He made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death; because He had done no violence, neither was any deceit in His mouth. Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He hath put Him to grief: when Thou shalt make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand. He shall see of the travail of His soul, and shall be satisfied: by His knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for He shall bear their iniquities. Therefore, will I divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong; because He hath poured out His soul unto death: and He was numbered with the transgressors; and He bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”

Accept His sacrifice today!

Chapter VI

Salvation Suspended

Salvation suspended, not offered, how could I think of such a thing? The Bible says, *"Whosoever will, may come."* The Bible says, *"If thou shalt believe in thine heart, thou shalt be saved."* The Bible says, *"Repent and be saved."* How could I ever think that the Lord would suspend, not offer, salvation? Do you say that the Lord would not be so cruel as to suspend salvation? Well, has He ever done it before? Yes, yes, He has. After Noah built the ark, he and his sons and their wives entered into the ark and *"the **LORD** shut them in,"* Genesis 7:16. When He shut the believers in, He shut the unbelievers out, salvation was suspended. It says that *"all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, **and every man.**"* (Why do you think we have so many fossils on the earth?) Elsewhere it says that only Noah and his family were saved. When the LORD shut the door, the offer of salvation was retracted. There was no escape from the LORD's judgement. There was no escape from the flood. No salvation, just punishment for their sins. They had had 100 years to repent, while Noah was building the ark, and did not. So, salvation was suspended for the time Noah was in the ark. Only those who had showed their faith, by getting on it before the door was shut, were saved.

Now does the Lord suspend salvation in Revelation? Yes, I think so. In chapter II we concluded that the Bowl judgements are *"full of the wrath of God, **who liveth forever and ever,**"* Revelation 15:7, who is **God the Father**. In the next verse, 15:8 it says, *"And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and **no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.**"* In Noah's time they could not enter into the ark and now they cannot enter into the temple. It is interesting that Matthew 24:38 mentioned that the people of the earth will be just as clueless as the people were in Noah's day. So, what significance does not being able to enter into the temple, and it's the temple in heaven, have?

Moses was commanded to build the earthly temple exactly like the heavenly temple we have here in Revelation 15:8. The two temples have the same purpose. It is where our redemption is obtained thru the sacrifice of a lamb. In the O.T. the sinner would come with His sacrifice to the earthly temple where the blood of the sacrifice would be shed in an act of faith, that someday the Lamb of God would shed His blood for their redemption. In the N.T. Jesus Christ sacrificed His own blood, not in the earthly temple but in this

heavenly temple, Hebrews 9:11-12 *"But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, **but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.**"* So, when we accept Jesus Christ as our savior, we spiritually come to **the temple in heaven** to appropriate His blood for our sin, Hebrews 10:19-23, *"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the **holiest** by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our **faith** without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised)." This is not talking about coming to God boldly in prayer; this is talking about coming boldly in faith for salvation. And it is not coming to the earthly temple but rather the heavenly temple.*

The Bowl judgements do not produce conviction, only hardening rebellion. They blaspheme the Lord right thru to the 7th Bowl. So, Revelation 15:8 says, *"**no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.**"* In other words, salvation is suspended, the unbelieving will be shut out during the seven Bowl judgements. (This does not mean that there is nobody on earth that is not already saved. It just means that nobody else is saved during that time period. Therefore, it does not negate Revelation 14:13, *"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth."*)

Jesus Christ, God the Father's only Begotten Son has lived and died for their sins and they have rejected Him for over 2000 years. And now, angels have flown over the earth presenting the message of God, Rev 14:6-7, *"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."* And the warning from God, Revelation 14: 9-11, *"And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of **the wrath of God**, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name."* The unbelieving

in the New Testament had asked Christ for a sign. They were given the sign of Jonah. When Christ arose after three days and three nights in the grave, they knew it but still would not believe. Now, the Lord gives them a sign in the heavens, two angels flying in the atmosphere preaching the Word of God and they will still not believe. Is it any wonder that God the Father who liveth forever and ever, who gave His Only Begotten Son for their sins, pours His wrath upon the earth? Hebrews 10: 26-31 says, *"For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden underfoot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will repay, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."*

This is not losing salvation this is rejecting salvation. If we willfully reject that Jesus Christ died for our sins; since there is no other sacrifice that will pay for our sins, we only have God's judgement to look forward to.

They have rejected Jesus Christ, *"trodden underfoot the Son of God,"* they have, *"counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing,"* and they have ignored *"the Spirit of grace."* And now Jesus Christ rejects them and hands them over to the wrath of His Father, for the vengeance that belongs to Him.

Personal application:

The offer of salvation is suspended at the moment of death for those who have not accepted Christ's sacrifice. But in the future the Lord stops offering the free gift of salvation while He pours out His wrath on those who have rejected the sacrifice of His Son. Is it any wonder the Father pours out His wrath on those who reject His Son? Isaiah 52:14 says, *"...his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men."* He was beaten, pulverized by the soldiers and then crucified for each of us. He then went to hell to suffer the punishment for our sin. If we reject this act of love **already accomplished**, what should we expect? Vengeance is mine saith the Lord. And He will execute His vengeance on those who trample on the blood of His Son. Do you want to wait for that? The Bible says that now is the time of salvation, now is the accepted time. Do not reject this tremendous free gift of salvation that is offered. Ephesians 2:8, *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any*

man should boast.” Will you put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ and His death, burial and resurrection?

Chapter VII

Timing of the Seals, Trumpets and Bowls.

Now in the third chapter we established that the Seal Judgements span the whole 7 years of the Tribulation. Maybe it would be good to review at this time why it has been established by many commentators that the Tribulation is 7 years long. Daniel 9:24-27 says, *“Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. 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.”* These 70 weeks have been shown to be 70 weeks of years, in other words 490 years. When Christ started His ministry it was getting close to the 490 years since King Artaxerxes had signed his decree. But it says in verse 26 that after 62 weeks the Messiah shall be cut off. Verse 25 makes it clear that the 62 weeks is after the first 7 weeks. So, the Messiah will be cut off after 69 total weeks of years. Did that happen? Sir Robert Anderson in his book, “The Coming Prince” in chapter 10, “Fulfilment of the Prophecy,” calculated that Christ rode into Jerusalem on the 10th day of Nisan, exactly 69 weeks, or 483 Jewish years of 360 days each from the day that King Artaxerxes gave the command, *“to restore and to build Jerusalem.”* (Now I should stop right here and explain the significance of the 10th day of Nisan. In the 12th Chapter of Exodus Moses was given the command to establish the Passover. Exodus 12:3-6 says, *“Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the **tenth day** of this month (Nisan) they shall take to them every man a lamb... Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: **ye shall take it out from the sheep**, or from the goats: And **ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day** of the same month: and **the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.**”*) Although Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, was **welcomed that day by the people as the Messiah**, He was

rejected as verse 26 says, by the Jewish leaders and four days later was crucified or “*cut off*”. It has been concluded by many commentators that the “*Seventy weeks determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city,*” stopped at this time, leaving the 70th week to be concluded later. Many have concluded that the Tribulation is the 70th week and so is 7 years long. It starts when the “*prince*” of verse 27 above, who many have concluded is the antichrist, “*confirms the covenant with many for one week.*” Please do not confuse the Prince or Messiah of verse 25 with the prince of verse 26. The Prince or Messiah is Jesus Christ but the prince is the antichrist.

The first Seal starts before the tribulation starts as the prince of Daniel 9:26 would have to come to power in order to have any authority to sign a meaningful covenant with Israel. We also concluded that men will not be humbled and the Lord alone lifted up, until the appearance of the Lord in the 6th Seal. And that the seventh Seal is at the end of the 7 years. All those who want this kingdom as theirs have been defeated; and when it is opened the transaction is complete and there is peace, blissful peace. So, the seals span the whole 7 years.

Since the Seals and the Trumpets overlap in this scenario, it troubled me as to how to count the death of 1/4th of mankind in the 4th Seal and the death of 1/3rd of mankind in the 6th Trumpet. Especially, if the 4th Seal occurs after the 6th Trumpet and I really do not know at this time if it does. As I studied and prayed the Lord showed me that this is not what the Bible says. The four angels of the 6th Trumpet were prepared to “*slay the third part of **men**,*” (a **population**) Revelation 9:15, but Death and Hades of the fourth Seal “*were given power over fourth part of the **earth**,*” (a **geographical region**), “*to kill with sword, and with hungry, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth,*” Revelation 6:8. The four angels of the 6th Trumpet were given power over 1/3rd of the population but Death and Hell, of the 4th Seal, were given power over a geographical region of the earth in which to kill. The Bible does not say how many are killed in this geographical region. This makes a lot of sense, since many have concluded that the antichrist is the emperor of the revived Roman empire which would initially be confined to a geographical region of the earth. Later he would rule the whole earth. Now you may say that is a new interpretation, and I would say no, that is just what the Bible says. The interpretation was when someone a while back concluded that “the fourth part of the earth” equals one fourth of mankind.

So, when do the Trumpets and Bowls occur? In the fourth chapter we concluded that the introduction, “and I saw” for the Seal, Trumpet, and Bowl series do not necessarily

connect them to each other. This introduction just puts them in the order that John saw them and not necessarily in the order in which they occur. Remember as noted in chapter four there are obvious parentheticals within the series which are introduced in similar fashion. It was concluded that content or context is needed to establish timing. Well, is there any content or context to indicate when the Trumpet judgements or Bowl judgement start or finish?

Let us consider the Trumpets first. Is there anything that has to happen before the Trumpets start? Yes, I believe there is. In Rev 7:3 an angel cries out to the 4 angels who were given the ability to hurt the earth and the sea, *"Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads."* The question becomes who are these 4 angels to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the seas? A short while later in Revelation chapter 8 we find that the angels of the Trumpet judgements hurt the earth and the sea by their judgements. So, the beginning of these judgements must be after the 144,000 are sealed. And it is generally believed that the 144,000 are sealed early in the Tribulation. I do not find any content or context to establish the timing for any of the other Trumpets until I come to the 7th Trumpet. So, what is the timing of this last Trumpet?

After the 4th Trumpet in Rev 8:13 we read, *"Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!"* The first woe is the fifth trumpet, the "star" fallen from heaven who is given the key to the bottomless pit and who releases the locust to torment men who have not the seal of God in their foreheads. It is closed by the statement in Rev 9:12, *"One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter."*

The 2nd woe is the 6th Trumpet judgment that results in the slaying of one third of mankind and is closed by the statement in Rev 11:14, *"The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly."*

However, there is no statement in Revelation that the third woe is past. So, is there any way we can find out what the third woe is?

This takes some study. It took me quite a while to come to a conclusion. But I think it is a very sound Biblical conclusion. There is a woe in Rev 12:12, *"Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."* It does not say that this is the third woe, but it is a woe to *"the inhabitants of the earth..."* exactly as stated in Rev 8:13 after the fourth

trumpet, *“Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth.”* And it is the last woe mentioned in Revelation. But I thought Satan was the “star” that fell from heaven in the 5th Trumpet, Revelation 9:1, *“And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.”* If Satan was the “star” of the 5th Trumpet, how could he be the woe of the 7th Trumpet? Determining this will set the time table for the Trumpets since, when he comes down, he persecutes the woman, Israel, and she flies into the wilderness for three- and one-half years, Revelation 12:13-14. So, does the 5th Trumpet or the 7th Trumpet occur just before the middle of the tribulation? I contemplated this dilemma until the Lord showed me the following. Revelation 11:15 says right after the 7th angel sounded the 7th Trumpet, *“and there were **great voices in heaven** saying, The kingdom of this world **is become** the kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.”* The key words here are, **“is become.”** This seemed to put this seventh Trumpet at the end of the tribulation, in my mind, since I always thought that this “world” was this earth and would not become the Lord’s until the end of the Tribulation. However, it bothered me that the word “world” was the Greek word “cosmos” which includes the universe, maybe including heaven as well, since that is where the Greek gods supposedly lived.

But then I was reading Revelation Chapter 12 about the war in heaven and Satan being cast out. I read in vs 10, *“And I heard **a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.”*** Both of these **voices**, Revelation 11:15 and 12:10, are from **heaven**. When the Lord prompted me to look up the words **“is come”** here and **“is become”** in Revelation 11:15, the 7th Trumpet, I found that **they are the exact same Greek words**. Both of these **voices** from **heaven** are proclaiming the establishment of the **kingdom of our Lord or of our God**. So, these two events are the same event and the expulsion of Satan from heaven is part of the 7th Trumpet and therefore is definitely the 3rd woe. I guess the Bible does not give an ending to the third woe because Satan causes havoc even at the end of the Millennium.

Since Satan persecutes the women, Israel, for three- and one-half years after he is cast out of heaven, Rev 12:13-14, he has to be cast out of heaven in the first half of the tribulation probably very close to the midpoint. So, the 7th Trumpet happens just before the midpoint. Therefore, all the Trumpet judgements happen in the 1st half of the Tribulation.

The unresolved question in my mind is, why does the Lord give the beast 42 months, Revelation 13:5, to continue at this time since it has just been declared, *"The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever."*? I do not know. I know that Satan gives the beast his power, Revelation 13:4, but only the Lord, knows the times and the seasons and therefore can give him time. But why? I do not know. In the 7th Trumpet judgement, it appears to me that the Lord God Almighty, God the Father, has taken total control of heaven having Satan and his sinful cast thrown out and now for the next three and one half years will concentrate on the earth. (Speculation - The earth is Satan's domain, the prince and power of the air. It is almost like the Lord gives Satan, the antichrist he desires, (remember he is released from the bottomless pit, Revelation 17:8,) and tells him, "ok give Me your best shot.")

I still believe Satan is, *"the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon,"* Rev 9:11.

Who is the star that falls from heaven in Revelation 9:1? I do not know for certain. But actually, it could be Satan and the following has basically convinced me it is. The verse in many translations is *"...I saw a star **fallen** from heaven..."* and C.I. Scofield also notes that the verb *"fall"* in the KJV is actually in the past tense. Christ said in Luke 10:18 after the disciples told him that even the demons were subject to them through His name, *"I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven."* My understanding is that Christ saw Satan fall from his original place of authority in heaven to the earth, when he sinned. When he fell to earth, he had no claim to the earth until he seduced Adam and Eve. When Adam sinned, he made Satan his god and Satan has ruled ever since as the prince of this world, the prince and power of the air. The demons probably fell at the same time. They are fallen angels but are still subject to Christ and His name. So, it is very conceivable that Satan who fell from his position of grace is the fallen angel of Revelation 9:1. Maybe he is introduced separately because when he originally fell, he was not given the key to the bottomless pit. That was a good thing for us since Satan is obviously jealous of mankind's created position, *"made in the likeness of God,"* and therefore hates mankind and causes as much pain as the Lord allows as the story of Job illustrates. Today he still has access to heaven where he accuses us day and night before the Lord. But one day as Revelation 12:9 indicates, he will be thrown out of heaven for good, never to return.

I do believe, and this is speculation, that this fallen star is not only the one who releases the demonic locust but also releases the beast that shall, *"ascend out of the bottomless pit,"* Rev 17:8. Who else is given the key to the bottomless pit? Who else would release

this demonic person? No, I do not think he is a demon, he is a man but from the bottomless pit and therefore demonic like. Since Satan is the ruler of the bottomless pit, he would have control over both. Do not be surprised if Satan releases the locust, and since he is the ruler of the air, fake news, blames it on the Lord and His two witnesses, then releases the beast to “defeat” the two witnesses and the locust and thereby perpetuate the impression that he, and the beast have power to overcome the Lord and the two witnesses. I am not saying that this will happen. I am just speculating and saying that this is a scenario that we should consider as possible.

Now there are very few clues to determine the timing of the Bowl Judgements. But there is a tie in with the 7th Trumpet as mentioned before. When the 7th trumpet is sounded, the four and twenty elders who sat before God on their thrones, fell upon their faces and worshiped God saying, *“We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. And the nations were angry, and **thy wrath is come...**”* Revelation 11:17-18. The seven last plagues, the Bowl or Vial judgements we are told contain the wrath of God, *“for in them is filled up the **wrath of God,**”* Revelation 15:1. So they follow the 7th Trumpet. So, they are in the last three-and-one-half years of the Tribulation. Remember salvation is suspended during these plagues, *“and no man was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled,”* Revelation 15:8 (See chapter VI of this book).

The 1st Bowl seems to begin after everyone who is going to take the mark of the beast has taken it, since it is against those who have taken it, Revelation 16:2. This verse indicates that they not only have the mark of the beast but they worship his image as well. These may be the desolate that Daniel mentions in 9:27 when he says, *“and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.”* *“That determined,”* may be the Bowls themselves since they are full of the wrath of God and each are *“poured out”* in retribution and vengeance, Revelation 16:2-17. So, putting it all together I believe the Bowls start during the last half of the tribulation.

The 3rd Bowl is the answer to the question of *“How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?”* of those *“**slain** for the word of God, and the testimony which they held”* of the 5th Seal, Revelation 6:9-10. In the 3rd Bowl as Revelation 16:4-6 says, *“And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast **judged**”*

*thus. For they have **shed** the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy."*

The Bowl Judgements are poured out when, *"a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth."* When the 7th Bowl is poured out in Revelation 16:17, the great voice from the temple declares, "It is done." (this would appear to be the Father's voice, because the Father says, *"It is Done"* in Revelation 21:6, which you can look up.) Now the question becomes, are the events of the next few verses, Revelation 16:18-21, part of the 7th Bowl or something extra? I have previously concluded they are part of the 7th Bowl and that the 7th Bowl is before the 6th Seal because in verse 21 men blaspheme the Lord. It seems to me that nobody would blaspheme the Lord once they saw Him in the splendor of His majesty. But my grandson, Josiah, noted that verse 20 says that the mountains were not found whereas during the 6th Seal, Revelation 6:14, they were just moved out of their places.

Also, Satan has seen the Lord in the splendor of His majesty and still blasphemes Him, so maybe mankind will also. So, the question becomes, have I misplaced the 6th Seal? And the answer is no. No, because the timing of the 6th Seal is established by Matthew 24:29 and it is immediately after the tribulation of those days which have previously been shown to include the seven years of the Tribulation (see chapter III).

So, what is the timing of the 6th Seal and the 7th Bowl including verses 18-21 of the 16th chapter of Revelation. Now this is a little speculation, not about the Word of God, it says what it says. But it is speculation as to how the various passages fit together. Let's start with the **6th Bowl**. Revelation 16:12-17, *"And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty... And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon. And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done."* The armies of the world have been gathered by God Almighty to war against His Son, Jesus Christ for the final control of the earth. Now it is time for the unsaved of the earth to find out who the Messiah really is. Christ told the Chief Priest that they would see Him, "the son of man," His reference to the Messiah, seated at the right hand of Power in Matthew 26:64. Christ told His disciples in Matthew 24:30, that when the "**sign** of the son of man" appeared "**in heaven**," He would come. So, I believe the 6th Seal fits in here. Revelation 6:12-17, *"And*

*I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" Can you imagine their fear when, first of all, the sun becomes black, and of course the earth also, and then the sky rolls back and they see the Lord and the Lamb, "the **sign**," in the majesty of their glory? They in their terror hide in their bomb shelters and bunkers and ask the mountains to fall on them. So, what happens next? Revelation 19:11-14 must be inserted within this passage, "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean." Then Zachariah adds in 14:3-5, "Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east," I would insert Revelation 16:18-20 here which says after the 7th Bowl is poured out, "And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And the great city was divided into three parts," Then Zachariah concludes, "and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains;" Revelation 19:15 says, "And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God." Then Revelation 16:19-20 continues, "and the cities of the nations fell... And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. Then finally we can finish in Revelation 19:19-21, "And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.*

And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.”

Now we have to be a little careful even when we put scripture together. Some actions are fast and others are much slower. For instance, to ride from heaven to Jerusalem may not take very long and I am surmising that the Lord rides into Jerusalem to save his people and start His campaign from there. And that the city being divided by the earthquake and the mount of Olives being divided occurs as the same event. Logically it makes sense. But to flatten the mountains with a great earthquake may take more time. I know the Lord can do it very quickly, in a minute if He wanted to, but in the flood, it appears that he chose to raise the mountains over a longer period. However, geologists tell us that avalanches progress so rapidly because the particles, the rocks and boulders, in the avalanche shake apart and behave like a liquid. Maybe that is why the Lord shakes the earth so violently. The fact that the islands fled away and the mountains could not be found means that the geology of the earth must change about as much as it did during the flood. We don't know how long this earthquake or the earthquake of the 6th Seal takes nor how long it takes for the sun to be darkened either. It could be very quickly or be drawn out. Whatever the Lord desires.

However, the sequence of events, the content and context, just makes sense. The armies of the world are gathered together against Jerusalem for the battle of Armageddon. In anticipation of the revelation of the Messiah, the Lord sends great physical disturbances in the heavens and earth, the sun turns black and a great earthquake occurs. Jesus Christ is revealed to the world in the presence of His Father when the heavens roll back as a scroll. The unsaved of the earth hide in the mountains and beg them to fall on them and hide them from the one sitting on the throne, God the Father, and from the Lamb, the angry Lamb. Then Christ mounts His white horse and rides to Jerusalem to protect it and the believing Jews. He first stops at the Mount of Olives at which time it divides down the middle in an even bigger earthquake that provides a way of escape for the believing Jews. This second earthquake is so violent as to not only divide Jerusalem in three parts but also the cities of the nations fall **and the mountains collapse on the unbelievers as they had requested**. Remember, I told you that they would get their request. Then Christ engages the Beast, the false prophet, and the armies of the world and of course defeats them all. It all makes sense to me. But let me say it again, those passages are all about the end times and are true. They will come to pass exactly as they are stated in the Bible, but the way I put those passages of scripture together was speculation on my part.

I have tried to put all the judgements on a chart in chapter X. Please keep in mind that only a few of the judgements have any timing associated with them and so the chart just shows

some basic timing, the spread of the Seals, the Trumpets in the first half, and the Bowls in the second half. I have also tried to capture some of the salient issues.

Personal application:

The true timing of the Seals, Trumpets, and Bowls are a little hard to figure out. But the Lord has put in our inner being the knowledge that there is coming a day of judgement. Romans 1:18-20 says, *“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold (suppress) the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.”* Mankind is without excuse. Will you stand before God without an excuse? Do you wonder, what must I do to be saved from that awful possibility? Acts 16:31 answers that question, *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.”* Do you believe that Jesus is the Lord? Do you believe Jesus is the Christ, the savior? Do you believe Jesus died for your sins? Do you believe Jesus rose from the dead the third day in demonstration that His sacrifice was accepted? Do you believe He is coming again? If you do not then please read the Bible, especially the New Testament. If you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, then just pray to Him and ask Him to forgive you of your sins and to come into your heart and to save you. Romans 10:9-13, *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”* Do it today!

Chapter VIII

Conversion of the Nation of Israel

In Revelation 11:3-14 the two witnesses are slain, risen again and transported to heaven as part of the 2nd woe, *“And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth... And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them... And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry... And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God (God the Father) entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and **the remnant** were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven. The **second woe is past**; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.”* This timing puts the two witnesses in the 1st half of the tribulation since that is where all the Trumpet Judgements occur as concluded in the previous chapter. But I believe this puts the conversion of the Jewish nation, one of the most anticipated events in the O.T. at the midpoint as well. Why? Look at Revelation 11:11-13. When the *“spirit of life from God,”* enters the two witnesses and they are raptured, verse 13 says, *“and **the remnant** were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.”* Who is this remnant? What city are the two witnesses slain in and then resurrected in? Jerusalem! Revelation 11:8, *“And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.”* What nationality do those in Jerusalem represent? Israel. What group of people did the Lord mention over and over again in the O.T.? The remnant. The remnant of Israel. Now, the Lord says thru John, that the remnant gave glory to the God of Heaven. By the way, this is the only time in Revelation that it is recorded that people on earth give glory to the God of heaven, and that is quite significant. I take it that this is when the Jewish nation, the remnant, is converted as a nation. All thru the Old Testament the remnant always were believers in the Lord. When Elijah complained to the Lord that he was the only one left, the Lord said in I Kings 19:18 *“Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.”*

Now I understand that we accept the Lord individually. But the Bible talks about a national restoration for Israel, Isaiah 40:2 says, *“Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins.”* Isaiah 11:11 says, *“And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the **remnant** of his people.”* Romans 11:26-27 says, *“And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.”* There will be so many individuals of Israel converted to Christ that it will be a national restoration.

Now, you may say, as I also thought for many years, that the nation of Israel would return to the Lord when the rider on the white horse in Rev 19:11, the Messiah appears. But think about that for a minute. Ephesians 2: 8 says, *“For by grace are you saved thru **faith**.”* Do we really believe that? Do we evaluate our beliefs according to that? If the Jews waited until they saw the Messiah, Jesus Christ, riding on the white horse from heaven would their conversion be by faith or by sight? Especially since we have seen previously, in chapter III, that they see Him sitting at the right hand of the Father just before that. They *“see the Son of Man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven,”* Matthew 26:64. In fact, that was given, by Christ, as the event that the **unbelieving** Jews would see and would finally make them believe that He was the Messiah. **However, in the context of His trial this proof would not be for salvation but condemnation.** These Jewish leaders had already committed the unpardonable sin, they had rejected the Holy Spirit’s testimony that Jesus Christ was God. Many in the end times will have chosen the antichrist. So, it is hard to see that this is when Israel is converted. Daniel also has something to say about their conversion when he says in Daniel 12:1, *“...at that time thy people shall be delivered, **every one that shall be found written in the book.**”* Who shall be delivered? Not those who see Him on the white horse but those of faith, *“**every one that shall be found written in the book.**”*

Now is there any evidence that there is a time between their conversion and when the rider on the white horse of Revelation 19:11 appears? Daniel 12:10 says, *“Many shall be purified, and made white, and **tested**; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.”* This passage is talking about the Tribulation and the angel says “many.” Many what? Many Jews. Many will be “purified and made white and **tested**.” When will they be tested? From this verse it seems that they will be tested after they are purified and made white and while the wicked are doing wickedly. It seems a stretch to consider that this would be after the Messiah on the white horse of Revelation 19:11 appears. When is there time for testing then? Also, according to Revelation 6:16, by then the wicked, those who have rejected Christ, will know that it is

time for their punishment and not salvation. But if the remnant accepts the Lord in the middle of the Tribulation, as Revelation 11:13 indicates, there would be time for testing. Revelation 12:13-14 says that the Children of Israel will fly into the wilderness for three and a half years to escape the persecution of Satan who has been cast out of heaven. Jeremiah 30:7 says, *“Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is **even the time of Jacob's trouble**; but **he shall be saved out of it.**”* It appears that Israel will be saved before the last three and a half years. Concerning these “latter days” Jeremiah 31:1-2 also says, *“At the same time, saith the Lord, will I be the God of **all the families of Israel**, and they shall be my people. Thus, saith the Lord, the people which were left of the sword found grace in the **wilderness**; even Israel, **when I went to cause him to rest.**”* This has to be talking about the future of Israel since Hebrews says that Israel never entered the Lord’s rest, Hebrews 3:18 – 4:11. They find grace and rest in the wilderness, during the time of Jacobs trouble which is the last three-and-one-half years, which is before Messiah appears. Daniel 12:1 talking about these last three-and-one-half years says, *“And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.”* Incidentally, Michael standing up, is the war Michael has with Satan in Revelation 12:7-9 in which he casts him out of heaven just before the middle of the Tribulation as established in Chapter VII. So, it is in the middle of the Tribulation that *“every one that shall be found written in the book”* will be delivered. Not at the end when they see the rider on the white horse. When no man was able to enter into the Temple, Revelation 15:8.

Zechariah 13:8-9 says, *“And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And **I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them** as silver is refined, and **will try them** as gold is tried: **they shall call on my name**, and I will hear them: I will say, *It is my people: and they shall say, The Lord is my God.*”* This is again talking about the Tribulation and again there appears that there is a time for testing of the Jewish believers before Messiah comes.

Yes, I know that Zechariah 12:10 says, *“And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.”* I look forward with great joy to the day I will meet my savior, but I must admit that there is also a certain trepidation knowing how far I have missed the mark. I know all my sins are forgiven and the Lord will not hold me accountable for them. But I am sure I will be

embarrassed and mourn at how much Jesus Christ had to suffer for me. I will feel bitter about the opportunities I have squandered. I will mourn and be in bitterness for belligerently going contrary to His will so often, even though I was saved over 70 years earlier. Ezekiel 20:43 seems to say the same thing about why Israel mourns, *“And there shall ye remember your ways, and all your doings, wherein ye have been defiled; and ye shall lothe yourselves in your own sight for all your evils that ye have committed.”*

Do you really think they will be mourning in the day of their conversion? Did you? I did not. Were you bitter? I was not. Yes, I also know that Zechariah 13:1-2 says, *“In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness. And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered: and also I will cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land.”* But I also read one chapter later in Zechariah 14:1-2, *“Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.”* This makes it clear that *“the day of the Lord,”* is a time period and not a 24-hour event and therefore there is time for testing.

Some may argue that in Revelation 11:13 they just give glory to the God of heaven and not to Jesus Christ, and therefore it does not represent a true conversion. Yes, I wish it said that they gave glory to the Lamb, Jesus Christ. It would eliminate any argument. But think for a second about who is talking here. It is the God of heaven who chose to say, *“the remnant were terrified, and gave glory to the God of heaven.”* If He said the remnant gave glory to Him, who am I to argue with Him? Who am I to say that this is just a condescending gesture and not the real thing? Another thing to consider is that the angel flying in the midst of heaven having the *“everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth”* in Revelation 14:6-7 does not mention Christ but says, *“Fear God, and give glory to Him.”* which is exactly what the remnant did in Revelation 11:13. Two things I should mention. John 4:23 says, *“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.”* So, we do not just worship Jesus Christ. We worship the Father also. And remember, as established in Revelation 1:1, the term “God” thru out the book of Revelation is referring to God the Father. In the next chapter, Revelation 12:17, it defines what the remnant of Israel believes when it says. *“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with **the remnant** of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and **have the testimony of Jesus Christ.**”* The remnant does believe in Jesus Christ. And what better clue, and maybe

I should ask what better statement would you expect the Lord to give to record when the nation of Israel, the remnant, turns to Him than, *“the remnant were terrified, and gave glory to the God of heaven”*? This is in answer to the prayer of Jeremiah 31:7 where he prays. ***“O Lord, save thy people, the remnant of Israel.”*** As I said before, this is the only place recorded in the book of Revelation, the 70th week of the history of Israel, that anyone on earth gives glory to the God of heaven and it is the believing **remnant** that does it!

Therefore, I believe the conversion of the remnant of Israel occurs right after the two witnesses are raised back to life and raptured in the middle of the Tribulation. They are then tried for three and a half years until they see their Messiah and mourn for Him.

So, it all works together. Israel is converted at the middle of the Tribulation, salvation is suspended during the Bowl judgements which are God the Father’s judgements and the 6th Seal is at the end when the heavens open and those on earth hide for the fear of the LORD and the glory of His majesty because they see the Lord and know salvation is not available.

This clears up another confusing issue. When Christ returns all the tribes of the earth mourns according to Matthew 24:30, *“And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: **and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn**, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”* If the Jewish nation were to be saved “by sight” when they see the Messiah come, why would not all the nations turn to the Lord? They all see Him and obviously they all know who He is at that time. If they could accept salvation and it was now being offered, not by faith but by sight, they would accept the Lord just for self- preservation. There should be a worldwide conversion. It would be inconsistent for the Lord to offer the Jews salvation by sight and condemn the gentiles at the same time. But the Bible never mentions a worldwide conversion. Why? Because no one is saved by sight, not even Israel.

Personal application:

Revelation 3:20 says, *“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”* Why do we need to open our heart’s door? Romans 3:23, *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”* That is you and that is me. We are all sinners and have no hope within ourselves for heaven. When Adam and Eve committed the first sin, they were expelled from the Garden of Eden and could not justify themselves before God to be able to go back into the garden. They could not earn their way back in. The first half of Romans 6:23 tells us, *“For the wages of sin is death;”* When they committed that first sin they were under the curse of sin and death. That is the bad news, we earn our condemnation. And if it was not for the Lord we would all spend eternity in hell. But Romans 5:8 says that, *“God*

commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Christ not only died for us while we were His enemies but the second half of Romans 6:23 tells us about a gift that is offered to us because of His death, *“but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* How does a sinner get this gift from the Lord? Romans 10:9-11 tells us, *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.”* Will you confess Jesus Christ as your savior? Will you open your heart to Jesus Christ today? He is standing at your hearts door and knocking.

Chapter IX

Seven Sealed Scroll

I have often wondered exactly what the seven sealed scroll represents. After all, it is one of the most pivotal events in Revelation, when Jesus Christ takes the scroll from the Father's hand. I have heard it said that it is the deed to this earth and that seemed to be a good answer. But my grandson, Josiah, made the point that *"the earth is the Lords and the fulness thereof,"* I Corinthians 10:26, and he never sold it. This comports well with the parable of the householder in Matthew 21:33-46, *"Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard...and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country: And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it. And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another... But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son. But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; **come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance.** And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him. When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen? They say unto him, He will **miserably destroy those wicked men**, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons. Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? Therefore, say I unto you, **The kingdom of God shall be taken from you**, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will **grind him to powder.**"* The householder only leased out the vineyard. The tenets sought to kill the son and **"seize"** the inheritance. But the owner never relinquished the vineyard. When the Lord created the earth, He set up Adam to have **dominion** over it, Genesis 1:28, to be the tenant. But when Adam sinned, he sold the human race into slavery to sin; we each inherit a sinful nature. In rebellion we have killed the Son of God and have strived to seize the earth and all of creation for our own. We have set up our own kingdom and made Satan our king, who is the prince of this world, John 12:31, the prince of the power of the air, Ephesians 2:2. However, the Lord still owns the earth and He showed that He still owned it when He cursed it; it was still His to curse, Genesis 3:17-19. But it is Christ, the resurrected son, the cornerstone, who will step forward to reclaim the Kingdom. Christ had said in verse 43 that, *"**The kingdom of God shall be taken from you...**"* Those listening to this parable

in Matthew said that the householder would “**miserably destroy those wicked tenants,**” verse 41, and in verse 44 it is indicated that Christ “**will grind them to powder.**”

I have often wondered why every creature rejoices when the Lamb takes the Scroll from the Father’s hand in Revelation 5:13, “*And every **creature** which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.*” This seems to be resolved by Romans 8: 19-22, “*For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.*”

I must say I wondered why creation was waiting for the manifestation of the **sons** of God and not the **Son** of God. But Jesus Christ is the primary son of God, and we will be manifested with Him when He rides forth as the King of kings and the Lord of lords to conquer His enemies and claim **His Kingdom**. It is then that in His Kingdom, Isaiah 11:6-9 will be fulfilled, “*The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice’ den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.*”

In conclusion, the Seven Sealed Scroll I believe is the deed to the Kingdom, the earthly kingdom over which Jesus Christ will rule during the Millennium and on into eternity.

So, how will this all come together? The 7th Trumpet will declare that, “*The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ.,*” Revelation 11:15, as Satan is thrown out of heaven near the middle of the Tribulation. Then the Father will pour out His wrath on the unbelievers on the earth with the 7 Bowl Judgements, Revelation 15:7, during the second half of the Tribulation. He will gather the kings of the whole world to “*the battle of that great day of God Almighty,*” Revelation 16:14. The 6th Seal will be opened, the heavens will depart as a scroll and Jesus Christ, The Lamb of God will be manifested to the whole world in no uncertain terms, Matthew 26:64 and Revelation 6:16. Then He will come to earth, Matthew 24:30 and 26:64, as King of kings

and Lord of lords to fight the Battle of Armageddon, Revelation 19:11-16. To defeat all His enemies and to miserably destroy those wicked men. The beast will be taken and the false prophet and cast into the lake of fire, Revelation 19:20. The unsaved of the earth will be slain, Revelation 19:21. Satan will be bound and cast into the bottomless pit for 1000 years, Revelation 20:1-3. The seventh Seal will be opened and there will be silence in heaven, blissful silence, as there are no more enemies to challenge Christ's rule.

Chapter X

Two Scrolls

I have always been intrigued by the two scrolls in Revelation, the one in Chapter 5 and the other in chapter 10. I have always wondered if the two scrolls in Revelation are related, as the two scrolls are in Jeremiah 32. Jeremiah 32:6-15, *“And Jeremiah said, The word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Behold, Hanameel the son of Shallum thine uncle shall come unto thee, saying, Buy thee my field that is in Anathoth: for the right of redemption is thine to buy it. So Hanameel mine uncle's son came to me in the court of the prison according to the word of the Lord...And I bought the field of Hanameel my uncle's son...And I subscribed the evidence, and sealed it, and took witnesses, and weighed him the money in the balances. So, I took the evidence of the purchase, both that which was sealed according to the law and custom, and that which was open: And I gave the evidence of the purchase unto Baruch the son of Neriah, the son of Maaseiah, in the sight of Hanameel mine uncle's son, and in the presence of the witnesses that subscribed the book of the purchase, before all the Jews that sat in the court of the prison. And I charged Baruch before them, saying, Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Take these evidences, **this evidence of the purchase, both which is sealed, and this evidence which is open**; and put them in an earthen vessel, that they may continue many days.”*

There were two scrolls:

A sealed scroll containing the **evidence of the purchase**.

And an open scroll. I believe it is the common conception that this open scroll identifies who can open the sealed scroll.

Now in Revelation 5 we see a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. A strong angel proclaims with a loud voice. *“Who is worthy to open the scroll and loosen it’s seals.”* This scroll will lead to the revelation, the revealing of Jesus Christ and His battle for the Kingdom. John weeps much because nobody is worthy to open the scroll. But one of the elders tells John, *“Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, **hath prevailed** to open the book (scroll), and to loose the seven seals thereof.”* The lion of the tribe of Judah **“hath prevailed.”**

Now this is where the second scroll, Revelation 10, seems to fit in. *“And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, **clothed with a cloud**: and a rainbow was upon his head, and **his face was as it were the sun**, and **his feet as pillars of fire**: And he had in his hand **a little book (scroll) open**: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth, And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth,”* Revelation 10:1-3. This angel is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ as His description makes clear. Revelation 1:7 had said, “Behold **He cometh with clouds**.” Revelation 1:16 had described Him as, *“...**his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength**.”* And Revelation 1:15 adds, *“**And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace...**”* He has in His hand a little scroll open and lays claim to the earth and the sea as He set His right foot on the sea and His left foot on the earth, the territory of the kingdom. He roars as the Lion (the Lion of the Tribe of Judah). Revelation 10:5-7 continues, *“And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, And sware by him that **liveth for ever and ever**, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time (delay) no longer: But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.”* He lifts his hand up to heaven and swears by the only one higher than He and that is God the Father, the one who **liveth forever and ever**, that the time has come, that the mystery of God should be finished, and tells us exactly when it will be. This is one of those places where it is so important to know that it is **God the Father** who **“liveth forever and ever.”**

When the Lord created the earth 6000 years ago, it was the Lord's. He made Adam the caretaker of it. However, Adam sinned and the human race seized what was the Lord's and, turned the rule of it over to Satan. We know that the Lord recognizes it as Satan's since Jesus Christ, at His temptation, did not protest Satan's claim that he could give Christ all the **kingdoms** of the world. He also refers to Satan as, “The prince of this world,” John 12:31, and “the prince and power of the air,” Ephesians 2:2.

Does Christ have the right to redeem His Kingdom?

He is our kinsman, He became a man.

He bought us with His own blood, His righteous blood.

He bought us back when we were hopelessly lost.

There are two Scrolls:

There is a sealed scroll in heaven in the Father's hand.

He has in His hand the open scroll.

Yes, He does have the right to redeem His Kingdom! And these two scrolls mentioned in Revelation are related as the two scrolls are in Jeremiah. The open scroll in Revelation 10 gives Christ the right to open the sealed scroll that is in His Father's hand in Revelation 5.

Also, as the scroll of judgement that Ezekiel was given to eat was sweet in his mouth but bitter to his being, so this open scroll that Christ has is sweet in the mouth but bitter to the belly, Revelation 10:8-10. Judgement of sin is sweet to the Christian but also bitter because many of our friends, and family will be judged and condemned forever as the seven sealed scroll of Chapter 5 is opened. In context here, the Judgement of Israel's enemies by their Messiah will be sweet but also very bitter as they will go thru a terrible time of trial and judgement also.

It is these next four verses that convinced me, that this passage belongs chronologically within chapter 5. Verse 11 of chapter 10 just always seemed to be out of place to me in the middle of the tribulation, *"And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings."* He had already been prophesying about these things. But if it occurs near the beginning, it makes sense. John had prophesied about the churches but now he must also prophecy about peoples, tongues, nations and kings.

This also resolves another issue I had. Revelation 11:3, *"And I will give power unto my two witnesses..."* seemed to flow from the first two verses, *"And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months."* In fact, I tried to prove that the two witnesses were in the second half of the Tribulation because I thought the first two verses were in the second half, as most others have also concluded. However, after some study I concluded that the witnesses are in the first half of the Tribulation as others have. But, I still thought that the first two verses were in the second half. I thought that the Lord protected His Temple from intrusion by the gentiles in the second half of the Tribulation even though the outer court would be over-run by them. However, that is not supported by II Thessalonians 2:1-4 which says, *"Now we beseech you... That ye be not soon shaken in mind... that the day of Christ is at hand. 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; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that **he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.***” **The temple is not protected!** The antichrist sits in the temple proclaiming that he is God! When does this happen? *“And he (the antichrist) 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.”* Daniel 9:27. So, the antichrist goes into the temple in the middle of the tribulation and declares himself God and continues there throughout the second half of the Tribulation.

This means that Revelation 11:1-2 happens, contrary to popular belief, in the first half of the Tribulation and therefore verse three does flow from these two verses. This makes much more sense than our previous understanding. When the antichrist takes over the Temple, He magnifies himself above every god including the Lord, *“And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done. Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all. But in his estate shall he honour the god of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things. Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory: and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain,”* Daniel 11:36-39.

So, it makes sense that this prophecy in Revelation 11:1-3 is fulfilled in the first half of the Tribulation when the Temple is protected. And it makes a lot of sense that the little scroll or book gives Christ the right to open the sealed scroll or book. He established that right when He died on the cross to save us from our sins. And rose again in victory over death. He now places His feet on the earth and the sea claiming the right to His kingdom. And therefore, chronologically the events of Chapter 10 and the first part of chapter 11 belong within the events of chapter 5. I would insert them between verse 5 and verse 6 of chapter 5.

Chapter XI

The Thief in the Night

As I have studied what the Bible says, and let it say what it says, another problem has been solved in my mind. I have never understood I Thessalonians 5:2-3, *“For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh **as a thief in the night**. For when they shall say, **Peace and safety**; then **sudden destruction** cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and **they shall not escape**.”* Or Revelation 16:15, *“Behold, I come as **a thief**...”* Among all the destruction and chaos of the Tribulation why would they not know that the Lord was coming soon and how could they think they had peace and safety?

Well, when the beast arises from the bottomless pit (Revelation 13:3 and 17:8) and makes war with the two witnesses of the Lord, who are calling down the various plagues and disasters that are occurring in the first half of the Tribulation, and kills them (Revelation 11:7), the world rejoices. They rejoice and send presents to each other to celebrate. That time is, probably, the time when they declare, *“peace and safety.”* *“And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him?”* Revelation 13:4. But it is also at about this time, before the Bowl Judgements, that sudden destruction comes, in that, the temple in heaven is closed, as Revelation 15:8 says, *“And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; **and no man was able to enter into the temple**, till the seven plagues (Bowl Judgements) of the seven angels were fulfilled.”* It is the temple in heaven where Jesus Christ sacrificed His blood to purchase our redemption, *“...but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us...How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”* Hebrews 9:11,12,14. It is where we must spiritually enter to appropriate by faith that blood for our salvation. *“Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus...Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering...”* Hebrews 10:19-23. Their destruction is sudden because salvation is suddenly no longer available because they cannot enter into this temple.

Instead of peace and safety they thought they had with the beast in charge, they are now about to experience the Bowl Judgements containing the wrath of Almighty God poured out on them and there is no salvation available, *“**and they shall not escape**.”* It is also as

a “**thief in the night**” in that the kingdom of this world has been declared the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, **in heaven**, during the 7th Trumpet Judgement (Revelation 11:15). It is declared in heaven and will not be realized on earth until the Bowl Judgements begin and it is too late.

They who have rejected the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for so long will be condemned to everlasting destruction in hell. This is not annihilation. It is a conscious state of the condemned unrepentant sinner. An everlasting conscious state in a place prepared for Satan and his fallen angels. Yes, the Lord is long suffering and not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the Lord hates sin and will not tolerate sin and will ultimately condemn the sinner to hell. Hebrews 10:28-31 makes this clear, *“He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden underfoot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”* They disrespected the Spirit of grace as the Lord had sent an angel to proclaim *“Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of his judgement is come; and worship Him that made heaven, and the earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.”* Revelation 14:7. They disrespected the Spirit of grace further when the Lord sent another angel with the warning, *“If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb.”* Revelation 14:9-10. These two angels seem to be sent near the middle of the Tribulation. Then after those on earth have either accepted or rejected the messages of those two angels, He suddenly suspends salvation. He did it once, when He closed the door of the ark, and the whole human race, except for the 8 on the ark, perished. And He will suddenly do it again. Hebrews 12:25-27 has a warning for us and them, *“Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.”* Please do not be one of those who reject Him. Today, admit that you are a sinner like all of us and accept the shed blood of Jesus Christ as the Lord's payment for your sin and become a child of God. A child of God is just a poor sinner saved by the grace

of a holy and righteous and forgiving God. I can tell you from personal experience that it is wonderful to know that your sins are forgiven and you are at peace with your creator and He is at peace with you. It is a peace that passes all understanding. It can be yours today. Just trust the Lord, repent of your sins and ask Jesus Christ to come into your heart and save you. Do it today.

Chapter XII

Questions in my mind resolved

Before and after the wound to death

The beast, the antichrist, of Revelation 13:1-8 appears to have a split personality, so to speak. Revelation 13:3 says, *"And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast."* He is killed, "wounded to death," but then he comes back to life, "his deadly wound was healed." Revelation 17:8 adds some detail to this healing, *"The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and **shall ascend out of the bottomless pit**, and go into perdition."* When John wrote Revelation this beast had already lived but was then dead. But he will ascend out of the bottomless pit. It has been shown by others that this beast is one of the seven first Roman Emperors, Revelation 17:9-11, and 18. The beast in Chapter 13 dies but then He is healed. But it appears that when he is healed, he ascends out of the bottomless pit as the beast of Chapter 17 and therefore as a different character. He is one person before his wound to death, and a different person after the deadly wound is healed. Quite literally, one soul possesses his body before his death but a different soul possesses his body after the deadly wound is healed. Do not be surprised that before he is wounded to death he has a very nice personality and but afterwards he has a very different personality. Also, Revelation 11 tells us that, *"the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit,"* has special abilities; he *"made war against"* the two witnesses *"and shall overcome them, and kill them."* Something no one else could do.

666

Revelation 13:18, *"Here **is** wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is six hundred threescore and six."* The tense of this verse is present tense, *"Here **is** wisdom."* Contrary to many Bible expositors this seems to say that now, right now, we can have wisdom and know who the 666 stands for. This seems to be in contrast to II Thessalonians 2:3 talking about the day of the Lord when it says, *"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."* In other words the beast, the son of perdition, will be revealed at a later time. If he is not going to be revealed until some later time then how can we know who he is now? That is where the wound to death comes into play. It is the personality or person

who ascends out of the bottomless pit and takes over the body of the slain beast (Revelation 13:3 and 18) that is the 666 and that we should be able to identify now. It is the beast before he has the deadly wound that we will not know until he is revealed. (it appears according to Revelation 17:10 that the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit is one of the first five Roman Emperors. But this study is for another day.)

The Image of the Beast

Revelation 13 talks about two beasts that arise during the Tribulation. The first is felt to be the antichrist and the second is felt to be the false prophet. The second beast proposes to make an image of the first beast, *"... saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live, And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed,"* Verses 14-15. Have you ever thought about how this passage could be fulfilled today? With the technology available today, an image, a robot could be made looking very, very similar to a human. And with Artificial Intelligence, AI, it could be programed to speak and could reason enough to figure out who is not on Satan's side and tag them for death. It is even conceivable now, that an army of robots, also with AI, could be made to carry out the commands of the image. This is not to say that this is how this image is to be made. After all, in Moses' time the wizards of the day threw their staffs down and they became serpents. But it says, "make an image," so maybe this image will be constructed and at the present time an AI robot would seem to fit the bill.

Technology

I have heard it said that all the technology for the Lord to come is now in place. Actually, Satan is the one that needs the technology, it is not the Lord. Revelation 1:7 says, *"Behold, he cometh with clouds; and **every eye shall see him**, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen."* Men have been saying since TV was invented and now that we have cell phones that that is how people from all over the world will see Him come. But Matthew tells us how this is really going to take place, *"For **as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be,**"* Matthew 24:27. He has never needed technology to accomplish His will. I may not know how He is going to do it, but His coming will shine from the east to the west and all around the world. The Lord does not need a computer chip to mark or keep tract of the 144,000 either. But Satan will need technology

to put the mark, probably a computer chip, of the beast on his servants and keep track of them.

Chapter XIII

TRIBULATION – 7 YEARS

} MIDST OF TRIB {

| GREAT TRIBULATION, 42 MONTHS, 3-1/2 YEARS, 1260 DAYS |

1 st year	2 nd YEAR	3 RD YEAR	4 TH YEAR	5 TH YEAR	6 TH YEAR	7 TH YEAR	
Prince confirms Covenant for 1 week			Prince causes the sacrifice to cease				1290 Days 1335 Days

The basic timing of only two seals can be definitively determined:

The first seal
The sixth seal

Seal Judgements

1st Seal, White Horse – Conquerer	
2nd Seal, Red Horse – War	
3rd Seal, Black Horse – Famine	
4th Seal, Pale Horse – Death . Power over one-fourth of earth, a geological region	
The first seal opened before Tribulation starts:	5th Seal, Martyred Ones

Trib starts with signing of 7 year covenant
Takes time for a prince to establish himself

So, the First Seal probably starts before the Trib. Starts.

| 6th Seal |
| Wrath of Lamb |
| 7th Seal |
| Silence |

The sixth seal is at the end of the Tribulation:

Isaiah 2:19-21 is the same event as the sixth seal of Rev 6:12-17.
The heavens really do “depart as a scroll when it is rolled together” in Rev 6:14, Is 34:4.
They actually see the glory of the Lord’s person, in Isaiah 2:19-21.
They see the face of the One on the throne and the Lamb in heaven in Rev 6:16.
The “sign” of Matt 24:30 is the answer to the question of the “sign” of Matt 24:3.
The Lamb they see in heaven is the “sign of the Son of Man in heaven”.
The “sign” of Matt 24:30 is “after the tribulation of those days,” Matt 24:29.
The “tribulation of those days” includes the “great tribulation,” Matt 24:21 & 29.
The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, Isaiah 2:11.
The haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, Isaiah 2:11.
The Lord alone shall be exalted in that day, Isaiah 2:11.
Therefore, I conclude that the sixth seal is at the end of the tribulation.

Trumpet Judgements

144,000

Sealed | 1st, 1/3 trees & grass burnt. |

Before | 2nd, 1/3 sea turned to blood |

4 angels | 3rd, 1/3 rivers turned to blood |

Hurt the | 4th, 1/3 day and night shone not |

Earth and sea | 5th |
| Star falls |
| Locust |
| released |
1st Woe

The 1st Trumpet is the first angel to hurt the earth:

The 144,000 sealed before four angels allowed to hurt the earth

The 5th Trumpet is the fallen star, the first woe:

He releases the locust, and probably the Beast as well.
It appears that the mark of the beast has not been applied yet, Rev 9:4

The 6th Trumpet slays one third of mankind, the second woe:

Does this happen in one hour or 13 months and 25 hours?
Does the one-hour tie into the destruction of Babylon? Rev 18:10 and 17.
Does the 13 months tie into the 5 months of the 5th Trumpet?

The 7th Trumpet, Satan cast to earth, the third woe.

"The kingdom of this world **is become** the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ," Rev 11:15, declared by those in heaven.
When Satan is cast out of heaven it is declared by those in heaven,
"Now **is come** ... the kingdom of our God..." Rev 12:10
Therefore since "**is become**," Rev 11:15 and "**is come**," Rev 12:10, are the same words in Greek, Satan being cast out is the third woe.
Satan is cast out before the middle of the Trib because he persecutes Israel who flies into the wilderness for 3 1/2 years, Rev 12:13-14.
The Beast being given power to continue for 42 months.

Issues:

This puts the two witnesses in the first half, which most people believe they are but, it also puts the conversion of the Jewish nation, one of the most anticipated events in the O.T., in the first half, Rev 11:13.

It also makes sense since salvation is by faith, and if they are saved after Christ comes on the white horse, would that be by faith or simply by sight?

Peace and safety? The Lord coming like a thief?

They believe the Beast will give them peace and safety
Sudden destruction because salvation is suspended, which they do not understand, and there is no escape?

But why does the Lord give the Beast 42 months to continue at the same time He declares the kingdom of this world His???

Mystery of God? Chapter 10

Are the prophecies of Daniel and the others finished?

Why are the armies gathered to Jerusalem to fight?

Also, why does the Lord not have a spokesman in the last half?

Are the angels of Rev 14: 6-11 His spokesmen?

| Power was given to the Beast to continue 42 months - Rev 13:5 |
| Nations tread Temple and the Holy City 42 months - Rev 11:2 |
| Woman fed in wilderness - 1260 days, Rev 12:6; 3 1/2 years, Rev 12:14. |

TRIBULATION – 7 YEARS						
} MIDST OF TRIB {						
GREAT TRIBULATION, 42 MONTHS, 3-1/2 YEARS, 1260 DAYS						
1 st year	2 nd YEAR	3 rd YEAR	4 th YEAR	5 th YEAR	6 th YEAR	7 th YEAR
Prince confirms Covenant for 1 week			Prince causes the sacrifice to cease			1290 Days 1335 Days

Bowl Judgements

There are very few clues to determine the timing of the bowls:

They are "the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God, Rev 15:1.

Salvation seems to be suspended during these plagues, "and no man was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled" Rev 15:8.

Most commentators think they belong to the second half.

The sixth bowl seems to provide for the kings of the East to stage for the battle of Armageddon.

That may take some time, however they could have already traveled to the Euphrates and just have to cross it. So it may be a few months or just a few days.

The 7th Bowl wraps up the Wrath of God the Father and is near the end of the Tribulation

| Painful |

| Sores |

| Sea |

| Became Blood |

| Water Fountains |

| Became Blood |

| Men |

| Scorched |

| Darkness |

| Euphrates |

| Dried Up |

| It Is Done |

FINAL CONCLUSION:

The Seals span the whole Tribulation.

The Trumpets are in the first half.

The Bowls are in the second half.

What are the 30 extra days, Dan 12:11, at the end of the Tribulation?

I do not know, maybe it is the time of regathering the Jews back to Israel.

What are the 45 extra days, Dan 12:12, at the end of the Tribulation?

I believe it is the judgement of the nations in Matthew 25:31-46.

Personal application:

Judgement, judgement, judgement, that is what is coming to this earth and to each of us. The Lord is holy and must judge sin in order to remain holy. The real question that must be asked is, how can the Lord remain holy but also offer salvation to a sinner? The penalty for sin must be paid before the Lord can offer salvation. But the penalty is death, Genesis 2:17, *"But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."* So, how can any of us pay for our sin? We cannot and that is why we die. But Jesus Christ, the holy one, could and did die in our place so we could live on in heaven when our bodies die. He paid the penalty for each of our sins. I Corinthians 15: 21-22, *"For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."* How are we saved, made alive? Romans 6:23b *"the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* How do we get this wonderful

gift? He offers it to every man, woman, and child in a way each of us can afford. It is not by nationality, not by class, nor by merit, nor by money. He made it available to all, through faith. Something that is available equally to each of us. Just by faith. Not a nebulous faith but a faith in Jesus Christ and the death He died for all who will put their trust in Him. Will you put your faith in Him today?

I understand that all these thoughts that I have presented on Revelation and the Tribulation have major implications and cannot and should not be accepted without diligent study. But again, all I ask is for you to read and study what **scripture** says and let the Holy Spirit convince you as to what **it** says.

Please recommend this web site, therevelationofthetribulation.com to your friends.

Robert D Hassenzahl

5/20/2019,6/8/2025

Appendix A:

The Godhead and the Hierarchy within it.

By now many of you will be thinking that I am messing with the Trinity and the deity of Jesus Christ. No, I am not! Jesus Christ is God! He has always existed and always will exist! And only a **holy, righteous, infinite God** could pay for my sin and rise from the dead. I have just pointed out who the Bible says the Almighty is. The historical definition of the Trinity prevents many of you from accepting that the Almighty is and only is God the Father.

Even though in Jesus Christ *“dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily,”* Colossians 2:9, and Hebrews adds in 1:3, *“Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power...”* there is a hierarchy in the Godhead. Did I see some eyebrows raised just now? **You all** refer to it from time to time. Hebrews 1:5 says, *“...I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son.”* Every time you mention the Father or the Son, you are identifying a hierarchy. Let’s consider this living analogy for a minute, that the Lord has provided. As two adults my father and I are both fully human. Jesus Christ and His Father are both fully God. I look like my father and have the same temperament. Jesus Christ is *“the brightness of His (Fathers) glory, and the express image of His (Fathers) person,”* Hebrews 1:3. I tried to always (well most of the time) to please my father. Jesus said, *“I do always those things that please Him (the Father),”* John 8:29. I consider My father greater than I. Jesus said, *“My Father is greater than I,”* John 14:28. I could call our relationship a hierarchy, and it was, but it was much more personal than that. God the Father’s and God the Son’s relationship is a hierarchy also but much more personal as well. By the way, if identical triplets would have described God better, then He could have made each of us triplets. But He did not.

Gabriel identified the hierarchy in the Godhead with much stronger terminology when he addressed Mary. *“And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the **Son of the Highest,**”* Luke 1:32. Gabriel knows that there is just one God and therefore he would never imply that God the Father is just the highest of many gods. When he mentioned the **“Highest”** he was making a distinction **within the Godhead**. Christ makes the same distinction in Luke 6:35. He said, *“But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the **children of the Highest.**”* Look at II Corinthians 6:18 again, *“And (I) will be a **Father** unto you, and ye shall be **my sons and daughters,** saith the Lord **Almighty.**”* When we accept Christ as our personal savior, God the Father, the **Almighty, the Highest,** adopts us into His family as His children, coheirs with Jesus Christ His only begotten Son. These same Greek words, translated as the **“highest,”** are translated elsewhere as the **“Most High,”** as in Hebrews 7:1, *“For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the **Most High** God...”* And we know that Jesus Christ

was made a priest of the Most High God like Melchisedec. Hebrews 6:20 says, *"...even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec."* So, He would be a priest of the Most High God. Hebrews 8:1 adds, *"Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such a high priest, (Jesus Christ) who is set on the right hand of the throne of the **Majesty** in the heavens."* So, the **"Highest"** or the **"Most High God"** is **God the Father**, just like the **"Almighty"** is, and now we have another name specifically for the Father and that is the **"Majesty,"** which again points to a hierarchy in the Godhead.

In the Old Testament a voice from heaven spoke of the **"Most High"** also. In Daniel 4:31-32 it says, *"While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee. And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the **Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.**"* I understand that Nebuchadnezzar may have and probably did think that this voice was implying that the **"Most High"** was just the highest of many gods. But this voice from heaven would, like Gabriel, never jeopardize its integrity and therefore, it was also making a distinction in the Godhead. And the **"Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will."** He gave it to Nebuchadnezzar and to Cyrus and to many others. But He promises that someday He will give it to His Son, Jesus Christ, *"Yet have I (God the Father) set My King (Jesus Christ) upon My holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto Me, Thou art my **Son**; this day have I begotten Thee. Ask of Me, and I shall give Thee the heathen for Thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for Thy possession,"* Psalms 2:6-8.

And Daniel 7:13-14 records this future transaction when God the Father, the **"Most High,"** as the **"Ancient of Days,"** will give the kingdom to the **"Son of Man,"** which is Jesus Christ." *I saw in the night visions, and behold, one like the Son of Man (Jesus Christ) came with the clouds of heaven and came to the Ancient of Days (God the Father), and they brought Him near before Him. And there was **given** Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed."* (Revelation records this in chapter 5.) God the Father blesses Jesus Christ with an inheritance, a kingdom. And as Hebrews 7:7 says, *"And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better."*

This reminds me of the parable Christ told in Matthew 21:33-44, *"Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country: And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it. And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another,*

and stoned another. Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise. But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son. But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the **heir**; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on **his inheritance**. And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him. When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen? They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons. Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder." This parable should help us understand the narrative of the Bible and especially the Old Testament. We know that the householder represents God the Father. The servants are the prophets. And the son represents Jesus Christ, the stone, that will become the head of the earthly kingdom at the end of the Tribulation as Revelation shows.

The Old Testament predominantly presents the oneness or unity within the Godhead. In Isaiah 42:8 God says, "I am the LORD (Jehovah): that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another..." In Isaiah 44:8 the LORD says, "...Is there a God beside me? Yea, there is no God; I know not any." Isaiah 45:5 adds, "I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me." If there are no other Gods beside the LORD, then the only logical conclusion is that **Jehovah, the LORD, is the triune God** and must comprise the total Godhead, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The Jews lived in a very pagan society that had many gods, and the LORD wanted them to know that Jehovah is only one God, although there were clues that there was a plurality within the Godhead. The relationship of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit is not clearly outlined until the New Testament and the necessities, of not only redemption but also sanctification, are defined.

Since we are in the Old Testament, let's look at who it says is the Almighty. I would like to look at a Messianic Psalm, at least Satan recognized it as one. In Luke 4:9-11 it says, "And he (Satan) brought Him to Jerusalem, and set Him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto Him, If Thou be the Son of God, cast Thyself down from hence: For it is written, He (God the Father) shall give His angels charge over Thee, to keep Thee: And in their hands they shall bear Thee up, lest at any time Thou dash Thy foot against a stone." This is a slight misquote from Psalms 91:11-12 in that it is a really a prepositional phrase, "**For** He shall give His angels charge over Thee, to keep Thee in all Thy ways. They shall bear Thee up in their hands, lest thou dash Thy foot against a stone." So, we must find the subject of this preposition, which is verse 10, "There shall no evil befall Thee, neither shall any plague come nigh Thy dwelling." His Father promised Him that He, Jesus Christ, would

never be hurt or sick. Why? Verse 9 tells us, *“Because Thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the Most High, Thy habitation.”* The LORD, the Triune God, is the writer’s refuge but the Most High within the Triune God is the habitation of Jesus Christ. Now let’s look at the most misappropriated verse in this Messianic Psalm, verse one, *“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.”* We as Christians like to make this verse ours, but can you tell me where the secret place of the Most High is? I cannot. I doubt that the angels can. It is a secret place. It is where the Trinity dwells. Jesus Christ knows it well. He not only “dwells” in the secret place of the Most High but He also “abides,” His “habitation” is, under the shadow of the Almighty, God the Father. Need we go any further? Well, I think it would be good if we did.

(But before we go on I probably ought to justify the conclusion that I made about Ps 91:10. Adam and Eve did not get sick or suffer any injury before the fall. They were in a world that God had declared very good. If they had suffered sickness or injury, God would have not been a righteous God. Their sin caused them to fall under the curse of sin and experience sickness and injuries. However, Jesus Christ never got sick or injured. Ps 91:10, *“There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.”* Although, living in a sin cursed world, He was sinless and therefore not under the curse of sin.

But this brings up another issue. I was taught that the sin of the world was placed on Christ, on the cross just before He cried, “My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?” But He had already been beaten severely and had been hanging on the cross for 6 hours. How does this comport with Psalms 91:10? The answer to this dilemma is that the sin of the world was placed upon Him in the garden before the soldiers came and took Him away and beat Him. In Matthew 26:38 Jesus Christ said, *“...My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death...”* Matthew says not only was He sorrowful but very depressed. He was depressed to the point of dying. In Luke 22:44 it says, *“And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”* What could cause such agony and depression? My vile, repugnant sin. A sin that corrupted His holy, righteous being. A sin that caused Him to cry out, *“O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me...”* Matthew 26:39. This cup was not the cross He would have to bear. This “cup” was the sin of the world He was currently experiencing. A corruption of the soul that was much more serious than the beating of the body. Fortunately, He finished His plea with, *“nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.”*

Now with the sin of the world upon Him the soldiers could have their way. And since there is no excuse for sin, Christ would remain silent before Pilate, because at that time He was guilty of all sin ever committed or to be committed. He would die a physical death. His soul would be separated from His body as it lay in the grave for three days and three nights. He would die a spiritual death. His soul would be separated from His Father for three days and three nights as

well, as He suffered in hell for our sin. That is why He cried out, “My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?” I hope this clarifies my thoughts on Psalms 91:10.) Now let’s go on.

Paul also gave evidence that there is a hierarchy in the Godhead. He said in I Corinthians 11:3, *“The head of Christ is God.”* He also said in I Corinthians 15:24- 28, *“Then cometh the end, when He shall have delivered up the kingdom to **God, even the Father**; when He shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign, till He hath put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For He hath put all things under His feet. But when He saith all things are put under Him, it is manifest that **He** (God the Father) **is excepted**, which did put all things under Him. And when all things shall be subdued unto Him, **then shall the Son also Himself be subject unto Him (God the Father)** that put all things under Him, **that God may be all in all.**”* First, God the Father puts all things under Christ, except Himself. Then Jesus Christ subjects Himself to the Father. There is a functional, a ruling hierarchy in the Godhead. And the purpose is *“that God (the Father) may be all in all.”*

Jesus Christ said in John 14:28, “My Father is greater than I.” But you may say Jesus Christ also said, *“My Father and I are one,”* John 10:30. Yes, but one what? One individual? No! One God? Yes! (I have read that the Greek “one” is “heis” which means one substance not one person.) Jesus Christ also said in John 14:11, *“...I am in the Father, and the Father in me...”* What does that mean? Later in verse 20 He says, *“...I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.”* Does that make you Jesus Christ? Christ continues in John 17:21, *“That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me.”* Again, one what? One individual? No! One family? Probably, God the Father, God the Son, and the adopted children of God.

I still believe in the Trinity, one **God** but three persons, **God** the Father, **God** the Son, and **God** the Holy Spirit. But I am not going to debate Jesus Christ or the Holy Spirit or Gabriel or Paul or the voice from heaven or the writer of Psalms on what all this means to the historical concept of the Trinity.

Is our concept of the Trinity limited? There has to be fundamental distinctions in the Godhead, in order to provide salvation. For instance, God the Father has to be the source of eternal life. John 5:26 says, *“For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself...”* Jesus Christ, has always existed. He had eternal life in eternity past. But He laid down, gave up His life, and died for you and me on the cross. Once dead, He no longer had life and therefore could not be the source of any future life. He still existed but He was dead, separated from His Father. Therefore, life, eternal life, had to be granted to Him again by His Father at His resurrection.

I have been told that “Deity cannot die” which sounds very reasonable. But that only leaves Jesus Christ “the man” to die, and one man, even though perfectly righteous, is still only one man and therefore could only die for one other man. And since death is forever, he would still be dead and still be in the grave. Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, had to be human to die a human death for human sin, but He also had to be Infinite God to pay the penalty for all of our sin, an eternity in hell, especially in three days and three nights, and then rise again. Only a very loving God, who was also, absolutely holy, and righteous, existing outside of time could have accomplished that. And make no bones about it, when He was dead, He was dead! He must have had tremendous faith in His Father, that He was Almighty and could raise Him back from the dead, after all this was the first time that deity had died. Christ still existed but He was separated from His Father, which is spiritual death.

So, there are distinctions in the Godhead that should be recognized and are necessary. The four Gospels were written so that we would know that there is a Father and a Son. Furthermore, Jesus Christ is subservient to the Father all the way thru those Gospels. And not just as a human. For instance, when He prayed, “Not My will but Thine be done,” He was looking from a divine perspective as He would die a divine death as well as a human death. God the Holy Spirit is also subservient to the Father as well. John 16:13 says, *“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but **whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak**: and he will shew you things to come.”*

Can I say I understand the Trinity? No! But I have to accept what the Bible says about the Godhead. There is one God. But there is a hierarchy within the Godhead and God the Father and only God the Father is the “Most High,” the “Ancient of Days,” the “Majesty” on high, the One “that is, and was, and is to come”, the One that “liveth forever and ever”, the “Almighty” (Pantokrato)!

