

The Feast of Trumpets OR The Day of Pentecost... WHICH?

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Author's Statement:

The Weekly Sabbath, the Passover and the Seven Annual Holy Days picture God's fantastic Plan of Salvation. God's people observe these Holy Days faithfully and joyfully each week and each year in their season. They enact a phase of God's Plan as they observe each of the Holy Days. And every year more is understood of the wonderful plan God has for mankind.

God continues to reveal more and more understanding to His faithful Church directly from the pages of the Holy Bible. Scriptures that have been there all this time now seem to leap off the pages into our minds with plain biblical revelation.

Do you recall Herbert W. Armstrong stating that he could not see how this world could continue beyond the year 1997? He had this question in his mind because he knew, according to many authorities, that 6000 years of man going his own rebellious way would end in 1997. Well, was he wrong---or was he right?

If he was right, if man's time did come to an end, are we now in God's time---the Day of the Lord? I Thessalonians 5:2 plainly declares the Day of the Lord will come *as a thief in the night!* Has that happened? Is it even remotely possible that Christ has come suddenly *as a thief* to His Temple---and you didn't know it? Is it feasible that the Day of the Lord could begin *as a thief* before the Great Tribulation and the Heavenly Signs occur?

Just think, when the Tribulation and the Heavenly Signs have been fulfilled, won't the whole World be anticipating the next prophetic event---the Day of the Lord's Wrath! The Tribulation and the Heavenly Signs along with the ministry of the Two Witnesses will proclaim to the world the impending Day of the Wrath of the Lamb. The Day of the Lord's Wrath will not come *as a thief in the night*---the entire Earth will be forewarned, it will be expected! And God's Word tells us that when Christ Returns for His Firstfruits

during the Day of the Lord's Wrath He will not come *as a thief*, for "*every eye shall see Him*" (Rev. 1:7).

Can you see the probability of the Day of the Lord coming secretly and suddenly "*as a thief*" and the pre-announced, expected Day of the Lord's Wrath being TWO DIFFERENT EVENTS?

Hopefully, you can open your mind to this reality, thereby enabling you to comprehend the many new Truths revealed in this booklet. As you study you will realize these statements are not frivolously made but stem from astounding BIBLE TRUTH. And as we explore NEW TRUTH, plain answers to questions that you might have wondered about for years are here revealed.

The following questions are answered from your Bible as made crystal clear in this writing:

- Are the Day of the Lord and the Day of the Lord's Wrath two different events?
- Does the Resurrection of the Firstfruit occur on the Feast of Trumpets or on the Day of Firstfruits---Pentecost?
- Where and when does the Marriage of the Lamb take place?
- Do the 3-½ years of the Church's protection in the Place of Safety, the 42 months rule of the Beast Power, and the 1260 days of the Two Witnesses' ministry, all begin and end at the same time?
- Are the four questions above related to the same overall subject matter?

Very plain scriptures from the Word of God, overlooked in the past, will answer each of these questions. In this booklet we put the scriptures together in a step-by-step method that is easy to understand.

Please read on; you are going to be thrilled at the NEW TRUTH revealed here regarding the wonderful Plan of God!

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Chapter One:

THE GLORY OF JESUS CHRIST

As He walked this earth in the flesh, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, possessed the Spirit of God without measure (John 3:34). Through the Spirit He was able to reflect back and remember how it was to be GOD. He greatly desired that glory once again, the glory that He had “*before the world was*” (John 17:5 and 24). That memory, of that vision of God-hood, was a driving force in His mind. His last will stated in verse 24 was that He exceedingly desired His disciples to be able to see Him in His GLORY. He intensely wants us to grasp this vision of glory also. He inspired the Apostle John to write these encouraging words: “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that when he shall appear, we shall be like HIM: for we will see him as he is.” (I John 3:2).

Christ wants us to be inspired and motivated, filled with the same desire He had that we too may become a part of the God-Family. To accomplish this He is revealing to His Faithful Church more plain truth of the fantastic and exciting events that lie immediately ahead of us here in the Day of the Lord. He wants us to be so enthused that nothing will deter us in our journey toward our goal of the Kingdom of God! The greater vision and depth of understanding that our Lord is pouring upon us concerning the near future and the imminence of the Kingdom of God stimulates this desire in our minds---and helps us to endure unto the end.

No Comparison

In Romans 8:18, a very beautiful, wonderful chapter in the Bible, Paul is inspired to write: “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” There is much, much suffering and horror in this world! But the future *GLORY* completely overshadows any sufferings. “For the earnest expectation of the creature, (or creation) waits for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who has subjected the same in hope. Because the creation 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 groans and travails in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also which have the firstfruits of the Spirit...” (vv. 19-23). This is what Christ wants us to get into our minds--- “Firstfruits of the Spirit”!

Firstfruits! This is what we shall focus on in this presentation! “For whom he did foreknow, he did also predestinate to be conformed to the image of His son, (to Jesus Christ), that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.” Christ is the Firstborn among MANY brethren that will be just as He is. God wants us to greatly anticipate, through the Spirit, the GLORY that Jesus, Himself, so desired. “Moreover, whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified [forgave our sins]: and whom he justified, them he also glorified” (vv. 29-30).

We of the Church of God understand that at our baptism, as hands were laid upon us, we received the Spirit of God. We were begotten of God. We received the Glory of being begotten of God. We are to be Firstfruits! See also James 1:18.

The Lamb of God

In the Book of Leviticus, Moses writes that which God commands. “And the Eternal spoke unto Moses saying, Speak unto the children of Israel and say unto them concerning the Feast of the Lord which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my Feasts. These are the Feasts of the Lord, even holy convocations which you shall proclaim in their seasons” (Lev. 23:1-2, 4). Twelve times in this chapter it emphasizes these appointed times are the LORD’S FEASTS!

“In the fourteenth day of the first month at evening is the Lord’s Passover” (v. 5). We keep the Lord’s Passover not the Jews Passover (see John 7:2). We keep this solemn ceremony every year, and we understand very deeply that it pictures the death of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God sacrificed for us. He was the Passover Lamb. He was the Creator, but also the Lamb of God from *the foundation of the world* (Rev. 13:8). Jesus Christ was slain on the Passover, the 14th of Nisan.

As the sun was setting on the 13th of Nisan in the year 31 AD, Jesus came with his disciples to observe the Lord’s Passover. “And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. And he said unto them, with desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer” (Luke 22:14-15). He was there to fulfill the true meaning of the Passover. He was the True Passover Lamb. The ceremony of sacrificing the little lambs and goats that symbolized the Lamb of God had been performed for approximately 15 centuries; now the fulfillment would be accomplished.

God’s Plan BEGINS with the Passover!

“And on the 15th day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread...(v. 6)”. The Days of Unleavened Bread picture our lifetime of struggle to keep sin out of our lives after we have accepted the Passover sacrifice of Christ. The Apostle Paul explains this struggle in I Cor. 5: 7-8: “Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”

The Wave Sheaf

Now, reading again in Leviticus 23 beginning verse 9: “And the Lord spake unto Moses saying, Speak unto the children of Israel and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the FIRSTFRUITS of your harvest unto the priest; And he shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted for YOU: on the morrow after the Sabbath (after the weekly Sabbath) the priest shall wave it.”

It is easily understood that Christ is depicted as the Passover Lamb; the same is apparent with the meaning of the Wave Sheaf offering. Nothing could be eaten of the new spring harvest until a Firstfruit sheaf of the grain (usually barley) was cut and brought to the priests who waved it before God as an offering for the people.

“And the Lord spoke unto Moses saying, Speak unto the children of Israel and say unto them, when you come into the land which I give unto you, and you shall reap the harvest thereof, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest...(vv. 9-10)”. Again, this was probably the barley harvest. This ceremony was performed during the Days of Unleavened Bread on the first day of the week. The assigned person would go out into the field where the grain was growing; he would then cut a “sheaf” (“omer”, Strong’s #6016) and deliver it to the priest: “...When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest:

And he shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it (v. 10-11).

So on the First Day of the Week (Sunday morning) during the Days of Unleavened Bread the priest would ceremonially wave the “sheaf” before God---to be accepted for US. For US, I repeat! This dramatically pictured Christ as the **FIRSTFRUIT** of the Spiritual Harvest! Jesus had already depicted the Passover Lamb by giving His life on that very Passover day. He now pictured the *wave sheaf* also; fulfilling it on the very day the sheaf had been ceremoniously waved for centuries. Let’s look at this in the New Testament to see this actual fulfillment.

Fulfillment

In John 20:1 we see a parallel with Leviticus 23:10-14. There the priest would receive the freshly harvested grain on that first day of the week to be presented to God as the *Wave Sheaf Offering* around mid-morning. It represented **The Firstfruit!**

“So the first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.” Our Lord, Jesus Christ, had been in the grave three days and three nights, but had been resurrected as the sun was setting on that weekly Sabbath afternoon.

“Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him. Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre. So they ran both together: and the other disciple, [John] did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre. And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in. Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie, And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself. Then went in also the other disciple, that came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and he believed. For as yet they knew not the scripture that he must rise again from the dead” (vv. 2-9). Christ had risen; he was **The Firstfruit, the FIRSTBORN from the dead---the First of the Firstfruits!**

“Then the disciples went away again unto their own home. But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre, And saw two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. And they said unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him. And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and she knew not that it was Jesus...” (vv.10-14).

The risen Christ was standing there before her on the first day of the week during the Days of Unleavened Bread, on the Wave Sheaf day. He had been DEAD in the tomb three days and three nights. Mary was weeping, so emotionally upset she could not recognize him; or perhaps he bore some disfigurement of the scourging he suffered. But she did not recognize him.

“Jesus said unto her, Woman why weepest thou, whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if you have borne him hence, tell me where you have laid him and I will take him away. Jesus said unto her, Mary. She turned herself and said unto him, Rabboni, which is to say, Master (vv.15-16)”. We can but imagine her feelings as the realization came over her. This woman loved Jesus Christ. She loved him as her master, her God, and she most likely loved him as a man too. Of course, the first thing she wanted to do was to touch him, to embrace him, to cling to him. But: “Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren and say unto them, I ascend unto my

Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God". He had not yet ascended to heaven to present Himself to the Father. His presentation to God as THE FIRSTFRUIT would take place at the same time the priest waved the "*wave sheaf*". His appearance to Mary was early in the morning.

However, as we see a little later in the day in Matthew's account, still on that first day of the week: "And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word. And as they went to tell his disciples..." They hurried to different areas of the city of Jerusalem to tell the other disciples the amazing good news, and it took TIME walking to different parts of the city. "...Behold Jesus met them, saying All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him" (Matt. 28:8-9).

Apparently from the time Jesus told Mary, "Don't touch me," until this time as the women held him by his feet and worshipped him, He had been accepted as the WAVE SHEAF. God had accepted Him as the First of the Firstfruits. At the very time the priests were performing the Wave Sheaf ceremony, the RISEN Christ had GLORIOUSLY presented himself to His Father in heaven. He not only fulfilled His role as the Passover Lamb, the perfect sacrifice, but now He presented Himself as the Firstborn from the dead---the Firstfruit of the Resurrection (see I Cor. 15:20-23). He fulfilled the Passover symbolism precisely at the correct moment in time. He also fulfilled the Wave Sheaf symbolism precisely at the correct moment in time. Time had passed. Centuries had slowly gone by. Now these two ceremonies picturing Christ in the beginning of God's plan had been fulfilled---perfectly.

Offered for US!

Each year on the Passover we read Isaiah 53:11: "He shall see of the travail of his soul..." Who shall see this? God the Father did! "...shall see of the travail of his soul and shall be satisfied." This was to be a perfect SACRIFICE for our sins. It had to be done flawlessly the way that God intended. The Lamb of God had to be beaten within an inch of his life for our physical sins. He would have died by the scourging had he not been in such a perfect state of health. This is the way it had to be! "He (God) 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" (Isa. 53:11).

God the Father examined and watched the entire cruel, gruesome, affair; all of it; except for the brief period He turned away. That act of turning away had to be done, too. The turning away from Jesus' suffering was most likely the most difficult task to be performed by the Father. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, felt forsaken, helpless, and alone! He cried aloud: "My God, My God, Why hast thou forsaken me?" (Matt. 27:46). He even had to suffer loneliness as part of the sacrifice and overcome by Himself. Hebrews 1:3 makes this statement: "...when he had by himself purged our sins..." Consequently, this had to be done. From the time the mob forcefully took him until the Roman spear was thrust into his side as he hung on that stake, God watched. The entire gruesome, gory, beating, the crucifixion, and his death was a totally complete sacrifice to make possible the forgiveness of ALL our sins; physical and spiritual: "...for he shall bear their iniquities." He was the Passover and the Wave Sheaf offering for "YOU" (all of us) as stated in Leviticus 23:11.

Jesus was crucified on the Passover and God accepted His sacrifice. He presented Himself as the Firstborn from the dead and was accepted as the First of the Firstfruits. He fulfilled the Wave Sheaf offering on the very day and time the Sheaf of the Firstfruits was waved, as instructed by the Word of God. "But Christ being come a 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” (Heb. 9:11-12). He did this FOR US!

“For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh; How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God...” (verses 13-14).

God watched! This was the perfect Passover sacrifice and was accepted by God. And as He was resurrected, He became our High Priest and the firstborn from the dead on that Wave Sheaf Offering day: “...without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God” (v.14). Please remember, Jesus Christ was the great fulfillment of every detail of the Passover and the Wave Sheaf on the precise day and time as instructed by God nearly fifteen centuries earlier!

The Gospel Declared

Approximately 25 years after the death and resurrection of our Savior, the Apostle Paul writes in I Corinthians chapter 15:1-3: “Moreover brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures.” We read the scriptures in the Old Testament and can see how Christ fulfilled them to the explicit detail. “And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve (vv, 4-5). According to the scriptures, Christ fulfilled the portrayal of the Passover and the Wave Sheaf exactly. “For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept (vv. 16-20)”.

The Two Wave Loaves

We see clearly that Christ is the first of the Firstfruit. As the priests ceremoniously waved the freshly harvested first grain, it was the symbolic Firstfruit. Nothing could be harvested until that Firstfruit was taken and waved before God. Jesus Christ perfectly fulfilled this in reality! He had become the “Firstfruit of them that slept. 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. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterwards they that are Christ’s at his coming” (vv. 21-23).

Remember, God’s Word says they that are Christ’s at His coming are a type of Firstfruits. James 1:18 states: “Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of **firstfruits** of his creatures”. Romans 8:23 also declares: “And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the **firstfruits of the Spirit...**” Those who are Christ’s have the Firstfruit of the Spirit, but Christ is **THE FIRSTFRUIT!** Anciently, nothing else could be harvested of that spring harvest until the Wave Sheaf was offered and accepted. By His Resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ became the Firstborn from the dead, The Firstfruit!

Christ is **the Firstfruit**, but observe what happens to those called to be **Firstfruits!** “Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised

incorruptible, and we shall be changed” (1 Cor. 15:51-52). WHEN? When will that change occur?

The scripture above says: “At the Last Trump”! How many TRUMPETS are prophesied to sound: five, ten, fifteen---or SEVEN? We shall see very plainly from the Scriptures that there will be Seven Trumpets blown. The First (Harvest) Resurrection occurs at the sounding of “THE LAST TRUMP”---the Seventh Trumpet. Read this again: “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible”.

At WHAT POINT in TIME will the TRUMPET, that LAST TRUMPET, be blown? WHEN will it blow to announce the Resurrection of the FIRSTFRUITS: “they that are Christ’s at His COMING”?

We will focus in closely on that Last Trumpet.

Counting Days

God gives more exciting instructions to us in Leviticus 23:15-16: “And you shall count unto you from the morrow after the Sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven Sabbaths shall be complete. Even unto the morrow after the seventh Sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the Lord.” Nothing could be harvested until the wave sheaf was offered and accepted. Then a count of days and weeks begins bringing attention to the next Annual Holy Day of God and its important representation. “Ye shall bring out of your habitations two wave loaves of two tenth deals: they shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven; they are **the Firstfruits** unto the Lord” (v. 17).

Let’s get this picture. Here are “two wave loaves” of finely ground flour harvested from the new grain. This flour had been sieved, ground in a mortar, then sieved again, ground and sieved over and over, until it was very fine flour. It was then formed into two loaves, with leavening, and baked in an oven. Two loaves; two WAVE LOAVES! “They shall be of fine flour, they shall be baked with leaven; they are the firstfruits unto the Lord” (v. 17). Read that again! “They ARE the FIRSTFRUITS unto the Lord!”

This was to be done on the fiftieth day, the Day of Pentecost, the Feast of FIRSTFRUITS! Fifty days had been counted from the TIME of the Wave Sheaf Offering. It was the Day of Pentecost, another of God’s Holy Days. At that exact time anciently, another significant ceremony took place. The priest would wave the two prepared Wave Loaves before God in the same manner that the FIRSTFRUIT Wave Sheaf had been WAVED. “Then ye shall sacrifice one kid of the goats for a sin offering, and two lambs of the first year for a sacrifice of peace offerings. And the priest shall wave them with the bread of the first fruits for a wave offering before the Lord, with the two lambs...” (v. 20).

So again, a similar CEREMONY, but this time with Two Wave Loaves picturing the Firstfruits---of the First Early Harvest---the First Resurrection! Everyone called to be Firstfruits throughout history are pictured by the two loaves baked with leaven and WAVED on the Day of Pentecost. They were waved by the priest to be presented to God! To be accepted by God! Isn’t that fantastic? Isn’t that interesting? Isn’t that very, very interesting? And that ceremony was performed on the Day of Pentecost, the Feast of Firstfruit!

As you compare the wave sheaf being waved before God in verses 10 and 11 with the wave loaves being waved before God in verses 17 and 20, you have nearly the same description, only 50 days later. Let’s review this once more. First that initial sheaf of the grain was taken before any harvesting could be done. Then 50 days later at the early harvest a portion of the first of the grain was ground into fine flour, formed into two loaves with leavening and baked in a hot oven. Don’t we feel as if this happens to us at times? Pummeled, ground, sieved over and over, and

thrown into a fiery trial! Sure we do! We realize there is plenty of “leavening” in us, too. However, these Loaves were waved before the Lord to be “accepted” on the day of Pentecost. What very important meaning does this hold for us?

Think again about that Last Trumpet. When does the last trumpet sound, we have asked? Let’s closely examine this question. We know that Christ is our High Priest (Heb. 3:1). It is He that shall fulfill the symbolism of “waving” us as the two wave loaves before God, to be presented to and accepted by God.

Look at this inspiring scripture: “Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy” (Jude 24). We shall be presented to God, faultlessly, by Jesus Christ our High Priest. We are going to be introduced to our Father: “...before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy. To the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen” (vv.24-25).

What a wonderful PLAN. How MARVELOUS, FANTASTIC! To be presented to our GOD, faultlessly! When? When shall this happen? On Pentecost or the Feast of Trumpets---which?

A Very Special Covenant

In Exodus 19 we find the Israelites, 600,000 footmen, men of war, with their wives and children, their flocks and their herds, at the foot of Mt. Horeb/Sinai. That vast multitude, 2 to 3 million people, had seen and experienced the mighty miracles that their great God had performed in bringing them to this area of Midian. Their firstborn had been spared as the Death Angel passed over---if the Passover lamb’s blood had been applied to the doorposts and lintels of their dwellings. The following evening, that NIGHT TO BE MUCH REMEMBERED, they had begun their exodus from Egyptian slavery. They had come out “with a high hand”. They were jubilant as they departed! After six days of miraculously fleeing night and day (Ex.13:21 and 19:4), they had come to the Red Sea---and cried out in faithless fear as they beheld the approaching chariots of pharaoh.

Nevertheless, God destroyed their enemies in the sea and miraculously led Israel THROUGH the sea “as on dry land”. They were fed and given water by God, but they were dissatisfied and murmured and grumbled. Seven weeks of their journey had gone by, and the Day of Pentecost was at hand. (Many Bible Commentaries; the Jamison, Fawcett, and Brown, for example, and the Old Ambassador Bible Correspondence Course assert that this was the time for Pentecost.)

But: “In the third month when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai. For they were departed from Rephidim, and were come to the desert of Sinai, and had pitched in the wilderness; and there Israel camped before the mount. And Moses went up unto God, and the Lord called unto him out of the mountain, saying, thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell you the children of Israel; You have seen what I did unto the Egyptians...” The Eternal reminded the people of what they had seen with their own eyes and what they had experienced: “...and how I did bear you on eagles’ wings, and brought you unto myself” (vv. 1-4). We now know this was a much mightier miracle than we had ever suspected. When this booklet was first published in 1999, we did not understand the full remarkable TRUTH of the Exodus. (Please write or call for information on “The Exodus”.) God was there with them like a mother eagle watching over her young. I “brought you unto myself” God said.

“Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine” (v.5). The Mighty God had brought the nation of Israel here to Mt. Sinai (Horeb) in the land of Midian (Saudi Arabia, today)

to enter into a very SPECIAL Covenant with them. They were to be a *special, peculiar* treasure unto God. “If you will obey my voice and keep my covenant!” The Eternal God was proposing a MARRIAGE COVENANT between Himself and national Israel. God was very serious about this! “And you shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation (v. 6). These are the words you shall speak unto the children of Israel... And the Lord said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them to-day and to-morrow, and let them wash their clothes... And Moses went down from the mount unto the people, and sanctified the people; and they washed their clothes... And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled” (vv. 6, 10, 14, 16).

The Sound of the Trumpet

On PENTECOST, 1487 BC, the nation of Israel stood before Mount Horeb/Sinai as God descended to the top of the Mountain. This we really cannot imagine, but our Israelite forefathers saw, heard, and trembled at the awesomeness of the sight and sound. “*And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount.* Moses PRESENTED the PEOPLE to GOD! “And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly” (vv. 17-18). God had come down on top of this mountain, a tremendously fearsome and awesome sight! “And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice” (v. 19).

Imagine, the mighty sound of a TRUMPET and the VOICE of GOD on PENTECOST, the FEAST OF FIRSTFRUITS. What an incredible, fantastic event! And GOD spoke to Moses and ALL ISRAEL: “And the Lord said unto Moses, Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee forever...” (v. 9).

In chapters 20–24 of the Book of Exodus, God booms forth his Ten Commandments, His laws, statutes, and ordinances---the ways of God. The observances of these Laws were agreed to by Israel to keep forever as their part of the COVENANT that GOD was making with them. This was a Marriage Covenant! “And Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord, and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and said, “All the words which the Lord hath said WILL WE DO.” This was a MARRIAGE COVENANT! AND THE PEOPLE SAID---“I DO” (Ex.24:3 and 7)!

God considered this a Binding Marriage. Years later God laments concerning that marriage as recorded in Jeremiah 3:14: “*Turn, O backsliding children saith the Lord; for I am MARRIED unto you...*” Verse 8 adds the following: “*And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce...*”

Types

However, on that Day of Pentecost, at the foot of Horeb/Sinai, the nation of Israel, in their clean clothes, were presented to God by Moses as the voice of the Eternal shook the earth and the mighty Trumpet sounded long and loud. All of this happened nearly 3500 years ago to the physical nation of Israel. Yet we read in I Corinthians 10:11: “Now all of these things happened unto them for examples (or types): and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.” Israel’s experiences are TYPES for us today, especially since we are in the Day of the Lord.

We understand thoroughly that the Church today is Spiritual Israel, the Israel of God (Gal. 6:16). Already we have read that Christ will return at the Last Trump (I Cor. 15:52). And, of course, the Bible teaches the Church is the Bride of Christ. In Ephesians 5:25-27 we are given these instructions: “Husbands love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it. That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word. That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.” The parallels are undeniable. Certainly, ALL that happened to Old Testament Israel is a physical TYPE of that which shall be a spiritual REALITY as confirmed by the New Testament.

In Isaiah 54:5-7 the Word of God states: “For thy Maker is thine husband; the Lord of hosts is his name; and the Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; the God of the whole earth shall be called. For the Lord hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy God. For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee.” Verse 4 declares God would even DIE for his wife. “Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame; for you shall forget the shame of your youth, and not remember the reproach of your widhood anymore.” Remember, Jesus Christ died on the Passover! The Marriage Covenant ended at His death (see Romans 7:1-4).

The Apostle Peter quotes from Exodus 19:5-6: “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye show forth the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light...(I Peter 2:9)”. Old Israel was a type of the Church of today. That which happened to them in TYPE will be fulfilled in reality by the Israel of God.

Focusing again on the Last Trumpet, we read in I Thessalonians 4:15-17: “For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent (precede) them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend with a SHOUT with the VOICE of the archangel, and with the TRUMP of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

The question again is; when does the Last Trumpet sound? Does it sound on the Day of Trumpets or on the Day of Firstfruit---Pentecost? It is very plain that the Old Testament TYPE in Exodus 19 indicates the Last Trumpet will sound on Pentecost. Certainly, the scriptures are clear that the God of the Old Testament, who would become Jesus Christ of the New Testament, came down to Mount Horeb/Sinai, at the sound of the Trumpet, on Pentecost to marry the nation of Israel. Is this proof that Christ will return for His Bride, the Firstfruits, at the sound of the Last Trumpet on the Day of Pentecost? Am I suggesting the Return of Christ and the First Resurrection occurs on Pentecost? That is exactly what I am saying! But you realize men make all kinds of claims, so you must PROVE from the Word of God what Jesus Christ plainly reveals about this extremely important subject and believe Him---not me.

Do the New Testament and other Old Testament scriptures confirm that Christ gathers His Firstfruits on the Day of Firstfruits? And if this is so, how can this fit in with the events of the Feast of Trumpets? These are valid questions that can be answered and proven conclusively as we continue.

Chapter Two:

Viewing the Unimaginable!

In Daniel 12:12 God says: “Blessed be those who wait...” Wait for what? God then plainly tells Daniel and any of us who ask this question today: we must wait for the “end” and the Resurrection. Verse 13 explains: “*But go your way till the end be: for you shall rest, and stand in your lot at the end of the days.*” Daniel would have to wait for that Last Trumpet and the resurrection of the dead. There are other Firstfruit who wait in their graves for that Last Trumpet to sound. From Abel and all others who have died in the faith. This will include those alive today that will be proven unworthy to escape the Great Tribulation, but will qualify as Firstfruits by giving their lives in loyalty to God during that awful time of trouble. See Luke 21:36 and Revelation 20:4.

There will also be another group anxiously awaiting the Last Trumpet. Those faithful Philadelphians (and their families) waiting in that Place Christ has prepared, who will be “alive and remain” (I Thess. 4:16) when that Last Trumpet blows. All of those begotten Philadelphians shall be Firstfruits at the First Resurrection, at the blowing of the Last Trumpet. When does the Last Trumpet sound?

The 144,000 Israelites of Revelation 7 will suffer through 2 ½ years of the Great Tribulation, but will, apparently, be protected from the Day of God’s Wrath in the Place of Safety. However, they will not be Firstfruits. Their part in God’s Plan is another amazing story. Please write for our booklet, *The Deep Things Of God* that explains their part in the World Tomorrow.

The Proper Sequence of Events

For years we have heard sermons and read articles on the subject of the Resurrection and the coming of Christ. Perhaps you have wondered how Christ could come as “a thief in the night” when His Return is preceded by such momentous events as plainly described in the Word of God. Many prophecies warn of tremendous, worldwide, calamities that will be a prelude to the visible return of Jesus Christ (Rev. 1:7). Consider the following earth-shaking events that herald the imminent, visible, return of Christ:

- 1) The Great Tribulation, described in Matthew 24:21, as a time of trouble to come upon all the world “...such as not since the beginning of this world, no, nor ever shall be.” Wouldn’t you think that those caught in the Tribulation would be crying out to God day and night to hasten the Coming of Christ? Wouldn’t they be expecting His Return?
- 2) Upon the heels of the Great Tribulation, intensifying the time of trouble, the Sixth Seal that contains the Heavenly Signs, will be opened. These terrifying signs in the heavens will frighten rebellious mankind nearly out of their wits. People all over the earth will go into the caves and rocks: “*to hide us from the face of Him that sits on the throne, and from the Wrath of the Lamb*” (Rev. 6:15-16).
- 3) The Seventh Seal, identified as the Day of the Lamb’s Wrath, will usher in the Seven Trumpet Plagues that will literally SHAKE THE EARTH!
- 4) All of these worldwide occurrences will be WARNING PRONOUNCEMENTS that Christ is COMING. The entire earth will be affected. Thousands of millions of the inhabitants of this planet will die as a result of these prophesied events. The VISIBLE Second Coming

of Christ and the Resurrection of the Firstfruits will not be *unexpected, secret, or sudden*. It will NOT be “as a thief in the night”! WORLDWIDE CALAMITY and the MINISTRY of the TWO WITNESSES will have **forewarned the entire world of the Return of Christ!**

We will have much more information concerning the Two Witnesses and their part in heralding the Return of Christ later in this presentation.

Two Different Events

Can you begin to see that the ENTIRE EARTH is going to be expecting Christ’s Return when He does come? The scriptures are always TRUE, so how can Christ’s return be described as “*a thief in the night*”? Revelation 1:7 declares, “Behold he comes with clouds; and every eye shall see him. That scripture doesn’t sound like a clandestine appearance, does it? Matthew 24:37-39 states: “But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be.” This plainly informs us that everything was going along normally in Noah’s day before the Flood: eating, drinking, marrying, planning families---life as normal!

But, let me tell you as matter-of-fact as I can, that at the visible Return of Jesus Christ---at the sound of the Last Trumpet---**NOTHING** concerning life on earth will be **NORMAL**---the earth will be nearly destroyed by that time---Nothing will be NORMAL during those years of Great Tribulation and the Wrath of God! But conditions ARE NORMAL NOW---aren’t they?

The articles and sermons of time past about Christ’s Return were often confusing because the scriptures were not put together in a proper time order. Those writers and speakers did not understand that which has been vividly revealed to the Church of God’s Faithful at this time. It is the PLAIN TRUTH of the BIBLE that the **DAY OF THE LORD** and **THE DAY OF THE LORD’S WRATH** are **NOT** the same event!

The apostle John was thrust into the **Day of the Lord** as we read in verse 10 of the first chapter of Revelation: “I was in the spirit on the Lord’s Day...” John was projected into the Day of the Lord there in the beginning verses of the Book of Revelation. The Day of the Lord’s Wrath is not discussed until Revelation 6:17 where we read: “For the great day of His wrath is come and who shall be able to stand?” It is so plain to us now who “*have ears to hear*” that the *Day of the Lord* and the Day of the Lord’s Wrath are TWO different events. The *Day of the Lord’s Wrath* is only a one-year period during the Day of the Lord; which has come as a “thief in the night”---and you didn’t know it! This revealed TRUTH is explained and expanded on in our free booklet, *The Day of the Lord*. Please write or call for your copy.

The Day of the Lord **CAME** as a “thief in the night” as the Feast of Trumpets began on October 1, 1997! Six thousand years had elapsed since Adam sinned. And it was TIME for *the Lord’s Day*---*the Day of the Lord!* And Jesus Christ had “come suddenly to his temple” (Malachi 3:1)! **God does things right on time!**

However, at this point in this presentation, we are exploring His VISIBLE Return when “every eye shall see him”---NOT “as a thief in the night”. Christ will be preceded with the VOICE of the ARCHANGEL and with the LAST TRUMPET blast. The dead in Christ shall rise first; then we that are “alive and remain” will be caught up with them into the CLOUDS with Christ (I Thess. 4:15-

17). The inhabitants of the earth will see this. This great truth is easily understood now at this time. Scriptures that could not be understood until now have been dramatically revealed through the Plain Truth of the knowledge of the *Day of the Lord*.

All Who Have Ever Lived Will See...

Read Matthew 24:29: “Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened...” (This is describing the Heavenly Signs, the Sixth Seal) “...and the moon shall not give her light and the stars shall fall from heaven, the powers of the heavens will be shaken: (The Tribulation and the Heavenly Signs are a 2 ½ year period) “And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all of 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” (v. 30). All of the nations of the earth are going to see this. And they will hear those trumpet blasts. “And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet (the LAST TRUMPET) and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other” (v. 31). The people will hear the Great Trumpet and will see the Firstfruits rise up into the clouds of heaven. Read again Revelation 1:7: “Behold, he cometh with CLOUDS; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him and all kindred of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.” Every eye is going to see Him. It is going to be the most photographed, televised, and recorded event in all history. The Almighty God will have this done so that even those raised a thousand years later in the Second Resurrection will see this great, sensational event! It’s going to be seen by all---God says so! Christ’s return for His Firstfruits will NOT be done in secret--- and it will NOT be unexpected! Then, what happens next?

The Day of the Lord has already come! Christ has already come suddenly to his temple (Mal. 3:1)! He is here now gathering His faithful “Pillars”, setting them apart by placing His “mark” of Truth in their minds (see Ezekiel 9:4; John 17:17; and Rev. 3:11). The truth of God’s Word can at this time unfold before us because we understand the NEW TRUTH of the Day of the Lord! Only God the Father KNEW when He would have His Son to return to this earth as a “thief” ---in the Day of the Lord (Matt. 24:36 and 43). Consequently, this New TRUTH leads us into more revealed TRUTH. The Truth of the Little Book of Revelation 10 has been given to us. We have “eaten” it and are digesting it and MORE TRUTH is being seen (write for a free copy of *The Little Book...Unveiled at Last*). As we walk in truth, God opens other doors for us, and then another, and then another...! But we must be careful to prove all things (I Thess. 5:21). We must get these NEW TRUTHS deeply into our mind, being so excited and thankful for them that nothing can remove them from us---but you must PROVE from the WORD of GOD!

Back to the Question

Look at Daniel 7:13: “I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven...” Didn’t we just read that in Revelation 1:7 in the New Testament? “...one like the son of man came with the clouds of heaven and came to the Ancient of days and they brought him near before him.” The title *Ancient of Days* belongs to God the Father and and to Jesus Christ. Both are Ever-living God Beings! This title refers to the Father in verses 9 and 13. However, in Daniel 7:22, a careful reading, shows the title *Ancient of Days*, refers to Christ. Verse 13 is self-explaining; *the Son of Man*, of course, is Jesus Christ and the *Ancient of Days* is the Father on His Sovereign Throne (see also Revelation 5:13).

Where is God the Father? Where does the Sovereign Ruler of the Universe dwell? Where is His Throne?

God dwells in his temple in HEAVEN (Rev. 4 & 5; 11:19; 15:8). "...and they came to the Ancient of days and they brought him (Jesus Christ, the Son of man) near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all peoples, 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" (vv. 13-14). Yes! The Kingdom of God shall continue forever! "But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever... I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; Until the Ancient of Days (Christ) came, and judgment was given to the saints of the Most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom" (vv. 18 & 21-22).

We have looked deeply into the scriptures in Leviticus 23 referring to the Wave Sheaf. We saw that the Wave Sheaf was "waved" or presented to God by the Levitical priests. It is obvious that Jesus Christ fulfilled the reality of the Wave Sheaf ceremony. He was accepted by God as a perfect offering for US---there at the Throne of God in Heaven (John 20:17). He was accepted as the First of the Firstfruit Harvest. The Firstfruit Saints, as the Wave Loaves, will be presented to God by our High Priest, Jesus Christ. Isn't this we are reading in the Book of Daniel describing our presentation to God? And where is this "presentation" taking place? WHERE? It is obvious; this great scene is taking place in Heaven at the Throne of God Almighty! The Son of Man comes with the clouds of heaven to the Throne of Almighty God. Our Lord and Savior, our Husband, our HIGH PRIEST presents us to our Heavenly Father as the Saints of God, the FIRSTFRUITS, without spot, blemish or wrinkle (see Jude: 24)!

This is not the Protestant "Rapture": this is plain Scripture!

Look at Daniel 7:27, then go back to verses 9 and 10 as typed here: "And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him... I beheld till the thrones were cast down, 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: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened" (v. 10).

It cannot be overly emphasized; Daniel is writing about God's throne and the awe-inspiring events, which will shortly become a reality! But, this is the Old Testament! Nevertheless, it is still the Word of God. So, can we prove conclusively from the New Testament that at the First Resurrection Christ escorts the Firstfruits to Heaven and presents us to God Almighty? Absolutely---and with much more detail!

Chapter Three:

STRIDING INTO THE FUTURE!

As I am writing this revised third edition of the booklet, it is November 2005. We are now eight full years into the Day of the Lord. The First Four Seals have been opened and the Four Horsemen are being directed into the fulfillment of their grisly tasks. Conditions on earth are not “normal” as they were when this booklet was first written. Earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, disease, famine and death on an unprecedented scale are wracking the earth. The Horsemen are in full gallop! Jesus Christ is here on earth observing the destruction, catastrophe, violence and evil plaguing the world. The Western World is as wicked as Sodom and Gomorrah!

He is also examining the chaotic condition of His Spiritual Temple. He has come *suddenly* to His temple and is busily making up his *Special Treasure* and preparing a Place of Safety for them. He is also directing them in the Work they are doing in the Inner Court of the Temple. The foundation has been laid and the Pillars are being set (see the Book of Haggai). The Church of God’s Faithful is receiving understanding of powerful prophecies that will be fulfilled in their entirety in the near future. As we proceed with this writing these prophecies are beginning to unfold.

The next events to occur will lead into the opening of the Fifth Seal, the Great Tribulation: “And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, do thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?” (Rev. 6:9-10). That blood cries out from the earth! “And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled” (v. 11). That is a description of the opening of the Fifth Seal.

As the Fifth Seal is opened the entire earth feels the stunning effects of the First Four Seals. “...*And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.*” (Rev. 6:8) This incredible scripture strongly indicates that one fourth of the population of Planet Earth will lie DEAD as the Fifth Seal is opened! That equates to over a BILLION people that appear to be killed or die from the effects of the Four Horsemen’s ghastly ride that produces War, Famine, and Pestilence. The events propelling the WORLD toward these horrifying times are rushing towards fulfillment as this booklet is being written! Unprecedented natural calamities are regularly occurring and religious and racial hatred is erupting in staggering violence!

The ENTIRE EARTH must be WARNED of the Time of Trouble immediately ahead. The TWO WITNESSES will boldly inform the Leaders of the Earth of that which you are reading here. Their 1260-day MINISTRY begins 75 Days AFTER the 1335 DAYS of Daniel 12:12 commences. This statement will be explained later. The “King of the South”, which is Islamic Extremism, has already “pushed” at the “King of the North” (see Daniel 11:40). The North Atlantic Treaty Organization Nations (NATO) comprises the modern “King of the North”. The United States of America, as a vital part of NATO, was violently “pushed” on September 11, 2001, by the “King of the South”. “And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king

of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships...”

The Whirlwind has begun and the Four Horsemen are galloping toward the fulfillment of their gory assignments.

The resulting battles between Islam and “Christianity” have the grisly potential of causing the DEATH of the Fourth Part of the population of the earth---and will introduce to the world the BEAST and the FALSE PROPHET. Their World Ruling Government will be established and “continue” 42 months (1260 days; 3-½ years). These occurrences loom directly ahead and will usher in the 1260 DAYS of Daniel 12:7, 7:25, and Mat. 24:21-22; which begins with the GREAT TRIBULATION (the FIFTH SEAL). Jesus Christ will take His Church to the Place of Safety, which He has prepared for their protection during those 3-½ years (Rev. 12:14; 3:10). Write or call for our booklet, *Whoso Reads... Let Him Understand!*

“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 casts her untimely fruit, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heavens departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places” (Rev. 6:12-14). At the completion of 2-½ years of Great Tribulation, the Sixth Seal, the supernatural Heavenly Signs, is opened, intensifying the tribulation and bringing terror to the hearts of men. Verse 15 portrays the abject fear of most of humanity. Verses 16-17 sums up their fright: “...*And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?*”

Remember, ALL SEVEN SEALS are opened during the Day of the Lord, which began on October 1, 1997. The Fifth Seal begins a 3-½ year period, also stated as 1260 days or 42 months. The Day of the Lord’s Wrath is clearly defined in the scriptures as a ONE-YEAR period. Please check and prove this in Isaiah 34:8; 61:2; and 63:4.

After 2 ½ years of Tribulation and the Heavenly Signs, the final one-year period begins. That one-year will be the Day of the Lord’s WRATH. We are in the Day of the Lord, now! The Day of the Lord will continue on through eternity. But here is a one-year period called the *Day of His Wrath* within the Day of the Lord. Please, be sure you understand this very important fact. Write or call for our free booklet entitled, *The Day of The Lord*.

Time for Another Review

Before we continue, we should review some vital points that have been taught to us through the ministry of God’s Elijah, Herbert W. Armstrong.

Do you remember Mr. Armstrong stating that he and his wife, Loma, had kept God’s Holy Days for many long years before the knowledge of their meaning was revealed to him? God’s Holy Days reveal the magnificent PLAN of God. Step by step this awesome PLAN details the Spiritual Highlights along the WAY to Salvation.

Let’s return to the Book of Exodus for a vital key. This is found in Ex. 31:13: “Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths you shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that you may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you.” Notice, the word *SABBATHS* in this verse is plural. Not only is God telling us here that the weekly Sabbath is a SIGN to us, but it includes the ANNUAL SABBATHS. The annual Holy Days of God are vital SIGNS unto us also. These SIGNS are for us to “know the Lord that sanctifies us”.

Only the Church of God really has understood the Holy Days, the Feasts of the Lord, which are annual signs to us picturing God's Great Plan of Salvation. Their general meaning was revealed to Herbert Armstrong over 50 years ago. The Jews keep these days but do not grasp their great significance.

Leviticus 23 records the Feasts of the Lord beginning with the weekly Sabbath and includes the vitally important instruction concerning Passover and the Wave Sheaf Offering.

- The weekly Sabbath pictures to us that God is the Creator of all things.
- The Passover, we have definitely proven portrays Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God slain for our SINS.
- The Seven Days of Unleavened Bread depicts our lifetime of struggle to put SIN out of our lives.
- The Wave Sheaf symbolizes the Risen Christ, the First of the Firstfruit Harvest, and our High Priest.
- The following Annual Holy Day is Pentecost, the Feast of Firstfruit. On that day anciently the Wave Loaves were waved before God denoting the Firstfruit Harvest, clearly representing those of the First Resurrection accepted by God.

For the next Holy Day after Pentecost, we must come to the first day of the SEVENTH month, the Feast of TRUMPETS! What mighty event does this day symbolize? We have shown from several scriptures that the Resurrection occurs at the Last Trumpet. And we have repeatedly asked; when, on which of God's Holy Days does that Last Trumpet sound--- on Pentecost or Trumpets?

Anciently, Israel was presented to God on the Day of Pentecost at the unremitting blast of a mighty Trumpet. However the Feast of Trumpets involves the sounding of SEVEN TRUMPETS! When will their sounding BEGIN and when will their sounding END? And what is the full meaning of the Feast of Trumpets?

The Seventh Seal and the Seven Trumpets

In Revelation 8 the Seventh Seal is opened. We read in Revelation 6:17: "For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand." Continue reading now in chapter 8:1: "And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets." The Seventh Seal is the DAY OF THE LORD'S WRATH! As we have already seen this is a one-year period. This is the final year in a total of 3-½ years. The Lord's Wrath, the Seventh Seal, is "filled up", as we will see later, in these Seven Trumpets. Notice there are ONLY SEVEN TRUMPETS.

The Feast of Trumpets vividly depicts the opening of the SEVENTH SEAL presenting the SEVEN ANGELS with the SEVEN TRUMPETS and the WRATH OF THE LAMB! It would be reasonable and would follow the pattern of the other Holy Days that the soundings of the Seven Trumpets would BEGIN on the day that represents them---the Feast of Trumpets---the first day of the seventh month. If the first Trumpet begins to sound on the Feast of Trumpets, when are the other Trumpets blown---and especially, when does the LAST TRUMPET sound?

Now proceed with Revelation 8:7: "The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up. In verse 8, the second Angel sounds his trumpet with more

plagues falling upon the sea. Verse 10 and 11 describes the third Angel's plague as he begins to sound. Then in verse 12 the fourth Angel sounds with the resultant scourge.

Are these Angels sounding their Trumpets all at one time or is there an interval of time between each of their blasts?

Just as it was when God used Moses and Aaron to bring the plagues upon Egypt, apparently, the Trumpet plagues will happen in a similar fashion. The Two witnesses as servants of God Almighty will be used to call down six of the Trumpet plagues, one at a time, as God instructs them. And it is highly probable that the Trumpet plagues are called down on each of the ensuing Annual Holy Days.

Observe how this pattern of Trumpet blasts and Holy Days correspond:

- 1) The First Angel sounds on the Feast of Trumpets.
- 2) The Second Angel sounds on the Day of Atonement.
- 3) The Third Angel sounds on The First Day of the Feast of Tabernacles.
- 4) The Fourth Angel sounds on the Last Great Day.

These Four Holy Days occur in the Seventh Month of the Sacred Calendar: on the 1st, 10th, 15th, and 22nd days. This presents a strong indication that the First Four Angels each appears to sound their Trumpet on each of the four Holy Days within that three-week period of time---then there is a delay to prepare for the severity of the next three Trumpet Plagues (see verse 13).

The Three Woes

In Revelation 9:1 the Fifth Angel sounds. Here frighteningly symbolized is the Beast Power hurling all out war against the Eastern Forces. This appears to be atomic, bacteriological, and chemical warfare. It is called the First Woe. Verse 5 and 10 indicate five months are involved in the sufferings caused by this plague: "And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man... And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man".

The Fifth Holy Day of the year is the First Day of Unleavened Bread. A five months period exists between the First Day of Unleavened Bread and the next Feast of Trumpets! And from Trumpets to Trumpets is one full year---the one year of the Wrath of the Lamb.

Verse 6 states: "...and in those days shall men seek death..." So this indicates that the Fifth Angel sounds on the First Day of Unleavened Bread approximately five months before the end of the Day of the Lord's Wrath.

However the combined forces of the Eastern nations retaliate as the Sixth Angel sounds on the Last Day of Unleavened Bread---the Sixth Holy Day. This is the Second Woe. This will be the most massive army ever assembled, 200 Million men. By them one third of the remaining populace of the earth are killed. The conflict between these two POWERS will cause many of the areas of the earth to appear as the complete destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Stubborn, rebellious man does not learn easily. "And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands..." verse 20.

Before the Last Trumpet Sounds

God is consistent! His Holy Days are signs unto us! And we can see His consistency as the Angels sound their Trumpets on each of the Holy Days beginning with the Feast of Trumpets.

The First Trumpet begins to blow on the Feast of Trumpets announcing the DAY OF THE LORD'S WRATH. As we follow the consistent pattern God is revealing to us, it becomes obvious that the seventh and last trumpet sounds on the seventh consecutive Holy Day---PENTECOST!

Remember there are only Seven Trumpets!

There are many wonderful, faithful characters we can read about in the Word of God. In the Old Testament God used Moses and Aaron mightily as His Two Servants to call forth the plagues that destroyed Egypt. Elijah called fire down from heaven! Great power has been given to the servants of God down through time. But, here now in our day, the Day of the Lord, two humble men are being selected by Jesus Christ to fulfill the greatest and most powerful Work ever done by the servants of God. These prophets of God are called the **TWO WITNESSES!**

We read a thumb nail sketch of the great work these two individuals will perform in Revelation 11 beginning verse 3: "And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and three score days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. And if any man will hurt them, fire proceeds out of their mouth and devours their enemies: and if man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. These have power to shut heaven that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will. And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them." (vv. 6 - 7).

These men will be required to give their lives at the conclusion of their 1260-day ministry! But the Beast DOES NOT DIE at that same time. The Beast Power continues on to the conclusion of its allotted time of 42 months (see Rev. 13:5)! Thus it is evident that the 1260 days of the Two Witnesses ministry does not begin at the same time the Beast Power begins.

When does the Two Witnesses Ministry begin?

The astounding TRUTH of how to place the 1335 days of Daniel 12:12 with the other numbered prophecies of the books of Daniel and Revelation, tells us when the Two Witnesses begin their worldwide ministry. Again, let me urge you to request our booklet, *Whoso Reads... Let Him Understand!*

Continuing in Revelation 11: "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 (v. 8). (That is the city of Jerusalem). And they of the people and kindred and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another: because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God 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..." (vv. 9-12). Christ says he comes with the VOICE of the Archangel and with the TRUMP of God (I Thess. 4:16). "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice. And shall come forth..." (John 5:28-29).

The Two Witnesses HEAR the VOICE of JESUS CHRIST! "*And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them*" (v.12). **THIS IS AT THE FIRST RESURRECTION!** "In the same hour

(Strong's #5610 hora; TIME) 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. And the seventh angel sounded..." (vv.13-15).

PLEASE UNDERSTAND! The SEVENTH ANGEL SOUNDS THE SEVENTH AND LAST TRUMPET!

The mighty events of verses 12-15 all happen at the same TIME. They occur at the visible RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST as the "dead in Christ" are RESURRECTED and those faithful who "are alive and remain" in the Place of Safety are changed in an instant from mortal flesh to immortal Spirit and rise to meet the Lord... "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (I Thess. 4:16-17).

All events described in verses 11-15 happen at the sound of the Last Trumpet.

At the sound of the Last Trump, the Two Witnesses, and those Firstfruit in their graves, hear the voice of Jesus Christ, calling them out of their graves and the Resurrection occurs. Verse 11 states that all of those "people, kindred, tongues, and nations" that will not allow the Two Witnesses to be buried, will see their resurrection and will be filled with fear. They will see this! We have emphasized Revelation 1:7 stating: "...every eye shall see him" as Christ comes with his angels to gather the Saints at the Resurrection of the **FIRSTFRUIT**, when that Last Trumpet blows (See Mat. 24:31 again).

"The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly. And the seventh angel sounded; (and all of the above just described happens) *and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever*" (vv.14-15). (We read that same great declaration back in Daniel 7) "And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped 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..." (Rev. 11:14-18).

The Seventh Trumpet will sound. It will be the Last Trumpet. When does it blow? Have we come all the way back to the Feast of Trumpets again, completing the full ONE-YEAR of HIS WRATH? NO! Absolutely, NOT! This last year of the 3-½ years begins at the Feast of Trumpets, but the LAST TRUMPET WILL SOUND ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST---during that last year.

That is the **ANSWER** to our main **QUESTION**. Now, we will **PROVE IT BEYOND A SHADOW OF A DOUBT!**

Chapter Four:

Irrefutable Proof

The two Wave loaves were waved before God on the Feast of Firstfruit, also called Pentecost! Ancient Israel was presented to God on Pentecost at the sound of a loud Trumpet blast. The Last Trump will sound on a future Pentecost and the Resurrection of the Firstfruits will occur. This is clearly seen within the framework of God's Holy Days. But can this be more conclusively proven from the Bible?

It has been previously stated that the Day of the Lord's Wrath, a one-year period, begins on the Feast of Trumpets. That one-year of the Lord's Wrath IS the SEVEN TRUMPET PLAGUES, culminating with the Seven Last Plagues! So far in this writing, we have gone over each one of the Seven Trumpet plagues and have shown the Resurrection occurring at the Seventh (LAST) Trumpet. That is plain scripture! The one-year period of the Wrath of God begins on the Feast of Trumpets, but the Trumpet Plagues do NOT encompass that entire year. Lets see this in the Bible! This is truly amazing! As you behold this is the pages of the Holy Bible, you will comprehend more of the VISION Jesus Christ wants you to have--- as He had to the full (John 17:24)!

The Seven Vials of the Seven Last Plagues

Returning to Revelation 11 we read in verses 14-15: "The second woe is past; and behold, the third woe comes quickly. And the seventh angel sounded..." The Seventh Angel sounds the Last Trump. The Resurrection occurs, AND the Third Woe is announced! The Seventh Trumpet is not only the signal for: (1) the Return of Jesus Christ, (2) the Resurrection of those "dead in Christ" (I Thess. 4:16), and (3) the "change" from "mortal to immortal" of His Saints in the Place of Safety (I Thess. 4:17 and I Cor.15:52-53), it is also (4) the Third Woe or *the Seven LAST Plagues*. We will cover this step by step.

Let's proceed with Revelation 11:19: "And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail." Here pictured is the Temple of God opened in heaven. The sequence of events or the story flow of the Book of Revelation skips over to chapter 15. "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." (Rev. 15:1) Here the apostle John sees another group of Seven Angels in charge of "Seven Last Plagues". He explains that these seven LAST plagues "fill up the WRATH of GOD"; they will complete the one-year period of the Wrath of the Lamb! The Last Angel has sounded, Christ has returned and gathered the Firstfruits, but the Wrath of GOD is not complete until the Seven Last Plagues are poured out.

Please understand! This is very important! The ONE-YEAR of his WRATH has not been finished even though the Last Trumpet has blown. TIME will still be required in that One Year period in which the Seven Last Plagues can be poured out.

Of course, by following the pattern laid out for us in God's Holy Days, it is evident more time must remain. The Feast of Trumpets pictures the Seven Trumpets, which comprise the one-year period of the Day of the Lord's Wrath. The *Last Trumpet* will sound on the Day of Pentecost. The Resurrection occurs on Pentecost, the Feast of Firstfruit, fulfilling the symbolism

the Holy Day plainly depicts. Then Christ must present the FIRSTFRUITS to God. Remember too that the Last Trumpet plague is also the Seven Last Plagues, which will take TIME to be poured upon the wicked of the earth.

Scenes in Heaven!

Now, back to Revelation 15. We had read of the seven Angels with the Seven Last plagues inside the Temple of God. Now let's read verses 5-6 & 8: "And after that I looked, and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of testimony in heaven was opened. And the seven Angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues...And the Temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man (Strong's #3762 *oudeis*, meaning, 'No one, none, nobody, no being') was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled."

Why could no one enter into the temple until the Angels had completed their task?

The reason WHY no one could enter is the fact that there was already the most breathtaking, exquisite, sophisticated, and exclusive occurrence taking place inside the temple that could possibly be. To be invited required the most unique of all invitations. The INVITATION was from GOD ALMIGHTY. The OCCASION is the MARRIAGE of HIS SON. The PLACE is at the THRONE of GOD in His Temple in HEAVEN. The Firstfruits are before the Throne of God as the BRIDE of Jesus Christ. No ONE else is allowed at this greatest of occasions. Can you imagine this?

Christ wants us to be filled with ardent zeal with this vision, which John is describing to us: "And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God" (v. 2). Here pictured are victorious Firstfruits. These are Laodiceans and those of the Synagogue of Satan who gave their lives in overcoming during the Great Tribulation. God mercifully has them described here and in chapter 20:4 as OVERCOMERS. This is written especially for them for the encouragement they will need as they face the Beast and give their physical lives as they refuse his mark and his number. They are there in HEAVEN, along with the other FIRSTFRUITS praising God. And this is before the Last Plagues are poured out.

Again, let me repeat; this is not the "rapture", this is Holy Scripture!

"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. 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" (vv. 3-4). Please drink this in! Here they are standing on the *Sea of Glass* before the Throne of God, in heaven! This great multitude; this mighty company of God-Beings; standing before the Throne of God! Amazing and marvelous! And how many FIRSTFRUITS are standing there?

In Revelation 14:1-2 you have a very similar picture with added details: "And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb (Jesus Christ) stood on the mount Sion, and with him a hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: And I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps. And they sang as it were a new song before the throne..." Isn't this described very similar to that in chapter 15? Here are 144,000 Beings that; (1) are standing before the Throne of God; (2) they have the harps of God; (3) they are singing a new song.

It says in verse 1 that there are 144,000 of these that have been presented to God faultlessly. They are undefiled, without spot, wrinkle, or blemish. "...and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women for they are virgins" (vv. 3-4 and see Jude: 24).

Jesus Christ is represented here as PRESENTING the Firstfruits to God the Father, to be "accepted" as His (Christ's) Bride on the Day of Pentecost! Now consider again, we are to be presented to God absolutely pure, spotless, forgiven. "These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. **These were redeemed from among men being the FIRSTFRUITS unto God and to the Lamb**" (v. 4).

This is the First Resurrection, and it says THESE ARE THE FIRSTFRUITS! The scripture does NOT say this was "some" or "a part" of the Firstfruits. NO! It says they ARE the **FIRSTFRUITS; 144,000 of them!** That is plainly what the scripture states!

The Marriage of the Lamb

As we take up the story flow again, we need to remember the following:

- The Seven Last Plagues have not yet been poured out, and it will take time to accomplish that task.
- From the Day of Pentecost to the Feast of Trumpets is an average of 110 days.
- The Resurrection has taken place.
- The 144,000 Firstfruits have been born into the Family of God and are pictured as God-Beings standing before the throne of God in heaven, presented to, and accepted by God---before the **vials of wrath** are poured out.

Can our minds grasp just a tiny bit of this? Can we get this in our minds? Can we see this?

God the Father has planned the MARRIAGE of HIS SON! If we can imagine the most grand and splendid, magnificent event; any glorious occasion; the pageantry of a worldly coronation, or the most inspiring wedding ceremony ever, complete with the highest quality of music and thrilling singing, it would all pale into insignificance compared to that which God has planned for His Son and the Bride---the Firstfruits!

Most surely God in all His Glory will perform the ceremony. The Holy Angels will sing---And Christ will be magnificent!

Revelation 19:1 states: "And after these things..." AFTER WHAT THINGS? THE THINGS WE HAVE JUST READ ABOUT---

- The presentation of the Firstfruits unto God (again, Jude 24).
- The Coronation of Christ as King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Dan. 7:14).
- The Marriage of Christ to the Firstfruits, the Church, the Bride (Rev. 19:7).
- The Great Wedding Supper (Rev. 19:9).
- The preparation for the pouring out of the Seven Last Plagues during the 110 days of our orientation in HEAVEN (Rev. 16).

Continue verse 1: "...I heard a great voice of much people (#3793: multitude, company, people) in heaven..." Much people in heaven! We have read right over this plain scripture in the past! "...Saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. And

again they said, Alleluia". Revelation 16 describes the Seven Last Plagues being poured out during this time. "And her smoke rose up for ever and ever. And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia. And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude (#3793), and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come..." (Rev. 19:1-7). Verse 9 reads: "And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb..."

Now let's stop right here. The MARRIAGE of the LAMB has come! We are not told whether the Coronation of Christ takes place before or after the wedding. However, as we read beyond verse 10, Christ does not appear as the Lamb of God but as **KING of KINGS and LORD of LORDS** (vv. 11-16). Also, it appears from the wording of verse 7, the Wedding and the Wedding Supper have already taken place: "...And his WIFE (#1135 Wife, not #3565, Bride) has made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints" (Rev 19:8). As you read the description of the WIFE, do you think about a crown, a beautiful wedding dress and a long train? That is not the way the WIFE is arrayed. As we proceed you will see what this actually means.

The Seven Last Plagues

As the breath-taking events are unfolding in HEAVEN before the throne of God, the *Vials of Wrath* are being poured out upon the earth. "And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, go your way, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth. And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth..." (Rev 16:1-2). Notice, there was no trumpet blast accompanying the pouring forth of the first plague. The Seven Trumpets have already been blown. Did the Last Trumpet continue to blow "loud and long" through the duration of the seven last plagues as in Exodus 19:19? Isaiah describes this *Last Trumpet* as the "great Trumpet" in chapter 27:13. "And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown..." The Hebrew word *blown* is Strong's #8628 and is defined by Zodhiates as: "to blow a trumpet or horn one time sharply to give a signal..." Consequently, it appears the Last Trumpet was sounded as a Signal for the return of Christ to "gather the Saints" and to unleash the Seven Last Plagues. There are no other trumpets blown after the *last trumpet!*

Revelation 16:2-9: "And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image. And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea." I repeat; notice there are no trumpet blasts accompanying the *vials of wrath* plagues. "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. And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. And the men were scorched with great heat..."

Days and weeks continue to pass. From Passover to Trumpets is always 164 days, therefore from Pentecost until Trumpets would be at least 50 days less than 164 or 114 days. But on an average there are 110-111 days from Pentecost to Trumpets. Horrifying things are happening to

the earth and its inhabitants as the Seven Angels pour out the Seven Last Plagues during those days. They aren't just dumping them out all at one time. It says one Angel pours out his vial and then another Angel pours out his vial. The terrible effects must take place and each plague takes time.

“And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain. And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds. 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” (vv. 10-12).

The great Euphrates River will dry up. Then the remnant Eastern armies will be mobilized to bring them into the area of the Plain of Esdraelon or Megiddo. “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” (vv. 13-14). Many call this today, “The Battle of Armageddon”.

It takes time to gather this great army; to mobilize the tanks and artillery, to transport the thousands of men and machines to the area of Megiddo.

“Behold I come as a thief...” What is this? “Blessed is he (Blessed is WHO?) that watches, and keeps his garments lest he walk naked, and they see his shame” (v. 15). What does this statement mean at this point in time? This is most likely an interjected thought applying to us here and now because of the following points we have already seen in time order:

- 1) This is immediately before Christ and the Saints return to take over rule of the earth.
- 2) The Resurrection of the Firstfruit has already occurred.
- 3) The Seven Last Plagues are being poured out upon the unrepentant of the earth.
- 4) The 144,000 Israelites of Revelation 7 are being protected by God at this time, most likely in the Place of Safety (Rev. 9:4). Perhaps they are the ones mentioned here that “*watches and keeps their garments...*” because there will be no warning as the Seventh Vial is poured out.

The above statement is interjected at this point in the Book of Revelation for our own sense of urgency as **WE** read this warning. Christ has already come suddenly “as a thief” to his Temple in Oct 1997. See Revelation 22:7 and 12 for similar interjected thoughts.

The Seventh and last *Vial Plague* includes the Return of Jesus Christ and the Armies of heaven to utterly crush all resistance. “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**” (vv.16-21)!

What has been done? The Seven Vials have been poured out, but what **else** has been done? The Marriage of the Lamb has taken place! His WIFE (THE FIRSTFRUITS) has made herself ready! (Rev. 19:8). Ready for WHAT? “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 ...” (vv. 11-14). HERE DESCRIBED IS HIS WIFE! She is returning with him, not in a wedding dress, but arrayed in fine linen as part of her battle garments. His Wife will be an important part of the armies of God. Certainly He will

have Angelic armies, too, but this is Jesus Christ and his Wife. Christ is returning with all the Firstfruit Saints that are now his Wife (Zechariah 14:5).

The Two Witnesses, the Beast, and the Place of Safety

As we have stated, the Two Witnesses' ministry begins before the Beast Power is given their 42 months of evil rule. The Two Witnesses are killed 3-½ days before the Resurrection, ending the 1260 days of their great work. The Resurrection occurs on Pentecost, which is on an average of 110 days before the Feast of Trumpets. The Two Witnesses ministry, therefore, must begin 110 days plus the 3-½ days they lie dead, which rounds out equaling 114 days, before the Beast Power begins its 1260 days of terror. When the Beast Power begins, the Faithful Church must be taken to the "place prepared" for their protection.

For a more detailed explanation of these important days, please request our booklet, *Whoso Reads... Let Him Understand!* In that booklet we show a Time-line and a scenario dealing with specific years and days, "appointed times", which all dovetail together. To my knowledge, the Truth you are reading in this booklet combined with the *Whoso Reads... Let Him Understand* booklet is the only truly biblical explanation of the First Resurrection, the ministry of the Two Witnesses, and the Place of Safety all correctly placed in time sequence within the 2300 days of Daniel 8, the 1335 and 1290 days of Daniel 12, and the 1260 days of Daniel and Revelation. We will be happy to send you this information.

That understanding is a part of the wonderful NEW TRUTHS given to this small Church! It is dramatic evidence that the FAITHFUL HEAD OF THE CHURCH is directing and inspiring His faithful people (Rev. 1:5 and 19:11).

In a startling move in the near future, it appears that Christ will cause Joshua the High Priest of Laodicea, to repent and take his position as one of the Two Witnesses! He will represent the Laodicean Candlestick along with the representative of the Philadelphian Candlestick---"And I will give *power* unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth" (Rev. 11:3-4). However, it seems only one half of the Laodiceans will follow their leader, the other half will experience the Great Tribulation. Study the "Parable of the Ten Virgins" in Matthew 25.

The Two Witnesses will be directed by Christ to perform MIGHTY WORKS just as He had taught Moses (Exodus 4) and years later, the original Apostles. Their preliminary training will give them the experience, love, and faith to accomplish the earthshaking Work required in their ministry.

Revelation 3:9 gives us encouraging news that many of the UNFAITHFUL PHILADELPHIANS of the Synagogue of Satan will recognize the ministry of the Two Witnesses and will leave the dead organizations in which they have been ensnared. Christ will make them join with His Church and Work: "Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee."

The Two Witnesses are symbolically pictured as TWO OLIVE TREES and TWO CANDLESTICKS! They will be the representatives of God and Christ---the sources of their mighty, Spiritual POWER! And they symbolize the Philadelphia and Laodicea Churches (Rev. 1:20). Time will tell who they are!

God's Faithful, protected for **1150 days** in the Place of Safety, will become SPIRIT as the Last Trumpet sounds on that future Day of Pentecost. The Last Trumpet's blast will herald the

Return of Christ for all of His Firstfruits; those resurrected from the dead and those *who are alive and remain* in the Place of Safety.

The Firstfruits will rise in the air to meet Jesus Christ in the clouds. As has been previously stated, our Lord will take us to heaven to present us to God and to be involved in the GLORIOUS EVENTS in heaven for 110 days---then the King of Kings leads us back to take over the rule of Planet Earth!

Revelation 12:14 informs us that the Place of Safety will be needed for **1260 days** of protection from the "*face of the serpent*". Who will be there in the Place of Safety for that entire 1260 days? OUR CHILDREN WILL BE THERE! From young children to older teen-agers who are not yet old enough for baptism, they will still need protection until Christ and His Firstfruit Wife return. And it seems obvious that the 144,000 Israelites of Revelation 7 will be brought there at the beginning of the *Day of His Wrath*, not only for their safety, but as care-takers of our children until the final year ends.

Isn't this just a wonderful, fantastic PLAN God has laid out for us!

The Return of Jesus Christ and His Wife

But, let's come back to the pouring out of the Seventh Vial as the kings of the earth amass their armies for the *great day of God Almighty*, the battle of Armageddon! Christ and his Wife return as the *Seventh Vial's* horrendous effect is being experienced upon the earth. "And there were voices, and thunders, and lightings, 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, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great" (Rev. 16:19-21).

More Description from the Old Testament

"Behold the day of the Lord comes, 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. Then shall the Lord go forth and fight against those nations as when he fought in the day of battle" (Zech 14:1-3). This is clearly portraying the Return of Jesus Christ! "And his feet shall stand in that day..." (v. 4). What day? The Day of the Lord! We're in the Day of the Lord as this is being written. The Day of the Lord continues forever, or as long as God has a need for measuring TIME on earth! However, this great event described here in Zechariah occurs on the FEAST of TRUMPETS, the very last day of the one-year period of the Day of the Lord's Wrath---within the Day of the Lord!

"And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west..." (v. 4). This is the great earthquake mentioned in Revelation 16:18! "And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the Lord my God shall come and all the saints with him" (v. 5).

YES! IN THAT DAY! The SAINTS, the FIRSTFRUITS, the WIFE of the KING of KINGS and LORD of LORDS will RETURN from HEAVEN, with Him on that future Feast of Trumpets. No

Trumpets will be blown. They will have already been blown. The First Trumpet will sound on the Feast of Trumpets as the one-year Day of His Wrath begins. The Seventh (last) Trumpet then blows on the day of Pentecost, the seventh consecutive Holy Day!

IN THAT DAY we will meet Christ in the clouds and be taken to HEAVEN! The entire marvelous happenings in heaven will take place as the Seven Last Plagues are poured upon the unrepentant of earth. Then Jesus Christ will return at the end of that one full year as the Feast of Trumpets begins another year.

God's Holy Days picture His Great Plan of Salvation. They present to those who can see, not only the symbolism, but also the ACTUAL REALITY. They are, indeed, SIGNS that reveal to us the future through the Word of God.

The Kingdom of God

“And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark: But it shall be one day which shall be known to the Lord, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light. And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be. And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one” (vv. 6-9). The Day of the Lord began on the Feast of Trumpets of 1997 and exists through all eternity---according to God's Plan. We are now in a transition period in which horrendous events are to befall this planet. But soon the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, the Kingdom of God will be established. The Feast of Tabernacles portrays that time, the Millennium of peace and joy of all people, when Christ shall rule all nations.

We who are God's called, chosen, and faithful are also in a transition period. We wait with all these awesome and scary events immediately ahead of us (see Daniel 12:12). All of the wonderful, inspiring VISION given us through the scriptures we have studied in this paper must be treasured deeply within our minds. Our Lord wants this to be a driving force to bring us through the very frightening times that are also a part of these days to come. We are going to finish the Work God has given us to do! Christ will take us to the Place of Safety to await the Resurrection. We shall experience the thrill of being changed, in an instant of time, from flesh to IMMORTAL SPIRIT. We will rise into the air meeting those other Firstfruit that have been resurrected from the dead and meet, personally, our Mighty Lord, Savior, High Priest, King, and future Husband, Jesus Christ! He will escort us to the dwelling place of our God and our Father.

Through the Spirit of God, try to mentally visualize this. “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the GLORY which shall be revealed in us” (Rom. 8:18). We will then be presented to God. We ARE the Wave Loaves! Possibly, we will have a part in the Coronation ceremony! We shall be crowned Kings and Priests under the KING of KINGS...And the UNIMAGINABLE GLORY of the MARRIAGE to CHRIST... and the Marriage Supper right there in HEAVEN!

What words can we use? They all fall short in any description. But, it will be so very wonderful! To forever be with our Husband, Jesus Christ. To behold and be embraced by God the Father. To be praised and given our fabulous positions as Pillars in the Inner Court is absolutely MIND-BOGGLING! And then to be able to return with Christ and all of the Resurrected Firstfruits who had died so long ago. The righteous characters of the Bible, Abel, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, David, the Prophets, the Apostles, the Righteous Women of old and those of all generations including Herbert and Loma Armstrong, and hopefully many of the Laodiceans and the Outer Court. We want to get to know all of them. We will be able to

meet the Angels and the other powerful Spirit Creatures that have been involved in watching over us. We will be able to converse with them. We will be God, as God is God! And we will return to this earth to rule as Kings and Priests.

“And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one” (verse 9 and Rev. 3:12). All of these scriptures will come to pass. It will require a short time to repair the destroyed earth (Isaiah 65:17-25) and prepare for the Kingdom of God---the 1000-year reign of Christ and the Saints---the Millennial SABBATH---during the Day of the Lord.

We are most certainly anticipating that which is portrayed by the Day of Atonement. The Day of Atonement is another Holy Day SIGN along the way. “And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years. And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season” (Rev. 20:1-3). This will happen. God says so! A thousand years with Satan and the demons removed. (Please write or call for our booklet *The Deep Things Of God* that continues God’s revelation on the period of time after the Millennium.)

Christ will take His position as God and King of this world, and we will rule with him in righteousness, replacing the demons that failed to do so.

“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them...” (Rev.20:4). Given unto whom? Given unto all of the Firstfruits of the First Resurrection. “...And I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast”... (v. 4). Why is this mentioned again? To repeat; it is for the encouragement of our brethren who will not be worthy to escape the Tribulation, yet through God’s Spirit are able to overcome in the terrible TIME of the Great Tribulation. That scripture and Revelation 15:2 are written to show these begotten brethren that God expects them to endure even to the end of their lives (Rev. 12:11). Those are Laodiceans and some of the Outer Court (synagogue of Satan) that must give their lives to prove their faithfulness. It is written here to encourage them.

How very important it is for ALL of us to have the VISION of the tremendous rewards we are to receive through the grace and goodness of God. “And ...they neither received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.” This is the Resurrection of the Firstfruit on the day that pictures the Firstfruit---**the Day of Pentecost!** “Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection:” (That which has been revealed in this booklet should help us to realize how blessed we are) “on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years” (vv. 4-6). The Kingdom of God shall never pass away in the Day of the Lord. The 1000 years Reign of Christ and the Firstfruits and the 1000 years of the Last Great Day will be a training period for our rule throughout the Universe; throughout Eternity!

“But as it is written, eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered the heart of men, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God has revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God.”

AMEN!

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