

***Visions
of
Revelation 14***



YOU ARE “RIPE” FOR REAPING

Bible prophecy is exploding in the world news today! The Bible warns that when certain prophecies begin to happen two “REAPINGS” will occur. Read the scriptures below that describe these two “HARVESTS”!

And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap; for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.

Rev. 14:14-16

And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.

Rev. 14:17-20

WILL ONE OF THESE HARVESTS INCLUDE YOU?

7 Visions of Revelation 14

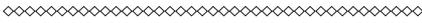
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INTRODUCTION



Over 2500 years ago, the prophet Daniel was given amazing visions of occurrences to happen in the “**time of the end.**” Those glimpses into the future greatly disturbed righteous Daniel. He was troubled to the extent that he pleaded with “**the man clothed in linen**” to explain the meaning of the visions to him. But instead of an explanation, Daniel was told to “...**go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end**” (Dan. 12:9).

Over 500 years later, another prophet of God, the beloved apostle John, was also given fantastic visions of the future, which he recorded in the book of Revelation. However, from chapter 6 onward, John’s “book” was also CLOSED and SEALED with seven seals.

In Revelation 1:10, it is revealed that John was actually projected into the time of **the Day of the Lord** so often mentioned in the Old and New Testaments. He was projected *in spirit* into the Day of the Lord **before** any of the seven seals are opened!

In this booklet you will discover the meaning of the “**time of the end,**” and HOW the “**closed and sealed**” books of Daniel and Revelation are, at last, OPENED to full UNDERSTANDING! And you will read the astounding NEW TRUTH of a brief period of time in the plan of God, never before realized by the Church of God. And within that time period are SEVEN VISIONS that are OPENED and UNSEALED for the first time—NOW!

Read on and be thankful for these NEWEST TRUTHS that the living Christ has revealed to His true Church.

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION2

Chapter One:

Closed and Sealed.....5

Chapter Two:

**The Time of the End
and The Day of the Lord8**

Through the Eyes of John10

Chapter Three:

The First Vision:

The 144,000 Firstfruits..... 14

The First Vision—the 144,000 Firstfruits.....15

Back to Vision #1.....16

Only 144,000 Firstfruits—Really?18

When does the Resurrection of the

144,000 Firstfruits Occur?20

One Other Question22

Before the Last Trumpet Sounds.....25

Chapter Four:

The Second Vision:

The First Angel’s Message26

Who is *Dwelling on the Earth*?..... 27

Chapter Five:

The Third Vision:

The Message of the Second Angel.....30

Chapter Six:

The Fourth Vision:

The Third Angel's Message32

Chapter Seven:

The Fifth Vision:

The Patience of the Saints35

Chapter Eight:

The Sixth Vision:

The First Harvest37

What HARVEST?37

Chapter Nine:

The Seventh Vision:

The Second Harvest.....39

It Won't Be Long Now!.....41

Summary.....43

Chapter One:

Closed and Sealed



The Holy Bible is the *written Word of God* and is claimed by Jesus Christ to be TRUTH! He states this in John 17:17: “**Sanctify them through thy truth: THY WORD IS TRUTH.**”

Also, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ Himself, is personified as the *living Word of God* in the latter phrase of Revelation 19:13: “...**and his name is called THE WORD OF GOD.**”

The living Christ does not lie nor need to embellish truth. When He makes a statement, that statement is to be believed. Therefore, when He told the aged apostle John to make His *servants* aware that “*all things must shortly come to pass...for the time is at hand,*” He meant exactly that! Read His statement of this fact in Revelation 1:1,3:

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his *servants* things which must *shortly come to pass*; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John... Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: *for the time is at hand.*

John recorded these words about 1900 years ago. Nineteen hundred years ago is a long time, and by no stretch of the imagination could it be considered that Christ was referring to the 90’s AD as ***the time at hand!*** No! Christ states emphatically that “*the TIME is at hand*”—that all prophecy revealed in the book of Revelation *will shortly come to pass*. These scriptures are NOT primarily for 1900 years ago, but for events that began just FOURTEEN YEARS AGO!

The Church of God’s Faithful (CGF) boldly proclaims that the

Day of the Lord came as a “**thief in the night**” (1 Thess. 5:2), and that Christ came “**suddenly to His temple**” (Mal. 3:1) on October 1, 1997—14 years ago! And we also state publicly that the **TIME IS AT HAND** and **ALL THINGS WILL SHORTLY COME TO PASS!**

There are also wonderful events recorded in the book of Revelation that are for other time periods beyond the present, and are labeled as such. For example, Revelation 20 informs the reader that there will be 1000 years of the millennial reign of Jesus Christ, after which Satan the devil will be released from his prison and go forth to deceive the nations. Beyond that is the astounding time of the Second Resurrection. However, today, we are considering the TIME that began 14 years ago—the *Day of the Lord* and “**all the things that must shortly come to pass.**”

Christ has revealed to the CGF many NEW TRUTHS from the book of Revelation since He “**came suddenly to His temple.**” He came suddenly to a tiny few in which He found FAITH (Lk. 18:8), as the *Day of the Lord* came silently and suddenly, as “**a thief in the night**”! Thus, our Lord began pouring out new truth to His Church! His faithful Church would be identified by NEW TRUTH—His Church would be *set apart by TRUTH!*

The wonderful TRUTHS of the Word of God have been recorded ever since the books of the Bible were written, but each truth can be understood ONLY when it is God’s time for each individual TRUTH to be revealed—and ONLY to those whom God chooses to reveal the meaning!

There have been many righteous people throughout history who deeply desired to know the new truths that are just now being revealed. Prophecy and the events of the “**time of the end**” have intrigued people of past ages as well as today.

Much has been written and spoken about the mysterious book of Revelation. The last book in the Holy Bible has piqued the curiosity and imagination of many scholars and laymen alike. And the conclusions drawn by those who have written and spoken about this book are so varied that confusion is their final product. But there is a simple reason why there exists so much variation and confusion in the interpretation of the book of Revelation and other prophetic books of the Bible.

An amazing fact that has eluded those who have devoted hours, or perhaps years of study to the inspired writings of Daniel and Revelation is that they COULD NOT be understood until the arrival of a certain period in time!

For example, chapters 6 through 22 of the book of Revelation have been sealed with seven immovable seals that could only be opened by the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ (Rev. 5:5)! Six of the seven seals are portrayed in symbolism in chapter 6, describing God's intervention in the affairs of the world. Then the seventh seal is opened in chapter 8.

The seventh seal is identified as the one-year period of the *Day of the Lord's Wrath*. The fulfillment or reality of the events displayed by the seven seals could NOT happen until a certain TIME in the plan of God—nor could the correct understanding of the book of Revelation be known until that specific TIME arrived.

The book of Revelation and the book of the prophet Daniel are each a part of the Word of God. History and prophecy are presented and interlinked in those two books, and they verify and factually complement each other.

Daniel sincerely wanted to know the meaning of the visions being shown to him. He was like many other sincere people throughout history who have genuinely studied his prophecies and the prophecies of the book of Revelation, but have been unable to grasp the truth contained in them. Daniel desired very much to understand how the very detailed prophecies of the *end time* were all going to come about. Nevertheless, he was told that the understanding was *closed and sealed*.

These words were spoken to Daniel by “**the man standing on the waters of the river,**” who was apparently Christ Himself:

And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things? And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end (Dan. 12:8-9).

This powerful statement by the great Being that would become Jesus Christ was a decree that the “**words are closed and sealed**” and could NOT be understood. However, the implication is distinctly made that all that was “**closed and sealed**” would be OPENED to understanding when the “**time of the end**” came!

The book of Revelation was also *sealed* and *closed* to correct understanding *UNTIL* the *time of the end*, as will be explained as we proceed. What the *time of the end* actually means is defined in the book of Revelation, yet even that explanation was hidden until the *time of the end*!

Thus the question must be asked—and answered—“*What and when is the TIME of the END?*”

of His Son's COMING, the *closed and sealed* prophecies of the *time of the end* would be OPENED. It is all about the *sudden* COMING of Jesus Christ! The interjected WARNING in Revelation 16:15 explains His *secret* COMING: "**Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.**"

And the amazing truth is—IT HAS HAPPENED! Man's 6000 years of allotted time to go his own rebellious way has come to an abrupt END. It came at the precise moment that God intended. The *time of the end* came and the understanding of the *closed and sealed* prophecies of Daniel, Revelation and other *end time* prophecies would be revealed to God's true Church!

Revelation 10 and the message of the "little book" is the vital key to the understanding of all the *time of the end* prophecies! (To fully comprehend this remarkable chapter, it is recommended that you read our booklet entitled *The Little Book Unveiled at Last.*) Observe verses 1 and 5-6:

And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire...And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, *THAT THERE SHOULD BE TIME NO LONGER.*

Man's TIME would be no longer! Man's time had come to an END—the *time of the end* would begin at that precise time!

Man's 6000 years of going his own Satan-inspired way was over—the TIME of the end had COME! Now GOD'S TIME—the *Day of the Lord*—began again as Christ returned to His temple. The *time of the end* had come, and the *closed and sealed* scriptures would be OPENED!

This fantastic announcement (that there should be TIME no longer) was fulfilled on the evening of October 1, 1997, on the Feast of Trumpets! From that point in time, the books of Daniel and Revelation could be understood by the true Church of Jesus Christ.

The *great secret* that ONLY the Father knew was revealed and

became a reality on that evening when Jesus Christ AND the Day of the Lord *came as a thief in the night* (Rev. 16:15, I Thess. 5:2, and II Pet. 3:10).

The amazing revelation that the *Day of the Lord* and the *Day of the Lord's Wrath* are TWO different occurrences was given to the CGF on that very evening of the Feast of Trumpets, 1997. The Day of the Lord had come as *a thief in the night*, and Christ came *as a thief* to His temple. God's *great secret* was revealed, and the hidden TRUTHS of the *time of the end* began to be revealed to His true Church!

The *closed and sealed* prophecies of the *time of the end* were revealed as Revelation 10:8-11 became a reality.

And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take *the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth.* And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, *Give me the little book.* And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.

And he said unto me, *Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.*

(This is explained in detail in our booklet *The Little Book Unveiled at Last.*)

Through the Eyes of John

The apostle John was writing *in Spirit* in the *Day of the Lord*, as plainly stated in Revelation 1:10: **"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet."**

It is essential to understand that John was projected into the *Day of the Lord*, as the book of Revelation states in chapter 1, verse 10. Also, it must be realized that the *Day of the Lord* and the *Day of the Lord's Wrath* are TWO different events! The *Day of the Lord* had begun as John is writing in Revelation chapter one, and continues forever. As John is writing in chapter 1, he sees the *Day of the Lord* begin, and

through the rest of the book he sees it continue on and on—forever. The *Day of the Lord's Wrath* is only a one-year period within the *Day of the Lord*.

The seven seals and their true meanings were NOT REVEALED until the *Day of the Lord* came and the *closed and sealed* prophecies of the *time of the end* were OPENED.

The OPENING of the seven seals happens during the *Day of the Lord!* This is a biblical fact that must be understood! With this knowledge we get a panoramic view of the incredibly amazing events being revealed, one by one, through the eyes of the apostle John—*before* the REALITY of the seals actually occurs. Through John's eyes and the description he presents according to his commission in chapter 1, verse 2, we can see Christ rip off each seal, and the UNDERSTANDING of the entire book of Revelation is then made available to the true Church of Jesus Christ—now that the Day of the Lord has come.

Please understand! The book of Revelation could NOT be understood UNTIL the Day of the Lord began.

This is extremely important information!

The *Day of the Lord* arrived FIRST! Then the four horsemen of the first four seals were released. After their ride, as is seen through the eyes of John, the fifth seal, the Great Tribulation, comes upon the entire earth for three and a half years. When two and a half years of the Great Tribulation have passed, the heavenly signs of the sixth seal usher in more horror and fright, and introduce the seventh seal! The seventh seal is the final one-year period of the three and a half years of Great Tribulation. That one-year period is the *Day of the Lord's Wrath, composed of the seven trumpet plagues*.

Again, please note that ALL seven seals are OPENED during the *Day of the Lord!* And the *Day of the Lord*—God's TIME—came as man's *time was no longer*. The *time of the end* came and all that was *sealed and closed* to understanding was OPENED!

The very important NEW TRUTH that the Day of the Lord and the Day of the Lord's Wrath are TWO entirely different occurrences was revealed to the CGF on the evening of the Feast of Trumpets, October 1, 1997! Since that great occurrence, over ONE HUNDRED NEW TRUTHS have been revealed to the CGF—right from the pages of the Holy Bible.

The *time of the end* arrived (the *end of man's time* (Rev. 10:6)

of going his own stubborn way), and God's TIME—the Day of the Lord—came *as a thief in the night!* Also, the *great secret* of Almighty God was revealed as the living Christ CAME secretly and suddenly to His temple (Mal. 3:1) and gave understanding of the scriptures whose meaning had lay closed and sealed for centuries. (Request or download our booklet *Elijah's Message to the Philadelphia Church of God* for a complete explanation of the spiritual temple.)

I repeat, Christ came to His Church and “*set them apart by truth!*”!

Here is a brief listing of new truths given to the CGF to identify it as the Church of Jesus Christ, *set apart* from all the rest by TRUTH!

- The Day of the Lord and the Day of the Lord's Wrath are TWO different major events.
- The 144,000 firstfruits are identified.
- The 144,000 Israelites of Revelation 7 are identified.
- The First Resurrection occurs on a future Feast of Firstfruits. It is essential to understand and prove this new truth to be able to grasp the wonders of the 111 days of Revelation 14 that will be explained later in this booklet.
- The identity of the synagogues of Satan is revealed.
- The rescue of the sleeping virgins of Matthew 25:1-13 and Revelation 3:9 is understood.
- The location of the place of safety is strongly indicated.
- Only Israel is given God's Spirit during the Millennium.
- There are only TWO general resurrections.
- The duration of the Last Great Day is understood.
- Satan's fate is revealed.
- The innumerable multitude is identified.

This brief list of new truths that connect and build one upon another has been given to the CGF since the Day of the Lord has come, and is compiled in our book *Set Apart by Truth*. We would be happy to send you a copy, or you may download it from our website www.setapartbytruth.org. Each of the new truths connect and build one upon another, as stated in Isaiah 28:10: “**For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here**

a little, and there a little...”

The first four seals were OPENED as the Day of the Lord began over FOURTEEN years ago, and the four horsemen are now concluding their ride of deception, destruction, disease and death.

The events of the last three seals leading to Christ’s taking rule of the earth were also shown to the apostle John. Thus, as he was projected into the *Day of the Lord*, it was his commission to show Christ’s servants what will happen at *the time of the end*, as Revelation 1:1-3 explains! All that John saw *in Spirit* will become realities as the prescribed time for their fulfillment comes about.

Therefore, when we state that the seven seals were ALL opened, we see them open through the eyes of John! The fifth, sixth, and seventh seals, though opened to our UNDERSTANDING since the *time of the end* came (ushering in the *Day of the Lord*), have yet to become realities. But they will soon!

of the First Resurrection, use your Bible and our booklet *The Feast of Trumpets OR the Day of Pentecost...Which?*)

The First Vision—the 144,000 Firstfruits

The *first vision* in Revelation 14 is the wonderful understanding of the 144,000 firstfruits in verses 1-5. When first studying this fantastic vision, I thought that verses 1-5 seemed chronologically out of place. It appeared to me that they would fit much better between verses 16 and 17. However, I soon realized they are placed where they are for a very definite reason!

Verses 1-5 are situated out of the story-flow for an important reason, just as the vision of Revelation 7:9-17 is. In Revelation 7:9-17, the fantastic scene of the “innumerable multitude” leaps ahead through centuries of TIME from the “sealing” of the 144,000 racial Israelites in verses 1-6 to far beyond the Great Tribulation, the First Resurrection, the Millennium and the Last Great Day! It brings us to the SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION of the PLAN of GOD when God the Father will have made planet Earth His headquarters.

Revelation 7:9-17 depicts the TIME AFTER the Last Great Day—completely out of the story-flow! The innumerable multitude—BILLIONS of PEOPLE—are depicted standing before the throne of God. They have overcome through severe trial and test, and have washed their robes in the blood of Christ! Everyone who has ever lived will suffer much *tribulation*, but NOT THE Great Tribulation (see John 16:33 and Acts 14:22). Comparatively, very few will suffer through THE Great Tribulation!

Therefore, the TIME of Revelation 7:9-17 can be clearly understood as occurring AFTER the Last Great Day, as God is seen seated on His throne on the EARTH in verses 15-17:

Therefore are they before *the throne of God*, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. *For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.*

Revelation 7:9-17 is lovingly placed where it is to provide the

needed assurance that God's plan will be successful. That assurance is for God's faithful who were accounted worthy to escape the Great Tribulation and have been protected in the place Christ has prepared. The children of these faithful firstfruits will also have been in the place of safety for two and a half years as the *Day of the Lord's Wrath* begins. The one-year period of the *Day of God's Wrath* will be so severe that those in the place of safety need the beautiful picture of the completed plan of God as a reminder that Christ is in charge and they must wait patiently.

The exact number of firstfruits to be protected in the place of safety is not revealed! Hopefully, there will be 50,000 or more. They, with the righteous saints who have died in the faith throughout the ages, will number 144,000 firstfruits.

As Revelation 7 begins, there is a pause, apparently to allow the 144,000 Israelites who have endured two and a half years of the Great Tribulation to be brought to the place of safety (Rev. 7:4). They have been brought to repentance through the trials they have endured and through the message of the two witnesses. In the place of safety they can be baptized, have hands laid upon them and receive the Holy Spirit, the SEAL of the living God (see II Tim. 2:19; Eph. 1:13 and 4:30).

The 144,000 Israelites are NOT called to be Philadelphians or Laodiceans, nor will they be firstfruits! They are called to be the first citizens of the world tomorrow—the MODEL NATION God intends them to be (see Isa. 61:1-7). Our important booklet *The Deep Things of God* thoroughly explains the 144,000 Israelites.

The simple mathematical fact of thousands of firstfruits in the place of safety plus the faithful firstfruits in their graves added to the 144,000 Israelites would, of course, total more than 144,000 firstfruits. Yes! It verifies the biblical statements that there will be 144,000 *spiritual* firstfruits AND 144,000 *physical* Israelites—TWO separate groups.

Back to Vision #1

It was necessary to explain a portion of Revelation 7 to obtain the full meaning of chapter 14. Now back to chapter 14. Verses 1-5, like Revelation 7:9-17, picture another successful event in the plan of God—the resurrection of the firstfruits! Thus the verses are placed at the beginning of chapter 14 for ADDITIONAL encouragement and assurance during the increased horror of the *seven last plagues*. The

trumpet plagues are terrible—but the seven last plagues will be severe beyond the most horrible nightmare. And remember, the 144,000 Israelites and the children of the firstfruits will still be in the place of safety after the resurrection of the firstfruits has occurred.

The First Resurrection occurs on a soon coming Feast of Firstfruits; thus the 144,000 firstfruits appear as the first vision of Revelation 14, at the very beginning of the 111-day period!

The understanding of Revelation 14:1-5 was one of the first new truths given to the CGF. These verses mean exactly what is stated. There will be exactly 144,000 firstfruits, beginning with righteous Abel (Heb.11:4) and including all other Old and early New Testament saints of God. Also included are the faithful who came after Pentecost AD 31 through the Church age to the present time. All who have been called and chosen, and remained faithful, will total 144,000 firstfruits in the First Resurrection.

Sometimes it is very difficult to believe a plainly written Bible statement. And the reason for the difficulty is that we have preconceived ideas that cloud the meaning of the scripture! For example, Revelation 14:1-5 declares that there will be only 144,000 firstfruits in the First Resurrection! Do you really believe there will be ONLY this relatively tiny number of firstfruits?

Let's read verses 1-5:

And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an 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 sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: 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. 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*. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

How many brethren of the splits and splinters of the former Worldwide Church of God have ever even considered the statements made in these verses? How many ministers of these churches actually teach the astounding TRUTH of the 144,000 firstfruits?

Let us also ask this related question: Why do the “churches of God” teach that the First Resurrection occurs on the Feast of Trumpets instead of on the Feast of Firstfruits?

Only 144,000 Firstfruits—Really?

At this point I will present an updated section from pages 117-119 of our book *Set Apart by Truth* that answers the questions.

These two verses [Rev. 14:1,4] PLAINLY state that there will be 144,000 firstfruits! It does NOT say they are a *few* of the firstfruits, nor does it say they are *some* of the firstfruits. These verses tell us the 144,000 are ALL of the firstfruits! The statement is made so openly, however, the Church of God in the past has NOT believed this. Prior to 1986, none of us including Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong could imagine what was to take place in the Church of God within the next 26 years!

Before 1986, this PLAIN statement in the Bible seemed so improbable. “How could this be?” we thought. Only 144,000 firstfruits from all of the BILLIONS of people who have ever lived! And immediately prior to Mr. Armstrong’s death, the Gospel was going into ALL nations! Millions were reading the *Plain Truth* magazine and viewing *The World Tomorrow* telecast. Nevertheless, when we consider the evidence we have from the Bible, 144,000 makes a lot of sense. The Bible always makes sense once we get our own preconceived ideas out of the way.

The Word of God reveals that from Adam through Noah, spanning a time period of 1650 years, only Abel, Enoch, and Noah were considered righteous men. From Noah to the time Israel entered the Promised Land another 900 years elapsed. Those who walked with God during those 900 years of history can be counted on our fingers and toes. Throughout the period of the judges, the kings and the prophets of the Old Testament, how many are counted as righteous individuals possessing the

Spirit of God? Seven thousand had not “bowed their knees to Baal” during this time (Rom. 11:4), but did they possess God’s Spirit? This question will be addressed later [It is addressed later in *Set Apart by Truth*].

Only a very few had the Spirit of God during Christ’s 33½ years in the flesh. Those included were Mary and Joseph, Elizabeth and Zacharias, Anna, Simeon, John the Baptist, and very FEW others of whom we are aware. Thousands followed Jesus and claimed to believe in Him, but where were they on the Day of Pentecost as the New Testament Church began? Even His 12 disciples were not given God’s Spirit until PENTECOST of 31 AD. Acts 2:41 tells us that after Peter’s stirring sermon on Pentecost, 3000 people “... **gladly received his word and were baptized.**” In the last phrase of Acts 2:47 the Bible states: “...**And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.**” Verse 14 of chapter 5 shows continued growth: “**And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.**” After Stephen’s death, persecution set in and the Church became scattered, and spread abroad. “**Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word**” (Acts 8:4).

Paul was inspired to write II Timothy 4:3-4 as a warning of what was to come.

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

This has a familiar ring to it, doesn’t it? Verse 10 shows how the ministry can fall away with the tragic results it brings upon the flock.

For Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia. ONLY Luke is with me...

The time was approaching 65 or 66 AD. There was much per-

secution being thrust upon God's people. Satan and his demons were bringing persecution from the world, OUTSIDE, and infiltrating the Church, INSIDE, with false ministers (see II Pet. 2:1-2; Jude: 3-4).

II Timothy 4:16 declares: **“At my first answer no man stood with me, but ALL men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.”** Many did NOT “endure to the end” as Paul sadly states in II Timothy 1:15! **“This you know, that ALL they which are in Asia be turned away from me; of whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes.”**

These scriptures describe the history of the early Church of God. How many of those THOUSANDS that were baptized on the Day of Pentecost in 31 AD and immediately afterward, remained FAITHFUL to the end? Thankfully, some did—but many did not!

How many remained FAITHFUL in the EPHESIAN era? How many in the violently persecuted eras of SMYRNA, PERGAMOS, THYATIRA? How about the SARDIS era pictured as “dead”? How many have remained FAITHFUL PHILADELPHIANS since the death of Mr. Armstrong? Think about that! When all of this is taken into consideration, 144,000 firstfruits is a reasonable-sounding number! And it is a PLAIN statement in the Bible.

(End of quote)

When does the Resurrection of the 144,000 Firstfruits Occur?

Before we go to the second vision in Revelation 14, the truth of the resurrection of the 144,000 firstfruits should pose an important question! Does the resurrection of the firstfruits occur on the **Feast of Trumpets**, as we have long believed—or does it happen on the **Feast of Firstfruits** as the name implies?

In Leviticus 23:10-14, instructions were given to Israel for the wave sheaf offering. Jesus Christ fulfilled this ceremony perfectly! He became the firstborn from the dead and the first of the firstfruits,

symbolized by the *wave sheaf offering* on the exact day the wave offering had been offered for nearly 15 centuries. Then in verses 15-17, we come to fifty days after the wave sheaf offering. The loaves waved on the fiftieth day represent the 144,000 firstfruits. We quote again from *Set Apart by Truth*, pages 115-116:

Fifty days from the “... **morrow after the Sabbath,**” brings us to the third holy day of the sacred calendar, the Feast of Firstfruits—PENTECOST. Let’s read God’s instruction to the nation of Israel concerning this third holy day of the year. Leviticus 23:15-16:

And you shall count unto you from the morrow after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the SHEAF of the WAVE OFFERING: seven Sabbaths shall be complete. Even to the morrow after the seventh Sabbath shall you number *FIFTY DAYS*...

This is plainly stated! Counting from the weekly Sabbath during the Days of Unleavened Bread, seven more weekly Sabbaths are counted, and then the next day—day fifty—is Pentecost. “Pentecost” is Greek for “fiftieth.” Verse 17 continues the instructions: “**You 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.*”**

Christ is the *FIRSTFRUIT* as pictured by the wave sheaf. The comparative few throughout history that have been called by God to qualify for the First Resurrection will be the firstfruits of “**the small early harvest**” as pictured by the *WAVE LOAVES*! James 1:18 reads: “**Of His own will begat He us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of *firstfruits* of his creatures.**”

Now, verse 20 of Leviticus 23: “**And the priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits for a *wave offering* before the Lord...**” On the Day of Pentecost, fifty days after the *WAVE SHEAF* was offered, the *WAVE LOAVES* are offered to God. God’s Word states that the *wave loaves* ARE the *firstfruits*.

God's plan is practical and works step-by-step, as we see in I Corinthians 15:23: "**But every man in his own order: Christ the Firstfruits; afterward that they are Christ's at his coming.**" His VISIBLE COMING is at the First Resurrection when "...all eyes shall see Him" (Rev. 1:7).

Pentecost is the Feast of Firstfruits! The firstfruits will be raised from the dead, or if still living will be changed from flesh to spirit in an instant at the First Resurrection. Christ fulfilled the true meaning of the Passover and the wave sheaf. He fulfilled these two important steps in God's plan on the exact days as they had been ceremonially kept for nearly 15 centuries. God accepted Him as the *WAVE SHEAF FIRST-FRUIT* on the *WAVE SHEAF DAY*! In the near future, we will be symbolically waved before God by our High Priest, Jesus Christ, on the *Day of Firstfruits—Pentecost*. Doesn't it seem consistent with the plan of God that the First Resurrection would occur on Pentecost, the Day of Firstfruits—instead of the Feast of Trumpets?

I Corinthians 10:11 informs us that the things that happened to ancient Israel are examples and types that we always need to consider. Romans 15:4 states it this way: "**For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.**" Consider the gracious HOPE we have as spiritual Israel, as compared with ancient Israel, as Moses presented them to God.

...Remember God is consistent! Our Lord fulfilled the Passover and the wave sheaf on those exact days. We are the FIRSTFRUITS! He will present us to the Father on the Day of Firstfruits, Pentecost! Please request or download our booklet, *The Feast of Trumpets or Pentecost...Which?*

(End of quote)

One Other Question

If the First Resurrection is on Pentecost, the Feast of Firstfruits,

what does the Feast of Trumpets 111 days later picture?

The Feast of Trumpets represents several momentous events in the plan of God, and the seventh seal marks the one-year period of the *Day of the Lord's Wrath* (Rev. 6:17). Of course, when the one-year period of *His Wrath* begins on a future Feast of Trumpets, it will extend to the following Feast of Trumpets. That one year of *The Day of the Lord's Wrath* involves the sounding of the *seven trumpet angels* and their horrendous plagues, culminating in the earth-shaking *seven last plagues*.

The reality of the seventh seal will begin in the future on the *first day* of the seventh month, which is the Feast of Trumpets. If the first trumpet angel sounds on the Feast of Trumpets, when does the LAST TRUMPET sound? Remember, the “visible return of Jesus Christ” and the First Resurrection happen as the SEVENTH or LAST TRUMPET sounds (I Cor. 15:52). Our booklet *The Feast of Trumpets or the Day of Pentecost...Which?* presents a pattern of the TIME when each trumpet *might* be blown. From the bottom of page 18 to the second line of page 20:

Now proceed to 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. Verses 10 and 11 describe 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, these 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. The first four angels each appear to sound their trumpets on the holy days within this three-week period of time, and then there is a delay to prepare for the severity of the next three trumpet plagues (see verse 13).

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.

The fifth [consecutive] holy day of the year [in the pattern we are presenting] is the First Day of Unleavened Bread. There is ample space for *five months* between the First Day of Unleavened Bread (the 15th of the first month) and the Feast of Trumpets (the first of the seventh month)! 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 and this plague relentlessly continues for at least *five months*. However, the combined forces of the northern and eastern nations retaliate quickly as the sixth angel sounds on the Last Day of Unleavened Bread—the sixth [consecutive] holy day [in the pattern]. This is the second woe. [The second woe] will be the most massive army ever assembled, 200 *million* men. By them one third of the remaining populace of the earth are killed during the *six and one half* months before the end of the Day of the Wrath of the Lamb. The conflict between these two POWERS will cause many of the areas of the earth to appear as 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. 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!**”

(End of quote)

There is so much more to relate about this wonderful holy day, the Feast of Firstfruits, that we do not have space for it all at this time. But it is ALL available for your reading and proving in our booklet *The Feast of Trumpets OR the Day of Pentecost...Which?* You may download it from our web site or send us a request for your own personal copy.

Chapter Four:

The Second Vision: The First Angel's Message

Finally, we can return to Revelation 14. Verses 6-7 present the *second vision*—a message from the first of three angels. Each angel's message will be delivered during the 111 days between the First Resurrection on a future Feast of Firstfruits and the awesome return of Christ and the spiritual armies to take rule of planet Earth on the following Feast of Trumpets.

And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the *everlasting gospel* to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters (Rev. 14:6-7).

Notice that the first of the three angels is "*another angel*" which John apparently had not seen before. The angel is flying in the *midst* of heaven crying with a loud voice the *everlasting gospel*. He is preaching "...**unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,** [telling them to] **fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come.**"

In this one verse three vital points are brought out:

- The angel is proclaiming the everlasting gospel—the good news of the kingdom of God (see Mk. 1:14, Isa. 9:6-7, Dan. 2:44 and 7:13-14, and Rev. 11:15).

- The angel is proclaiming that TIME IS UP—the judgment of God has come, and the Kingdom of God shall be established on planet Earth.
- The angel is proclaiming the message to everyone dwelling on planet Earth; so the question must be asked, “Who is *dwelling* on the earth at this point in time—*after the First Resurrection*—during the 111 days?”

Who is *Dwelling on the Earth*?

In the sequence of time, the First Resurrection will have just *happened*; therefore, the firstfruits are seen in Heaven, standing with Christ on the heavenly Mt. Zion (Heb. 12:22), as verses 1-5 describe.

However, going back to the beginning of the *one-year period* of the Day of the Lord's Wrath, remember that the 144,000 Israelites have been given access to the place of safety! John writes about them as the **first of the groups** of people that will *dwell on the earth* during the first angel's flight. These racial Israelites will have proven faithful to God during the very difficult days of the Great Tribulation, and God will provide a pause in time to seal this group of faithful—the *144,000 Israelites* of Revelation 7:1-8.

Remember though, the 144,000 Israelites of Revelation 7 are NOT the same as the 144,000 firstfruits of chapter 14!

By the time of the pause in Revelation 7, the 144,000 Israelites will have suffered through two and a half years of the Great Tribulation, but will have repented, evidently through the ministry of the two witnesses, and will be given protection from the one-year period of the “Wrath of God”—and the assurance that all will work out if they patiently endure. In God's mercy they are apparently “transported” to the place of safety to protect them from the horrors to come (See Rev. 9:4).

The *second sizable group dwelling on the earth* in the place of safety will be the children of the firstfruits. When the firstfruits *rise to meet Christ in the air* and proceed to the throne of God, the 144,000 Israelites can be used to watch over and provide the needed care of the firstfruits' children, who will be the “royalty” of the new world.

Who else will be *dwelling on the earth* during the 111-day period?

Revelation 11:13 reveals a *third group* who finally learned their lesson at that late date. Remember, the two witnesses will have been

put to death three and a half days before their resurrection, according to Revelation 11:9-17. Thus the entire earth will be watching, and most likely holding their breath, in anticipation of whether or not the witnesses will be resurrected as they had predicted.

But their resurrection will happen precisely as the two witnesses have proclaimed. They will be raised up as verse 11 states: “...**they stood upon their feet**”! People from all over the earth will see “**them ascend into heaven in a cloud**” and perhaps hear the VOICE telling the two witnesses to “**come up hither**” (v.12).

At that moment, a powerful earthquake destroys much of the city of Jerusalem, and the reverberating blast of the seventh trumpet sounds. The last phrase in Revelation 11:13 makes this revealing remark: “...**and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.**” Then the 144,000 firstfruits (NOT the 144,000 Israelites), both those raised from their graves and those who “**are alive and remain**” in the place of safety will rise into the air to meet Christ (I Thess. 4:16-17)!

Everyone alive on planet Earth will behold the fantastic event of the Resurrection and the VISIBLE coming of Jesus Christ for His firstfruits (see Rev. 1:7 and Matt. 24:30-31).

Therefore, the “**remnant that were affrighted**” is a *third group* mentioned that will be *dwelling on the earth* as the first of the three angels makes his flight.

Now we must jump slightly ahead in time and reveal the *fifth vision* of Revelation 14, and add verse 13 because it is also referring to the *third group dwelling on the earth*; the “**remnant that were affrighted**”!

Revelation 14:13 declares: “**Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord...**” It is very plain that this is being said of “**the remnant who were affrighted and gave glory to the God of heaven**” in Revelation 11:13. They experienced enough and repented, giving glory to God!

They are called the “dead,” the same as Christ mentions in Matthew 8:22: “**But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead.**” That is how we were before our *calling*; we were *dead in our sins* when God called us to obedience, as shown in Ephesians 2:1-2:

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the

course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience...

Yes! The people of Revelation 14:12-13 will be the *third of the groups dwelling on the earth* that hear the first angel's message. They are part of the first vision, but will also make up the **fifth vision**, as will be shown later! That *third group* finally recognizes that they have been fighting against the will of Almighty God and will repent, being willing to patiently give their lives in faithfulness as saints of God (v.13). They will be remembered for their "works"—at the *Second Resurrection*.

However, there is a *fourth group* of all nations, kindred and tongues *dwelling on the earth*. They are the completely deceived and rebellious servants of Satan, described in Revelation 11:12 as "... **their enemies...**" The *fourth group* is the ENEMY: the beast, the false prophet, and others of Satan's evil system that rules over the earth (see Rev. 16:9, 11, and 21). They will attempt to fight against Christ when He returns at the close of the 111 days.

But the third portion of the first angel's proclamation will quickly materialize as the undiluted *seven last plagues!* The plagues will descend one by one on the rebellious of the earth with the warning to "... **fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come**" (Rev. 14:7).

Chapter Five:

The Third Vision: The Message of the Second Angel

Revelation 14:8 records the next vision: “**And there followed another [the second] angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.**”

Babylon is the subject of Revelation 17 and 18, and is identified as the evil system of false religion that has led all nations into perversion of the truth. In Revelation 14:8 and 18:2 the scriptures proclaim: “**Babylon has fallen; has fallen.**” It is stated twice to emphasize that the original, ancient Babylonian mystery religious system that has evolved into the rituals of modern day “Christianity” will be removed from the earth.

Satan the devil instigated a false system of worship—the Babylonian mystery religion. He began his plan of false religion shortly after the great flood of Noah’s day. It involved the worship of the rebel, Nimrod, (see Gen. 10 and 11) and his evil wife, Semiramis. Satan’s false religion involved the worship of the sun, moon, stars and the *mother and child*. Satan later reinvented his counterfeit religion in the rituals of a false “Christianity” that developed into the Roman Catholic Church, and later her Protestant daughters.

Alexander Hislop, nearly a century ago, went to great lengths to expose Satan’s system with his revealing book, *The Two Babylons*. The book also has a sub-title: *The Papal Worship Proved to Be the Worship of Nimrod and His Wife*. (The copy I have was published by Loizeaux Brothers of New York.)

The Holy Bible tells us that both evil systems will fall—and will be destroyed! The confusion of a false “Christianity” that in reality worships Satan will be totally removed from the earth. **“And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH”** (Rev. 17:5).

“Babylon has fallen” is stated TWICE in verse 8; thus we repeat: **BABYLON THE GREAT AND HER DAUGHTERS WILL BE TOTALLY DESTROYED**—when the prophecy is fulfilled!

Chapter Six:

The Fourth Vision: The Third Angel's Message

We can now proceed to Revelation 14:9-11. These verses present the message of the third angel during the 111 days between Pentecost and the Feast of Trumpets (the last 111 days of the one-year Day of the Lord's Wrath).

And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of *the wine of the wrath of God*, which is poured out without mixture into *the cup of his indignation*; and he shall be tormented with *fire and brimstone* in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have *no rest day nor night*, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name (Rev. 14:9-11).

The warning words of the third angel pinpoint the time of the entire chapter as being within the 111 days between the First Resurrection on Pentecost and the return of Christ and the 144,000 firstfruits on the following Feast of Trumpets.

The third angel speaks of the beast, his image and his mark, and the extreme punishment that all who participates in that evil system will suffer. The extreme punishment of the *seven last plagues* is called the *wine of the wrath of God*. It is orchestrated by the mighty Christ,

as vividly revealed in the following scripture:

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).

Please realize that the First Resurrection will have already occurred on the Feast of Firstfruits and the scene presented in Revelation 15 is during the 111 days just prior to the Feast of Trumpets. Verses 2-4 depict a portion of the firstfruits who were not *accounted worthy to escape* to the place of safety, and who will consequently have had the unenviable task of overcoming the beast, his image and his mark **during** the Great Tribulation! Yet, thankfully, they are seen in verse 2, standing victoriously before the throne of God (see Rev. 12:11).

Revelation 16:1,19 add more detail:

And I heard a great voice [Remember, Christ is in complete charge of rendering the last plagues] **out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth...and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.**

Revelation 19:15-16 clearly shows that the King of Kings is bringing judgment upon Satan and his wicked system:

And out of his [Christ's] **mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he** [Jesus Christ] **treadeth the wine-press of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.**

The seven last plagues define the wrath of God! They will be poured upon the beast and all who follow his satanic organization! Revelation 16 describes the horrors of the plagues, and you can surely believe that any one who suffers these afflictions from God will have *no rest day or night*—during those 111 days!

Revelation 14:11 also declares: **“The smoke of their torment ascends up for ever and ever...”** This is an allusion to the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and their **“suffering the vengeance of eternal fire”** (Jude 7).

The beast, the false prophet, and the blasphemous hordes of people

who oppose Christ and plan to “*make war with Him*” will experience “**the wine of the wrath of God**” and be utterly subdued.

II Thessalonians 1:7-9 also mentions the Sodom-and-Gomorrah type of “flaming fire” that is written about in Revelation 14:10:

And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, *In flaming fire* taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ...Who shall be punished with *everlasting destruction* from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power...

The Old Testament prophet Isaiah has also written of the 111-day period and Christ coming with *flaming fire*:

For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render *his anger with fury* [His wrath], and his rebuke with *flames of fire*. For by *fire and by his sword* will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many (Isa. 66:15-16).

Remember, in this presentation I am using the average number of days—111—between the Pentecost resurrection and the Feast of Trumpets when Christ and the firstfruits, accompanied by the angelic armies, descend from Heaven to take rule of the earth. The actual period of time can be from 108 days to 114 days, depending on the particular year.

On that 111th day, Jesus Christ will return in magnificent GLORY! He will return as King of Kings and Lord of Lords to completely crush all resistance, as depicted in Revelation 19:11-21. At the end of the 111 days, Jesus Christ will be King over ALL the earth: “**And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one**” (Zech. 14:9).

AND the children of the firstfruits who are protected in the place of safety *patiently endure to the end* of the Day of His Wrath--especially the final 111 days!

And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a *great earthquake*, such as was not since men were upon the earth, *so mighty an earthquake, and so great...*And *every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.*

The *fifth vision* is a vision of special love, mercy and divine protection for the first citizens of the new world that will soon dawn.

Chapter Eight:

The Sixth Vision: The First Harvest



Beginning with verse 14, John shows us the *sixth vision* of Revelation 14. The vision depicts the “early harvest of first-fruits” and reverts back to the beginning of the 111 days between Pentecost and the Feast of Trumpets.

And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the *Son of man*, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and *the earth was reaped* (Rev. 14:14-16).

These verses undoubtedly depict the living Christ not yet having received “many crowns” as “King of Kings” as in Revelation 19:12,16, but as a “king,” as he told Pontius Pilate (Jn. 18:37). Here Christ is told that the time has come, for the “**harvest of the earth is ripe**”!

What HARVEST?

This is picturing again the HARVEST of the FIRSTFRUITS!

I Corinthians 15:23 tells us: “**But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward *they that are Christ’s* at his coming.**”

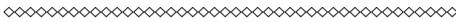
Then verses 50-52 present the hope of those called and chosen of God:

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew 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.*

As stated earlier, *chronologically* it would seem that Revelation 14:1-5 should be inserted immediately after Revelation 14:16. Verses 1-5 reveal the glory that the 144,000 firstfruits have attained! They are shown standing with Christ on the heavenly Mt. Zion, as another example of loving encouragement. God placed these wonderful words exactly as He knew would be best. Now we know why!

Chapter Nine:

The Seventh Vision: The Second Harvest



Revelation 14:17-20 pictures yet another HARVEST! Notice carefully as you read these verses that here is a mighty angel also wielding a sickle and being instructed to “...**gather the clusters of the vine of the earth—and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.**”

And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; *for her grapes are fully ripe.* And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, *and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.* [Please note the stunning cover on this booklet that pictures the BLOOD of the WINEPRESS “even to the horse bridles”!]

The first harvest pictured in verses 15 and 16 was “reaped” or “harvested” by Jesus Christ. This second harvest is “gathered” by the angel and cast into the *great winepress of the wrath of God*, which will be *trodden by Jesus Christ!* These events all happen within the

111-day period.

Notice Revelation 19:11-16:

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* [Christ at this time has been crowned as King of Kings and Lord of Lords]; 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 [of course this is the living Christ]. And the armies *which were* in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he [Christ] *treadeth the wine-press of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God*. And he hath on *his vesture* and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Here, the WRATH OF ALMIGHTY GOD is symbolized in the TREADING of the WINEPRESS—and Jesus Christ does the TREADING!

The Bible explains exactly what the next HARVEST is in Revelation 11:15 and the closing verses of Revelation 19:

And the *seventh* angel sounded [and the first harvest of first-fruits by Jesus Christ occurs]; **and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world** [this will be the next HARVEST of the earth as depicted by Rev. 14:18-20] **are become *the kingdoms* of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever** (Rev. 11:15).

And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God [the wine press of God's wrath will be trodden by Jesus Christ]; **That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all *men, both* free and bond, both small and**

great. And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which *sword* proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh (Rev. 19:17-21).

The prophet Jeremiah was also inspired to write about the harvest of the kingdoms of this world, especially evil Babylon, as they are cast into the winepress of the wrath of God:

For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; The daughter of Babylon is like a threshingfloor, it is time to thresh her: yet a little while, and the time of her HARVEST shall come (Jer. 51:33).

At the end of the time between a future Pentecost and the following Feast of Trumpets, the **kingdoms of this world** will be HARVESTED and Jesus Christ shall be “**king over all the earth**” (Zech. 14:9).

Jesus Christ, the living Word, has opened the *closed and sealed* prophecies of Daniel and Revelation and given understanding to His faithful Church. The revealed NEW TRUTH of Revelation 14 is the latest wonderful gift Christ has given His true Church so that we may continue to *grow in His grace and knowledge* (II Pet. 3:18)! All of the tremendous prophecies that have been reviewed in this booklet will become realities as the time for their fulfillment quickly comes about. *The time is at hand!*

It Won't Be Long Now!

Soon, our work will be concluded, and then the Great Tribulation will rage!

For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should

no flesh be saved [ALIVE, Moffatt]: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened (Matt. 24:21-22).

But before mankind destroys all life on planet Earth, the mighty Christ will visibly RETURN (Rev.1:7) to gather His firstfruits! Our Lord Jesus will resurrect the firstfruit saints from their graves and gather those which are alive and remain in the place of safety. The 144,000 firstfruits will be caught up to meet our Savior and King in the clouds of heaven. Then the exciting period of 108 to 114 days between the Pentecost resurrection and the following Feast of Trumpets will begin, with the visions of Revelation 14 becoming realities!

At the close of the 111 days, the 144,000 firstfruits will descend from heaven with the all-conquering Christ, and HARVEST the earth. At that time, the 144,000 firstfruits, born into the family of God, will rule over the entire planet with the KING of KINGS for 1000 years in preparation for the truly great HARVEST of the Last Great Day!

The World Tomorrow, the Kingdom of God, will reign for 1000 years. Christ will gather the 144,000 Israelites into the land of Israel as the physical nation of Israel. Under the guidance and influence of the 144,000 firstfruit God-beings, these Israelites will enforce the law of God over all other nations.

Zechariah and Daniel state the conclusion of the matter: “**And the LORD shall be king over all the earth** (Zech. 14:9) ... **But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever**” (Dan. 7:18).

Therefore, with a thankful heart, we can pray “thy Kingdom come”...SOON!

Summary



The Head of the Church, Jesus Christ, the living Word of God, has revealed wonderful, inspiring NEW TRUTH from the written Word of God! To aid you in your review of the information in this booklet, a step-by-step summary is presented here.

- All things will shortly come to pass—the time is at hand! (Rev. 1:1-3)
- The apostle John is writing in the time of the Day of the Lord (Rev. 1:10) before any of the seven seals are opened.
- The “closed and sealed” prophecies were opened as the Day of the Lord began on October 1, 1997 and man’s time ended. This is now “the time of the end.”
- God’s great secret has been revealed!
- Christ came suddenly, as a thief, to His temple and began opening understanding to His true Church.
- The books of Daniel and Revelation could NOT be understood until the Day of the Lord came!
- The reality of the seals can now be clearly understood by seeing them through the eyes of the apostle John!
- New truth is the identifying sign that the Church of God’s Faithful (CGF) is the true Church of Jesus Christ.
- Understanding of Revelation 14 is the latest revelation given to the CGF.
- The exciting period of time between the Pentecost resurrection and the return of Christ on the Feast of Trumpets is 111 days on average.

- ◆ **The first vision:** The 144,000 firstfruits and WHY they are inserted at the beginning of the chapter.
- ◆ **The second vision:** The first angel's message:
 - ◇ The everlasting Gospel!
 - ◇ Judgment is coming!
 - ◇ Message to all *dwelling on the earth*.
 - ◇ The four groups dwelling on the earth during the 111-day period.
- ◆ **The third vision:** The message of the second angel:
 - ◇ Babylon has fallen!
- ◆ **The fourth vision:** The third angel's message:
 - ◇ Warning against worshipping the beast.
 - ◇ Punishment for involvement with the beast's system.
 - ◇ The wrath of God.
- ◆ **The fifth vision:** The patience of the saints!
 - ◇ The 144,000 Israelites.
- ◆ **The sixth vision:** The first harvest!
 - ◇ The harvest of the firstfruits.
- ◆ **The seventh vision:** The second harvest!
 - ◇ The harvest of the kingdoms of this world.

Matthew 24:14 states:

**And this gospel of the kingdom
shall be preached in all the world for
a witness unto all nations;
and then shall the end come!**

**That scripture was the commission Jesus Christ
gave to His servant Herbert W. Armstrong.**

**After 55 long years Mr. Armstrong successfully completed
the monumental task he had been given—and then he died!**

**The Gospel had been proclaimed to the World as a
witness, then the end of that proclamation came.**

**Therefore, if the Gospel had been successfully preached
to the World—WHY are there several competing
churches proclaiming the Gospel all over again?**

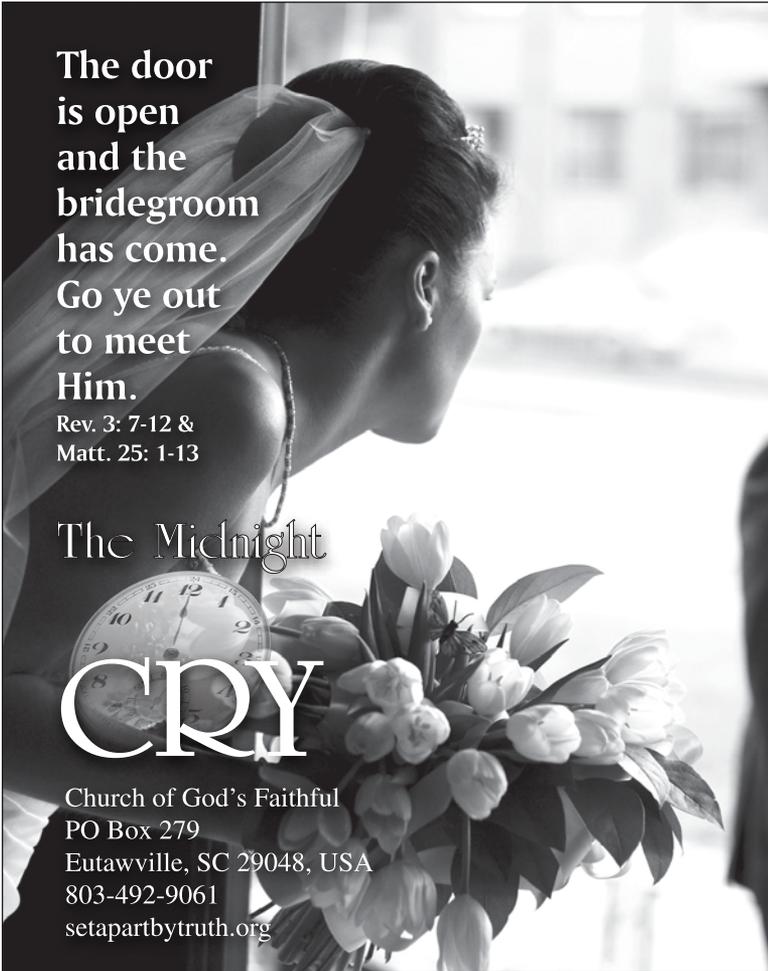
**The World is NOT being called at this time, thus the
preaching to the World again is a futile endeavor.**

Are you involved in that fruitless work?

Please view our important two part video:

***Five Proofs Herbert W. Armstrong
Fulfilled Matthew 24:14***

YouTube Channel: cgf777



The door
is open
and the
bridegroom
has come.
Go ye out
to meet
Him.

Rev. 3: 7-12 &
Matt. 25: 1-13

The Midnight

CRY

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**Are you a part of the “WOMAN” or the “REMNANT”
of Revelation 12:14,17? Your life depends on the answer!**

But where is the WOMAN? And how will she be found?

The answer is found in Christ's parable of the Ten Virgins in Matthew 25. The time has come for God's people to read, understand, and heed Matthew 25:6 - The Midnight Cry.

Write or call us for your copy of *The Midnight Cry*. Send your request to Church of God's Faithful, 136 Woodland Drive, Harleyville, SC 29448. Our telephone number is 843-462-7977. If you prefer downloading our literature from our website at www.setapartbytruth.org.