

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

*by Robert Ardis*

# **The Feast of Trumpets or The Day of Pentecost... WHICH?**

by  
Robert G. Ardis



This booklet is not to be sold.  
It is a free educational service  
in the public interest, published  
by The Church of God's Faithful.  
Revised fourth edition

**© Copyright October 2017  
Church of God's Faithful  
*All Rights Reserved***

## 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. As we observe each of the holy days, we enact a different phase of God's plan. And every year, more is understood of the wonderful plan God has for mankind.

God continues to give His faithful Church more understanding directly from the pages of the Holy Bible. Scriptures that have been there all the 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 that, according to many authorities, 6000 years of man's 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—in "the Day of the Lord"? 1 Thessalonians 5:2 plainly declares that the Day of the Lord will come "as a thief in the night." Has this 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 prophecies of 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 difference between the Day of the Lord coming secretly and suddenly as a thief, and the Day of the Lord's Wrath being pre-announced and expected? Can you accept the possibility that they are two different events?

Hopefully, you can open your mind to this reality, enabling you to comprehend the many new truths revealed in this booklet. As you study, you will realize that these statements are not frivolously made, but they stem from astounding Bible truth. And as we explore new truth, plain answers to questions that you may have wondered about for years are revealed.

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

Are the Day of the Lord and the Day of the Lord's Wrath two different events?

Does the resurrection of the firstfruits occur on the Feast of Trumpets or on the Day of the Firstfruits, i.e., Pentecost (Num. 28:26)?

Where and when does the marriage of the Lamb take place?

Do the three and a half years of the Church's being protected in the place of safety (Rev. 12:6), the forty-two-month rule of the beast power (Rev. 13:4-5), and the twelve hundred sixty days of the two witnesses' ministry (Rev. 11:3), all begin and end at the same time?

How are the answers to these four questions interconnected?

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!

# Contents

Author's Statement: .....	ii
---------------------------	----

The Glory of Jesus Christ .....	01
---------------------------------	----

No Comparison .....	01
The Lamb of God .....	02
The Wave Sheaf .....	03
Fulfillment.....	04
Offered for Us .....	06
The Gospel Declared .....	08
The Two Wave Loaves .....	09
A Very Special Covenant.....	11
The Sound of the Trumpet.....	12
Types .....	13

Viewing the Unimaginable .....	16
--------------------------------	----

The Proper Sequence of Events .....	16
Two Different Events .....	17
All Who Have Ever Lived Will See.....	19
Back to the Question.....	20

Striding into the Future .....	22
--------------------------------	----

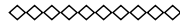
Time for Another Review .....	24
The Seventh Seal and the Seven Trumpets.....	26
The First Two Woes .....	27
The Last Trumpet Sounds.....	28

Irrefutable Proof .....	31
-------------------------	----

The Last Trump Announces the Third Woe.....	31
Scenes in Heaven .....	32
The Marriage of the Lamb .....	34
The Seven Last Plagues.....	36
The Two Witnesses, the Beast, and the Place of Safety .....	39
The Return of Jesus Christ and His Wife .....	41
The Kingdom of God .....	43



## Chapter One



# The Glory of Jesus Christ

*A*s He walked this Earth in the flesh, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, possessed the Spirit of God without measure (Jn. 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” (Jn. 17:5). That memory of God-hood was a driving force in His mind. His last will, stated in John 17:24, 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” (1 Jn. 3:2).

Christ wants us to be inspired and motivated, filled with the same desire He had, to become a part of the God family. To accomplish this, He is revealing to His faithful Church more plain truth about the fantastic and exciting events that lie immediately ahead in the Day of the Lord. He wants us to be so enthused that nothing will deter us as we 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 our desire for it, and helps us endure to the end.

## No Comparison

In Romans 8, a very beautiful 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*. For the earnest expectation of the creature [or creation, *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*, G2937] 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* (Rom. 8:18-23).

There is much suffering and horror in this world, but our future glory completely overshadows any sufferings. Christ wants us to get the vision of glory into our minds, and to truly understand what it means to “have the firstfruits of the Spirit.”

Firstfruits! This is what we will focus on in this presentation.

“For whom he did foreknow, he did also predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son [Jesus Christ], that he might be the firstborn among many brethren” (Rom. 8:29). Christ is the firstborn among many brethren that will be just as He is. God wants us to greatly anticipate and desire, through the Holy 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 their sins]: and whom he justified, them he also *glorified*” (Rom. 8:30).

We of the Church of God understand that, at our baptism, as hands were laid upon us, we received the Spirit of God. We received the glory of being begotten of God (1 Pet. 4:14). We are to be firstfruits (Js. 1:18).

## The Lamb of God

In the book of Leviticus, Moses writes God's commands regarding His feasts: “And the Eternal spoke unto Moses saying, Speak unto the children of Israel and say unto them concerning the feasts 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 is emphasized that these appointed times are *the Lord's feasts*.

“In the fourteenth day of the first month at evening is the Lord’s Passover” (Lev. 23:5). We keep *the Lord’s Passover*, not the Jews’ Passover (see Jn. 7:2). We keep this solemn ceremony every year, deeply appreciating that it pictures the death of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, sacrificed for us. He was the Creator, but also the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8). Jesus Christ was killed on the Passover, the fourteenth of Nisan.

As the sun was setting on the thirteenth of Nisan in the year 31 AD, Jesus gathered 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” (Lk. 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 fifteen centuries; now the fulfillment would be accomplished.

God’s plan begins with the Passover!

“And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread” (Lev. 23:6). 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 1 Corinthians 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, let’s continue in Leviticus 23:

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 [on the morning after the weekly Sabbath] the priest shall wave it (Lev. 23:9-11).



It is easily understood that Jesus Christ is depicted as the Passover Lamb. It is also apparent that the wave sheaf offering represents Christ. Nothing could be eaten of the new spring harvest until a first-fruit sheaf of the grain was cut and brought to the priest who waved it before God as an offering for the people.

This ceremony was performed during the Days of Unleavened Bread on the first day of the week (Sunday morning). The assigned person went to the field where the grain was growing, he cut a sheaf (an omer, *Strong's*, H6016) of the grain and delivered it to the priest. The priest ceremonially waved the sheaf before God, to be accepted for us. This dramatically pictured Christ as the firstfruit of the spiritual harvest!

Jesus fulfilled the role of the Passover Lamb by giving His life on the very Passover day. On the first Sunday morning after His death, He became *the wave sheaf* also, fulfilling its meaning on the very day the sheaf had been ceremonially waved for centuries.

## Fulfillment

In Leviticus 23:11, we saw that the priest received the freshly harvested grain on the Sunday just after Passover during the Days of Unleavened Bread, and presented it to God, in the morning, as the wave sheaf offering. It represented the first of the firstfruits. Let's look in the New Testament to see this actual fulfillment.

After our Lord Jesus Christ had been in the grave three days and three nights, He was resurrected as the sun was setting on that weekly Sabbath afternoon. Then, notice the events of the next morning:

*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. 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 [Jesus] must rise again from the dead. 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 (Jn. 20:1-14).

Christ had risen, and was the firstborn from the dead—the first of the firstfruits. He was standing there before Mary on the first day of the week during the Days of Unleavened Bread, *on the wave sheaf day*. She was weeping, so emotionally upset she could not recognize Him. Or perhaps He bore some disfigurement of the scourging He had suffered. For whatever reason, 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, Raboni, which is to say, Master (Jn. 20:15-16).

We can but imagine her feelings as the realization came over her. This woman was a close follower of Jesus. She loved Him as her Savior, her God, and as the man who had shown her the greatest kindness and compassion she had ever known. Of course, the first thing she wanted to do was 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" (Jn. 20:17).

His appearance to Mary was very early in the morning. Jesus did

not allow her to touch Him because He had not yet ascended to Heaven to present Himself to the Father. His presentation to God as the firstfruit would take place later that morning, at the same time that the priest waved the sheaf of grain before God.

Now, let us look at what happened a little later, on the same day:

And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word. [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.] And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him (Mat. 28:8-9).

Apparently, between the time Jesus told Mary, "Touch me not," and the time when the women held Him by His feet and worshipped Him, He had ascended to the Father and had been accepted as the wave sheaf. At the very time when the priests were performing the wave sheaf ceremony, the risen Christ had gloriously presented Himself to His Father in Heaven, and God had accepted Him as the first of the firstfruits. 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 1 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. Many years had passed since these observances were commanded. Centuries of performing them had slowly gone by. Now these two ceremonies picturing Christ at 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 would see this? God the Father did! "He 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 healing. He would have died from the scourging had he not been in such a perfect state of health. This is the way it had to be! "He [the Father] 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."

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 probably 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?" (Mat. 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.

But from the time the mob forcefully took Him until the Roman spear was thrust into His side as He hung on the stake, His Father watched. The gory beating, the crucifixion and His death made a complete sacrifice to make possible the forgiveness of all our sins, physical and spiritual, "for he shall bear their iniquities."

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. 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, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? (Heb. 9:11-14).

The perfect Passover sacrifice, for us, was observed and accepted by God the Father. And as Jesus was resurrected, He became our high priest on the wave sheaf offering day.

Let's look again at Leviticus 23:11. "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." The wave sheaf was waved before God by the priest, to be accepted for us. After His resurrection, Jesus presented Himself to the Father as the firstborn from the dead, and He was accepted as the first of the firstfruits. If He had not done this, we could not be accepted by the Father either. So this, also, was for us!

## The Gospel Declared

Approximately twenty-five years after the death and resurrection of our Savior, the apostle Paul explained the good news he had received from Christ:

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. 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* (1 Cor. 15:1-5).

According to the Scriptures, Jesus Christ was the great fulfillment of every detail of the Passover and the wave sheaf offering on the precise day and time instructed by God nearly fifteen centuries earlier.

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. 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* (1 Cor. 15:16-23).

By His resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ became the first-born from the dead, and the first of the firstfruits. God's Word says that those who are Christ's at His coming are a type of firstfruits. "Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that *we should be a kind of firstfruits* of his creatures" (Js. 1:18). Romans 8:23 also declares, "And not only they, but ourselves also, which have *the firstfruits of the Spirit...*" Those who belong to Christ have the firstfruits of the Spirit, but Christ is *the* firstfruit.

Christ is the first of the early harvest. Observe what happens to those who are called to the early harvest, to be His firstfruits: "Be-

hold, 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 will the 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 Resurrection (Rev. 20:5-6), the harvest of the firstfruits, occurs at the sounding of the last trump, i.e., the seventh trumpet. Read 1 Corinthians 15:52 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 last trumpet, the seventh trumpet, be blown? When will it be blown to announce the resurrection of the firstfruits, "they that are Christ's at His coming"?

## The Two Wave Loaves

Nothing could be harvested until the wave sheaf was offered and accepted. Then a count of days and weeks began, to the next annual feast of God and its important representation.

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. 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 (Lev. 23:15-17).

Let's get this picture. Here are two wave loaves made with flour from the newly harvested grain. This flour was 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. Read verse 17 again: "*They are the firstfruits* unto the Lord!"

Fifty days were counted from the time of the wave sheaf offering, and on the fiftieth day, Pentecost, the two loaves were waved before

the Lord. On that feast day, the priest waved the two 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 firstfruits for a wave offering before the Lord, with the two lambs” (Lev. 23:20).

So, here is a ceremony very similar to the wave sheaf offering, but this time with two wave loaves picturing the firstfruits of the early harvest, i.e., the First Resurrection! All people called to be firstfruits throughout history are pictured by the two loaves baked with leaven and waved on the day of Pentecost, also known as *the Feast of the Firstfruits* (Ex. 34:22). They were waved by the priest to be presented to God! To be accepted by God! Isn't that fantastic? Isn't that very, very interesting?

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, but fifty days later. Let's review this once more. First, the initial sheaf of the grain was taken before any harvesting could be done. Then fifty 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 “leaven,” or sin, in us, too. These loaves were waved before the Lord to be accepted by Him on the day of Pentecost. What very important meaning does this hold for us?

We know that Christ is our high priest (Heb. 3:1). He is the one who will fulfill the symbolism of “waving” us, as the two wave loaves, to be presented to and accepted by God:

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. [We will be made faultless, and we will be presented to God our Father, by Jesus Christ our high priest.] To the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen (Jude 24-25).

What a wonderful plan! How marvelous! How fantastic! To be presented to our God, without fault! But when will this happen? Let's closely examine this question. Think again about the last trumpet.

We have asked, “When does the last trumpet sound?” On the Feast of Trumpets or on Pentecost—which?

## A Very Special Covenant

In Exodus 19 we find the Israelites, six hundred thousand footmen, men of war, with their wives and children, their flocks and herds, at the foot of Mt. Horeb (Sinai). This vast multitude, two to three million people, had seen and experienced the mighty miracles that their great God had performed in bringing them to this area of Midian. Those who had applied the Passover lamb’s blood to their doorposts and lintels had been spared their firstborns as the death angel passed over. On the following evening, the “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 and nights of miraculously fleeing from the Egyptians (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.

In spite of their lack of faith, God had miraculously led Israel through the sea “as on dry land,” and then destroyed their enemy in the sea. God gave them water and food, but they were dissatisfied and murmured and grumbled. As they gathered at Mt. Sinai, 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 *Ambassador Bible Correspondence Course*, explain that this was the time for Pentecost.)

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 (Ex. 19:1-4).



(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 the Israelites 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” (Ex. 19:5). The mighty God brought the nation of Israel to Mt. Sinai in the land of Midian (Saudi Arabia today) to enter into a very special covenant with Him. They were to be a special, “peculiar” treasure to 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...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 (Ex. 19: 6,10,14,16).

## The Sound of the Trumpet

On Pentecost, 1487 BC, the nation of Israel stood before Mount Sinai as God descended to the top of the mountain. Our Israelite forefathers trembled at the awesome sight and sound.

And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God [Moses **presented the people to God**]; and they stood at the nether part of the mount. 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 [God came down on top of this mountain—a tremendously fearsome sight!]. And

**when the voice of the trumpet sounded** long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice (Ex. 19:17-19).

Imagine the mighty sound of a trumpet and the voice of God on Pentecost, the Day of the Firstfruits. What an incredible, fantastic event! God spoke to Moses and to 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” (Ex. 19:9).

In chapters 20 to 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. “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. 24:3,7)!

God considered this a binding *marriage covenant, made at the sound of the trumpet, on Pentecost*. Years later, God laments this 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

On that Pentecost, the people of Israel, in their clean clothes, were presented to God by Moses. The voice of the Eternal shook the Earth, the mighty trumpet sounded long and loud, and a marriage ceremony occurred. All of this happened nearly thirty-five hundred years ago to the physical nation of Israel. “Now all of these things happened unto them for ensamples [Strong’s, G5179: models, patterns, types]: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come” (1 Cor. 10:11). Israel’s experiences are types for us today, especially since we are in the Day of the Lord.

We understand that the Church today is spiritual Israel, the Israel of God (Gal. 6:16). We have read that Christ will return at the last trump (1 Cor. 15:52). And, of course, the Bible teaches that the Church is the bride of Christ. In Ephesians 5:25-27 we are given these instruc-

tions: “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 what will 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 prophesied that God would die for His wife: “Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shall not be put to shame; for you shall forget the shame of your youth, and not remember the reproach of your *widowhood* anymore.”

Remember, Jesus Christ, Israel’s husband, died on the Passover. The marriage covenant ended at His death (see Rom. 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 (1 Pet. 2:9).” Old Israel was a model of the Church of today. What happened to them in type will be fulfilled in reality by the Israel of God, His Church.

Focusing again on the last trumpet, we read in 1 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

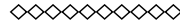
---

it sound on the Feast of Trumpets or on the Day of the Firstfruits–Pentecost? It is very plain that the Old Testament type in Exodus 19 indicates that 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 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 Pentecost? Am I suggesting that the return of Christ and the First Resurrection occur on Pentecost? That is exactly what I am saying! But you realize that 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 Feast of the Firstfruits? And if this is so, how does this fit with the events of the Feast of Trumpets? These are valid questions that can be answered conclusively as we continue.



## Chapter Two



# Viewing the Unimaginable

*I*n Daniel 12:12 God says, “Blessed be those who wait...” Wait for what? God plainly tells Daniel and any of us who ask the question today: we must wait for “the end” and the resurrection of the firstfruits. “But go your way till *the end* be: for you shall rest, and *stand in your lot at the end* of the days” (verse 13). Daniel would have to wait for the last trumpet and the First Resurrection. There are other firstfruits who are waiting in their graves for the last trumpet to sound—from Abel to all others who have died in the faith. The First Resurrection will also include those alive today who 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 Lk. 21:36 and Rev. 20:4).

There will also be another group anxiously awaiting the last trumpet—the faithful Philadelphians (and their families) waiting in the place Christ has prepared, who are “alive and remain” (1 Thes. 4:16) when the last trumpet blows. All of those begotten Philadelphians will be firstfruits at the First Resurrection, at the blowing of the last trumpet.

The one hundred forty-four thousand Israelites of Revelation 7 will suffer through two and a half years of the Great Tribulation, and then apparently will be taken to the place of safety, to be protected from the Day of the Lord’s Wrath. But they will not be firstfruits. Their role in God’s plan is another amazing story. Please write for our booklet, *The Deep Things of God*, which explains their part in The World Tomorrow.

## The Proper Sequence of Events

For years we have heard sermons and read articles on the sub-

ject of the First 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 the momentous events 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:

The Great Tribulation is described in Matthew 24:21 as a time of trouble to come upon the entire 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?

After two and a half years of this terrible tribulation, the sixth seal, containing the heavenly signs, will be opened, intensifying the time of trouble. 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...from the face of Him that sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb” (Rev. 6:15-16).

The opening of the seventh seal, identified as “the wrath of the Lamb,” will usher in the seven trumpet plagues that will literally shake and devastate the Earth!

All of these worldwide occurrences will be warning pronouncements that Christ is coming. The entire Earth will be affected. Millions of the inhabitants of this planet will die as a result of these prophesied events. The **visible** coming of Christ and the resurrection of the first-fruits *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!

## Two Different Events

Can you begin to see that the entire Earth is going to be expecting Christ’s visible return? Revelation 1:7 declares, “Behold he comes with clouds; and every eye shall see him.” This doesn’t sound like a clandestine appearance, does it? The Scriptures are always true, so how can Christ’s return be described as “a thief in the night”?

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, 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!

In the past, articles and sermons about Christ's return were often confusing because the Scriptures were not put together in proper time order. No one understood what 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 at the beginning of the 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?" The Day of the Lord's Wrath is only a one-year period during the Day of the Lord.

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 passed since Adam sinned. It was time for *the Lord's day*, i.e., *the Day of the Lord*. And Jesus Christ came suddenly to *His Temple* (Mal. 3:1). God does things right on time! The Day of the Lord came as a thief in the night—and you didn't know it! This revealed truth is thoroughly explained in our free booklet, *The Day of the Lord*. Please write or call for your copy.

However, Christ's *visible* return, when every eye shall see Him (not His coming as a thief in the night), will be preceded by the voice of the archangel and with the last trumpet blast. The dead in Christ will rise first. Then we that are alive and remain will be caught up with them, and with Christ, into the clouds (1 Thes. 4:15-17). The inhabitants of

Earth will see this.

It is now so plain to us who “have ears to hear” that the *Day of the Lord* and the *Day of the Lord’s Wrath* are two different events. This great truth is easily understood now. Scriptures that could not be understood until now have been dramatically revealed through knowledge of the plain truth of the Day of the Lord.

## All Who Have Ever Lived Will See

Read Matthew 24:29-31:

Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened and the moon shall not give her light and the stars shall fall from heaven, the powers of the heavens will be shaken [This is describing the heavenly signs, the sixth seal]: 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. 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.

All nations of Earth are going to see this, and they will hear the trumpet blasts. People will hear the great trumpet and 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. 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 is 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.

The Day of the Lord is already here. Christ has already come suddenly to His Temple, His Church (Mal. 3:1). He is here now, gathering His faithful “pillars,” setting them apart by placing His mark of truth in their minds (See Ez. 9:4; Jn. 17:17; Rev. 3:11). Before the Day of the Lord, only God the Father knew when He would have His Son return



to Earth as a thief (Mat. 24:36,43). But now, He has given us understanding of the Day of the Lord, and 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 another door for us, and then another and another. But we must be careful to prove all things (1 Thes. 5:21). We must get these new truths deeply into our minds, being so excited and thankful for them that nothing can remove them from us. But you must prove them 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?] 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* to Jesus Christ. Both are ever-living God beings. This title refers to the Father in Daniel 7, verses 9 and 13. However, a careful reading of verse 22 shows the title “Ancient of days” referring to Christ. Verse 13 is self-explanatory: *the Son of man*, of course, is Jesus Christ, and the *Ancient of days* is the Father on His sovereign throne (see also Rev. 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 and 5; 11:19; 15:8).

...one like the Son of man...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 people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed. [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 (Dan. 7:13-14,18,21-22).

We have looked deeply into the scriptures in Leviticus 23 about the wave sheaf. We saw that the 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 at the throne of God in Heaven (Jn. 20:17). He was accepted as the first of the firstfruits harvest. The firstfruit saints, as the wave loaves, will be presented to God by our high priest, Jesus Christ. Read the passage from Daniel again. Doesn't this describe our presentation to God? And where is this presentation taking place? It is obvious—this great scene is taking place in Heaven at the throne of God Almighty! The Son of man, our high priest, comes with the clouds of heaven to take us to the throne of Almighty God. Our Lord and Savior, our husband, presents us—the saints of God, the firstfruits—without spot, blemish or wrinkle, to our Heavenly Father (see Jude 24). This is not the Protestant “rapture”—this is Holy Scripture!

Look at Daniel 7:27.

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.

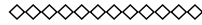
Then go back to verses 9 and 10:

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.

It cannot be overly emphasized—Daniel is writing about God's throne and the awe-inspiring events that will shortly become a reality! This is the Old Testament, and the Word of God. But, 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

*T*he 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 seemed to be when this booklet was first written in 1999. Earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, disease, famine, violence 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 and evil plaguing the world. The western world is as wicked as Sodom and Gomorrah!

Christ 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 (Ex. 19:5, Mal. 3:17) 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 (Read the book of Haggai). The Church of God's Faithful is receiving understanding of powerful prophecies that are currently unfolding, and more that will be fulfilled in their entirety in the near future. The next events to occur will lead to 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? 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 (Rev. 6:9-11).

Before the fifth seal is opened, the entire Earth will feel the stun-

ning 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 almost two billion people who die from the war, famine, and pestilence of the Four Horsemen's ghastly ride. The events propelling the world into these horrifying times are rushing toward fulfillment as you are reading! Unprecedented natural calamities are regularly occurring, and religious and racial hatred is erupting in staggering violence.

The entire Earth must be warned about the time of trouble immediately ahead. The two witnesses will boldly inform the leaders of the world about all that you are reading here. Their ministry of twelve hundred sixty days will begin seventy-five days after the thirteen hundred thirty-five days of Daniel 12:12 commences. This statement will be explained later.

"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" (Dan. 11:40). The "king of the south," which is Islamic extremism, has already pushed at the "king of the north." The nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) comprise 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." The whirlwind has begun and the Four Horsemen are galloping toward the fulfillment of their gory assignments.

The resulting battles between Islam and "Christianity" will introduce to the world the beast and the false prophet. Their world-ruling government will be established and continue for forty-two months (Rev. 13:5). These occurrences loom directly ahead and will usher in the three and a half years of Daniel 12:7 and 7:25, and Matthew 24:21-22, i.e., the Great Tribulation (the fifth seal).

Jesus Christ will take His Church to the place of safety which He has prepared for its protection during those three and a half years (Rev. 12:14 and 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).

After two and a half years of great tribulation, the sixth seal (the supernatural heavenly signs) is opened, intensifying the tribulation and bringing terror to the hearts of men. Revelation 6:15-17 portrays the abject fear of most of humanity:

And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that 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 period of three and a half years, also stated as twelve hundred sixty days or forty-two 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 two and a half years of tribulation and then 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 through eternity. But here is a one-year period, called the *Day of the Lord's Wrath*, within the Day of the Lord. To help you understand this very important fact, write or call for our free booklet, *The Day of The Lord*.

## **Time for Another Review**

Before we continue, we should review some vital points that we were taught through the ministry of God's Elijah, Herbert W. Armstrong.

Do you remember Mr. Armstrong's stating that he and his wife, Loma, had kept God's holy days for many long years before 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. "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*" (Ex. 31:13). 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 to us, also. These signs are for us to know the Lord that sanctifies us.

Leviticus 23 records the feasts of the Lord, beginning with the weekly Sabbath, and includes the vitally important instructions concerning Passover and the wave sheaf offering. The Jews keep these days, but do not grasp their great significance. 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 fifty years ago:

- The weekly Sabbath reminds us that God is the Creator of all things.
- The Passover portrays Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God slain for our sins.
- The seven Days of Unleavened Bread depict our lifetime of struggle to put sin out of our lives.
- The wave sheaf symbolizes the risen Christ, the first of the firstfruits harvest and our high priest.
- The following annual holy day is Pentecost, the Feast of the Firstfruits. On that day anciently, the two loaves were waved before God denoting the firstfruits harvest, clearly representing those accepted by God at the First Resurrection.
- After Pentecost, the next holy day is the Feast of Trumpets, on the first day of the seventh month. What mighty event does this day symbolize? We have shown from several scriptures that the First 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 on Trumpets?

## **The Seventh Seal and the Seven Trumpets**

Anciently, Israel was presented to God on the day of Pentecost at the unremitting blast of a mighty trumpet. 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?

We read in Revelation 6:17: "For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" In Revelation 8:1, the seventh seal is opened: "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 three and a half years of the Great Tribulation. The Feast of Trumpets vividly depicts the opening of the seventh seal and presenting the seven angels with the seven trumpets and the wrath of the Lamb! It would be reasonable for the soundings of the seven trumpets to 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?

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. 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 God used Moses and Aaron to bring the plagues one after another upon Egypt, the trumpet plagues will occur 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 each of the trumpet plagues is

called down on one of the ensuing annual holy days.

Observe how the trumpet blasts and holy days would correspond:

- The first angel sounds on the Feast of Trumpets.
- The second angel sounds on the Day of Atonement.
- The third angel sounds on the First Day of the Feast of Tabernacles.
- The fourth angel sounds on the Last Great Day.

These four holy days occur in the seventh month of the sacred calendar: on the first, tenth, fifteenth, and twenty-second days. This presents a strong indication that each of the first four angels will sound his trumpet on one of the four holy days within that three-week period. Then there is a delay to prepare for the severity of the next three trumpet plagues (see verse 13).

## The First Two Woes

In Revelation 9:1, the fifth angel sounds his trumpet. Here, frighteningly symbolized, is the beast power hurling all-out war against the Eastern forces (see also Daniel 11 and 12: “great fury out of the East”). This appears to be atomic, bacteriological, and chemical warfare. It is the first woe (Rev. 9:12). Verses 5 and 10 indicate that 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” (Rev. 9:5).

The fifth holy day of the year is the First Day of Unleavened Bread. If the fifth angel sounds on the First Day of Unleavened Bread, mankind will be tormented by this woe nearly until the next Feast of Trumpets, when the Day of the Lord’s Wrath will begin.

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 (Rev. 11:14). This will be the most massive army ever assembled—two hundred million men. By them, one-third of the remaining populace of the earth is killed. The conflict between these two powers will cause much of the Earth to look like 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...” (Rev. 9:20).

## The Last Trumpet Sounds

God’s holy days are signs for us. God is consistent, and we can see this as the angels sound their trumpets on the consecutive 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. God used Moses and Aaron mightily 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. And now, in the Day of the Lord, two humble men are being selected by Jesus Christ to do *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 thumbnail sketch of the great work these two individuals will perform in Revelation 11:

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 any 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 (Rev. 11:3-7).

These two men will be required to give their lives at the conclusion of the twelve hundred sixty days of their ministry. But the beast

does not die at the same time. The beast power continues to the conclusion of its allotted time of forty-two months (see Rev. 13:5). Thus, it is evident that the twelve hundred sixty days of the two witnesses' ministry does not begin at the same time that the beast power begins.

When does the two witnesses' ministry begin? The astounding truth of how to place the thirteen hundred thirty-five days of Daniel 12:12 with the other numbered prophecies of the books of Daniel and Revelation, gives us an indication of 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 [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...** (Rev. 11:8-12).

Christ says He comes with the voice of the archangel and with the *trump* of God (1 Thes. 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" (Jn. 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. [This is at the First Resurrection!] In the same hour [Strong's #5610, 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...* (Rev. 11:12-15).

The seventh angel sounds the seventh and last trumpet!

The mighty events of verses 11-15 all happen at the same time. They occur at the visible return of Jesus Christ, as the dead in Christ, including the two witnesses, 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” (1 Thes. 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 the firstfruits in their graves, *hear the voice* of Jesus Christ calling them, and the First Resurrection occurs. Verses 9 and 11 tell us that all of the people and nations, which will not allow the two witnesses to be buried, will see their resurrection and will be filled with fear. Remember, “...every eye shall see him” (Rev. 1:7) as Christ comes with His angels to gather the saints at the resurrection of the firstfruits, when the last trumpet blows (See Mat. 24:31 again).

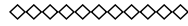
The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly. And the seventh angel sounded [and all of the above just described happens]; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever [We read the same great declaration 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 be the last trumpet. When does it blow? Have we come all the way back to the Feast of Trumpets again, completing the one year of His wrath? No! Absolutely not! The last year of the Great Tribulation begins on the Feast of Trumpets, but the last trumpet will sound on the day of Pentecost—*during* that last year.

This is the answer to our main question. Now, we will prove it beyond a shadow of a doubt!



## Chapter Four



# Irrefutable Proof

*T*he two leavened loaves were waved before God on the Day of the Firstfruits, also called Pentecost. Ancient Israel was presented to God on the day of 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, we have gone over each one of the seven trumpet plagues and have shown the First Resurrection occurring at the seventh (last) trumpet. This 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. Let's see this in the Bible. This is truly amazing! As you behold this in 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 (Jn. 17:24).

## The Last Trump Announces the Third Woe

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 First Resurrection occurs, and the third woe is announced. The seventh trumpet is the signal for: (1) the return of Jesus Christ, (2) the resurrection of those "dead in Christ" (1 Thes. 4:16), and (3) the change from mortal to immortal of His saints in the place of safety (1 Thes. 4:17 and 1 Cor.15:52-53). *And* the seventh trumpet is also the signal for 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 is the Temple of God open in Heaven. From here, the sequence of events, 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 up to Heaven, but the wrath of God is not complete until the seven last plagues are poured out.

**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 for the seven last plagues to be poured out.**

By following the pattern laid out for us in God’s holy days, it is evident that 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 First Resurrection occurs on Pentecost, the Day of the Firstfruits, fulfilling the symbolism that 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 15:1, where we saw the seven angels with the seven last plagues inside the Temple of God. Let’s read verses 5, 6 and 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 tem-

*ple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.*

Why can no one enter into the Temple until the angels complete their task?

The reason no one can enter is that there is already the most breathtaking, exquisite, sophisticated, and exclusive occurrence that could possibly be, taking place inside the Temple. To be invited requires the most unique of all invitations. The invitation is from God the Father Almighty. The occasion is the marriage of His Son. The place is at the throne of God in His Temple in Heaven. The firstfruits, as the bride of Jesus Christ, are before the throne of God. No one else is allowed at this greatest of occasions. Can you imagine this?

Christ wants us to be filled with ardent zeal for this vision, which John is describing for 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" (Rev. 15:2). Here are victorious firstfruits. These are Laodiceans and those of the synagogue of Satan who will overcome and give their lives during the Great Tribulation. God mercifully has them described here and in Revelation 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 for refusing his mark and his number. They are 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 (Rev. 15:3-4).

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, is standing before the throne of God! Amazing and marvelous!

And how many firstfruits are standing there? In Revelation 14:1-2 we 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 very similar to the description in chapter 15? Here are one hundred forty-four thousand beings that: (1) are standing before the throne of God; (2) have the harps of God; and (3) are singing a new song.

It says in verse 1 that there are one hundred forty-four thousand 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" (Rev. 14:3-4; also see Jude 24).

Jesus Christ is presenting the firstfruits to God the Father, to be accepted as Christ's bride, on Pentecost! Now consider again, we are to be presented to God absolutely pure, spotless and 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—one hundred forty-four thousand of them!** This 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 this task.
- From Pentecost to the Feast of Trumpets is an average of one hundred ten days.

- The First Resurrection has taken place.
- The one hundred forty-four thousand 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 see this?

God the Father has planned the marriage of His Son. If we can imagine the most grand 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 what God has planned for His Son and the bride, the firstfruits!

Surely God the Father in all His glory will perform the ceremony. The holy angels will sing, and Christ will be magnificent!

Revelation 19:1 says, “And after these things...” After what things? After the things we have just read about:

- The presentation of the firstfruits to God (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 pouring out the seven last plagues on Earth during the hundred ten 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. 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 ...* And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:1b-7a, 9a).

At this point, 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* (verses 11-16). Also, it appears from the wording of verses 7b-8, that the wedding and the wedding supper have already taken place: "...And his wife [Strong's #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.*" As you read the description of the wife, do you think about a crown and veil, 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 breathtaking 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 is no trumpet blast accompanying the pouring out of this plague. The seven trumpets have already been blown. Does the last trumpet continue to blow "loud and long" through the duration of the seven last plagues, as in Exodus 19:19? Isaiah 27:13 describes the last trumpet as "the great trumpet": "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 (*The Hebrew-Greek Key Word Study Bible*) as: "to blow a trumpet or horn *one time sharply* to give a signal..." So it appears that the last trumpet will sound as a signal for the return of Christ to gather the saints and to unleash the seven last plagues.

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. 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 (Rev. 16:2-9).

Again, notice that there are no trumpet blasts as the vials of wrath are poured out. There are no other trumpets blown after the seventh trumpet! Days and weeks continue to pass. From Passover to Trumpets is always 164 days. From Pentecost to Trumpets would be at least 50 days less than 164, or 114 days. But, on average, there are 110 to 111 days from Pentecost to Trumpets. During those days, horrifying things are happening to the Earth and its inhabitants, as the seven angels pour out the seven last plagues. The vials are not dumped out all at the same time. It says one angel pours out his vial, and after the results are seen, then another angel pours out his vial. The terrible effects of each plague take 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 (Rev. 16:10-12).

The 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 (Rev. 16:13-14).

Today, many call this “the battle of Armageddon.” It takes time to gather this great army, to mobilize the tanks and artillery, to transport 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” (Rev. 16:15). What does this statement mean at this point in time? This is an interjected thought applying to us here and now. We know that:

- This is immediately before Christ and the saints return to take over rule of the Earth;
- The resurrection of the firstfruits has already occurred;
- The seven last plagues are being poured out upon the unrepentant of the Earth;
- The one hundred forty-four thousand Israelites of Revelation 7 are being protected by God during this time, most likely in the place of safety (Rev. 9:4). Perhaps they are the ones who *watch and keep their garments*, because there will be no warning as the seventh vial is poured out.

Verse 15 is interjected at this point in the book of Revelation as a warning to us, for our own sense of urgency. Christ has already come suddenly, “as a thief,” to His Temple, in October 1997. See Revelation 22, verses 7 and 12 for similar interjected thoughts.

The seventh and last vial plague includes another return of Jesus Christ, this time with the armies of Heaven, to utterly crush all re-

sistance. “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*” (Rev. 16:16-17).

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* (Rev. 19:11-14).

Here is Christ’s 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 will return, after the marriage ceremony, with all the firstfruit saints, now His wife** (Zech. 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 its forty-two months of evil rule. The two witnesses are killed three and a half days before the First Resurrection, ending the twelve hundred sixty days of their great work. The First Resurrection occurs on Pentecost, which is an average of one hundred ten days before the Feast of Trumpets. The two witnesses’ ministry, therefore, must begin one hundred ten days plus the three and a half days they lie dead, which rounds out to one hundred fourteen days, before the beast power begins its twelve hundred sixty days of terror. When the beast power begins, the faithful Church must be taken to

the “place prepared” for their protection (Rev. 12:6).

For a more detailed explanation of these important days, please request our booklet, *Whoso Reads, Let Him Understand!* In that booklet, we show a timeline 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 truth presented in *Whoso Reads, Let Him Understand!* 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 twenty-three hundred days of Daniel 8, the thirteen hundred thirty-five and twelve hundred ninety days of Daniel 12, and the twelve hundred sixty days of Daniel and Revelation. We will be happy to send you this information.

This 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).

It appears that, in a startling move in the near future, 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, and work 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 that only one-half of the Laodiceans will follow their leader, while the other half will experience the Great Tribulation. Study the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25.

The two witnesses will be taught by Christ to perform mighty works, just as Moses was (Ex. 4), and years later, the original apostles were. 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 the 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 the Father and Christ, the sources of their mighty, spiritual power. The two candlesticks also symbolize the Churches of Philadelphia and Laodicea (Rev. 1:20). Time will tell who these two men are.

God's faithful people, protected for one thousand one hundred fifty days in the place of safety (See Ardis: *Whoso Reads, Let Him Understand!* Church of God's Faithful, 2006, pages 34-37), will become spirit as the last trumpet sounds on that future day of Pentecost. The last trumpet blast will herald the return of Christ for all of His firstfruits—those resurrected from the dead and those in the place of safety.

The firstfruits will rise in the air to meet Jesus Christ in the clouds. Our Lord will take us to Heaven to present us to God and to be involved in the glorious events in Heaven for approximately one hundred ten days. Then the King of Kings will lead us back to take over the rule of Planet Earth!

Revelation 12:14 informs us that a place of safety will be needed for twelve hundred sixty days of protection from the “face of the serpent.” Who will be there in the place of safety for the entire twelve hundred sixty days? Our children will be there! Young children and teenagers who are not yet old enough for baptism will still need protection until Christ and His wife return. And it seems obvious that the hundred forty-four thousand Israelites of Revelation 7 will be brought there at the beginning of the Day of the Lord's Wrath, not only for their safety, but as caretakers of our children until the final year ends.

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

## **The Return of Jesus Christ and His Wife**

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” (Rev. 16:14), the battle of Armageddon. Christ and His wife return as the seventh vial's horrendous effect is being experienced on 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).

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 [This is clearly portraying the return of Jesus Christ.] And his feet shall stand *in that day*... (Zech. 14:1-4a).

In what day? In 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. But this great event described in Zechariah occurs on the Feast of Trumpets, the very last day of the one-year Day of the Lord's Wrath, within the Day of the Lord!

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 the Lord's Wrath begins. The seventh and last trumpet will sound on the following Pentecost, the seventh consecutive holy day!

*In that day*, on Pentecost, 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, with His armies, 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 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 (Zech. 14:6-9).

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 will rule all nations.

During this transition period, we—God's called, chosen and faithful—wait, with all these awesome and scary events immediately ahead of us (see Dan. 12:12). All of the wonderful, inspiring vision given to us through the scriptures we have studied in this paper must be treasured deeply in our minds. Our Lord wants this vision 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 First Resurrection. We will experience the thrill of being changed, in an instant, from flesh to immortal spirit. We will rise into the air with the firstfruits who will have just been resurrected from the dead, and we will meet, personally, our mighty Lord, Savior, King, high priest and future husband, Jesus Christ! He will escort us to the dwelling place of God 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 Christ's coronation ceremony. We will be crowned kings and priests under the King of Kings. We will receive the unimaginable glory of marriage to Christ, and we will enjoy the wedding



supper right there in Heaven before the throne of God!

What words can we use? They all fall short in any description. But, it will be so very wonderful! To be forever 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; it is all absolutely mind-boggling! We will meet all of the resurrected righteous firstfruits who died so long ago—Abel, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, David, the prophets, the apostles, the righteous women of old, and the faithful of all generations including Herbert and Loma Armstrong, and hopefully, many of the Laodiceans and the “synagogue of Satan.” We want to get to know all of them. We will be able to converse with the angels and the other powerful spirit creatures that have been involved in watching over us. 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” (Zech. 14:9 and Rev. 3:12). All of these scriptures will come to pass. It will require a short time to repair the destroyed Earth (Is. 65:17-25) and prepare for the Kingdom of God and the thousand-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! Imagine a thousand years with Satan and the demons removed! (Please write or call for our booklet, *The Deep Things of God*, which continues God’s revelation on the period 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 [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 (Rev. 20:4).

Why is this mentioned again? To repeat, it is for the encouragement of our brethren who will not be worthy to escape the Great Tribulation, yet through God's Spirit are able to overcome during that terrible time. Revelation 20:4 and 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). These are Laodiceans and some of the synagogue of Satan that must give their lives to prove their faithfulness. These words are inserted 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 firstfruits on the day that pictures the firstfruits—Pentecost!] Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection [All that has been revealed in this booklet should help us to realize just how blessed we really 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 (Rev. 20:4-6).

The Kingdom of God in the Day of the Lord shall never pass away. The one-thousand-year reign of Christ and the firstfruits, and the one thousand years of the Last Great Day, will be a training period for our rule throughout the Universe, throughout eternity!

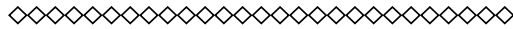
“But as it is written, eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered the heart of men, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But *God has revealed them unto us by his Spirit*: for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God.”

Amen!

## *Literature Available from the Church of God's Faithful*



### **Elijah's Message to the Philadelphia Church of God**



Herbert W. Armstrong was the end time Elijah and a type of Zerubbabel. What was finished and completed at Mr. Armstrong's death? Do you really know? When Mr. Armstrong died, did the 6th Candlestick cease to burn? No! It continued to burn brightly in the Inner Court. However, the WCG leaders began to dismantle the true doctrines of the Worldwide Church of God and they drifted into the Outer Court of the Spiritual Temple as the synagogue of Satan. Only those faithful few of the 6th Candlestick stayed with Christ in the Inner Court. After four years of the systematic destruction of the WCG, God ignited the 7th Candlestick and gave it to Gerald Flurry. The Laodicean Work of God began. The 6th and the 7th Candlesticks began to work together as the Philadelphia Church of God to warn those of the Outer Court to return to the truth. Now, true to the prophetic description of the Laodicean era, that Candlestick/Church has become lukewarm to the Law of God (Rom. 13, I Cor. 6, Matt. 5:19). The Faithful of the Church of God, the 6th Candlestick, have had to separate from the Laodicean 7th Candlestick. Our free booklet explains this separation and what you must do to come out of the Laodicean Church.

### **Bloody Jezreel**

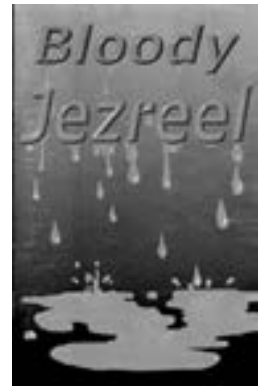


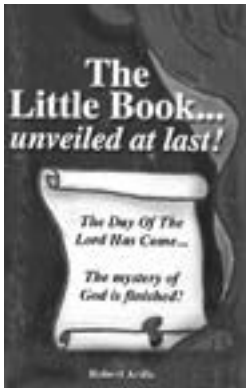
In his Hosea booklet, Gerald Flurry states on page 5, "We are typed by Jezreel. The same message taught in the PCG, or Jezreel, today is going to fill the earth."

Mr. Flurry says the Book of Hosea is an end-time book, and that is true. But, If the PCG is JEZREEL, what does it mean in Hosea 1:4 where it states, "And the Lord said unto him, Call his name Jezreel, and I will avenge the Blood of Jezreel upon the house of Jehu..."

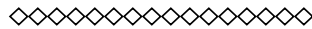
Think about what this is saying—the Blood of Jezreel!

Jezreel's Blood! If you are a member of the PCG, and the PCG is Jezreel, and these scriptures are for the end-time, isn't this speaking about **your blood**? Shouldn't this give you an uneasy feeling? And who is Jehu? You very much need to read the explanation of this in our free booklet *Bloody Jezreel*. It is a matter of Life and Death!





## The Little Book... Unveiled at Last!

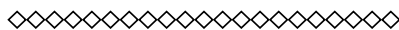


Malachi's Message to the Church of God Today is claimed by its author, Gerald Flurry, to be the Little Book of Revelation 10! He also claims that the Mighty Angel who has the Little Book open in His hand and the 7th Angel (Laodicea) of verse 7, are the same Being. However, by a careful reading of this section of scripture it is evident that Mr. Flurry's claim is not true!

The Mighty Angel is easily identified by the Holy Scriptures, not by erroneous ideas of a man. The days of the 7th Angel (Laodicea) and the sounding of the Angel are also clearly revealed in light of recent history. *Malachi's Message* is just that! It is the vitally necessary message of the book of Malachi, but has NOTHING to do with the LITTLE BOOK of Revelation 10. Mr. Flurry has no understanding of the 7 Thunders of Revelation 10. Unaware of the true significance of these thunders, he minimizes their meanings with his own interpretations. His "seven thunders" are actually blunders away from the TRUTH of God!

When *Malachi's Message* was first written in 1989, it was not the TIME for the LITTLE BOOK to be UNVEILED, BUT IT IS NOW! Request your free booklet and prove these statements for yourself.

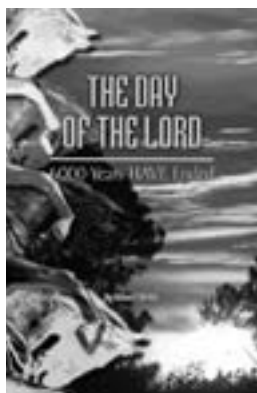
## Petra: Place of Safety" or Place of Slaughter?



As a member of the PCG, where do you think the Place of Safety might be? Where does Gerald Flurry strongly imply the Place of Safety is? In the Nov./Dec. 1998 issue of Royal Vision magazine Gerald Flurry and Stephen Flurry leave no doubt as to where they assume the Place of Safety is. Of course, you know and I know that these men believe Petra is the Place of Safety. This is what is being plainly stated in these articles, as well as in sermons on the subject. Gerald Flurry says Petra is the Place of Safety! But is that what God says about Petra? Absolutely not! God says this area of the world will suffer destruction so complete that it will be utter devastation! Just like Sodom and Gomorrah!

Read this in Jer. 49:17-18 and in Isa. 34:5-6. Mr. Flurry says Petra is the Place of Safety! God says Petra is a place of slaughter! Who do you believe? The Plain Truth concerning this subject is given in our free booklet.





## The Day of the Lord 6000 Years Have Ended!



Where are we in God's Master Plan? 6000 years HAVE ended! What is the Day of the Lord? Are you sure you know? Are the Day of the Lord and the Day of the Lord's Wrath the same occurrence? The Day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, according to I Thess. 5:2 and II Peter 3:10. Christ says He will come as a thief, unexpectedly (Rev. 3:3 and Luke 12:39-40).

However, we read in Rev. 1:7, Behold, he comes with clouds and every eye shall see him... How do you reconcile these scriptures? Can it be that the Day of the Lord and the Day of the Lord's Wrath are not the same event?

Yes! The Day of the Lord's Wrath is only a ONE-Year period of time within the Day of the Lord. The Day of the Lord HAS COME as a "thief in the night" and YOU did NOT know it! What happens NOW?

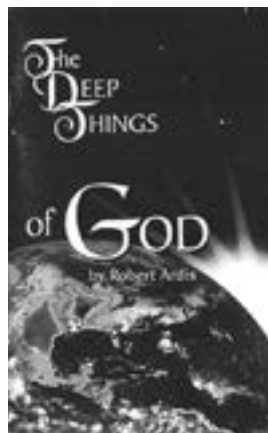
You can read all about it in our free booklet; *The Day of the Lord*. Don't wait. Order it now!

## The Deep Things of God



Have you ever wondered about Gog and Magog at the end of the Millennium? These multitudes from the four quarters of the earth will be deceived by Satan's power after living their entire lives during the 1000-year reign of Christ. How could they be deceived into attacking the headquarters of the only God they had ever known? Are these people, described in such enormous numbers, lost forever? Does this part of God's Plan fail? Of course not! God's Plan is perfect.

What is the ultimate fate of Satan and the demons? You might think Spirits cannot die or be killed. But, the Creator of all the angelic beings died! Jesus Christ was KILLED and would still be dead if the Father had not raised Him up. If God can die, can He not put a rebellious demon to death? What will the Lake of Fire be created for? When will it begin to burn? Why do we believe there will be three resurrections, while the Bible mentions ONLY two? And how long is the period of the Last Great Day? All of these questions concerning these *Deep Things of God* are thoroughly explained by the Word of God as revealed in our booklet. Request your own free copy.



---

Write or call us for your free literature. Send your request to Church of God's Faithful, 136 Woodland Drive, Harleyville, SC 29448. Our telephone number is 843-462-7977. Or, if you prefer, you can download our literature from our website at [www.setapartbytruth.org](http://www.setapartbytruth.org)