



Heaven  
Standing Open

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## INTRODUCTION

The wrath of the Antichrist (42 months), the thrones of God and of Christ with their judgments while the heavens are standing open, and the wrath of God (44 1/2 months) in this sequence are the three major and all inclusive events surrounding the return of Christ.

The throne of God with the court of heaven and the judgment seat of Christ are the predominate scenes. These scenes in the open heaven will be viewed from earth and by all creation for hours, even days and longer. God will perform many miracles far greater than He did on Pentecost when the church was baptized with the Holy Spirit and each of the apostles spoke to people from nearly a dozen and a half nations who heard them speak in their own language. Acts 2:8.

Christ will sit on His judgment seat "in the air," in mid-heaven, rewarding the saints and denying the unfaithful saved in full view of all creation: those in heaven, those on the earth, and those in hell, Revelation 1:7; Matthew 26:63-64; Mark 14:61-62. The heavens will be standing open with the actions of the heavenly court being observed by the whole universe. The judging and rewarding of the saints is the single big time consuming factor. How long this will take is not revealed.

Initially, the heavens will be rolled back and the throne of God will appear, presenting to a defiant humanity and the demon world a most terrifying picture of an angry God whose wrath is about to burst forth upon them with indescribable fury, Daniel 7:9-10; Revelation 6:12-17. Though not discussed in this book, the marriage festivities of Christ and the saints will be in process during the entire period of both the wrath of the Antichrist and the wrath of God, Luke 12:36.

When the heavens are rolled back (Revelation 6:12-17), thrones are put in place in mid-heaven for the heavenly court, Daniel 7:9-10. The court is then seated and the official court activities begin. After the covenant books of God's precreation counsel and purpose for the ages are opened, Christ is ushered in before the Father to be crowned and receive the millennial kingdom in a glorious and festive, inaugural ceremony, Daniel 7:13-14. This ceremony will include an inaugural address by God who will have the nations in excruciating derision as He chides them for their unbelief and rebellion, Psalms 2:1-6; 37:13; 59:8; Proverbs 1:24-33; Revelation 6:12-17.

It is after this that Christ descends with His angels, having the disembodied spirits of the saints with Him. While myriads of angels escort the disembodied spirits of the saints on down to reunite them with their bodies, Christ will set up the throne of His glory in mid-heaven with both thrones and court attendants in full view. Here in mid-heaven is where Christ will judge and reward the saints as all creation looks on, Matthew 25:31-32; 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20; 3:13; 5:23; 2 John 2:28; Luke 12:2-10; Matthew 10:32-33; Mark 8:38 (Matthew 16:27; Luke 9:26).

After Christ judges and rewards the saints, He will present them before the Father unblamable and unrepoveable in holiness for the Father's approval and

pleasure, 1 Thessalonians 3:13; Revelation 7:9-17; 14:1-5; 15:1-4; Matthew 10:32-33; Revelation 3:5; Matthew 26:64; Mark 14:62. As the marriage of the Lamb festivities are continuing in heaven, the seven angels will prepare to pour out the seven vials of God's wrath, Revelation 15 & 16. At the same time Christ will prepare to descent with His glorified saints and His angels also to execute God's wrath from Jerusalem, Jude 14-15; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.

Christ will descend with His glorified saints and angels and set up His throne in Jerusalem with the heavens still standing open. The angels and the saints will then be observed ascending and descending between the throne of Christ in Jerusalem and the throne of God in the opening heavens, John 1:51; Revelation 7:15.

Though this is a rushed printing of this book with a chapter and a half unfinished and still needing considerable proofing and revision, it is hoped each reader will find the book helpful in his or her search for a better understanding of the many prophecies surrounding Christ's return.

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# CHAPTER I

## THE WRATH OF ANTICHRIST

Versus

## THE WRATH OF GOD

THE WRATH OF THE ANTICHRIST which lasts 42 months and THE WRATH OF GOD which includes the 7 vials are TWO VERY DISTINCT PERIODS OF TIME. These two periods of time are very abruptly and distinctly separated by the heavens being rolled back and several official and universe-impacting events taking place before the throne of God in the open heavens. Here are three reasons why there is a lack of perception of the immense role the open heavens plan in the events surrounding the return of Christ:

1. The mistaken idea that there is a "secret" coming of Christ BEFORE the great tribulation and BEFORE Christ comes publicly in great glory has clouded the whole end time prophetic picture. The following study (as a companion volume to a former book, "In the Last Trump") is designed to show that there is no "secret" coming of Christ, but only one glory coming with numerous other public and official activities being transacted before the throne of God while the heavens are rolled back and all creation is looking on.

2. This mistaken interpretation has caused the scriptures which refer to Christ coming as a "thief" to be taken completely out of context. These "thief coming" verses are set in contexts which refer to the open, visible, public outpouring of the wrath of God, Matthew 24; 1 Thessalonians 5; 2 Peter 3. And the "thief" reference is carried far beyond what the contexts will permit. A candid examination of these passages will not permit the "thief" factor to be carried beyond the SUDDENNESS and UNEXPECTEDNESS of Christ's return.

The flood in Noah's day came as a "thief" upon the people of that day (Matthew 24:36-44) because they were unaware ("they knew not"). However, when it came they were suddenly aware. They suddenly did know, and there was no doubt about it. God did NOT come as a "thief" and take Noah without everyone knowing it.

Conversely, it was altogether the wrath of God that hit them. They saw the black clouds, the frightful lightnings, the ear-bursting claps of thunder, the fierce winds, and the torrential rain falling forty days and nights. They saw the waters washing everything with them and finally rising over the house tops with people clinging to floating objects. They saw the ark rise upon the waters and float as the waters rose above the house tops long before the waters covered the highest land areas.

Noah escaped the wrath of God on that generation, and his escape was precisely at the same time the wrath of God was being visibly wreaked upon the world. This foreshadows, NOT the wrath of the Antichrist, but the wrath of God beginning at the same time the heavens are rolled back, Revelation 6:12-17.

Lot escaped the wrath of God on those wicked cities, but the angels miraculously transported Lot, his wife, and two daughters to a safe distance immediately before the wrath of God visibly roared down upon the wicked cities.

The faithful covenant people who are watching and ready will escape the wrath of God that will come on the earth when Christ returns, Luke 21:34-36; Revelation 3:10; et al. The 42 months wrath of the Antichrist will be stopped by the rolling back of the heavens and the appearance of the throne of God in the open heavens.

3. Trumpets 1 through 6 are NOT the wrath of God, but are a part of the "strong delusion" God will send on the world during the wrath of the Antichrist, i.e., God permits Satan through the Antichrist to perform overwhelming miracle working powers (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12) to deceive and convince the world that the Antichrist is God. God will permit this to come upon those who refuse to believe the truth and be saved. Trumpets 1 through 6 fit the same time period as Seals 2 through 5, which is the last half of Daniel's 70th week of 7 years.

God will not be in any way pouring out His wrath at the same time the Antichrist is pouring out his wrath. For one reason, the wrath of God will have the Antichrist and all the earth in complete and utter confusion. The Antichrist will have absolutely no ability to wear out the saints or anyone else during the period of God's wrath. The saints will be glorified, and soon after God's wrath begins they will be all over the Antichrist and his forces many times worse than killer bees on a defenseless, frenzied victim.

## I. NEBUCHADNEZZAR IMAGE, DANIEL 2

THE IMAGE of gold, silver, brass, and iron represents four of the Gentile powers God is permitting to run their course, to rule, oppress, enslave, kill, and pursue their ambitions and lusts until an appointed time.

THE LITTLE STONE is Christ who will establish the kingdom of God on earth. At God's appointed time the Gentile powers will be suddenly stopped, gradually but furiously destroyed for 1335 days, while God through Christ will establish the kingdom of God on earth.

## II. DANIEL'S FOUR BEASTS, DANIEL 7:1-27.

In Daniel chapter 7 there are FIVE scenes very similar to a theatrical performance. As we study these scenes it becomes strikingly apparent that the throne of God DIVIDES the wrath of God FROM the wrath of the Antichrist. The five scenes provide a progressive revelation of details which build up to a single unified picture. The reason for the five scenes is to reveal, in part, a sequential relationship of events and to emphasize significant elements within each of the three major parts: 1) the wrath of the Antichrist, 2) the throne of God with its court, and 3) the wrath of God -- in this sequence in each of the five scenes.

Each of these five scenes provides additional and important data to the whole prophetic presentation, and gives solid emphasis to the throne of God being the ONE unmistakable and sharply pronounced factor DIVIDING the wrath of God FROM the wrath of the Antichrist. After 42 months of the wrath of the Antichrist the heavens will be rolled back and throne of God will be set up in the open heavens.

The rolling back of the heavens will stop the wrath of the Antichrist and will begin the wrath of God, which will last 1335 days (44 1/2 months, Daniel 12:12; Revelation 6:9-11). During this 44 1/2 months the glorified saints will wear out the Antichrist and his kingdom while the angels are pouring out the seven vials of God's wrath, Revelation 16.

A. FIRST SCENE: Daniel 7:1-8, 9-12.

1. FOUR BEASTS: Daniel 7:1-8:

"In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head while on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, indicating the major things God wanted to reveal."

"Daniel spoke, saying, I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea.

"And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other.

"The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

"And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: 'Arise, devour much flesh!'"



"After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it.

"After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.

"I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words," Daniel 7:1-8.

GENTILE POWERS AFFECTING ISRAEL, from Babylon until and through the wrath of the Antichrist, are addressed in these verses.

The KINGDOM OF ANTICHRIST WILL BE DESTROYED as a result of the decisions and actions of the court of heaven.

## 2. THRONE OF GOD: Daniel 7:9-12:

"I watched till THRONES WERE PUT IN PLACE, and THE ANCIENT OF DAYS WAS SEATED; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire;

"A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. THE COURT WAS SEATED, and THE BOOKS WERE OPENED.

"I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame.

"As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time," Daniel 7:9-12.

This is A COURT SETTING where covenant law and record books are opened, laws and records are verified, judgments are passed, commands are given, and those commands are executed by Christ and the saints as we later see, as prescribed in "the books".

THE COURT OF HEAVEN. God determined in the beginning to govern the universe through a court consisting of the following:

God Himself.

Christ, as the kinsman Redeemer and defense Lawyer.

Four cherubim, as throne guardians and witnesses.

Twenty-four elders, as court officials and witnesses.

The righteous angels, as court guardians and witnesses.

Satan, as the accuser of the saints and all mankind.

Mankind, especially the covenant people, as the accused.

This supreme court of the universe is CONSTANTLY IN SESSION, as seen in Revelation 12:10-11; Hebrews 4:16; 7:25; 11:6. We have a special and temporary setting of the court of heaven here in Daniel 7. This one of two major court sessions before we enter eternity.

This is THE SAME THRONE and the same scene as that in Revelation 6:12-17 (See also John 1:51; Matthew 26:64; Mark 14:62; 1 Thessalonians 3:13), which is a "heaven standing open" scene. This is when the kingdoms of this world become the kingdom of Christ, Revelation 11:15; 6:112-17; Matthew 24:29-31,36-51; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.

Observe the ACTIVITIES OF THE FIRST SCENE:

Thrones are set in place.

God, as Judge, takes His judgment seat.

One group of angels minister to God, while another group of angels stand by.

The court is seated -- the elders are seated while the cherubim and angels take their places.

The court books are opened by the elders for verification of predetermined judgments according to God's eternal counsel with the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Records are verified and commands are given by the court by God, probably through one or more of the court officials.

Court commands are executed by Christ and the glorified saints as we will later see.

There is NO JUDGMENT upon the Antichrist and his kingdom UNTIL the throne of God appears in the heavens, the court is seated, and the judgment books are opened, records of predetermined judgments verified, and commands given by the court to execute the predetermined counsel of God.

The ANTICHRIST'S KINGDOM IS DESTROYED and the Antichrist is given to the burning fire, the lake of fire, Revelation 19:20.

The REST OF THE BEASTS (nations now) will be permitted to continue through the Millennium.

CHRIST AND THE SAINTS ARE NOT MENTIONED in this scene; however, the scenes that follow reveal that Christ and the saints are the ones who execute the commands of the court. The angels are involved as we see in the vials, Revelation 16.

SCENE ONE IS INTRODUCTORY, primarily emphasizing the Gentile kingdoms, the throne of God and the heavenly court, which passes judgments that reverse the whole course and character of actions on earth and bring an end to the anti-God world forces.

These FIVE THRONE, COURT, AND JUDGMENT SCENES are consistently spliced in between the wrath of the Antichrist and the wrath of God. These five scenes consistently place the throne of God, the court, and judgment scenes in the FUTURE, as well as reveal that they were determined before creation, then later recorded and witnessed to by this court in the beginning of creation. This is evident from Daniel 7; Revelation 4 & 5, and numerous other parts of the Scriptures.

The three major end time events are:

The wrath of the Antichrist, which is the last 42 months of Daniel's 7th week.

The heavens opened up and standing open, the throne of God and the court of heaven being viewed by all creation, and numerous activities resulting from the judgments of the court of heaven. The duration of this second major event is not indicated.

The wrath of God, which lasts for 1335 days, and is a period of great joy and festive (marriage) celebration for the saints and heavenly hosts.

B. SECOND SCENE: Daniel 7:13-14.

## 1. FOUR BEASTS:

The nations are given to Christ to be a part of His kingdom.

## 2. THRONE OF GOD: Daniel 7:13-14:

"I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him.

"THEN TO HIM WAS GIVEN DOMINION AND GLORY AND A KINGDOM, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed," Daniel 7:13-14.

This is THE SAME OCCASION and the same throne as in scene one and is viewed from the earth as indicated in the sixth seal, Revelation 6:12-17; John 1:51; Matthew 26:64; Mark 14:62; 1 Thessalonians 3:13; 5:23. This is when the kingdoms or kingdom of this world become the kingdom of our Lord and His Christ, Revelation 11:15; 6:112-17; Matthew 24:29-31,36-51; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.

The EMPHASIS IN THIS SECOND SCENE IS ON CHRIST as the Son of man receiving the everlasting kingdom, which will forever include many nations of people according to God's precreation counsel and covenant with the Son. Christ is ushered in before the throne of God to receive the kingdom, Luke 22:29-30; 1 Corinthians 15:21-28.

This REQUIRES INAUGURAL CEREMONIES during which Christ is crowned and God gives the inaugural address in which He chides the nations, laughs at them, and has them in a defenseless and excruciating state of derision, Psalms 2; 59:8; Proverbs 1:24-31.

A TIME SEQUENCE is evident here, as Christ does not appear until this second scene, and the saints are not mentioned until scene three. The sequence is that the throne of God and the heavenly court appears first, which verifies records of predetermined judgments and issues commands for appointed actions. After certain records are verified Christ is ushered in for crowning and receiving the kingdom, then comes the resurrection, glorification, and rewarding of the saints all in view of the whole universe. The resurrection, glorification, and rewarding of the saints is not explicitly seen in Daniel 7, but is required by the complete change in their status, power, and what they do.

## C. THIRD SCENE: Daniel 7:15-17, 18.

## 1. FOUR BEASTS: Daniel 7:15-17:

"I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit within my body, and the visions of my head troubled me.

"I came near to one of those who stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things:

"Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which arise out of the earth," Daniel 7:15-17.

God moves Daniel's spirit to know these things.

The four beasts are four kingdoms.

## 2. SAINTS: Daniel 7:18:

"But the SAINTS of the Most High shall RECEIVE the kingdom, and POSSESS the kingdom forever, even forever and ever," Daniel 7:18.

This is THE SAME OCCASION and the same throne as in scenes one and two, and is viewed from the earth in stark terror as indicated in Revelation 6:12-17. See also John 1:51; Matthew 26:64; Mark 14:62; 1 Thessalonians 3:13; 5:23. This is when the kingdom of this world becomes the kingdom of Christ, Revelation 11:15; 6:12-17; Matthew 24:29-31,36-51; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.

THE THRONE OF GOD is not explicitly mentioned in this scene, but all five scenes necessitate the presence of the throne of God, the court, and the decisions made by the court in each scene.

The saints "RECEIVE" the kingdom. How do they receive it? From whom do they receive it. They receive the kingdom from the court of heaven -- from God, after the heavenly court has verified the record books (see verse 10 in Scene One). The "books" contain complete eternity spanning details of the precreation covenant between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, including all actions to be taken by the court through the ages. All actions were predetermined in covenant by God, agreed to by the Son and the Holy Spirit, 9 the recorded in record books, and verified by the court at the time for execution. The command is then given by the Father to the Son, the Holy Spirit, and other party or parties to execute the actions as recorded. See later chapter on The Court of Heaven.

The saints "POSSESS" the kingdom. As we shall again see in scenes four and five, this requires the saints to be glorified, which requires the resurrection,

glorification, and rewarding of the saints BEFORE they receive and possess the kingdom.

These saints RECEIVE and POSSESS the SAME KINGDOM GIVEN TO CHRIST. This means these saints (Daniel's people) inherit and rule Christ's kingdom jointly with Christ "forever, even forever and ever." These are the bride of Christ.

D. FOURTH SCENE: Daniel 7:19-21, 22.

1. LITTLE HORN: Daniel 7:19-21:

"Then I wished to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its nails of bronze, which devoured, broke in pieces, and trampled the residue with its feet;

"and about the ten horns that were on its head, and about the other horn which came up, before which three fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance was greater than his fellows.

"I WAS WATCHING; AND THE SAME HORN WAS MAKING WAR AGAINST THE SAINTS, AND PREVAILING AGAINST THEM," Daniel 7:19-21

The Antichrist makes war with the saints and PREVAILS against them. This is new information in the scenes and very important. See 7:25; Revelation 13:7; and Matthew 24:21-22.

The Antichrist CANNOT make war with the saints unless God permits him to do so. Furthermore, he CANNOT overcome them unless God GIVES them into his hands.

There is NO WRATH OF GOD upon the Antichrist and his kingdom UNTIL the throne of God appears which is AFTER the 42 months of the wrath of the Antichrist.

2. THRONE OF GOD: Daniel 7:22:

"UNTIL the Ancient of Days came, and a JUDGMENT WAS MADE IN FAVOR OF THE SAINTS of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to POSSESS the kingdom," Daniel 7:22.

This is THE SAME OCCASION and the same throne as in scenes one and two, and is watched from the earth as in Revelation 6:12-17. See also John 1:51; Matthew 26:64; Mark 14:62; 1 Thessalonians 3:13; 5:23. This is when the kingdom of this world becomes the kingdom of our Lord and His Christ, Revelation 11:15; 6:12-17; Matthew 24:29-31,36-51; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.

There is NO WRATH or judgment from God on the Antichrist UNTIL God's throne and judgment tribunal intervenes AFTER the 42 months of the wrath of the Antichrist, as stated in scene five.

A JUDGMENT IS MADE IN FAVOR OF THE SAINTS: the saints are being worn out by the Antichrist because God had GIVEN them into his hands for 42 months.

Only AFTER Judgment is made in favor of the saints are the saints given power and authority to resist, overcome, and wear out the Antichrist. Until judgment is made in favor of the saints, the Antichrist wears them out.

This is when THE KINGDOM OF THIS WORLD becomes the kingdom of our Lord and His Christ, as stated in the seventh trumpet, Revelation 11:15.

E. FIFTH SCENE: Daniel 7:23-25, 26-27.

1. LITTLE HORN: Daniel 7:23-25:

"Thus he said: 'The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all other kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces.

"The ten horns are ten kings who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; he shall be different from the first ones, and shall subdue three kings,'

"He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be GIVEN into his hand for A TIME and TIMES and HALF A TIME," Daniel 7:23-25.

The Antichrist will PROCLAIM HIMSELF TO BE GOD and require the world to worship him, 2 Thessalonians 2:4; Revelation 13.

The Antichrist will PERSECUTE, wear out, and slaughter the saints, Revelation 13:7; 6:9-11; 12:17.

The Antichrist will try to CHANGE TIMES AND LAWS. Satan will change everything God has done that God will permit him to change. God will permit Satan to perform many great miracles as a part of the strong delusion God will send upon the unbelieving world, 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12.

God through the court will GIVE THE SAINTS into the hands of the Antichrist for a time, times, and half a time (1260 days, 42 months, or 3 1/2 years).

This is a deliberate action by God through the supreme court of the universe. God knows what he is doing and His reward is immeasurable in the true riches. See God's trials of the saints in past ages. We must not complain but prepare ourselves, our children, and our churches for the worst both for now and for the great tribulation.

This is a righteous, merciful, and gracious judgment on God's part, 2 Thessalonians 1:3-5. See the response of the saints in Revelation 6:9-11; 7:9-10; 15:3-4.

## 2. THRONE OF GOD: Daniel 7:26-27:

"BUT THE COURT SHALL BE SEATED, and they (Christ and the saints) shall take away his dominion, to consume and destroy it until the end (of the period of God's wrath).

"Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him," Daniel 7:26-27.

This is THE SAME OCCASION as in scenes one through four, the same throne, the same court, and is viewed from the earth in stark terror as indicated in Revelation 6:12-17. See also John 1:51; Matthew 26:64; Mark 14:62; 1 Thessalonians 3:13; 5:23. This is when CHRIST RETURNS, when THE SAINTS ARE RAISED AND GLORIFIED, when the WRATH OF GOD begins, and when THE KINGDOM OF THIS WORLD becomes the kingdom of our Lord and His Christ -- this is the seventh and last trumpet, Revelation 11:15; 6:12-17; Matthew 24:29-31,36-51; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.

THE COURT WILL SIT IN JUDGMENT. We must not overlook the overwhelming significance of 1) the heavens being rolled back, 2) the public revelation of the throne of God with the supreme court of the universe, and 3) the whole world shaking actions taken by the court of heaven. These constitute THE SINGLE GOVERNING FACTOR and pivotal point that 1) stops the wrath of the Antichrist 2) initiates the wrath of God, and 3) begins the Millennium. Review each one of the five scenes of Daniel 7, and see if this is not the single governing force governing all events surrounding the return of Christ.



THE JUDGMENT BOOKS WILL BE OPENED as in scene one. The judgment books contain the covenant made between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit before the foundation of the world, which covenant contains the laws established by God for the redemption stated in the covenants. The judgment books will also contain all that Christ has done for that redemption and the records of all mankind through the ages. The judgment books will likewise surely contain all that God had done through the court and through the righteous angels, as well as all that Satan and his forces have been permitted to do and will yet be permitted to do.

JUDGMENTS WILL BE PASSED IN FAVOR OF CHRIST AND THE SAINTS based upon the prescribed requirements of the covenants and the records of compliance by Christ and the covenant people. The compliance must meet the requirements to the full extent.

THE SAINTS WILL BE AUTHORIZED and commanded to take the kingdom away from the Antichrist and wear him and his kingdom out for 1335 days, Daniel 12:12; Revelation 6:9-11;

THE SAINTS WILL EXECUTE the commands of the court to pour out THE WRATH OF GOD upon the wicked and defiant inhabitants of the earth.

These will be DAYS OF BLESSEDNESS for the saints, a just punishment authorized by God through the court and executed by the saints for the bitter persecutions they endured, Daniel 12:12.

THE KINGDOM and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, will be GIVEN TO THE SAINTS: the word "saints" refers ONLY to the covenant people, not all saved people.

We have now gone through the five scenes in Daniel 7. THE MOST STRIKING THING THROUGHOUT DANIEL 7 is that THE THRONE OF GOD and ITS ACTIVITIES THROUGH THE HEAVENLY COURT are the one single and sharply pronounced GOVERNING FORCE that determines the outcome of both the wrath of the Antichrist first and then the much superior and crushing wrath of God that follows. The return of Christ is a part of the throne and court activities which separate the wrath of God from the wrath of the Antichrist.

It is without question from Daniel 7 that THE COMING OF CHRIST and the RESURRECTION and GLORIFICATION OF THE SAINTS take place AT THE END of the wrath of the Antichrist and NEAR THE BEGINNING of the wrath of God. The saints will suddenly converted from a weak force, being slaughtered for 42 months, to an invincible conquering force that will overcome all enemies and put the Antichrist and the false prophet in the lake of fire, Revelation 19:11-21.

## CHAPTER II

### APPLICATION OF DANIEL SEVEN

There are a few major observations to be made from the foregoing comments which are consistent throughout the Scriptures:

#### I. A STRIKING DIFFERENCE

A very great difference inherently exists between THE WRATH OF THE ANTICHRIST and THE WRATH OF GOD in all five scenes of Daniel 7 indicated above:

The NATURE of the two wraths: Just before Christ returns the Antichrist will vent his WICKED wrath against the covenant people and all who will not worship him. Immediately following the return of Christ, the RIGHTEOUS wrath of God will be poured out against the Antichrist and his forces.

The TIME relationships: The two periods of wrath do NOT occupy the same period of time. The wrath of God STOPSALMS the wrath of the Antichrist. The return of Christ for the resurrection and glorification of the saints is shortly AFTER the heavens are rolled back and the wrath of God begins. The saints are NOT wearing out the Antichrist and his kingdom at the same time the Antichrist is wearing out the saints. God gives the saints into the hands of the Antichrist and his forces during the entire 42 months of the wrath of the Antichrist. Then God through the court gives the Antichrist and those with him into the hands of the saints for 44 1/2 months to pour out the wrath of God. It is obvious that the saints have been raised and glorified at the END of the wrath of the Antichrist and at the BEGINNING of the wrath of God.

#### II. THE WRATH OF THE ANTICHRIST

The 42 months of wrath of the Antichrist (the little horn) is in the last half of Daniel's 70th week of 7 years: See also: Daniel 7:25; 9:27; 12:7,11; Revelation 6:12-17; 12:6,14; 13:5.

The wrath of the Antichrist BEGINS in the MIDDLE of Daniel's 70th week of 7 years. When we correlate all the passages that mention the time, times, and the dividing of a time, the 1260 days, and the 42 months in Daniel and Revelation, we have the last half of the 70th week. The language is too explicit in each context to be misunderstood. That period of 42 months begins when the sacrifice is taken away and the abomination of desolation begins, and that is explicitly in the MIDDLE of the week, Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15-22, 29-31.

The great tribulation also begins in the MIDDLE of the week. This is clear from Matthew 24:15-22, for the great tribulation begins at the time the abomination stands in the holy place which is the middle of the week. The great tribulation, however, evidently includes both the wrath of the Antichrist and the wrath of God, Revelation 2:20-22; 3:10; Luke 21:34-36; Revelation 16:15; 18:4; 22:18.

The wrath of the Antichrist ENDS near the END of the week of 7 years, being stopped by the rolling back of the heavens and the setting up of the court of heaven in the open heavens. Since the wrath of the Antichrist begins in the middle of the week and lasts for 42 months (except that God will cut off a little of it, Matthew 24:22), it is obvious that 42 months from the middle of the week is the end of the week when the heavens are rolled back and the wrath of God begins.

The Antichrist will NOT be destroyed (put into the lake of fire) until the end of the wrath of God, which is 1335 days AFTER the heavens are rolled back. However, the Antichrist will be subjected to an utterly helpless and destroyed state of power by the saints and angels during the first 5 vials. Then he will be given a short break under vial 6 to prepare for Armageddon under vial 7, Revelation 16:12-16.

C. THE HEAVENS ROLLED BACK, Daniel 7:9-10,18,22,26-27; Revelation 6:12-17; 11:15-18.

The rolling back of the heavens:

PROVIDES for an open judgment, viewed by all creation, Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14, 18, 22, 26-27; Revelation 6:12-17.

INCLUDES all the end-time throne scenes, Revelation 7:9-17; 14:1-5; 15:1-4.

ENDS the wrath of the Antichrist, as indicated above.

ENDS the church age, Romans 11:15 (resurrection); Matthew 24:29-31,36-51; 1 Thessalonians 4:13--5:9.

ENDS the current Gentile world system, Revelation 6:12-17; 11:15-18; Romans 11:15,25.

Provides fulfillment of the 6 prophecies of Daniel 9:24 including the seventy weeks prophecy (which makes 7 prophecies).

BEGINS the wrath of God, Daniel 7; Revelation 6:12-17; 11:15-18; Matthew 24:29-31,36-51.

BEGINS the Millennium, Daniel 7; Revelation 6:12-17; 11:15-18; Matthew 24:29-31,36-51.

Is the one incomparable zenith point in time that turns 6,000 years of the rule of sin upside down, and brings in the 1,000 years of the righteous reign of Christ, Daniel 7; Revelation 6:12-17; 11:15-18; Matthew 24:29-31,36-51; 1 Thessalonians 4:13--5:3; et al.

Is the time of the resurrection, rapture, and rewarding of the saints. This is necessitated by the saints taking the kingdom of the Antichrist away from him for they could not do so otherwise, Daniel 7:18,22,26-27; Matthew 24:29-31,36-51; Revelation 11:15-18; 1 Thessalonians 4:13--5:9; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8.

D. THE PERIOD OF GOD'S WRATH, Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14, 18, 22, 26-27; 12:12; Matthew 24:29-31; Revelation 6:12-17; 11:18; 16:1-21; 18:4; 22:18; et al.

The period of God's wrath is the same period of time as that of the 6th seal (Revelation 6:12-17), which is clearly the time the kingdom of this world becomes the kingdom of our God and of Christ, Revelation 11:15-18.

The period of God's wrath is the same time as the 7th trumpet when the kingdom of this world becomes the kingdom of our God and His Christ (Revelation 11:15-18). The Scriptures explicitly state that the wrath of God begins when the 7th trumpet is sounded, Revelation 11:15-18.

The period of God's wrath is the same period of time as the seven vials, which are all full of God's wrath, Revelation 16. The throne scene in Revelation 15 and 16 is the same as Revelation 6:12-17; 7:9-17; and Daniel 7:9-10,13-14,22,26-27.

The period of God's wrath is the time Christ comes with His saints and angels to execute judgment upon the ungodly who disobey God, June 14-15; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9. Christ first comes FOR His saints while the heavens are standing open. Christ will then sit on His judgment seat (the throne of His glory, Matthew 25:31-32) in mid-heaven (1 Thessalonians 2:19; 3:13; 5:23; 1 Peter 1:7,13; 2 John 2:28 check the Greek in these passages), and judge his saints and the nations while the heavens are standing open, while God is looking on, and in view of all intelligent creatures in heaven, on earth, and in hell as well.

The period of God's wrath is the time of vengeance requested by the spirits of the saints under the altar, Revelation 6:9-11. The souls in paradise cried, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" Revelation 6:9-11.

The period of God's wrath is the 1335 days of blessedness promised to those who wait, Daniel 12:12. The 1335 days of Daniel 12:12 are days of blessedness

during which the saints will be given the perfect measure of God's power and wrath to execute upon the Antichrist and his followers, Daniel 7:18,22,26-27.

The period of God's wrath is the same time and the same trumpet blowing that gathers God's elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven, Matthew 24: 29-31; Mark 13:24-26; 2 Thessalonians 2:1; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

The period of God's wrath is the same time the saints are gathered to the Lord in 2 Thessalonians 2:1. ALL these passages that speak of God's wrath require the Antichrist to be revealed FIRST.

The period of God's wrath begins at the same time the day of the Lord comes as a "thief," which is also the same time the saints are gathered to the Lord in the air, 1 Thessalonians 4:13--5:9.

The period of God's wrath begins at the same time the day of the Lord begins, but is AFTER the Antichrist is revealed and has poured out his wrath for 42 months, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12. When the Antichrist is revealed, God will send "strong delusion" upon the unbelieving world because they refused to repent and believe. That strong deception is God letting Satan give the Antichrist miracle working powers, 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10 & Revelation 13.

## E. THE RETURN OF CHRIST FOR AND WITH HIS SAINTS.

The return of Christ and the resurrection and glorification of the saints is when:

The heavens are rolled back and the court of heaven is set up in mid-heaven. This includes setting up the throne of God and twenty-four thrones for the twenty-four elders.

Christ is ushered in before the throne of God, is crowned amid the glories of heaven's own inaugural ceremonies, and receives the millennial kingdom to reign for a thousand years.

Christ descends to some distance above the earth with many myriads of angels and the spirits of the saints whose bodies died in the past.

Christ sets up His judgment seat, the throne of His glory, at some considerable distance above the earth, Matthew 25:31-32. This appears to be in conjunction with the court of heaven: perhaps there will be two courts with two sets of "the books."

A great host of many, many millions of angels descend on down to all parts of the earth with the disembodied spirits of the saved. Their bodies will be raised, reunited with their spirits, and glorified in a moment in the twinkling of an eye along with the living saints, 1 Corinthians 15:51-52.

The glorified saints and the angels ascend back to meet Christ in the air. The heavenly court which includes the throne of God, the four cherubim, twenty-four elders, and many millions of angels is nearby in the open heavens.

Christ will judge all nations, separating His covenant people from all the others -- the righteous from the unrighteous, Matthew 25:31-46. He will confess the faithful saved who confessed Him and deny the unfaithful saved who denied Him. He will do this before the Father and before the holy angels, Matthew 10:32-22; Luke 12:8-9; Revelation 3:5. Christ will also raise and judge all the saved at this time -- space will not allow discussion of this in this book. See Chapter VIII for a bit more information on the judgment seat of Christ.

Christ will then present His bride (all the glorified covenant people) before the Father's throne in holiness. These will already have been judged and rewarded and are appropriate to be presented to the Father and to minister before His throne eternally, Revelation 7:9-17.

At this point the scenes of Revelation 7:9-17; 14:1-5; and Revelation 15:1-4 fit into the divine master drama. These are God's elect whom God has very specially prepared to be filled with all His fullness and to share a unique oneness, a one entity relationship with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

The seven angels now begin preparations for pouring out the seven vials over the 1335 days of God's wrath, Revelation 15 & 16. This period of time begins approximately when the heavens are rolled back and ends with Armageddon.

Christ then returns to the earth with the saints and angels in flaming fire to execute God's wrath upon the Antichrist and the world, and finally to remove the enemy and rule in righteousness for a thousand years.

The heavens will remain open until after Christ is seated on His throne in Jerusalem and the saints and angels are viewed ascending and descending between the throne of God in heaven and the throne of Christ in Jerusalem.

"51 And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see HEAVEN STANDING OPEN, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man," John 1:51.

The heavens being rolled back and standing open with the throne of God visible to the earth and all creation, all these formal, official, and divine activities will be

public and universal. This will be the most dramatic, the most awesome, and the most glorious occasion in the history of the heavens and the earth, Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14, 18, 22, 26-27; Matthew 24:29-31; Revelation 6:12-17; 10:1-7; 11:14-19; John 1:51; Matthew 26:63-64; Mark 14:61-62; 1 Corinthians 15:51-12; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 3:13; Revelation 15; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude 14-15; Zech 14:4-11; Joel 2:1-11; Revelation 16; etc.

The wrath of God begins when the heavens are rolled back, and continues through 1335 days of blessedness, Daniel 12:12. The saints will then execute God's righteous wrath against the Antichrist and his forces to avenge the blood of the saints, against world authorities for their atrocities, against the world for general wickedness, and against the unfaithful saved of the ages for their unfaithfulness.

# CHAPTER III

## THE GREAT TRIBULATION

### I. THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION

#### A. DANIEL'S SEVENTY WEEKS, Daniel 9:24-27.

We will not discuss Daniel's seventy weeks here. This is discussed in my earlier book entitled, "IN THE LAST TRUMP," which is currently under revision. The intent is to keep this book generally in an outline form, as concise as possible, yet with enough details to make sense.

#### B. THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION in Daniel 9:27.

"He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him," Daniel 9:27.

Daniel's 70 weeks are weeks of years, not weeks of days.

The sacrifice and offering are stopped in the MIDDLE of the week. This immediately says that the one who makes the covenant for this 7 year period with Israel will break the covenant and conduct himself contrary to the covenant. An action like this would be an flagrantly offensive action to the Jews.

The abomination of desolation will "stand in the holy place" (Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15) "in the MIDST of the week." This language requires an action that desecrates the temple so abominable that it renders the temple desolate. This violation of the "one week" covenant is therefore called an "abomination of desolation."

This abominable condition continues "until the end that is decreed is poured out on him" (upon the Antichrist). Harmonizing this with related passages it becomes evident that the abomination of desolation covers the last half of this covenant week, Daniel 7:25; 12:7,11; Revelation 12:6,14; 13:5. The abomination of desolation, therefore, lasts for 1260 days, 42 months, 3 1/2 years, or a time, times and a half time -- all these, of course, are the same.

This abomination of desolation and "the wrath of the Antichrist" obviously cover the same period of time: the last half of the week. The first half of the week will be a time of peace on the Antichrist's part. It is often called a "mock peace," and that terminology is alright because the Antichrist will be one who has spent



about two thousand years in hell and has been brought up out of the bottomless pit (Revelation 17:8-11) for the purpose of doing precisely what he has been prophesied to do, Daniel 7:21-25; Matthew 24:15-22; 2 Thessalonians 2:4-10; Revelation 13 & 17.

### C. THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION in Matthew 24:15.

"Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand)," Matthew 24:15.

Jesus spoke of the abomination of desolation and placed great importance upon our recognizing the abomination when it stands in the holy place of the temple.

The abomination of desolation is the one spoken of by Daniel, and Jesus made sure we associate these abominations as one and the same. We have no excuse for looking somewhere else for the particulars that we need to know.

It appears necessary, therefore, that the temple be standing and be in use when the abomination of desolation takes place. As we will shortly see from the following scriptures, this means the temple will have to be rebuilt, that a covenant for 7 years will be made between the Antichrist and Israel, that the covenant will be broken after about 3 1/2 years, and that this will initiate the wrath of the Antichrist against Jews, Christians, and all who will not worship him.

This necessary analogy further requires that the abomination will stand in the holy place in the middle of Daniel's 70th week of 7 years, and that the wrath of the Antichrist cover the latter half of that 7 year period. The wrath of the Antichrist, therefore, begins in the middle of the week and ends at about the end of the week, as we will quickly see.

Jesus urgently stressed that when those in Judea see the abomination of desolation stand in the holy place they must flee into the mountains as quickly as possible. The word "then" (tote) in verse 16 (Matthew 24:15-16) means "at that moment," and associated with the next 5 verses (Matthew 24:16-20), it means to get out of there as fast as you can. There's no time to waste because something terrible is about to happen, i.e., the wrath of the Antichrist will quickly begin.

## II. THE WRATH OF THE ANTICHRIST

### A. THE WRATH OF THE ANTICHRIST in Matthew 24:15-22.

"Therefore WHEN YOU SEE THE 'ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), THEN let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him

who is on the housetop not come down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those with nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For THEN there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened," Matthew 24:15-22.

When you see that abomination of desolation stand in the holy place, THEN (tote) flee into the mountains, for THEN (tote) the wrath of the Antichrist will begin. And THEN (tote) is when the great tribulation begins.

HERE we are still at the MIDDLE of the week when the Antichrist breaks the covenant.

HERE in the MIDDLE of the week is when the sacrifices and offerings are stopped.

HERE in the MIDDLE of the week is when the abomination of desolation is set up.

HERE in the MIDDLE of the week is when those in Judea must flee into the mountains.

HERE in the MIDDLE of the week is where the wrath of the Antichrist begins.

HERE in the MIDDLE of the week is where the great tribulation begins -- not at the beginning of the week or at the end of the week, but in the MIDDLE of the week.

HERE in the MIDDLE of the week when the wrath of the Antichrist begins many will falsely say that Christ has come and is over here in the desert, in the secret chamber.

HERE in the MIDDLE of the week when the great tribulation begins many will be saying that Christ has come and is in the city, in the country, in the mountains -- surely He's somewhere.

BUT Jesus said that we will know when He comes "For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be," Matthew 24:27. It will be very public as were the flood in Noah's day and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah in Lot's day.

AGAIN Jesus said that as the buzzards know where their food is and are gathered around their table, so the saints will be gathered to their Lord in full wedding dress when the appointed time comes.

## B. THE GREAT TRIBULATION, Matthew 24:21-22.

"For THEN there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened," Matthew 24:21-22.

This is still the MIDDLE of the week as in "A" above. The great tribulation begins in the middle of the week.

The great tribulation is the same as the wrath of the Antichrist until the end of the week. Immediately below we will consider the great tribulation continuing on through the wrath of God.

## III. THE WRATH OF GOD

### A. THE WRATH OF GOD in Matthew 24:29-31.

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other," Matthew 24:29-31.

The tribulations of those days: these words tells us something very important, and we need to listen. The tribulation of those days can refer only to the tribulation just discussed in Matthew 24:21-22 (15-31). See also Mark 13:14-27.

Immediately AFTER the tribulation of those days simply means 42 months AFTER the abomination of desolation stood in the holy place of the temple. "Immediately" in the gospel of Mark often does not mean immediately as we normally use the word. However, the correlation of related passages requires immediately to mean immediately in this context.

The powers of heaven are shaken includes the activities of the sun, moon, and stars and signifies the rolling back of the heavens precisely as we see in Revelation 6:12-17. This whole event will necessitate the shaking of the spiritual powers of darkness who rule the current world system, Ephesians 6:12. Heaven will be opened and stand open for a long time while major activities (formal, official,

kingdom activities, universe-impacting activities) are transacted before the throne of God in view of all living creatures in heaven, on the earth, and in hell as well.

The throne of God is not mentioned in this passage, but everything else in the two passages requires that Matthew 24:29-31 and Revelation 6:12-17 refer to precisely the same event. In the five scenes of Daniel 7, the throne is not mentioned in one of them, Christ is not mentioned in three of them, the Antichrist (the little horn) is not mentioned in two of them, and the saints are not mentioned in two of them. Yet all five scenes pertain to the same time frame and concern the same three major factors: the wrath of the Antichrist, judgment from the throne of God and the court of heaven, and the wrath of God.

The wrath of God begins immediately after the tribulation of those days. This passage (Matthew 24:29-31) does not specifically say so, but this passage does say that this is the time when Christ returns, and related passages say that Christ comes to execute God's wrath, Matthew 24:36-51; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude 14-15; 1 Thessalonians 4:13--5:3; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Revelation 6:12-17; 16:1-7; 11:15-18; Daniel 7.

The nations of the earth will mourn (are angry, are enraged) because the time of their judgment has come and God's wrath is visibly and physically upon them: they are in great agony and cannot escape the presence of God as though He were immediately before them with almost unendurable power radiating from Him.

Christ is seen descending from heaven with power and great glory, and though the throne of God is not mentioned in this passage, it is there in the open heaven, for heaven is standing wide open and the coming of Christ is only one of the activities to take place during this lengthy period of time.

Christ stops in mid-heaven and sends a vast host of His angels to gather the elect (the faithful covenant people) from the utter- uttermost part of heaven to the uttermost part of earth, Matthew 24:31; Mark 13:27. This passage (Matthew 24:29-31) does not say that Christ stops in mid-heaven but it does say He sends His angels to gather the elect, while 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 does say Christ stops in mid-heaven. We must correlate these many different passages of scripture.

This passage (Matthew 24:29-31) does not say that Christ gathers the saints back to where He is in mid-heaven while heaven is standing open, but related passages do say so, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 6:12-17. This passage (Matthew 24:29-31) does not say that Christ sits on the throne of his glory (His judgment seat) in mid-heaven and judges the saints and the nations IN His coming, but related passages do say so, Matthew 25:31-46; 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20; 3:13; 5:23; 2 John 2:28; 1 Peter 1:7:13. This passage (Matthew 24:29-31) does not specifically say that God's wrath begins at this time, but related passages specifically say so: see "4" above.

## B. THE WRATH OF GOD in Matthew 24:36-51.

"But of that day and hour no one knows, no, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so also will 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 the ark, And did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.....51 "And will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth," Matthew 24:36-42,51.

This passage is altogether about the return of Christ FOR His saints: those who are faithful, ready, and watching are taken along side the Lord in a most intimate way. Christ will bless them and make them joint rulers over all that He has.

Jesus compared His coming with the coming of the flood in Noah's day: the flood was the judgment of God, not of an Antichrist figure. We are warned against the wrath of God when Christ returns, not the wrath of the Antichrist. The "portion with the hypocrites" is the wrath of God on the earth which the unfaithful saved must suffer along with the world.

Jesus also compared the attitude of the people when He returns with the attitude of the people in Noah's day: most people of both times were abundantly warned and are being abundantly warned, but they refuse to heed the warning and will be found unaware so that day overtakes them as a "thief." Though we do not know the day nor the hour, if we are watching and ready that day will not come upon us as a thief, See also 1 Thessalonians 5:1-9.

The wrath of God came upon the world in Noah's day and Lot's day suddenly and publicly, and so it will be when Christ returns: He will come to execute the wrath of God upon the world, 1 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude 14-15.

This passage does not say that Christ comes FOR His saints and WITH His saints in the same general coming, yet related passages show that Christ will come for his saints, judge them on the throne of His glory in mid-heaven, while the third heaven is standing open and the Father on His throne and all the angels are watching the judgment and rewarding of the bride and covenant people.

## CHAPTER IV

### THE DAY OF THE LORD

I. SIX DAYS OF LABOR, THE SEVENTH DAY OF REST, Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 20:8-11; Hebrews 4:3-4.

"For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said: 'So I swore in My wrath, they shall not enter My rest,' although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: 'And God rested on the seventh day from all His works,'" Hebrews 4:3-4.

A. GOD WORKED SIX DAYS AND RESTED THE SEVENTH DAY, Genesis 1:3-31; 2:1-3; Exodus 20:8-11; Hebrews 4:3-4 (1-11).

God worked six days in reconstructing the earth and rested the seventh day, Genesis 1:2-32; 2:1-3. It was not necessary for God to take six days (24 hours each) to do the work He did in those six days, for He could have done it in less than one second. He did not need to rest the seventh day, for He never tires. His power (strength, energy) is infinite and forever constant. It does not fluctuate or oscillate as ours does.

B. ONE DAY AS A THOUSAND YEARS, Psalms 90:4; 2 Peter 3:8

The far reaching application of these initial seven days (24 hour days) is that each day represent one thousand years, 2 Peter 3:8. One day with the Lord is as yesterday (Psalms 90:4); however, in 2 Peter 3:8 and context the "one day" refers to one thousand years. As we study the many Bible references the strength of this fact grows beyond question.

C. LAST DAYS AND LAST DAY, THE DAY OF THE LORD, Acts 2:17-20; 2 Peter 3:3-10.

"Last days" and "last day." This first age or cycle of man's history is seven thousand years long; the last three thousand years of which are called "last days," while the last one thousand years is called "the last day," Acts 2:17-20; 2 Peter 3:3-10. This "last day" is referred to extensively from Isaiah through Revelation as "the day of the Lord," "the day of Christ," "the last day," and "in that day," and it refers to the one thousand years Christ will reign over the earth, or to the first part of that period.

D. THE DAY OF THE LORD in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 5:1-9.

Both of these passages are one continuous discussion on the return of Christ; they cannot be divided into two separate passages applicable to two different periods of time.

1. The return of Christ FOR His saints, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. The "thief" coming of the Lord has in the past been called a "secret" coming of Christ, but it will NOT be a "secret" coming. The Lord or the day of the Lord will come "AS" a "thief" only in that it will be sudden and unexpected to the world and most pseudo christians.

Just as the flood in Noah's day and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah in Lot's day were sudden and unexpected but were observed by all (Matthew 24:36-51; Luke 17:26-36), so it will be when the day of the Lord comes suddenly and unexpectedly as a "thief," but when that day comes all will know it.

The day of the Lord will come suddenly, unexpectedly, but every eye in the universe will see the heavens rolled back and a great real-life drama of formal and official kingdom activities before the throne of God. These activities include the inaugural ceremonies of Christ being crowned and receiving the kingdom of the covenants, the often recurring festive acclaim and worship of the heavenly hosts of innumerable angels, God's own inaugural address in which He chides the nations and has them in derision for their sins and unbelief.

These heaven standing open activities further include Christ coming for His bride, the judgment seat of Christ, Christ presenting the chosen, covenant people before the Father in gorgeous, dazzling, bridal adornment, Christ then coming with His saints and angels to punish the inhabitants of the earth, and the saints and angels ascending and descending between the throne of Christ in Jerusalem and the throne of God in heaven.

2. The day of the Lord, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-9. The day of the Lord is the thousand years Christ will reign over the earth, the Millennium. That "day," the day of the Lord, will come unexpectedly upon the world, but those who belong to the "day" will be ready. That "day" will not overtake us as a "thief," 1 Thessalonians 5:4-9.

3. When they shall say, "Peace and safety," 1 Thessalonians 5:3. The Antichrist will have consolidated the whole earth under his rule as the supreme god of this world. All the earth will be crying "Peace and safety," except a comparatively few church saints and Jews who will be preserved by the grace of God.

4. Then sudden destruction comes upon them, 1 Thessalonians 5:3. This is when the heavens are rolled back and the throne of God is revealed from heaven, Revelation 6:12-17; Daniel 7:9-10. This begins the wrath of God, but observe from 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 that it is precisely the same time as Christ's coming

FOR his saints; in fact, an analysis of related passages will show that the rolling back of the heavens is slightly prior to the coming of Christ. This "sudden destruction," or period of God's wrath is when the kingdom of this world becomes the kingdom of our God and His Christ, Revelation 11:15-19; Daniel 7:9-12,13,18,22,26-27.

5. God has not appointed us to wrath, 1 Thessalonians 5:3-9. Those who belong to "the day," the covenant people, are explicitly NOT appointed to wrath, 1 Thessalonians 5:9. The faithful covenant people will be "taken" intimately alongside the Lord, while the unfaithful saved and the lost will be "left" to endure God's wrath, Matthew 24:36-51; 25:1-30; Mark 9:42-50; Luke 12:35-48; 17:26-37; John 15:6; Hebrews 10:26-31.

E. THE DAY OF THE LORD in 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; 2:1-8.

1. "In that day," 2 Thessalonians 1:10. The words, "in that day," refer to the day of the Lord or the day of Christ as in 2 Thessalonians 2:2.

2. The day of the Lord, 2 Thessalonians 2:2. The day of Christ in other transcripts is the day of the Lord. Both days are the same day, both are the time of the resurrection, rapture, and rewarding of the saints.

3. The coming (parousia) of Christ and our gathering together to Him, 2 Thessalonians 2:1. We must not overlook the fact that this is the resurrection and rapture of the saints. Here Christ comes in the air FOR His saints, and after the judgment seat of Christ in the same heaven standing open scene, He will later come all the way to the earth WITH His saints.

4. FIRST, the Antichrist is revealed and pours out his wrath for 42 months, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 (1-8). God was well aware that certain ones would come along and try to create a secret coming of Christ before the wrath of the Antichrist, so the Holy Spirit moved Jesus to especially emphasize (in Matthew 24:23-29, for instance) that Christ would NOT come until AFTER the wrath of the Antichrist.

5. Christ will destroy the Antichrist with the brightness of His coming (parousia), 2 Thessalonians 2:8. One may get the idea that Christ destroys the Antichrist immediately when He comes. That is not at all the case. God will wear out the Antichrist and his kingdom through the saints and angels for 44 1/2 months, Daniel 7:18,22,26-27; 12:12; Matthew 18:34-35; Revelation 6:9-11,12-17; 16:1-21.

F. DAY OF THE LORD BRINGS PEACE TO SAINTS, BUT WRATH TO WICKED.



1. Peace to the saints. The day of the Lord will bring the resurrection, rapture, and rewarding of the saints, 1 Corinthians 1:7-8; Philipians 1:6,10; 2:16; 1 Thessalonians 4:13--5:9.

2. Wrath to the wicked. The day of the Lord will bring 1335 days of bitter wrath upon the wicked, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Matthew 24:36-51; Revelation 16:1-21; Daniel 12:12.

## G. IN THE LAST DAY

The resurrection, rapture, and rewarding of the saints are explicitly stated to be in the LAST DAY, which is the day of the Lord, John 6:39,40,44,54; 11:24; 12:48. God predestined the first cycle of man's existence to be seven thousand years long or seven days of one thousand years each, seven millenniums. The last three millenniums are called the "last days" (Acts 2:17-20; 2 Peter 3:3-10), while the seventh millennium is called the "last day" as we have already seen.

## CHAPTER V

### THE LAST TRUMP

#### I. THE LAST TRUMP in 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

This trumpet must be the LAST trumpet to sound in connection with the resurrection, rapture, and rewarding of the saints.

These two passages speak of the same event -- the resurrection, rapture, and rewarding of the saints (glorification is a reward for "by grace through faith" faithfulness) , Isaiah 46:13; 48:12; Daniel 12:2; Luke 16:9-12; Mark 10:17-30; Luke 10:25-37; Romans 2:6-7; 5:2,18,21; 6:5,22-23; 8:6,13,17,23-25; 9:4; Ephesians 5:31; Philippians 3:11; Colossians 1:5,21-23,27; 1 Timothy 6:12,17-19; Titus 3:7; Hebrews 3:14; James 1:12; 1 Peter 5:4,10; 12 John 9 (2 John 5:12-13); Revelation 3:11.

Christ will bring the disembodied spirits of the saints with Him and will reunite them with their instantly remade and glorified bodies.

The glorified saints are gathered to Christ in the air, but do not immediately return to the earth -- see later comments.

The last trump will sound AFTER the wrath of the Antichrist ENDS, and shortly AFTER the heavens have been rolled back which begins the wrath of God, Matthew 24:15, 21-22, 29-31, 36-51. See "B" immediately below.

These two passages (1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18) must be associated with the day of the Lord because 1 Thessalonians 5:1-9 is the same as 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18: chapter 4 speaks of the resurrection and rapture, while chapter 5 deals with the TIME the resurrection and rapture takes place.

#### II. THE LAST TRUMP in Matthew 24:29-31.

The powers of the heavens being shaken, and the heaven departing as a scroll are the same event, Matthew 24:29; Revelation 6:14. The activity of the sun, moon, and stars are evidences of the heavens being rolled back.

The powers of the heavens being shaken and the heavens being rolled back BEGIN the wrath of God, Matthew 24:29; Revelation 6:12-17; 11:15-18.

The coming of the Son of man is AFTER the wrath of the Antichrist is ENDED by the rolling back of the heavens and the revealing of God's throne in the open heaven, Matthew 24:29-31; Revelation 6:12-17.

The last trump sounds AFTER the wrath of the Antichrist ENDS, and shortly AFTER the wrath of God BEGINS, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 5:1-9; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; Matthew 24:29-31; Revelation 6:12-17; 10:1-7; 11:15-18.

The last trump in Matthew 24:31 is when God will gather His elect covenant people "from the four winds, from the one end of heaven to the other," (Matthew 24:31), "from the four winds, from the uttermost part of earth to the uttermost part of heaven," (Mark 13:27, 24-27).

There is ONLY ONE ELECT covenant people, and that people includes all the faithful of all ages, Romans 2:28-29; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Galatians 3:6-9,14,28-29; Ephesians 2:11-22; 3:6; 1 Peter 2:5-10. The "saints" who were worn out by the Antichrist in Daniel 7 are the same "saints" that wore him out after the ancient of days intervened and glorified the saints. The elect covenant people of the Old Testament and the elect covenant people of the New Testament are one and the same elect covenant people: they are all the covenant seed of Abraham and the same covenant special people by a covenant required persevering faith, Galatians 3:6-9,14,27-29; 4:21-31; Ephesians 2:11-22; 3:6; 2 Corinthians 6:16; 1 Peter 2:5,9; Titus 2:14; Romans 11:11-22.

The trumpet in Matthew 24:31 is when the saints take the kingdom from the Antichrist, Daniel 7:18,22,26-27, and when the kingdoms of this world become the kingdom of our God and His Christ in the seventh trumpet, Revelation 11:15-18.

This is all in harmony with 1 Thessalonians 4:13--5:9 which says that the return of Christ, the resurrection, the rapture, the rewarding of the saints, and the wrath of God all take place when the day of the Lord comes as a thief in the night. See also 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; 2:1-8; 2 Peter 3:3-10; Luke 17:26-37.

### III. THE LAST TRUMP in Revelation 6:12-17.

Same time factor as "A" & "B" above. "The powers of the heavens shall be shaken (Matthew 24:29) and "the heaven departed as a scroll" (Revelation 6:14) are the same event. The activity of the sun, moon, and stars are evidences of the heavens being rolled back.

When God has sent "strong delusion" on the unbelieving world (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12), has given the saints into the Antichrist's hands 42 months earlier (Daniel 7:25; Revelation 13:7), and the world is worshipping the Antichrist as the supreme god and crying "Peace and safety" (1 Thessalonians 5:1-3; Revelation 13), THEN God rolls the heavens back and sudden destruction (the day of the Lord as a "thief" in the night) is upon them in the fury of God's wrath, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-9; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; 2:1-12.

Revelation 6:12-17 is when the wrath of the Antichrist ENDS and the wrath of God BEGINS -- the heavens are rolled back and the throne of God is visible from the earth.

Christ receives the kingdom (Daniel 7:13-14; Psalms 2:8), and is commissioned to execute His work as Kinsman Redeemer to redeem His bride, dispossess the enemy, and redeem the lost possessions.

Here is when the kingdom of this world becomes the kingdom of God and of Christ, Revelation 11:15-18; Daniel 7:18,22,26-27. We must harmonize these passages.

The nations are angry and rage against God. God has them in derision, and chides them in His fury for their idolatry, their foolish wisdom, and their lewd and godless pleasures.

Christ descends with the angels and the disembodied spirits of the saints to raise and glorify the bodies of all the faithful covenant people. Compare Revelation 6:12-17 with Revelation 10:1-7; 11:15-18; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 5:1-9; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3; Matthew 24:29-31; and Daniel 7:18,21-22,25-27.

The saints will shortly be glorified, gathered to the Lord in mid-heaven, rewarded, presented before the Father, and will descend back to the earth with Christ to execute the wrath of God upon the Antichrist and the nations, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Thessalonians 3:13; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude 14-15.

#### IV. THE LAST TRUMP in Revelation 10:7 (1-7).

A mighty angel descends to the earth and the inspired description of his person, what he does, and what he says is awesome. John is forbidden to record the angel's first message with its responsive message, and this alone signifies something exceptionally momentous is about to happen. The angel's second message was recorded, is very important, and we need to take notice. As he stands on land and sea as a towering giant, he raises his hand to heaven and takes an impressive oath that this age is immediately to end and a new age is to begin.

The angel solemnly swears that TIME SHOULD BE NO MORE (no more delay). This applies to the time just before the rolling back of the heavens which ENDS the wrath of the Antichrist and BEGINS the wrath of God, requested by the souls under the altar (Revelation 6:9-11) just before the wrath of the Antichrist ends (which ends the current age), and just before the wrath of God begins (which begins the Millennium).

The mighty angel specifies the sounding of seventh trumpet as the time when "TIME SHOULD BE NO MORE" (no more delay). This clearly signifies the end of the church age and the beginning of the Millennium.

The mighty angel further announces that THE MYSTERY OF GOD will be finished when the seventh angel sounds the seventh trumpet. The seventh trumpet must be associated with the mystery of Paul's last trump, 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; Revelation 10:1-7; 11:15-18. They are the same mystery.

The resurrection, rapture, and rewarding of the saints is what the mystery is about. This is made clear by comparing the three passages, 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; Revelation 10:5-7; 11:15-18. It is necessary therefore to understand that the coming of Christ, the resurrection and glorification of the saints, the end of this age, and the beginning of the Millennium all happen at the same time.

It is when the seventh trumpet sounds that the kingdoms of this world become the kingdom of our God and His Christ (Revelation 11:15), and that is precisely when the heavens are rolled back and the throne of God turns the whole earth upside-down, Daniel 7:9-12,13,18,22,26-27; Matthew 24:29-31; Revelation 6:12-17; 10:1-7; 11:15-18.

It is also when the seventh trumpet sounds that the wrath of God begins, God chides the nations, and the nations are angry, Same scriptures as in "F" above.

God has been silent from heaven and has sent strong delusion upon the rebellious world so that the world is worshipping the Anti-christ and crying "Peace and safety." Then the day of the Lord as a "thief" with the wrath of God bursts suddenly and openly through the heavens upon them, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; 2:1-12; Revelation 6:12-17. The souls under the altar get their request (Revelation 6:9-11) as they are glorified and execute God's righteous wrath upon the Antichrist and his anti-God and anti-Christ forces on earth for 1335 days of blessedness, Daniel 12:12.

#### V. THE LAST TRUMP in Revelation 11:15-19.

The seventh trumpet sounds sometime after the heavens are rolled back and the wrath of God begins. The day of the Lord comes suddenly and unexpectedly as a thief, and the resurrection and rapture take place in a moment in the twinkling of an eye -- do not confuse these two with the seventh and last trump, for the trumpet blast is not over so quickly. It is NOT the sounding of the trumpet, but the resurrection and glorification of the bodies of the saints that happens "in a moment in the twinkling of an eye."

The announcement is made from heaven that the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdom of our God and His Christ. This means that the kingdoms of this world have become the direct, immediate, and visible governing prerogative

of God, Christ, and the covenant people. The Father will shortly send the Son and those whom He has specially given to the Son to remove the enemy and rule the universe according to His eternal purpose.

Christ is formally crowned and receives the covenanted kingdom (Luke 22:28-30; Daniel 7:13-14) while all intelligent creatures in the universe, including those in hell, view the inaugural ceremony -- some with overflowing joy, others in anger, grief, and horrifying fear.

The nations were enraged (Revelation 11:18), they mourn (Matthew 24:29-30), they try to hide and commit suicide, Revelation 15-16. This is not merely for a moment. This deep rooted hatred, soul crushing anguish, and stark, terrorizing fear will grip the nations for a considerable amount of time. The heavens will continue standing open while numerous formal and official activities are taking place before the throne of God and the court of heaven. These activities will be in preparation for the return of Christ after receiving authority to establish the kingdom of God on earth and rule for a thousand years.

The wrath of God has begun and it is time to destroy those who destroy the earth, Revelation 11:18. The wrath of God begins when the heavens are rolled back and the throne of God is revealed, but the scene switches from the visible throne of God in heaven to the throne of Christ on earth when the heavens are again closed and the saints and the angels become active in executing that wrath, Daniel 7:18,22,26-27; Joel 2:1-11; Revelation 15 & 16.

The resurrection, glorification, and rewarding of the saints:

"The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth," Revelation 11:18.

This seventh trumpet (Revelation 10:1-7; 11:15-19) is the last trump, 1 Corinthians 15:51-52.

This trumpet sounding is AFTER the abomination of desolation, Matthew 24:15-31.

This trumpet sounding is AFTER the man of sin is revealed, Matthew 24:15-31; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12.

This trumpet sounding is AFTER the heavens are rolled back, Matthew 24:29-31; Revelation 6:12-17.

This trumpet sounding is AFTER the wrath of the Antichrist, Matthew 24:21-31; Mark 13:19-27.

This trumpet sounding is AFTER the wrath of God begins, Matthew 24:29-31; Revelation 6:12-17.

This trumpet sounding is AFTER the day of the Lord begins, 1 Thessalonians 4:13--5:9; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12.

This trumpet sounding is AFTER Christ receives the kingdom, Daniel 7; Revelation 11:15-18; et al.

This trumpet sounding is WHEN the saints are raised, glorified, and rewarded, Revelation 11:11-18.

This trumpet sounding is WHILE the heavens are standing open and all creation has been viewing the heaven standing open activities before the throne of God for a considerable amount of time.

# CHAPTER VI

## THE COURT OF HEAVEN

The court of heaven is the supreme court of the universe of which God is the sovereign Judge and to Whom all other courts, authorities, powers, dominions, nations, and all intelligent beings of angels, demons, and men must give account at their appointed times.

### I. GOD ON HIS THRONE

The throne of God is the center of all activity in heaven and earth. The Scriptures reveal that the earth is filled with angelic creatures, both of the righteous angels and of fallen angels with demon spirits, Genesis 28:12-15; 32:1-2, 24-32;

### A. THE COURT OFFICIALS AND ATTENDANTS

The officials and attendants of the court of heaven (Revelation 4 & 5; Daniel 7:9-10, 13, 22, 26; Isaiah 6:1-6; Ezekiel 1; 10; Exodus 25:18-22) are seen chiefly in Revelation 4 and 5 and are discussed briefly below. Each one has a specific function which in some cases is defined clearly but in other cases it is not.

### B. THE COURT BOOKS

"The books" (Daniel 7:10; Revelation 20:12; Exodus 32:32; Psalms 56:8; 69:28; 139:16; Ecclesiastes 12:14; Daniel 12:1,9; Malachi 3:16; Luke 22:28-30; Revelation 3:5; 5 & 6; 10:8-11; 13:8; 17:8; 20:11-15) evidently contain at least the following:

Predetermined laws, spiritual and physical as well as moral, which govern the functions of the universe into the ages of the ages.

Records of all the works of God from the beginning, and which are evidently constantly being recorded.

Records of all the thoughts, words, and deeds of the righteousness angels.

Records of all the thoughts, words, and deeds of Satan and wicked spirits.

The covenant between the Father and the Son, much of which is evidently still not revealed, Ephesians 2:7; Hebrews 1:2.



The covenants between God and men which are a part of and progressively reveal the covenant between the Father and the Son.

Various records of every thought, word, and deed of every human being who has ever lived.

All creation, the heavens, the earth, and the fullness of them to the most minute detail, is being governed by God. However, God is not ruling His creation, all of it or any part of it, by arbitrary actions; conversely, it is obvious from the Bible that "the books" which will be opened at the judgments (Daniel 7:10; Revelation 20:11-15) contain, in part, the predetermined laws, statutes, commandments, judgments, precepts, principles, etc., by which God is constantly ruling and directing all things.

And since the Bible, which is a Book of books, is also a Book entirely of covenants between God and His covenant people -- specifically, between the Father and the Son and the covenant people whom the Father has predestined to share the firstborn sonship together with the Son -- it therefore becomes the more obvious that "the books" which will be opened at the judgments will concern those same covenant matters contained in the Bible.

## II. THE SEVEN SPIRITS OF GOD

The expression "the seven Spirits of God" (Revelation 4:5) evidently refers to the completeness and fullness of the Holy Spirit, since the seven Spirits are placed within the Trinity in Revelation 1:4. See also Revelation 3:1; and 5:6. The Holy Spirit is the constant presence of God in all His attributes throughout all the universe. The Holy Spirit performs all the works of God which are evidently recorded by the court staff and witnessed by the court staff as being according to the predetermined laws recorded in "the books."

## III. THE FOUR CHERUBIM

The cherubim are evidently among the wisest, and most powerful of the angels. They are of the immediate court staff and are constantly in the immediate presence of God and Christ on their thrones (Revelation 3 7 4; Ezekiel 1 & 10), except as seen guarding the tree of life, Genesis 3:24. Of all the angelic creatures the cherubim are the nearest to the throne of God and are the chief guardians of it.

### A. THE BODIES OF THE CHERUBIM

It appears there are at least four orders of cherubim: some have one face and six wings (Revelation 4:7-8), some have four faces and four wings (Ezekiel 1:7),

some have one face and two wings, (Exodus 25:20; 37:8-9), and some appear to have two faces, Ezekiel 41:18.

Among other things, they have many eyes indicating they were very intelligent and full of constant awareness, Revelation 4:6, 8; Ezekiel 1.

They are very powerful, fast, and perfect in all they do, Ezekiel 1; 10.

Certain cherubim appear to be two-fold beings in that each cherub has a wheel (a wheel within a wheel) beside them. Each wheel is alive, has a rim full of eyes indicating intelligence, and is fully synchronized in every respect with the cherub to which it belongs, Ezekiel 1.

## B. THE FUNCTIONS OF THE CHERUBIM

They served as guardians of the throne of God, Revelation 4 & 5.

They transported a portable throne of Christ in Ezekiel, Ezekiel 1 & 10. This is probably what is meant by the Lord flying on the wings of the cherubim, Psalms 18:10; 2 Samuel 22:11.

They constantly proclaim God's holiness, Revelation 4:8. In this capacity they serve as witnesses of the truth and the righteousness of God's judgments, Revelation 18:1-4;

They worship God with praise, thanks, harps, songs, and incense, Revelation 5:8-14; 7:11; 19:4.

They bear witness of the worthiness of Christ to redeem the saints so that they are worthy to reign and minister as kings and priests, Revelation 5:8-12.

They beckoned John to "Come and see" each time one of the seven seals in the Book of Revelation was opened, Revelation 6.

They give instruments of judgment to the executioners of God's wrath, Revelation 15:7; Ezekiel 10:7.

## IV. THE TWENTY-FOUR ELDERS

The twenty-four elders are angelic beings of great authority who sit on twenty-four thrones (thronous) round about the throne of God and the four cherubim. They are special court officials within the immediate court staff as indicated below.

## A. THE FUNCTION OF THE TWENTY-FOUR ELDERS.

They worship God with praise, thanks, harps, songs, and incense, Revelation 5:5, 8-14; 11:16-18; 19:4.

They bear WITNESS of the worthiness of God because He created all things and by His will they were created and have their existence.

They bear WITNESS of the worthiness of Christ to redeem the saints so that they are worthy to reign as kings and minister as priests, Revelation 5:8-12

They bear WITNESS together WITH the four cherubim that Christ is worthy to take the little book out of the Father's hand, open the seals, and read the book, because He has redeemed the saints, not the cherubim and twenty-four elders, Revelation 5:1-10. The cherubim are righteous angels who need no redemption and therefore would not be singing "redeemed US" (Revelation 5:9). "Redeem US" should be translated "redeem THEM." This song is sung by both the cherubim and the twenty-four elders. Therefore since the cherubim are angels, the twenty-four elders are also angels. The cherubim will not be singing "THEM" while the twenty-four elders are singing "US."

Furthermore, God has not appointed the world to come to be under the rule of angels, Hebrews 2:5. The cherubim are angels. Therefore since God has not appointed angels as kings and priests to reign on the earth, they will not sing "made US to our God kings and priests and WE shall reign on the earth," (Revelation 5:10). Only the faithful saved of mankind can sing these words. The translation should read, "make THEM to our God kings and priests and THEY shall reign on the earth." Therefore, since both the twenty-four elders and the our cherubim sing this song, it is clear that the twenty-four elders are also angels.

They bear WITNESS under the seventh trumpet that God properly takes the kingdoms of this world from the Antichrist, that the time has come to reward the saints and "destroy those who destroy the earth," i.e., the Antichrist and his forces.

They bear WITNESS that the saints have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb, have gotten the victory, and have been conformed to the image, fullness, and oneness of the divine Trinity, Revelation 7:13-17; 11:16-19; 14:3. See also Ephesians 1:22-23; 3:19; Colossians 1:19; 2:9-10; John 10:30-36; 14:8-11; 17:21-23.

They bear WITNESS that God's judgments upon the great religious whore are true and righteousness, Revelation 19:1-4

From the above, it is clear that the chief function of the twenty-four elders, other than worshipping God, is the function of being official court WITNESSES in at least three very important ways:

To insure that "the books" are properly documented with the prescribed information. See 9b and 9c below.

To insure the proper maintenance of those records. Again, see 9b and 9c below.

To verify or bear witness that God is righteous in His judgments according to "the books." For instance, the thoughts, words, and deeds both of the righteous and the wicked are recorded in the appropriate books, and those thoughts, words, and deeds are judged according to the laws in the covenant books which state what is right and what is wrong, Revelation 20:11-15; Daniel 7:9-10; Malachi 3:16; Psalms 56:8; Ecclesiastes 12:14.

Furthermore, it is evident the twenty-four elders have been performing their function as court WITNESSES from near the beginning of their creation. This conclusion is based, in part, on the following evidence:

The twenty-four elders are seen EXCLUSIVELY as court officials constantly performing official court functions together with the four cherubim and are addressed separately from the saints throughout the book of Revelation. See also Daniel 7.

Again, the twenty-four elders are not human but angels because they sing together with the four cherubim that Christ has redeemed the saints and made them to be kings and priests to reign on the earth. The cherubim are righteous angels who need no redemption and are not appointed to be kings and priests to reign with Christ on the earth (Hebrews 2:5), so the word "us" in Revelation 5:9-10 must be "them" as most Bible versions have it.

"The books" (record books among them) have evidently been kept from the beginning of creation -- a book of remembrance was written BEFORE (in the presence of) God concerning those who fear the Lord and meditate on His name, Revelation 20:11-15; Daniel 7:9-10; Ephesians 1:4, 11; Revelation 13:8; Psalms 56:8; 139:16; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Malachi 3:16; 2 Corinthians 5:10, Revelation 11:18. Records of ALL thoughts, words, and deeds have been kept from the beginning, according to these and similar passages.

The court of heaven has evidently been in existence since the creation of the heavens and the earth according to God's purpose, certainly since the fall of Satan with a great host of angels, and then the fall of Man. Record books evidently have been kept and are being kept of all the creative and redemptive works of God,

Same scriptures as in "c" above, plus Acts 2:23; 1 Peter 1:20; Revelation 13:8; et al.

The little book which Christ alone was worthy to take from the hand of the Father, open its seals, and reveal and execute its content is clearly a book of redemption (Revelation 5 & 6), which according to the Scriptures requires the presence of witnesses to all the official redemptive transactions of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit as seen in the following.

## B. OFFICIAL TRANSACTIONS OF THE REDEMPTION PROCESS

The Bible itself is a Book of redemption, the covenants are covenants of redemption, and the little book (scroll) of Revelation 5 & 6 is a book of redemption. The Law Covenant provides the following information (given only generally here) of the redemption transactions, John 17:24; Acts 2:23; Ephesians 1:4, 11; 3:9; 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 1:2, 10; 4:3; 1 Peter 1:18-20; Revelation 5 & 6; 13:8; Leviticus 25; 27; Ruth 4; Jeremiah 32:6-44.

The redemption transaction became functional when a person, his name, and his property needed to be redeemed.

The Law Covenant provided that when a person became poor he could sell his property and/or sell himself into servitude until the year of jubilee; or if a man died without an heir his nearest kinsman who was able and willing should redeem his property, marry his widow, and by her have a son who would bear the name and be the heir of the deceased person, Leviticus 25; 27; Ruth 4.

The redemption transaction required the nearest kinsman to redeem, but gave him the option to decline.

The right of redemption belonged to the nearest kinsman. However, in case of a deceased man, the kinsman must also marry the widow of the deceased and have a son by her who would bear the name and be the heir of the deceased person. The nearest kinsman could refuse to perform the right and responsibility incumbent upon the nearest kinsman, in which case the right of redemption would pass to the next nearest kinsman, Leviticus 25; 27; Ruth 4.

The redemption transaction had to have proper witnesses.

There had to be witnesses of the redemption process. All official matters were, if possible, to be established by at least two or three witnesses, Deuteronomy 17:6; 19:15. Boaz took ten men of the elders of the city to be witnesses of his redemptive transaction, Ruth 4. Observe the requirement and emphasis placed upon witnesses in Jeremiah 32:6-44.

Redemption transactions were sometimes written, and safely kept with open and sealed documents for a future time.

In the case of Jeremiah there were to be two identical documents: one was to remain unsealed, but the other was to be sealed. The open document was evidently for review, while the other document was to be officially sealed and kept in a safe place in order that it should be officially opened before proper witnesses at a designated time so that the person or persons designated in the document should be redeemed and receive the redeemed possessions which are also officially described in the document, Jeremiah 32:6-44.

The redemption documents were to be safely maintained in an official manner.

"And I gave the purchase deed to Baruch the son of Neriah, son of Mahseiah, in the presence of Hanameel my uncle's son, and in the presence of the witnesses who signed the purchase deed, before all the Jews who sat in the court of the prison. Then I charged Baruch before them, saying, Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: 'Take these deeds, both this purchase deed which is sealed and this deed which is open, and put them in an earthen vessel, that they may last many days.' For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: 'Houses and fields and vineyards shall be possessed again in this land,'" Jeremiah 32:12-15.

The sealed document was to be opened by a qualified person at an appointed time.

Jeremiah was careful throughout this entire transaction about proper and official procedures, written documents, an open and a sealed document, and official witnesses. He then charged Baruch, a qualified person, to take the documents and place them in a secure place "that they may continue many days." It is unquestionable that the same official formality will be followed when the sealed document is opened at the prescribed time.

The Scriptures require that the opening of sealed documents must also be witnessed by proper witnesses.

A major part of the official formality which must be followed when the sealed document is opened is that there be qualified witnesses who will, in the Spirit of Christ, scrupulously observe and verify that every minute requirement is accurate and righteous according to the Scriptures pertaining to redemption transactions.

## C. CHRIST, THE KINSMAN REDEEMER

The scriptures establishing and governing the redemption transaction had their first but much lesser application to the nation of Israel as God's covenant people. These scriptures provided for a just and continuing inheritance or possession for

them. This provision was made within the framework of the failures and inequities of a social structure permeated and distorted by the sinful human nature.

The major application of the scriptures establishing and governing the redemption process concerns the redemption of a special and obedient covenant people who within themselves are dead in sins. They are helpless and hopeless without Christ as the one and only qualified Redeemer. The redemption transactions of the Law Covenant, therefore, were designed to serve as types, shadows, or symbols of the true, spiritual, and eternal redemption of the covenant people. The redemption process provides for the redemption of the covenant people, their name, and their promised covenant inheritance from the sinful environment of this world and its effects as mankind has known it for these thousands of years.

The covenant people, their covenant name, and their promised covenant inheritance must be redeemed.

Christ was foreordained as a slain lamb without spot or blemish before the foundation of the world, Isaiah 46:8-11; John 17:24; Acts 2:23; 4:28; Romans 8:28-30; 11:2; 1 Corinthians 2:7; Ephesians 1:4, 11; 2:10; 3:9; 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 1:2; 1 Peter 1:2,18-20.

This was done in the counsel between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit before the creation of the world, before the creation of man, and, of course, before man sinned against God and fell into his current sinful state.

However, the court of heaven, as seen in Daniel 7; Revelation 4 & 5; and through the book of Revelation, had to be established AFTER the creation of the cherubim, the twenty-four elders, and the angels because they are a part of the court.

As stated above, the laws of the Law Covenant which established and governed the function of the kinsman redeemer are types (shadows, symbols) of Christ as the true and only kinsman Redeemer of the covenant people, their name, and their promised covenant inheritance.

It appears unequivocal from the scriptures cited in "B" above, that the witnessing of the writing, signing, sealing, preserving, opening of the seals, and execution of the redemption documents as are to serve as types and instructions of God's redemptive plan for mankind. It appears necessary, therefore, that the court of heaven, as seen in Daniel 7 and in the book of Revelation, was established BEFORE the sin of man and before the sin of Satan and other angels. This conclusion is further based upon the following indicators:

"The books" appear to include records of all of God's covenants and works as well as all the thoughts, words, and deeds of all of His creatures, Daniel 7:10;

Revelation 20:12; Exodus 32:32; Psalms 56:8; 69:28; 139:16; Ecclesiastes 12:14; Daniel 12:1, 9; Malachi 3:16; Luke 22:28-30; Revelation 3:5; 5 & 6; 10:8-11; 13:8; 17:8; 20:11-15.

The record books appear to be written not by God but before (in the presence of) God, no doubt by the twenty-four elders or by Gabriel's angels under the watchful eyes of the twenty-four elders.

See IV. A. above.

It is further evident that the thoughts, words, and deeds of God's creatures have been and are being recorded as they happen, Exodus 32:31-33; Malachi 3:16; Revelation 3:5.

Christ is the only qualified kinsman Redeemer.

Christ qualified as our Kinsman by His virgin birth, by which He became our Kinsman and also, of necessity, a Kinsman without the sinful nature as we have. Christ further qualified as our Redeemer by His perfect life, His personal ministry on earth, His death, burial, and resurrection, and by His current mediatorial ministry. The redemption documents required all of this.

The redemption was witnessed, and is being witnessed, by proper witnesses.

The cherubim, the twenty-four elders, and the angels were evidently there when the sealed document (Revelation 5 & 6) was written, witnessed to, and sealed in the beginning. They have, as witnesses, witnessed all the qualifying features as Christ qualified step by step. They are further witnessing our qualifying as the covenant people, and will bear witness to the righteous execution of God's wrath upon the enemies as part of the redemptive process, Revelation 16.

(the rest of this chapter and the following two chapters are unfinished)

The redemption documents were written, both open and sealed, for a future time.

The redemption documents have been properly maintained.

The sealed document has been opened by the qualified person.

The opening of the sealed document was witnessed by the proper witnesses.

## B. THE ANTIQUITY OF THE TWENTY-FOUR ELDERS



The foregoing evidence establishes that the two chief functions of the twenty-four elders is that of worshipping God and bearing witnessing of His righteous judgments.

## CHAPTER VII

### THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

The following scriptures show that the judgment seat of Christ takes place in mid-heaven in view of both heaven and earth. The Father is still on His throne in the open heavens as Christ judges the saints and the nations.

#### I. THE THRONE OF HIS GLORY

"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. "All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them (the individuals of the nations) one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats," Matthew 25:31-32.

The judgment of nations. These two verses and their context (Matthew 25:31-46) present a scene of what is called "the judgment of nations." This scene, as in each of the individual scenes of Daniel 7, does not present the larger, overall picture. Numerous individual throne scenes and related passages must fit into the larger more inclusive judgment scene described in the first chapter of this book, which include all the open heaven activities. When the heavens are rolled back the kingdom of the Antichrist becomes the kingdom of God for the long promised and public execution of God's wrath upon the earth and the direct rule of God through Christ and the saints.

The judgment of nations, or individuals, or both? All nations, both Jew and Gentile, are here represented as being judged by Christ. However, this is NOT a judgment of "nations" as nations. Observe that the word for "nations" (ethne) is neuter while the word for "them" (autous) is masculine. Christ does not separate "nations" but "individuals." Christ separated the "goats" to His left (actually, still in their nations), while He separates the sheep to his right (into a special nation of elect, covenant people).

The judgment seat of Christ. Again, the whole picture is not seen here in Matthew 25:31-46. This scene is general in a number of ways. Yet it presents only one sub-general view of the activities of the judgment seat of Christ. This scene is as one slightly complex piece in a jigsaw puzzle, and is presented in a kind of parabolic form. There are perhaps two dozen or more similar scenes and passages supplying numerous details of the heaven standing open activities which are not included in this passage. Two of the major prophetic features missing in this passage are:

There are three groups of people in the end, not two. This passage describes ONLY TWO groups: the "sheep" on the right, and the "goats" on the left. The group on the right, the "sheep" or the "righteous," are the same as "My brethren,"

and are the faithful saved. We may argue (hopefully, in the spirit of Christ) till kingdom come about who the "right" and "left" are in this passage. There are many such "two group" passages, and our theology will be greatly twisted if we do not interpret them correctly. Be assured, however, there are three groups in the end, not two: the faithful in the New Jerusalem, the lost in the lake of fire, and the nations of the unfaithful saved who will never enter the New Jerusalem or the lake of fire. Space will not allow discussion here.

The 1,000 year reign of Christ and the saints, called "the day of the Lord," "Millennium," etc., is not provided for in this passage, Matthew 25:31-46. It is implied in verse 34, but there are no nations, no peoples in the flesh, indicated in the passage.

## II. CROWN OF REJOICING

"For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ IN His coming?" 1 Thessalonians 2:19.

The judgment seat of Christ. This is a judgment scene where the saints will mutually bear witness to each other's good works and receive and welcome each other into the firstborn sonship of Christ, Luke 16:9. See also 1 Thessalonians 3:8; 1 Corinthians 9:23; Hebrews 11:4; Revelation 14:13; John 4:36-38; 2 Timothy 2:10. Christ will not reward the saints until the heavens are rolled back, which is the first phase of his glory coming, Matthew 16:27; Mark 8:38; Luke 9:26.

The coming of Christ. Christ will come publicly in great power and great glory. It is THEN that He will reward His saints and judge the individuals of the nations, Matthew 16:27; Mark 8:38; Luke 9:26; Matthew 25:31-34. This is the presence (parousia) of Christ, not His absence (apousia). Parousia is a composite word: para eimi, means to be beside, or to be present. The judgment seat of Christ is at or after the revelation of Christ, Luke 17:30; Romans 2:5; 1 Corinthians 1:7-8; 2 Thessalonians 1:3-7-10; 1 Peter 1:13. See my book, "IN THE LAST TRUMP," that the revelation of Christ, the day of the Lord, the day of Christ, The thief coming, the glory coming, the body presence, etc., of Christ all refer to the same public return of Christ. There are still two phases of Christ's return, with the judgment seat of Christ between them while the heavens are standing open.

IN the coming of Christ. The judgment seat of Christ is BETWEEN the two phases of Christ's glory coming. "IN" the coming of Christ He will sit on the throne of His glory (His judgment seat) to reward the saints AND judge the nations -- judge the saints AND individuals (Greek) of the nations at the same time.

## III. BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD

"So that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness BEFORE our God and Father IN the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ WITH all His saints," 1 Thessalonians 3:13.

Before the throne of God. Christ will present His bride (the elect covenant people) before the Father's throne AFTER He has judged and rewarded them. God has committed this judgment to Christ, John 5:22. Christ will not present the saints before the Father UNTIL He judged and rewarded them. It will be proper protocol for Christ to present the saints in full dress, in their Sunday best, fully rewarded, properly ranked, polished, shining, PERFECT before the Father. This will require Christ to judge and reward the saints PRIOR to presenting them before the throne of God for His blessings. In fact, we will shortly see that Christ will confess the faithful saved and deny the unfaithful saved in the presence of the Father and the angels when He comes in glory, Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 12:8-9; Revelation 3:5; Mark 8:38; Luke 9:26; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:10; Daniel 7:9-10; et al.

Blameless in holiness. Christ will present His bride blameless in holiness before the Father's throne in His coming. The current ministry of Christ through the Holy Spirit and through His intercessory work is to sanctify the bride in order to present her to Himself blameless in holiness, "unblamable and unproveable," Colossians 1:22; Ephesians 5:26-27. This again makes it imperative that Christ judge and reward the saints PRIOR to presenting them before (in the presence of) the Father IN HOLINESS WITHOUT REBUKE.

In His coming (parousia). Christ will present His bride before the Father in His coming. The emphasis here is on the "presence" of Christ. This will not be done in heaven with the heavens closed and Christ absent (apousia) from the earth -- the opposite of present (Parousia). It must be done with the heavens standing open with Christ, the saints, the throne of God, and the angels all in view, in order for it to be in Christ's parousia.

This judgment of many, many hundreds of millions (even billions) of saved people is done before the throne of God and before many, many hundreds of millions of angels. This does not at all describe an earthly Jerusalem bound judgment. It will necessarily be in the heavens. It will necessarily be viewed by heaven and earth and even by those in hell, Matthew 26:64; Mark 14:62; Revelation 1:7, plus the devil and his angels. Again, this will be done IN the sphere (within the process, within the time frame) of Christ's coming, not BEFORE nor AFTER, but IN the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. See Revelation 7:9-17 and 15:1-4 below.

With all His saints. Christ will present His bride blameless in holiness before the Father in His parousia with all His saints. Christ must be present in the air in the vicinity of the earth, but still before the throne of God with heaven standing open, and all within the framework of Christ's coming with His saints.

#### IV. SANCTIFIED COMPLETELY

"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless IN the coming (parousia) of our Lord Jesus Christ," 1 Thessalonians 5:23.

Sanctify you wholly or completely. An additional feature applicable to all these verses is that this requires a special resurrection of the faithful saved, which special (quality) resurrection constitutes a reward, Philippians 3:11 (7-14,21); 1 Corinthians 15:1-2; Romans 8:17,23-25; Luke 16:9-12; et al.

Body, psyche, and spirit. The concern of this verse includes the whole person of each individual in the bride of Christ, each covenant person. The whole person quantitatively is sanctified qualitatively. This requires the judgment seat of Christ prior to the saints being presented before the Father, because the whole person is presented before the Father unrebukeable in holiness.

Preserved blameless. The faithful covenant people (the bride of Christ, found only in true local churches in this age) will be preserved and presented blameless in the entirety of each individual before Christ and the Father within the sphere of the coming of Christ.

In the coming (parousia) of our Lord Jesus Christ. The saints will be preserved and presented before the Father in the coming of Christ. This will be brought to pass in the framework of the coming (presence) with all His saints, not before or after His coming. We must include the revelation, the glory coming, the thief coming, and the body presence all in the same single phase return of Christ. See "IN THE LAST TRUMP" along with this book.

#### V. WHEN CHRIST SHINES

"And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears (phaino, shines) we may have confidence and not be put to shame FROM (apo) Him IN His coming (parousia)," 2 John 2:28.

The judgment seat of Christ. This verse requires the judgment seat of Christ where it will be determined whether we have complied with the requirement of abiding in Christ.

Abiding in Christ. The bride of Christ will be made up of the faithful covenant people who abide in Christ, i.e., in a true local church in this age, Galatians 3:27-29; 2 John 2:28. We abide or remain in Christ by abiding in His love, which we do by keeping His commandments, John 15:1-11.

When He shall appear. The word translated "appear" means to be manifested, signifying a public, open appearance of Christ, His glory coming, His revelation when every eye shall see Him. Every eye will see Christ and His angels descend from the throne of God bringing the disembodied spirits of the dead saints, 1 Thessalonians 4:13--5:9. They will see the throne of Christ's glory set up in mid-heaven, Matthew 25:31-32. They will see the saints glorified, ascend into the air and stand before the throne of Christ and be judged, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2:19-20; 3:13; 2 John 2:28.

Put to shame from Christ. Those who have NOT remained or continued in Christ (a true church) will be put to shame FROM Christ -- not be ashamed before Christ, but put to shame from Christ. The unfaithful saved will be left among the nations or cast into that outer darkness among the nations when Christ returns and sits on His judgment seat.

In His coming. This refers to the judgment seat of Christ which will take place in the air (in mid-heaven) when Christ sits on the throne of His glory in view of all the earth, and while the heaven is still standing open and the throne of God is still quite visible. Let it be emphasized that the judgment seat of Christ will take place in the body presence (parousia) of Christ, which must therefore be in the observable vicinity of the earth, that it will be public for it is in the manifestation of Christ (2 John 2:28), and it will be in the open heaven before the throne of God, 1 Thessalonians 3:13.

## VI. CONFESS AND DENY BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD

32 "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.

33 But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." Matthew 10:32-33.

"8 Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God.

9 "But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God," Luke 12:8-9.

5 "He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels," Revelation 3:5.

Christ will confess the faithful saved and deny the unfaithful saved while sitting on His throne -- His judgment seat. Precisely how this will be done is not clear. The unfaithful saved are represented as being left on the earth in some passages

when Christ return, (Matthew 24:36-41; Luke 17:30-36; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). While other passages address the unfaithful saved being put to shame FROM the Lord into outer darkness when Christ returns, Matthew 22:11-13; 25:14-30; 2 John 2:28; Revelation 2:22. Still these and many other passages (many of them) state that the unfaithful saved must endure the plagues or vials of God's wrath and other bitter features of God's wrath on the earth immediately after Christ returns, Revelation 22:18; 18:4; 16:15; 3:10; Luke 21:34-36; 12:46-48; Matthew 24:36-51; 18:1-35.

Christ will confess the faithful saved and deny the unfaithful saved before (in the presence of) the Father. This will be done evidently while the heavens are standing open, in view of every intelligent creature in the heavens, on earth, and in hell. Again, the judgment seat of Christ will evidently be in the open heaven in the near vicinity of the earth.

Christ will confess the faithful saved and deny the unfaithful saved before (in the presence of) the angels. At least every saint (covenant person) appears to have one or more guardian or ministering angels, Hebrews 1:14; Matthew 18:10; Acts 12:15; Daniel 12:12; Revelation 1:20; 2:1. It appears that in view of this ordained ministry of the angels and their immense interest in the same, Christ will make this confession and denial before the angels at the same time He does so before the throne of God.

## VII. COMING WITH HIS SAINTS

14 "Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints,

15 To execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him," Jude 14:15.

Christ comes with the saints TO JUDGE. This is a judgment scene, not of the saints being judged but of them judging others. Christ and the saints have been given authority by the court of heaven to take the kingdom from the Antichrist and his forces and to possess the kingdom, Daniel 7:18, 22, 26-27; Revelation 11:15. Christ and the saints have been given authority by the Father through the court of heaven to execute God's wrath upon the Antichrist, upon his forces, and upon the inhabitants of the nations for the 1335 days of Daniel 12:12.

The saints are judged and rewarded FIRST. We can rightly judge that the saints will themselves be judged and rewarded before they judge others. This also says the saints are judged in the open heavens BEFORE they descend with Christ to execute this order of the court of heaven.

The unfaithful saved will be ruled over by the faithful saved. The faithful saved are NOW qualifying to be adopted into Christ's firstborn sonship to be joint heirs together with Him, Romans 8:17-30; Hebrews 12:23; James 1:18; Revelation 14:1-5; 2:26-27; Exodus 4:22-23; Genesis 27:27-37. See also the many, many references to the firstborn, birthright, firstling, firstfruits, and firstripe. All these refer to the firstborn sonship of Christ for which we are qualifying in this life.



## **CHAPTER VIII**

### **1335 DAYS OF BLESSEDNESS**

I. ALL THESE DAYS ARE DAYS OF BLESSEDNESS

II. MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB FESTIVITIES

III. SOULS UNDER THE ALTAR

IV.

V.

(IT IS ASSUMED THAT BROTHER FORD DID NOT DEVELOP THIS CHAPTER.)

## CHAPTER IX

### IS THE COMING OF CHRIST IMMINENT?

Is the coming of Christ imminent? If it is, when did it become imminent?

#### I. DID PAUL BELIEVE CHRIST'S COMING WAS IMMINENT?

Two passages imply that Paul might have believed that Christ could return during his lifetime, 1 Corinthians 15:2; 1 Thessalonians 4:15, 17.

Three passages indicate the opposite, viz., that Paul believed he would be dead and would be raised from the dead when Christ returns, 1 Corinthians 6:14; 2 Corinthians 4:14; Philippians 3:11.

#### II. THE COMMAND TO WATCH, Mark 13:32-37. WHEN were the disciples to begin WATCHING for Christ's return?

Were the disciples to begin WATCHING immediately after Christ left? Yes! Did the coming of Christ become IMMINENT immediately after Christ left? No!

Were the disciples to be WATCHING before and after the Holy Spirit came on Pentecost? Yes! Did the return of Christ become IMMINENT before or after the Holy Spirit came on Pentecost? NO!

Were the disciples to be WATCHING before and after Peter died? Yes! Did the return of Christ become IMMINENT either before or after Peter died? No!

Were the disciples to be WATCHING before and after all the apostles died? Yes! Did the return of Christ become IMMINENT either before or after all the apostles died? No!

Were the disciples to be WATCHING before and after Jerusalem was destroyed? Yes! Did the return of Christ become IMMINENT either before or after Jerusalem was destroyed? No!

Were the disciples to be WATCHING before and after many false christs and false prophets arose? Yes! Did the return of Christ become IMMINENT either before or after many false christs and false prophets arose (Matthew 24:4-5, 11)? No!

Were the disciples to be WATCHING before and after many wars and rumors of wars were heard? Yes! Did the return of Christ become IMMINENT either

before or after many wars and rumors of wars were heard, about which Christ said, "the end is not yet"? No!

Were the disciples to be WATCHING before and after nation would rise up against nation and kingdom against kingdom? Yes! Did the return of Christ become IMMINENT either before or after nation would rise up against (upon) nation and kingdom would rise up against (upon) kingdom about which Jesus said that these things would be only the beginning of sorrows? No!

Are we to be WATCHING before and after the wrath of the Antichrist (the tribulation) begins in the middle of Daniel's 70th week of 7 years? Yes! Will the return of Christ become IMMINENT either before or after the great tribulation begins in the MIDDLE of Daniel's 70th week of 7 years? No! Remember the wrath of the Antichrist must run its course 42 months before the heavens are rolled back, the throne of God puts a stop to the wrath of the Antichrist, and the kingdoms of this world become the kingdom of God and Christ.

Just when did the return of Christ become IMMINENT? It hasn't! Is the return of Christ IMMINENT NOW? No! What do the Scriptures really say about this subject?

### III. HAS THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST EVER BEEN IMMINENT?

The disciples were commanded to return to Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit, Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-8, 9-26; 2:1-21. Was the return of Christ imminent before the Holy Spirit came on Pentecost? The answer is a positive NO! But the covenant people were to be WATCHING by returning to Jerusalem and waiting for the Spirit. Did Christ's return become IMMINENT immediately after the Holy Spirit descended on Pentecost? The answer is again NO! When, therefore, did it become imminent?

Jesus explicitly told Peter he would GROW OLD and then DIE, John 21:18-19; 2 Peter 1:14. The Holy Spirit assured Peter he would die and be glorified when Christ returned, 2 Peter 1:14-15; 1 Peter 5:1; 4:13-14. Could the return of Christ have been IMMINENT before Peter died? The answer again is a positive NO! But the covenant people were to be WATCHING by faithfully and diligently observing all the commands the Lord had given, Matthew 28:18-20. Did Christ's return become imminent immediately after Peter Died? The answer is again NO! When, therefore, did it become imminent? If Christ's return did not become imminent immediately after Peter died, why should it be imminent now?

Jesus indicated strongly that ALL the apostles would die, Matthew 16:28; Mark 9:1; Luke 9:27. John did not die until about A.D. 100. Could the Lord's return possibly have been imminent before John died? The answer is again a positive NO! But they were to be WATCHING for His return by faithfully and diligently making disciples, baptizing them, and teaching them to observe ALL things the

Lord commanded, Matthew 28:18-20. Did Christ's return become IMMEDIATELY after John died? The answer is again NO! When, therefore, did it become imminent? If Christ's return did not become imminent immediately after John died, why should it be imminent today?

Jesus told His disciples it would be a LONG TIME before He returned, Matthew 25:19. Could the return of Christ have been IMMEDIATELY before a LONG TIME had elapsed? The answer is a positive NO! But all the covenant people were to be faithfully WATCHING by diligently taking up their cross daily and following Christ, Luke 9:23. Could Christ's return have become imminent immediately after the LONG TIME elapsed? The answer is again NO because of the reasons given below. When, therefore, did it become imminent? If Christ's return could not have become imminent immediately after a long time had passed, why should it be imminent in 1994?

Jesus unequivocally told the disciples the city of Jerusalem and the temple would be destroyed, and it was in A.D. 70, Matthew 24:1-2. Could the return of Christ have been IMMEDIATELY before Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed? The answer is an unequivocal NO, because the destruction was certain to happen, but NOT AFTER Christ returns! Yet the covenant people are to be constantly WATCHING for Christ's return by constantly giving diligence to make their calling and election sure, 2 Peter 1:1-11. Could Christ's return have become imminent after A.D. 70? The answer is again NO because there are still prophecies to be fulfilled. When, therefore, did it become imminent? If Christ's return could not have become imminent immediately after Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed, why should it be imminent in A.D. 1000? Or A.D. 1500? Or 1994?

Jesus said there must be wars and rumors of wars BEFORE His return: "And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, BUT THE END IS NOT YET," Matthew 24:6; Mark 13:7; Luke 21:9. Israel had no real war until A.D. 70 and Rome still ruled for hundreds of years. Was Christ's return IMMEDIATELY before there were wars and rumors of wars? The answer is a positive NO! But the covenant people were to continue WATCHING by observing ALL the commandments of the New Covenant, Matthew 28:18-20. Could Christ's return have become imminent after such things happened? The answer is again NO! When, therefore, did it become imminent? If Christ's return could not have become imminent immediately after these words of Jesus were fulfilled, why should it be imminent now?

Jesus said nation would rise against (upon) nation and kingdom against (upon) kingdom, and there would be MANY famines, pestilences, and earthquakes, and that these would be the BEGINNING OF SORROWS, Matthew 24:7-8; Mark 13:8; Luke 21:10-11. Was Christ's return IMMEDIATELY before this all happened? The answer is a positive NO! But the Lord's church was to continue WATCHING in the same way as commanded. Did Christ's return become imminent after all these things happened? The answer is again NO because these were the

BEGINNING of sorrows. When, therefore, did it become imminent? The Lord's return still had to be a long way off since these things were the BEGINNING of sorrows. Since the words of Christ cannot be broken, and since He is responding to questions concerning when He would return, it is necessary to understand His return could not be imminent for a long time to come. Who is to say when that time will be?

Jesus insisted His return was not to be taken as imminent: Throughout Matthew 24 Jesus clearly took special care with much repeated emphasis to persuade the disciples that His coming was NOT IMMEDIATE, but was a long, long way off. After the disciples asked Jesus: "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" Matthew 24:3. Jesus began to point out the many things that must come to pass, then said: "but the end is not yet," Matthew 24:6. He then pointed out many other things that must come to pass and then said: "All these are the BEGINNING of sorrows," Matthew 24:8. Jesus again spoke of many other things that must come to pass, including the abomination of desolation and The Great Tribulation. At this point He URGENTLY AND REPEATEDLY warned that if anyone said He had come secretly and was here or there, for us not to believe it because His coming would be as public as the lightning that shines from the east to the west, Matthew 24:23-27. Finally, Jesus told them in no mistakable terms that His coming would be IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE WRATH OF THE ANTICHRIST, after the heavens are rolled back and the wrath of God has begun, Matthew 24:29-31. Jesus had said absolutely nothing about a secret coming or any coming at all until this time. To the contrary, He urgently emphasized the opposite, i. e., He would NOT come in any shape, form, or fashion until both the physical and spiritual powers of heaven were shaken by God when He rolls back the heavens as a scroll, Matthew 24:29.

Jesus explicitly explained that His return would be IMMEDIATELY AFTER the abomination of desolation stands in the holy place (Matthew 24:15; 1-15), and AFTER the wrath of the Antichrist (Matthew 24:21-22; 15-28) is stopped by the beginning the wrath of God, Matthew 24:22, 29-31; 29-51. All the way through the chapter the language of Christ strongly negates any secret coming or any other appearance of Christ before the public initiation of the wrath of God.

The coming of Christ is analogous to the flood in Noah's day (Matthew 24:36-39), and to Sodom and Gomorrah in Lot's day (Luke 17:26-30) in the following ways:

In each case people were wicked and without regard for God.

In each case they should have been WATCHING -- prepared, righteous.

In each case they were not WATCHING -- they did not know, except for a very few. All should have known.

In each case the end came SUDDENLY, AS A THIEF, ONLY on those NOT WATCHING. Daniel 12:10; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-9.

In each case the end was THE WRATH OF GOD.

In each case there was no "secret" escape prior to God's wrath -- just be WATCHING and thereby be prepared.

In each case it was not and is not the wrath of the Antichrist, but God's wrath that was warned against. It is NOT the wrath of the Antichrist, but the wrath of God that we are warned so many, many times to be prepared to escape. The church (the saints, the covenant people, the faithful saved) WILL go through the wrath of the Antichrist, but the church will NOT go through the wrath of God. The unfaithful saved will be judged "with the world" (1 Corinthians 11:32) on earth in the wrath of God following the return of Christ. The "outer darkness," the Gehenna judgments, the portion of the hypocrites and unbelievers, etc., are all the wrath of God on earth immediately AFTER Christ returns.

One taken, the other left. The one is taken alongside the Lord and the other left to suffer the wrath of God on earth as in Noah's day and in Lot's day, Matthew 24:36-51; Mark 13:32-37; Luke 12:36-8; 17:26-36; 21:34-36; Revelation 2:20-22; 3:10; 16:15; 18:4; 22:18-19. All these passages and many, many others like them refer NOT to the wrath of the Antichrist, but to the wrath of God on earth which immediately follows the wrath of the Antichrist. When the heavens are rolled back the drama of the wrath of God and the return of Christ begins. At that time the faithful saved (the covenant people) will be raised, glorified, and presented in holiness first before Christ (Ephesians 5:27; Colossians 1:22) and then before the throne of God, 1 Thessalonians 3:13 (Greek). The unfaithful will be left on earth to go through God's wrath, against which the Scriptures say that God is a consuming fire, Hebrews 12:25-29.

No one knows the day or the hour of Christ's return, Matthew 24:36, 42, 44, 50. These verses and like passages must be compared with the unawareness of the world and the unfaithful saved and the suddenness of the coming of God's wrath on the world in Noah's day and on Sodom and those other cities in Lot's day. The people generally were unaware. They should have known and could have known, but they did not know. Noah and his family knew. Lot, his wife, and two daughters knew. We will not know the day or the hour of Christ's return, but Christ's return should not overtake us as a thief, Daniel 12:10; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11. The Thief coming is a secret coming ONLY in that it will be sudden and unexpected by the world, just as the wrath of God came upon the world in Noah's day and upon those wicked cities in Lot's day, but once those judgments came they ALL knew about them -- "And did not know UNTIL the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be," Matthew 24:39.

Paul explicitly said Christ would NOT return and gather His saints to Himself UNTIL there come a GREAT FALLING AWAY and the ANTICHRIST BE REVEALED and has run the course of his wrath FIRST, 2 Thessalonians 2:3,9. Observe that the subject in verse 1 is the coming of Christ and our gathering together to Him. The Antichrist must be revealed in the middle of the week and pour out 42 months of his wrath against the saints BEFORE Christ returns, gathers the saints to Himself, glorifies them, and turns them loose on the Antichrist, Daniel 7:18,21-22, 25-27; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12. How can anyone fail to see that the subject in verse one is the resurrection and glorification of the saints at Christ's coming! Could Christ's return and the resurrection and rapture take place before the Antichrist is revealed in the middle of that last week of 7 years? The answer is a positive NO? Can Christ return immediately after the Antichrist is revealed? The answer is again NO!. There must be 42 months of the wrath of the Antichrist (God will cut that 42 months a little short, Matthew 24:22), then Christ will return and the covenant people will be gathered to Him, 2 Thessalonians 2:1.

Six days of work, one day of rest. God set a pattern in the very beginning portraying six thousand years of labor under the effects of sin and the curse, with one thousand years of rest under the righteous rule of God, Christ, and the saints, Hebrews 4:3-4; (Genesis 1; 2:1-3). In this passage, its context (Hebrews 3 & 4), and the rest of the Bible, the inspired writer makes it clear that the return of Christ was never to be considered imminent.

The following quotation is from the "The Letter of Barnabas," Chapter 13:4-10, reputed to be written about the third century A.D.

Consider, my children, what that signifies, he finished them in six days. The meaning of it is this: that in six thousand years the Lord will bring all things to an end.

For one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, as he himself testifies, saying, Behold this day shall be as a thousand years. Therefore, children, in six days, that is, in six thousand years, shall all things be accomplished.

And what is that he saith, and he rested the seventh day: he meaneth this: that when his Son shall come, and abolish the season of the Wicked one, and judge the ungodly; and shall change the sun and the moon and the stars, then he shall gloriously rest in the seventh day.

He lastly adds: Thou shalt sanctify it with clean hands and a pure heart. Wherefore, we are greatly deceived if we imagine any one can now sanctify that day which God has made holy, without having a pure heart in all things.

Behold therefore, he will truly sanctify it with blessed rest, when we (having received the righteous promise, when iniquity shall be no more, all things shall be renewed by the Lord) shall be able to sanctify it, being ourselves first made holy.

Lastly he saith unto them: Your new moons and your sabbaths I cannot bear them. Consider what he means by it: The sabbaths, says he, which ye now keep are not acceptable unto me, but those which I have made; When resting from all things I shall begin the eighth day, that is, the beginning of another world.

For which cause we observe the eighth day with gladness, in which Jesus rose from the dead: and having manifested himself to his disciples ascended into heaven."

Till the time of the Gentiles be fulfilled, "And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled," Luke 21:24. Consider the following observations:

This passage is followed immediately by a brief but graphic description of the beginning of God's wrath on earth and the return of Christ, Luke 21:25-28 (26-36). This is not coincidental.

Jerusalem will be especially trodden down by the Gentiles (Antichrist) for 42 months, Revelation 11:2. Compare with Daniel 7:25; 12:7, 11; Revelation 12:6, 14; 13:5.

The time of the Gentiles will continue till the full number of the Gentiles be come in (Romans 11:11-25), that is, till the full number of God's elect are selected from the Gentiles through the church.

When "the fullness of the Gentiles be come in" (Romans 11:11-25), the resurrection and rapture will take place, "For if their (the Jews) being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be (a remnant of saved Jews being grafted back in) BUT LIFE FROM THE DEAD?" Revelation 11:15.

A remnant of believing Jews will be grafted back into the covenant position when Christ returns, Romans 11:11-32; Matthew 23:39; Isaiah 2:1-4; et al.

What is the reason for so many passages urging us to WATCH, be ready, be faithful, Matthew 24; 25; Mark 13; Luke 12:37-48; 17:26-36; 19:11-27; 21:34-36. It is NOT lost people, but saved people (church people, covenant people, servants, those to whom Christ gave the New Covenant commission) who are told to watch, be faithful, and be ready by grace through faith.

Lost people are in no position to WATCH. They must repent, believe, be baptized into a true local church, then they can WATCH.



# CHAPTER X

## SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

There will be a sequence of major events which all creation will observe when the heavens are rolled back. The wrath of the Antichrist will have been under way for almost 42 months, the world will be proclaiming "peace and safety" (1 Thessalonians 5:4), a remnant of Israel will have been in their place of protection for 42 months (Revelation 12:6,14), the two witnesses, Elijah and the apostle John (???), will have been witnessing for the same 42 months (Revelation 11:1-13), and the slaughter of Jews, church saints, and all others who will not submit to the Antichrist will still be going on, Revelation 6:9-11; 12:17; Matthew 24:22.

### 1. THE TWO WITNESSES

The two witnesses will be killed, their bodies lie in the streets of Jerusalem for 3 1/2 days, their bodies will then be made alive by God, and caught up into heaven in the sight of the world, Revelation 11:11-12.

### 2. A GREAT EARTHQUAKE

There will be a great earthquake, a tenth part of Jerusalem is destroyed, seven thousand die, the remnant are scared and give glory to God, Revelation 11:13. This will be only a few days, perhaps only a few hours or even minutes, before the next great prophetic event.

### 3. SIGNS IN THE HEAVENS

There will be signs in the heavens of universe shattering magnitude, Luke 21:25-26; Matthew 24:29; Mark 13:24-25. The sun and the moon will be blacked out and stars will streak through the sky, the powers of the heavens will be mightily shaken, and the earth will be moved out of its place, which will cause an earth-wide earthquake or earthquakes with the further disturbances of cities, mountains, islands, oceans, and continents, Luke 21:25-26.

### 4. THE HEAVENS ROLLED BACK

The heavens will be rolled back, and the throne of God is seen with the Son sitting on the right hand of God, Daniel 7:9; Revelation 4: Matthew 26:64; Mark 14:62. Hundreds of millions of angels are rainbowed about the throne and multiplied myriads of other angels stand in readiness before it. The twenty-four elders are seated on their thrones, the four cherubs are in their places around the center throne, and the judgment books are opened.

## 5. CHRIST USHERED IN BEFORE GOD

Christ will be brought before the Father on the throne, Daniel 7:13-14. Be assured, this real life drama will not be over in a moment or the twinkling of an eye. The first major event in this inauguration and crowning of the King of kings ceremony is for Christ to be ushered in before the heavenly Father, probably by the mightiest and most glorious of the holy angels and in the midst of the most worshipful and festive acclaim of praise and righteousness and worthiness ever.

## 6. ALL EYES ON THE THRONE OF GOD

The throne of God will be intensely observed by all creation, Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14, 18, 22, 26-27; Revelation 6:12-17; Matthew 26:64; Mark 14:62; John 1:51 et al. The greatest drama in the history of creation has begun to publicly unfold before the eyes of every living creature. This will be an open display of such irresistible and infinite power and majesty of the divine Persons and their attendants that the earth and the whole universe tremble and shake exceedingly, Isaiah 24:1-23, read this whole chapter. Only the power of God preserves it through His wrath to be given as an inheritance to His Son and His elect covenant people.

## 7. CHRIST RECEIVES THE KINGDOM

Christ will be formally crowned in a divine inaugural fashion as King of kings and Lord of lords by the supreme Judge of the universe in the presence of the greatest audience ever of both friend and foe. Christ will be given the covenanted kingdom (Luke 22:28-30) to rule the nations a thousand years and put down all enemies, Daniel 7:13-14; 1 Corinthians 15:21-28; Revelation 20. As Christ formally receives the kingdom from the Father, Satan and all evil spirits, the Antichrist, the false prophet, and all the nations of the earth including everyone in hell will be looking on in indescribable terror, Revelation 6:12-17.

## 8. GOD LAUGHS AND CHIDES THE NATIONS

God will laugh at the Antichrist and his sin-enslaved followers, and taunt the nations. He will have the nations in derision because of their unbelief, their persistent rejection of His constant and merciful efforts to bring them to repentance, and their unceasing and willful rebellions against His ever present and urgent warnings as they stubbornly rush on seeking to satisfy their insatiable appetite for their own sinful ways, Psalms 2:1-6; 59:8; Proverbs 1:26; Revelation 6:12-17.

## 9. INAUGURAL ADDRESS

God will speak to the nations in His wrath, Psalms 2:5-6, 10-12; Proverbs 1:24-33. After Christ is crowned, but still sharing in the inaugural ceremonies, He will be seated at the right hand of God, Matthew 26:64; Mark 14:62. About this time God will address all intelligent beings in the whole universe, angels, wicked spirits, and mankind in heaven, on earth, and in hell. God will personally and publicly proclaim Christ King and Head of all things on behalf of the church, Psalms 2:6-12; Ephesians 1:18-23; Colossians 1:16.

## 10. CHRIST COMES FOR THE SAINTS

Christ will descend with Michael and his angels and the spirits of the saints whose bodies are still in the graves, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. Christ will stop somewhere between the throne of God and the earth, where the judgment seat of Christ will be set up for Him to judge the nations, particularly His saints, Matthew 24:40-51; 25:1-46; 2 Corinthians 5:10. Ministering angels escort the spirits of the saints on down to their bodies which God will quicken, glorify, and bring out of their graves. The living saints will also be glorified. The angels will then accompany the glorified saints back to meet Christ in the air, 1 Thessalonians 4:17.

## 11. CHRIST JUDGES THE NATIONS

Christ will judge the nations by taking each faithful saved person to Himself and leaving the unfaithful saved and the unsaved on the earth to suffer God's wrath, Matthew 24:40-51; 25:1-46. Hundreds of millions of saved people not in the covenants will be left behind, many of whom will cry, "Lord, look what we have done in your Name, "but Christ will say, I never knew you." Knowing God and Christ and being known by them is a unique covenant relationship. All the unfaithful saved will be raised and left on the earth among the nations (see other studies on this subject).

## 12. CHRIST PRESENTS HIS BRIDE TO HIMSELF IN GLORY AND HOLINESS

Christ will present His bride (the faithful covenant people) to Himself in holiness without spot (Ephesians 5:27), will judge and reward the saints for their "by grace through faith" works, 2 Corinthians 5:10; 12 John 8. Christ will punish the unfaithful saved according to their works (Matthew 18:34-35; Luke 12:2-3, 46-48), and will destroy the unsaved with the mark of the Antichrist (beast) from the earth by the end of the 1335 days of the wrath of God, Daniel 12:12; Isaiah 13:3-13; Malachi 4:1-3; Matthew 13:41-42. This will leave only unfaithful saved people in flesh bodies on the earth after God's wrath is finished.

## 13. THE HEAVENS STANDING OPEN

The heavens are still standing open, God's throne is still seen as before, and the general scene is still within the coming of Christ. While still in mid-heaven Christ will presents His bride "blameless in holiness before (in the presence of) our God and Father IN the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ WITH all His saints," 1 Thessalonians 3:13. This is the same scene we see in Revelation 7:9-17; 14:1-5; and 15:1-4. These passages present to us what is comparable to different photos of the same scene.

#### 14. GOD SENDS CHRIST TO EXECUTE WRATH AND REIGN

God sends Christ and the glorified bride, the covenant people, to execute His wrath upon the enemy, to remove from the earth Satan, the Antichrist, the false prophet, and all their followers, and to reign for a thousand years. One reason God leaves the nations on earth still in sinful bodies, though the curse, Satan, and all evil spirits are gone, is to demonstrate to angels and men the exceeding sinfulness of sin. In a perfect utopian society, man in his sinful state is still a slave of sin.

#### 15. CHRIST COMES WITH SAINTS AND ANGELS

Christ with the glorified saints and angels descend from the heavenly throne to the earth to execute The Wrath of God, Jude 14-15; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9. Caiaphas, the high priest, before the Sanhedrin charged Jesus to tell them if He was the Son of God. "And Jesus said, 'I am. And you will see the Son of Man SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE POWER, AND COMING WITH THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN,'" Mark 14:62; Matthew 26:64; Revelation 6:12-17; John 1:51. This statement requires the heavens to be standing open so Christ would be seen from the earth both sitting on the right hand of God and then coming back to judge the earth, requiring one series of events as is being seen from many other passages also.

#### 16. CHRIST DESCENDS TO THE MOUNT OF OLIVES

Christ descends to the Mount of Olives (Zech 14:4-11), then to Jerusalem (Revelation 14:1-5; Isaiah 4:2-6), where Christ will sit on the throne of David (Luke 1:32-33) and execute God's wrath through the saints as seen in Daniel 7:18, 22, 26-27; Joel 2:1-11. While the saints are executing God's wrath from Jerusalem, the angels will be pouring out the vials, Revelation 16. For a while the heavens will remain standing open with the saints and angels visibly traversing between the throne of God and the throne of Christ, John 1:51.

#### 17. THE PERIOD OF GOD'S WRATH

The period of God's wrath is what was requested by the souls under the altar (Revelation 6:9-11), and includes the wrath under the 6th seal (Revelation 6:12-17), the wrath and destruction referenced under the 7th trumpet (Revelation 11:18), and the wrath of God of all 7 vials, Revelation 16. Again, it is during this

period of time that the saints are wearing out the Antichrist and his kingdom, Daniel 7:18, 22, 26-27; 12:12; Joel 2:1-11.

## 18. BE WATCHING FOR WHAT? BE READY FOR WHAT?

Watch therefore for you do not know what hour your Lord will come, Matthew 24:42. It is the period of God's wrath on earth that we are urgently warned against -- NOT the wrath of the Antichrist, but the wrath of God. REPEAT: we are warned to be watching and be prepared for the coming of Christ and the wrath of God that follows on the earth, NOT the wrath of the Antichrist, Matthew 18:1-14, 23-35; 22:13; 24:36-51; 25:1-30; Mark 9:38-50; Luke 12:35-48; 17:26-36; 21:34-36; Jno 15:6; Romans 2:5, 8-9; 1 Corinthians 11:32; 2 Corinthians 5:10-11; Colossians 3:6; Hebrews 2:3; 10:26-31; 1 Peter 4:17-18; 2 John 2:28; Revelation 2:20-22; 3:10; 16:15; 18:4; 22:18-19; et al. The faithful covenant people are NOT appointed to the wrath of God (1 Thessalonians 5:9), but we have been told explicitly that God will deliver the saints into the hands of the Antichrist for 42 months to be worn out by him, Daniel 7:21, 25; Revelation 13:7. These "saints" are the covenant people who are joined to Christ to conquer and possess the kingdom and reign with Christ, as indicated in the five scenes of Daniel 7 and many other passages throughout the Scriptures.

## 19. THE JUDGMENT OF THE FALSE BRIDE

The false bride is called great Babylon, Mystery, Babylon the Great, the great city Babylon, the great whore, the mother of harlots, with explanations that "the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth," Revelation 17:18. The mother harlot, her daughters, and all false religions that join with her will be judged under the 7th vial which is down toward the end of the 1335 days of God's wrath, about 3 years after Christ returns, Revelation 16:17-21; 17:16-18; 18:1-24. The Lord puts it into the minds of the Antichrist and the ten kings that are with him to utterly destroy the false bride, Revelation 17:15-18. This is just before the battle of Armageddon, Revelation 16:17-21; 17; 18; 19.

## 20. THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB

The writer of the book of Hebrews speaks of an innumerable host of angels in festive assembly, Hebrews 12:22-23. This is addressing particularly the time of the Lord's return. Likewise, in Luke 12:36 Jesus instructs us to be alertly waiting for Him when He returns out of the wedding feast or festivities. When will the marriage feast begin? The Bible says Satan and his angels will make war in heaven but will be permanently cast out to the earth and have only 42 months left. This is precisely the period of the wrath of the Antichrist, Revelation 12. So Satan will be cast out of heaven just before the middle of Daniel's 70th week of 7 years. When Satan is cast out a loud voice in heaven will say, "Now is salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ for the accuser

of our brethren is cast down. ....Therefore rejoice, you heavens, and you that dwell in them....." Revelation 12:10-12.

It appears that the wedding festivities begin when Satan is cast out of heaven in the middle of the week and continue on through at least until the wedding proclamation just after the false bride is destroyed near the end of God's wrath and just before Armageddon, Revelation 19. This means the wedding feast will begin 42 months before Christ departs out of the wedding festivities to come for His bride, and lasts another 44 1/2 months or more. The actual wedding takes place when Christ and His bride become ONE FLESH (Ephesians 5:31-32) when Christ returns, i.e., when the saints are glorified. When the false bride is destroyed some 3 years later (Revelation 19), there will be a formal proclamation.

## 21. ARMAGEDDON

Armageddon is the last major event in the period of God's wrath. Throughout God's wrath the Antichrist and the nations on earth will be battered so intensely as to be in complete confusion and utterly helpless, Joel 2:1-11; Revelation 16. With vial 6 God will hold back the forces of His wrath and permit Satan, the Antichrist, and the false prophet to regroup their forces, Revelation 16:12-16. Then the evil forces will be called up to the valley of decision (Joel 3) where they are destroyed, Revelation 19:11-21; 20:1-3. Armageddon is 1335 days AFTER the return of Christ.

NOTE TWO: The many warnings throughout the New Testament to be "WATCHING" and be "READY" for the return of Christ is in regard to the wrath of God, NOT to the wrath of the Antichrist. True indeed, we must be knowledgeable and prepared for the rise of the Antichrist, yet the church and all others who are alive will go through the wrath of the Antichrist. It is the wrath of God on earth which begins when Christ returns that we are warned against. Those who are not prepared will be left to go through the wrath of God. Those who have died but were not faithful by God's grace as God counts faithfulness will be raised and put through the wrath of God, they will be scourged, put to shame, and suffer great pain, Luke 12:46-48; Matthew 25:30. But no one in a glorified body will suffer any of these things. Be assured, the Bible has much to say on this subject.