

God's Last Days Relationship With Those of Noah-like Faith



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Introduction

On the morning of February 1, 1977, I began to write down a few thoughts, yes, even revelations about the false prophet. Little did I suspect that it would evolve into this theme, which are the words spoken by Jesus to His closest circle of friends. These words concern one of the main signs of His return; *“But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”*

Matt 24:37-39 Now, in May of 1990 and the fifth draft of this piece I will introduce its purpose or set the stage, then go on to present the pageant acted out by Noah and how it applies to God’s people today. This writing reviews Noah’s relationship with God, the events that took place, and how those events do, in Jesus’ own words, parallel the times in which we are living. Also included are the promises He has made to those who do as Noah did, and exercise obedience to all God’s commands. We will see the beautiful and exciting connection between the Ark and its use, and the “Rapture” or “Catching up” of the “Church of Jesus Christ”, in saving the righteous from great tribulation. The passage from Matthew goes on to say; *“For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”* We will show by the prophecies concerning the latter days that we are, in fact living in those evil times, and with every hour coming closer and closer to the

“catching up”, of Jesus’ bride, which is the “great escape” from the judgment to come.

PART I

OUR LIVELY RESPONSIBILITY

I. World Condition Today!

“And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.” Gen. 6:5-7

Here, by way of the Scriptures, I will review Noah’s life and relationship with God.

In Genesis 6:5-7 our story of Noah begins with the condition of the world and God’s feelings about the whole mess. *“And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.”* Then again in verses 11-13 God’s feelings are repeated; *“The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them;*

and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.” So we see that God was so grieved by the condition of man and the world, that He was even sorry that He had ever made man and His first emotion was to destroy the complete grossness of it all. But we see in verses 8 and 9 in the middle of His grief about the condition of the world; God remembered Noah and thought better of His first idea to destroy everything. *“But Noah found grace (favor) in the eyes of the LORD. These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.”* (The same is said of Enoch that he walked with God.) We will talk more about Enoch later.

After God tells Noah of His plans to destroy the earth, He then gives him all the instructions for the Ark and preservation of his family and the animals, fowls, creeping things and the necessary provisions for all. Inserted right in the midst of these instructions we find this; *“behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and everything that is in the earth shall die. But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons’ wives with thee.”* Gen. 6:14-18

Now in Genesis 6:22 we find one of the most important verses of the entire story of Noah. It simply says; *“Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.”*! ...I will come back to this later and we will explore how this principle applies to us today.

Then in chapter 7 verse 1, God issues His invitation to Noah,

just as we will see He also did to John in Revelation. In fact He used the same word to open that invitation; Come! as did Jesus many times. To tie it in with this special invitation, His last invitation of His written word, the Bible, He says in Revelation 22:17; *“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”* God’s call to Noah was; *“And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.”*

After all had entered into the Ark we find in 7:16; *“And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and THE LORD SHUT HIM IN.”* Let’s remember that Noah did not shut the door, nor his wife, nor one of his sons, nor their wives, but God Himself *“SHUT THEM IN”*, just as those raptured will be shut in during the tribulation.

During the time God had Noah and his family safely hidden away from destruction, all else was destroyed. *“And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were “WITH HIM” in the ark.”* Gen. 7:23 Throughout the Bible we see small samples of God’s judgment, but nothing to compare with the flood, except when the time of the end is being spoken of, culminating in the book of Revelation. There are also many prophecies that confirm and couple with Revelation, prophecies spoken by the Old Testament Prophets. We will bring the prophecies together when we

compare the days of Noah with the prophecies concerning the time just before the return of Christ.

We are told that God thought of Noah, I think we could even say with fondness and favor, and because of this He stopped the destruction of the flood and began to restore the earth for His elect. They were Noah, his family and all the living things that had come into the Ark with him. Chapter eight verses one and two say; *“And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters asswaged; The fountains also of the deep and the windows of heaven were stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained.”* Jesus left a promise of similar things near the end of the ‘great tribulation’; *“And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened.”* Matt. 24:22

We then have the account of Noah’s testing to see if the time was right to emerge from the Ark, first by sending out a raven then a dove. Next, God spoke to Noah and told him to go forth from the Ark along with all who had shared this sanctuary during so great a watery catastrophe, yes, a watery grave, for all the earth!

The first thing Noah did was to offer a gift of thanksgiving to the Lord for what He had done for him and his family. This was very pleasing to the Lord and we see that He said; *“And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man’s sake; for the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth; neither will I*

again smite any more every thing living, as I have done. While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.” Gen. 8:21-22

In the beginning of chapter 9 God blessed Noah and his sons, and gave them dominion over the animals, gave some instructions, and then starting with verse 8 we have such a beautiful promise not only to Noah and his sons but to their seed, which extends even unto us.

“And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying,
And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you;

And with every living creature that is with you, of the fowl, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth with you; from all that go out of the ark, to every beast of the earth.

And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.

And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations:

I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.

And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud:

And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall

no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.

And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.

And God said unto Noah, This is the token of the covenant, which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth.” Gen. 9:8-17

Now that I have reviewed the life of Noah and the events of his life through his relationship with God we will return to the title Scripture of this writing. “*But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*” Matt 24:37 This is the teaching of Jesus when His disciples came unto Him privately, saying; “*Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?*” He spoke of many other things in what has become known as the Olivet Discourse, but we will be focusing on this part of His instructions, and how they apply to us today.

We will also deal with other Scriptures that describe the last days just before the coming of the Lord and leave it to the reader in some cases to draw his own conclusions about the current fulfillment of these Scriptures.

Scattered throughout the entire Bible we find many things that qualify one for “Brideship” or the “Firstfruits” resurrection, and the rewards that accompany that honour. We will explore some of these things, and draw some conclusions.

2. Walking With God

“The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.

And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.

And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.” Gen. 6:11-13

“But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.” Gen. 6:8 & 9

“And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.” Gen. 5:24

God shared His thoughts and feelings with His friend Noah, perhaps His only friend on the earth at that time. Nestled in God's statement to Noah we find that God remembered Noah and thought better of His first idea to destroy everything. Noah found grace (favor) in the eyes of the Lord. Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and ‘Noah walked with God’, as was the case with Enoch. Truth is: it is one thing to be touched by the Lord, but something else to “WALK WITH HIM”. A minister we have known put it this way; “First comes the heat and then the light.” It is pretty easy to follow the Lord in the excitement of first knowing Him, as is the thrill of a new romance between boy and girl, or man and woman, but when the honeymoon relationship is over and the reality of daily living or walking together is at hand,

some go seeking new thrills. The alternative is maturing or WALKING with one's mate, whether it be God or a partner of the opposite sex. For some, walking with God is harder than walking with a mate of flesh, because in our relationship with God, we must walk by faith not by sight, but we see our companion of flesh. As was the case with most of the saints that found grace or favor with the Lord, those today who are willing to truly WALK with Him, not just play at religion, and talk a good game, they, for the most part lead a lonely life, by the standards of the world.

As I mentioned, it was said of Enoch that he walked with God, and he was the first fruit or type of the "Rapture" or "catching up" of the church. He was the first to be taken up while still alive. One man! The passage actually says; *"And Enoch WALKED WITH GOD: and he was not; for God took him."* Genesis 5:24 I looked up the words; "was not", "walked" and "took" in the Hebrew used here, and what I found confirmed that the word "walked" implies much more than the simple meaning of that word in English. Some of those things are; "along, apace, behave (self), come (on) continually, be conversant, plus be eased, enter, exercise (self) plus follow, forth, forward, go (about, abroad, along, forward, on, out, up and down), plus grow, march, walk, walk (abroad, on, to and fro, up and down, to places), wander, wax, way (faring man, plus be weak, whirl." (Strong's concordance) I thought the word "took" was also very interesting; "to take (in the widest variety of applications):—accept, bring, buy, carry away, drawn, fetch, get, infold, plus many, mingle, place, receive (ing) reserve, seize, send for, take (away, ing, up), use, win." So let us summarize what the

words WALKED, and TOOK, tell us about Enoch and his relationship with God. These words tell us he walked continually wherever necessary or wherever being led—to follow! He followed beside, went forth, went forward, went on, went up or down, went to and fro, even went places, wandered and was weak (I think in his own will, enough to follow.) The word also implies that one will be eased into entering this walk, but will exercise (self) to follow. This walk requires being conversant, talking to God continually as one marches on, growing. In TOOK we see that, first, Enoch was accepted and drawn, he was bought or redeemed, he was fetched, carried away, enfolded. Then the implication reaches forward that many will also be received to the same place, kept in reserve, sent for, seized, taken away, even taken “up”, and that they will be used and will win. Relatively speaking there is so little said about Enoch but the Lord has had those things expressed in such a way that if we are willing to look into those few things, even search them out and then be willing to receive what we find they can truly increase our faith concerning the mystery of the “Rapture”. In Hebrews 11:5 we are told this; *“By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.”* Down in the 16th verse of that same, “faith chapter” we read; *“But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.”*

I was so edified by these findings I was urged to look up the

Greek for the words “caught” and “up” from 1 Thessalonians 4:17. After looking this up I realized the Spirit had tied together for me, Enoch, the first of a type, (those caught up alive) with those who will be a part of the finale of this type. I also found that particular word for “caught” was used only four times: Acts 8:39 when Phillip was translated after ministering salvation to the Ethiopian eunuch. In II Corinthians 12:2 when Paul speaks of having been caught up to the 3rd heaven, and 1 Thessalonians 4:17, concerning the “catching up” of the church to meet the Lord in the air. The last one is Revelation 12:5 where the woman brings forth her man child and he is caught up unto God, and to His throne. Each of these four events is slightly different. Phillip was translated bodily from one place on the earth to another. Then Paul says “*whether in the body or out of the body (he could not tell), only God knoweth*”, when he was caught up to the 3rd heaven. He was returned to the earth alone. In 1 Thessalonians 4, those “caught up” to meet the Lord in the air will “forever be with the Lord” and return with Him to claim the earth and set up His Kingdom. In Revelation 12:5 again we see the bride being “caught up” to escape the wrath that is to come upon the earth. Perhaps Paul was just another type like Enoch, but unlike the saints that return “with Christ”, he had returned alone for the time wasn’t right for the Lord to return, but he acted out the bride’s “catching up” and return. The word “caught”; #726 in Strong’s Concordance says; –to seize, catch (away, up) pluck, pull, take (by force). It is said to be a derivative of #138 which says; to take for one’s self, i.e. to prefer; –choose. Some of the forms are borrowed from a cognate (from the same

origin), which is otherwise obsolete. We are also told that this #138 is probably akin to #142. #142 says; a prime verb to lift, to take up or away; figuratively to raise also (the voice) to keep in suspense, to keep the (mind) in suspense, specifically to sail away (i.e. weigh anchor); by Hebrew (comp. to #5375) to expiate sin: away with, bear (up), carry, lift up, loose, make doubt, put away, remove, take (away, up).

Again I will attempt to summarize. That first number, number 726 gives this understanding or aspect of that kind of “catching up”; Those who are a part of this “catching up” have little or in fact, nothing, to do with what is happening to themselves in a physical sense, where they are seized, caught away, caught up, plucked, pulled, even taken by force. Unfolding all the implications of this word “caught” is like peeling off the layers of an onion or a telescope unfolding. That first number tells us how those blessed to be in that group are taken; without their own power. The next number; 138 shows us from God’s point of view why that select group includes the ones it does. God will have taken them for himself, preferred them, chosen them. (Many are called but few are chosen). Some of the forms of this term are borrowed from a word of the same origin that is otherwise obsolete. This speaks to me of how exclusive the term and experience is: it is used only three times in the New Testament and then God arranged for some forms of it to become obsolete, except for its use here. We are referred to # 142 and this verb shows us through God’s action the things that are made possible for those whom he has preferred – – – chosen!

Satan has used every trick he could to make those who believe in the “catching up” bodily of the church, doubt God will at that time keep their minds in suspense so Satan will not be able to attack them with thoughts of doubt. Perhaps the Lord will cause them to raise their voices in praise to Him or to pray in their heavenly language, tongues, or in the Spirit, to keep their eyes and hearts on Him and nothing else. He will lift them up, lift them away, take them. It will be so easy once it takes place, it will be like sailing away – weighing anchor. One of the reasons for this will be as we leave the Earth; we will begin to share the complete liberty of the expiation of sin by Jesus. We will be loosed from the sin and cares of this world that could so easily beset us. God will remove us from that, take us away, bear us up, carry us, lift us up, take us up and away, and put us away (for safekeeping)! The “up” in this passage surely needs no explanation – upward or on the top; above, brim, high up. Perhaps it is noteworthy to say that “the high up” could mean the 3rd heaven here?

Going back to Genesis and Enoch briefly, “was” and “not”, also confirmed that there is no doubt that God took Enoch up unto himself while there was still breath in him, He took him up alive as he remained on the Earth. Genesis 5: 24 reads; *“And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.”* In looking up “took” from that passage I found; prim. root; to take (in widest variety of applications); accept, bring, buy, carry away, drawn, fetch, get in fold, X many, mingle, place, receive (ing), reserve, seize, send for, take (away, ing, up), use, win. I have no doubt in my mind that Enoch had been taken by God, not having seen

death of the body. I was led to check out what the concordance had to say about the name Enoch, and that only strengthened my conviction that Enoch was the first type of the “catching up” of the Bride of Christ. Enoch from #2596 initiate; an antediluvian patriarch. #2596 -- prim. root; prob. to narrow (comp. #2614); fig. to initiate or to discipline; dedicate; train up. The next thing I found, didn’t seem to fit at first, but the more I read it the more sense it made. I now believe it does fit with other things the Spirit has taught our fellowship about one of the major requirements for being a part of the Bride of Christ. That requirement is having died to oneself.

In view of that I share the rest of what I found concerning the meaning of Enoch’s name; #2614 prim. root to be narrow; by imp. to throttle, or (reflex) to choke oneself to death (by a rope) hang self strangle. What all this tells me is that Enoch was an antediluvian patriarch who lived a disciplined dedicated, narrow life (just as we are told the path is narrow). I think it also implies that God trained him up. That he choked himself or died to his own will in favor of God’s will. Because of this he was the first one who initiated the mystery of being “caught up” alive, as a source of hope and faith for those who came after an example for us to lead a simple life of dying to ourselves and walking with the Lord.

Noah is our next example of God saving His elect from the Earth. His protection of Noah and his family is a sample of the righteous being saved from God’s judgment. In Elijah we have another example of the Lord taking one of His own, one of His servants that was called to a lonely walk, of battling the enemies

of God. Then God in His mercy and love took Elijah to himself. In 1 Kings we read; “...It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life...” 1 Kings 19:4 Then in verse 14 “And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.” In verse 18... The Lord answers Elijah in this way; “Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him...” Often when we feel we are as alone in our walk as Elijah did, it is good to remember the Lord’s answer to him: That He had 7000 more that were also walking with him. They may not be visible to us in a given body, but they almost surely there, throughout the entire world, as surely as they were in Elijah’s day. (Recently the Lord arranged for my husband and I to meet and fellowship with two of those “7,000”. Due to some Christian literature we ordered we began to correspond with this couple a few years earlier. We learned a little about one another through these letters. In fact, I quoted the Scripture about the “7,000” to them once. My husband and I decided to take two of our vacation days and visit the couple in Lancaster, New Hampshire, and meet them face to face. What a blessing it was! We still marvel at the many similarities with which God has led us, how He has called us to a walk that seems lonely and powerless to the world. The four of us agreed, now we wouldn’t have it any other way.

It is a great privilege to be in the company of such people as Enoch, Noah, Elijah and Paul. In II Kings chapter 2 we see God’s

reward to Elijah for his faithfulness to Him in his very lonely and often most frightening walk. He was one of God's, not only called, but also chosen. Verses 9, 10 and 11; *"And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee."* (Elijah knew that God was going to take him.) *And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me. And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so. And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven."* So God has left testimonies all during His various dispensation of how he saves the righteous from his wrath or judgment and rewards the faithful for their faithfulness. Enoch and Elijah left us a testimony to hold on to for the promise of the "catching up" of Christ's bride.

Concerning Genesis 6:11 & 13. I will just say I believe God arranged through the Holy Spirit to have it repeated here to emphasize how grieved He was with the condition of man and the world... So there would be no doubt about His feelings in the matter. He has done the same throughout both the Old and New Testaments on every subject of importance to health and life (eternal life). He has had His servants act things out over and over again so man could even see the rewards and consequences of being obedient, and many times God used those that were not His servants, (as well as some who were) and they never knew

they had been used by Him in one of His pageant's for the benefit of others.

3. So Did He!

WE MUST BUILD

“Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.” Gen. 6:14

“Thus did Noah; according to all God commanded him, so did he.” Gen. 6:22

God gives Noah instructions for the building of the Ark in order that he, his family and the animals might be saved. He has always done this for man even since the time of Noah. Today He has left us with the Holy Scriptures, the Bible, and equally important His Holy Spirit as our teacher. We must have a spirit willing to be taught, though. Through the written word (logos) and the (rhema) personal word from God, brought to us from the Holy Ghost, we have all we need to be saved as was Noah and his family. As the account of the instructions is given, we find a break in those blueprints, inserted in that break we find a reminder of the seriousness of what is to come: along with God's determination to bring judgment of the Earth. Just as He has been and is even now, God is constantly warning of the coming judgment. The reminder to Noah was; *“behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die.”* As He always does, for this is part of His character, he gives Noah

promises for his obedience to the word of the Lord. *"I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee."* He promises to save Noah's household, but a promise of a covenant yet to come is also given him. He guarantees to save us, yea, even our whole households if we will listen to Him, do as He says, give up our own way we do things His way. We are in fact saved by the New Covenant, Jesus our Saviour and our Lord. The covenant made with Noah does, however, extend to us today as we will see later on. The next few verses go back to God's list for Noah, the animals that he is to bring into the Ark, and the provisions they will need to stay alive. In Gen.6:22 we are told; *"Thus did Noah; according to all God commanded him, so did he."* John lovingly exhorts us in this manner;

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." 1 John 2:15-18

In Philippians 3:8-14 Paul tells us how we can do as Noah.... *"According to all God commanded him, so did he!"* *"But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found*

in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” (Here I would like to share that E. W. Bullinger says of the phrase “high calling” from this passage in his book, *Great Cloud of Witnesses*, on Hebrews 11, page 30; he says the rendering that would be truer to the Greek here is “calling on high”. Something I just noticed too is that the calling is done by God in or for Christ Jesus. If one sees this prize as the “catching up” of the bride, as my household does, this tends to confirm that this is what it is about, for we are told by Jesus several times that of that time only the Father knows, not even He (Jesus) Himself. I also looked up the Greek word used here for high, and it is the same as was used in 1 Thessalonians in “caught up” to meet the Lord in the air. (Upward or on the top, above, or brim, high, up).

As God did for Noah, He will also do for us; He will see that we have all the knowledge, wisdom and understanding to know what

He requires of us. The Bible reassures us in such Scriptures as these about this matter.

“Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in anything ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.” Phil. 3:15

“But let patience have her perfect work that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.” James 1:4

“As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance.” 1 Peter 1:14

PART II

REJECTING THIS PRESENT EVIL WORLD

4. Counting the cost

The Scriptures state that so simply that “According to all that God commanded him, SO DID HE.” God has also commanded us through His Scriptures and in our hearts by the Holy Ghost. We are without excuse! One of his commands is to count the cost.

“And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them,

If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?

Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him,

Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish..”

Luke 14:25-30

I mentioned counting the cost here because He has told us the cost is high, in fact it is everything. Of course the rewards are as great as the cost, Everything! Here are some of the costs, which we believe have spiritual meaning;

“And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites.

And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow

hath cast in more than they all:

For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had."

(I believe this could be an example of the Philadelphia church, in Revelation 3, as opposed to the "Scarlet Woman" of Revelation 18:7, who says; *"I sit a queen, and am no widow."*) The widow of Luke 21:2 gave all! I feel sure it is no coincidence that following this account of the widow, starting with verse 7 is when Christ's disciples ask: *"when shall these things be?"*...Jesus began to exhort them concerning the happenings that will signal His return. He also instructs His own, both Jews and the church, to be certain they are not deceived by the multitude of false prophets that will rise up. He makes them aware of the rewards and the penalties for doing, or not doing as He says. This account of a very important time Jesus spent with a small number closest to Him, as I said before, is called the "Olivet Discourse", recorded in Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21. Luke 14:33 also speaks of the cost of being a true disciple of Jesus. *"So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple."* We are told, *"but as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation: because it is written, be ye holy; for I am holy."* 1 Peter 1:15 & 16

"And the Lord said unto Noah, come thou and all thy house into the Ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation." Gen. 7:1 They paid the cost. Jesus himself exhorts us; *"Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to*

escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.” Luke 21:36 As God called Noah to enter the Ark for he had seen him righteous, so will He call once more, those He finds worthy or righteous to “come up hither”. So as the sound of a trumpet talking called John to “come up hither” in the spirit in the 4th chapter of Revelation, so will the bride of Christ be called by a trumpet to be “caught up” to meet the Lord in the air. Thess. 4:13-18

5. Come!

“And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.” Gen. 7:1

“After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, COME up hither, and I will show thee things which must be hereafter.” Rev. 4:1

Just as God called to Noah to enter into the Ark, he invites us in a similar way many times in the Scriptures, and in our hearts, if we are willing to pay the price. The promises are so wonderful they are hard for most to believe. One of the first of these invitations by Jesus himself is; *“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”* Matt. 11:28 This is His invitation to us to come to Him and partake of the salvation made possible by His death on our behalf...He is the only door to God the father! He bids us rest from the labours and heavy burdens of trying to save ourselves, and invites us to accept His great gift,... His life and death for us.

Then, in His letter to the church of Philadelphia, the spiritual church of the last times, He assures us through John of His “Open door policy”. *“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;”* Rev.3:7

In verse 8 this group is weak in the eyes of the world (or

unrecognized) they have little or no influence. This weakness reminds us of the widow who gave all, but had only a little.... yet there is an open door to heaven. *"I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name."* Rev. 3:8 In Matthew 25:6 we see another invitation made in the parable of the ten virgins. *"And at midnight there was a cry made, behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him."* There were five foolish and five wise, one group was prepared and the other was not, we will see why they were not prepared in another section, but in verse 10 we find the outcome. *"And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut."* *"Afterward came also the other virgins, saying Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said verily I say unto you I know you not."* Matt. 25:11 & 12 So the invitation was made but, the door was closed to those who were not ready.

In Matthew 22:1-14 we find another invitation parable that is pretty much self-explanatory.

"And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said,

The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,

And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.

Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and

my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage.

But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise:

And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them.

But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.

Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.

So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.

And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment:

And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless.

Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

For many are called, but few are chosen.”

I believe the first part of the parallel speaks of all those who have heard God’s invitation to “come” to His son, whether it be by word of mouth or in their hearts. The king sent forth other or

different servants when there was no response to the first, just as the Lord does with us, to give them another chance to be sure they heard. Often many, many more than two opportunities are given. Yet, it is not uncommon for those who have been invited to make light of it, just as those in the parable did, though they have been more interested in the things of this world and some have even grabbed the servants of God and killed them physically and attempted to kill them spiritually as well. In the parable the King then sent his armies to destroy and burn those evil ones. God will bring destruction on those who are like the people in the parable. So when the wedding feast was almost ready, the King sent his servant into the highways* and byways to gather all men who were willing to attend the feast and rejoice with him because of the wedding of his son. Just as the King in the parable, now that the time is near for the celebration to begin, God is also continually sending out the invitation to “come”, to all conditions of men, from the highways and the byways. That invitation includes the “*Marriage Supper of the Lamb*”, that the father is preparing for His son, the Lamb of God. We must make certain we are properly clothed though, not like the man in the parable who went in but did not have on the required robe and was cast into outer darkness. We must be sure we are clothed in the robes of righteousness furnished us only by the righteousness of Christ when we yield our lives to Him. If we aren’t wearing these robes we will not be allowed to attend. When we are covered by the blood of the lamb, we are clothed in His righteousness. The last verse of the parable says; “*For many are called, but few are*

chosen.” I believe this parable and especially the way it ends makes one thing very clear: it doesn’t matter what men think is right, fair or important, we must put our ideas and ways aside and do it God’s way. Yes, many will be called, but out of that number few would be willing to do it the King’s way, and they will miss the greatest party, celebration, feast of all time.

Here I would like to include an excerpt from a piece entitled “Noah’s time in 1982” from “Midnight Call” by Win Malgo. “Perhaps Noah called to them, “Come with me.” You can still come!” But they did not do it. “I see among these people many different types. There were people who meant well with Noah, who admired him, but who at the same time were friends of the world, who never made a decision to go into the Ark themselves. “And they knew not...!” And when the door closed they were outside. Do you see the closing door today?

(*NOTE: In the parable – *“The Kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain King which had a marriage for his son.”* At last he sent out into the highways and byways. He wanted for all who were willing to come and rejoice with him because of the wedding of his son. It occurred to me that God’s invitation began going out into the highways and byways in 1967 as the “latter rain” of the Holy Ghost was beginning to be poured out upon “whosoever will”. The climax to the invitation will be “The Marriage Supper of the Lamb” for God’s own son.)

Of course, you see the signs of the times in the newspaper in the other news media; anyone can see that the end is coming. “You also admire, of course, those who witness boldly for Jesus,

and yet you do not take the step. You see that Israel has been restored. I am sure that Noah, who was six hundred years old at that time, must have had very many relatives, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews, etc.. But they were all outside the Ark! They also heard Noah's message, but "they knew not". They let their last chance go by. I am constrained to preach this message today because I know that the door is about to close. *"Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts."* Psalm 95:7-8 Certainly there must have been people who said, "God is with that man. God blesses him." But they themselves did not enter into the Ark. Perhaps there were people who had committed so many sins that they say, "My sins are too great." I cannot go to such a pious man. "If they had gone to him they would have been saved. When Jericho perished, only one person believed and was saved with her whole family, and that was a harlot, Rahab. There is also the possibility of other religious people in Noah's day who said, "What do you mean, Noah? We also believe in God." And they also sacrificed and prayed, but they neglected to do the most important thing. They did not go into the Ark, and so they were left outside. I am sure some of you reading this believe in God, and yet you are still standing outside because you have not taken the step. If the door of grace were to be closed today, where would you be?"

I, too, echoing the question by Win Malgo, if that trump were to sound today, would you be "left out" because you never dared to search for the complete TRUTH?

In Revelation 4:1, John, representing the invisible, true Church

of Jesus Christ, is given this invitation from heaven. *“After this I looked and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were a trumpet talking with me; which said COME up hither and I will show thee things which must be hereafter.”* *“And immediately I was in the spirit...”*

Then we know God goes on throughout the entire book of revelation to show John things; *“which must shortly come to pass,”* and *“which are to come;”*. In verse one John is shown the open door; then the trumpet was the instrument used to issue the invitation to *“Come up hither”* just as the trump will play a part in the *“calling on high”* of the Saints, to meet the bridegroom. In verse two John is taken to heaven in the spirit just as we who are alive and remain at His call, will be *“caught up”* bodily to the throne as John was, in response to the trumpet. We have this promise from 1 Thessalonians 4:16 & 17 to cling to and stabilize our faith for the blessed hope, the *“Rapture”* of the church, or firstfruits resurrection. *“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then ye which are alive and remain shall be “caught up” together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”*

We get a glimpse of some of what takes place after this wonderful *“catching up”*. *“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white; the fine linen is the*

righteousness of the Saints. And He saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are CALLED unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.” Rev. 19:7-9 In Revelation 21:9 we find this: “COME hither, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb’s wife.” Jesus’ last invitation in God’s written word, includes the bride, she is allowed to share in the invitation for they are now truly one. “And the spirit and bride say, COME. And let him that heareth say COME. And let him that is athirst COME. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.” Rev 22:17 So just as God invited Noah and his family into His Ark to be saved, He also calls us into the Ark of His safety and that includes, WHOSOEVER will. His call is especially urgent in these “last days” before His return. COME!

6. The Lord Shut Him In!

“And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him, and the LORD shut him in.” Gen. 7:16

“... he that openeth and NO MAN shutteth; and shutteth, and NO MAN openeth:”

...Behold, I have set before thee an open door and NO MAN can shut it:....” Rev. 3:7 &8

Moving on to Genesis 7:16 we find; *“and they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in.”* As is often the case, we see the start of something in Genesis and the parallel conclusion to it in Revelation. An example is Jesus’ promise to the Philadelphia church, the true believers of the last day. First in revelation 3:7 He addresses the specific group; *“And to the Angel of the church in Philadelphia write.”* Then He establishes His power; *“... He that openeth and NO MAN shutteth; and shutteth, and NO MAN openeth:”* in the next verse Jesus makes a promise to this company of people. *“Behold, I have set before thee an open door and NO MAN can shut it:”* Next He tells why He has chosen them, *“for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and has not denied my name.”* We see with Noah that God, and only God did finally shut that door, and when He did no one else could enter. Now, just as while the “Ark was a preparing” God is once more “long-suffering”...waiting for men to enter in! There will be a time, though, when just as before, God will shut the door once more,

and I believe that is what Jesus is speaking of in His parable of the ten virgins of Matthew 25. I believe He was speaking of those who would be a part of the Philadelphia church, who would be called to the “Marriage Supper of the Lamb,” or answer the call of the bridegroom in a special way. In this parable those who are wise and prepared, just as Noah was, will go in as he and his company did, and the LORD SHUT THE DOOR! I am also convinced that the five wise virgins went in and the door was shut represent those who will be the first fruits resurrection or (“the raptured”) who will be “caught up” to heaven and the door to heaven will be shut until near the end of the tribulation. In this pageant of Matthew 25 we find acted out some of the conditions, the rewards, and the disappointment for not living up to the requirements. *“Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise; Give us of your oil: (the Holy Spirit), for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so: lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy* for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with Him to the marriage; AND THE DOOR WAS SHUT.”* As it was with Noah the LORD SHUT THE DOOR, and once it was shut by Him, no amount of pleading would cause it to open again. *“Afterward came also the other virgins, saying Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, verily I say unto you, I know you not.”* Matt.25:7-12

And so we see that there is a time when TIME literally runs out, even with the long-suffering of God. As Gordon Lindsay points

out in his Revelations Series; “It is important to notice that the Lord did not say to the foolish virgins what He will say to the hypocrites on the day of judgment, *“And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you; depart from me ye that work iniquity.”* Matt. 7:23 Christ did not call the virgins, workers of iniquity; neither did He say, “I never knew you”. His words were in the present tense. *“I know you not.”* He indeed knew them as believers who had accepted Him as Savior. But at this critical hour He had come as Bridegroom. He could not recognize them as members of the Bridal party. There is no doubt that the rapture will result in the greatest shaking in the church that has ever taken place in its whole history. The day of playing church will be over, and there will be a tremendous overhauling of Christian experience. People will urgently call on God. They will seek the infilling of the Spirit, and apparently the Holy Spirit will be poured out even until the beginning of the day of the Lord. Acts 2:16-21 But it will be too late to participate in the Firstfruits rapture of the “wise virgins”. There will be heartbroken prayers by many for God to come to take them out of the world, but it is too late for the Man child rapture. The door is closed. It is closed just as the door of the Ark was closed by the Lord after Noah and his family had entered. *“The Lord shut him in.”* Gen. 7: 16 Still the full judgment of God’s wrath is not yet come as it did in the days of the flood. The Antichrist must rise and fulfill Satan’s wrath to the world first.

The whole teaching of the parable is that those who would be among the “First-fruits unto God”, those who would be “virgins without fault before the throne of God”, must make themselves

ready. "The bride hath made herself ready." These are the ones who will make up the "Man-child company of believers." (This is the end of the Gordon Lindsay quote.)

(NOTE: *I believe the reference here going to buy, means paying the price by being yielded to the Holy Spirit, or being filled with the oil of the Holy Ghost.)

But as with Noah in his day, (only eight were saved) the numbers who will be able to enter in through that open door, one's only known to God himself, are not those of a huge group of people recognized by the world. They will not be the millions mouthing a call for peace and unity in the name of Jesus, sometimes only in the name of God, and numerous political leaders in their own names. (The people of the world truly eat this talk up.) Instead, this "raptured" group will be small and weak, yet patient and faithful, a company of believers who are willing to wait for their rewards from the Living God rather than receiving the praises of men and the world NOW. *"Thou hast a little strength."* Rev.3:8 *"Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown."* Rev. 3:10 & 11 The "keep thee", from this promise is; to keep one safe in heaven and "from the temptation", is to be kept from the tribulation".

When I first began to write this I had a real sense as never before, how much the "Bride of Christ" being taken out of the world is like God having to close the door of the Ark when Noah

and his family were safely inside. We also see Jesus doing that in Matthew 25 after the five wise virgins went in with Him to the marriage: and the door was shut. It was as though I could feel what would come to pass, almost the feeling of being in the midst of a pageant acted out. How even most professing Christians will *"knew not until the flood comes and takes them all the way"*. (A thought just came to me. I wonder if the parable of Matthew 25 holds a hint for us. One half of those virgins went in and one half did not. Could this be the ratio of those who consider themselves to be a part of the "Bride of Christ" who will actually enter in?) Many will continue on, marrying and giving in marriage, and in a sense themselves married to the world, too attached to it, and not wanting to deal with the word "righteousness" for either themselves or others. They will not really care what God truly requires, until the door in heaven is closed as the door to the Ark had to be, as was the door after the wise virgins, to keep the righteous safe from destruction and the unrighteous. Jesus warns us in many places to be ready to enter in when the call goes out, He promises the door will be open if we do as He says...are obedient!

"Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." Matt. 25:13

"Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man." Luke 21:36

"But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father."

Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is." Mark 13:32 &33

"Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh." Matt. 24:44

7. Judgement!

“And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark.” Gen.7:23

“Howl ye; for the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty.

Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man’s heart shall melt:

And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames.

Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.

For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.

And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.

I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.

Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove

out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.” Isa 13:6-13

“By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.” Rev 9:18

While God had Noah and his family hidden away in the Ark, everything on the earth outside the Ark was destroyed. We will look for the similarities between this destruction while Noah was shut and in and the destruction to come while the “bride of Christ” is hidden away in heaven with him, in His Ark. The wrath of God’s judgment will be taking place on the Earth, during the coming tribulation, while the called and chosen and faithful rest and wait with Jesus. We will start with the account Genesis 7:23, *“And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were WITH HIM in the ark.”* Throughout the entire Bible we get glimpses of God’s judgment, but unless they are prophecies about what will come to pass in the end, they remain only glimpses. (The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah is only one of many such examples of these previews.) Those prophecies scattered throughout the Old Testament concerning God’s judgment leading to Armageddon do all culminate in the Book of Revelation. We could say that some of the happenings in Revelation are parallels to God’s action of judgment during the flood, when Noah and his company were

“shut in” as those “caught up” to heaven will be during the tribulation, and the “day of the Lord”

“And the Lord GOD of hosts is he that toucheth the land, and it shall melt, and all that dwell therein shall mourn: and it shall rise up wholly like a flood; and shall be drowned, as by the flood of Egypt.

It is he that buildeth his stories in the heaven, and hath founded his troop* in the earth; he that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The LORD is his name.” Amos 9:5 & 6*

“For the day of the LORD is near upon all the heathen: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head.” Obadiah 1:15

“For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.” Malachi 4:1

“And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein.” Zech 13:8

(NOTE:* stories—elevation-lit. a journey to a higher place, fig. a thought arising—a superiority of station. (Strong’s) *troop – unused root (to bind) bunch, burden, troop. (Strong’s))

“Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in

the land.

By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood.

Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish, with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven; yea, the fishes of the sea also shall be taken away.” Hosea 4:1-3

“Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up:

Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong.

Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O LORD.

Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about.

Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the vats overflow; for their wickedness is great.

Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.

The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice

from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.

So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more.” Joel 3:9-17

“Howl ye; for the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty.

Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man’s heart shall melt:

And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames.

Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.

For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.

And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.

I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.

Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.” Isa 13:6-13

In quoting from the book of Revelation, I will start with four figures even well known to the world at large. In general most people don't know what God's Word has to say about them, much less any idea of their true meaning. They are known as the four Horsemen, and sometimes called the four Horsemen of the Apocalypse (the Greek word for revelation). Revelation chapter 6 verse 2; *"And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer."* (Most students of prophecy believe this to be the Antichrist, I do too.) Verse 4; *"And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword."* I believe this speaks for itself. Verse five; *"And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand."* It's my opinion this has to do with not only famine but also no man being able to buy or sell without the mark of the beast (666 –Rev 13:17 & 18) Now going on to the fourth horseman, in verse 8 we read; *"And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth."* Revelation 8:7-13 list the different parts of the Earth where one third of each part is destroyed.

"The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt

up.

And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood;

And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.

And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters;

And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.

And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.

And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!"

Then in chapter 9:18.. "By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths." "And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said

to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" Rev. 6:15-17 "And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man. And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them." Rev. 9:5 & 6 "And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts." Rev.9:20 & 21 In chapter 16:8 & 9 we see.... "And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory." It is hard to imagine how men could still not repent or recognize the ALL POWERFUL GOD, for who He is, but haven't we all done this to some extent when He and His mercy, let judgment fall on us, hoping we might turn completely to Him for help?

So I think we can see that there are parallels between the judgment in Noah's day and the final judgments of God on the earth and its inhabitants. A large portion of both the inhabitants,

and the earth itself, will be destroyed, and in the next section we will see why some will remain.

PART III
LIVING AS NOAH DID

8. Mercy!

“And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters asswaged;

The fountains also of the deep and the windows of heaven were stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained;” Gen. 8:1 & 2

“For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened.” Matt. 24:21 & 22

While writing another piece based on Amos 3:7 I was overwhelmed at God’s great mercy in His plan of the ages. That plan consists of seven thousand years, and out of that seven thousand years only seven years will be filled with judgment on the Earth and its inhabitants. And out of that seven years, it is my opinion that only 45 days will be full of completeness of God’s own personal wrath being poured out. (I base my belief of the 45 day time period on this passage from Daniel; *“And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days. Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.” Dan. 12:11 & 12*

ONLY 7 YEARS OUT OF 7 THOUSAND!

AND ONLY 45 DAYS OF COMPLETELY PERFECT GODLY ANGER!

In this section, even though there are still similarities, I feel I must point out one of the differences between the judgment of the flood and the judgment by fire and the reasons why it will be so. Let us first read chapter 8:1 & 2 of Genesis; *“And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters asswaged; The fountains also of the deep and the windows of heaven were stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained;”* Look at this likeness. Here is the key; *“and God remembered Noah,”!* It was the way God regarding Noah we remembered him. *“He cared about him”*, God loved Noah and because of this He stopped the rain, closed the very window of heaven, and sent a wind to dry the Earth out so Noah and his family and the innocent animals could once more inhabit the earth. The Scriptures also tell us that God will once more remember his elect.

“Behold, the eyes of the Lord GOD are upon the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from off the face of the earth; saving that I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob, saith the LORD.” Amos 9:8

“And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.” Zech. 12:9

“And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is

tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.”
Zech. 13:9

Then, in Matthew, Jesus makes it unmistakably clear; “For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: BUT FOR THE ELECTS’ SAKE those days shall be shortened.”

The thing that is the same as with Noah is that God will remember His elect as He remembered Noah, and because of His love for them, He will stop the horrors that will have been going on and the outpouring of His own wrath. He will also remember Noah again and the covenant He made with him, which we will cover a little later. So God has given His word that for His “elect’s” sake, both Noah and those who come at the very end, He will not allow the entire world and those upon it at the time to be completely destroyed. That is the difference between the flood and judgment to come. All life not in the Ark was destroyed by the flood. This is a paradox, though, that some on the earth will be saved, but they also will be under the Ark of God— His spiritual Ark, and that’s what makes them His elect, both the Jew and Gentile alike. We know we can depend on these promises because God has always kept His word. Prophecy and its fulfillment is the one thing that proves this to us and assures us we can count on God to fulfill those things that have not yet come to pass, down to the most minute details.

9. Thanksgiving and Praise

“And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.” Gen 8:20

“And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;” Rev 5:9

“And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.” Rev 5:11 & 12

The next thing we see is Noah testing to see if the time is right to leave the Ark. Because I'm not sure how this portion of the account of Noah fits into this piece I am only mentioning it so as not to leave out any part of the pageant and sequence of things. One suggestion I find here is that we should be led by the Holy Spirit symbolized by the dove, not by the raven representing Satan.

God did give the command for Noah, the family, and all the living things to go forth out of the Ark, and so they did. The first thing Noah did was to build an altar that he might thank God for what He had done for him. We see a parallel to this in heaven

after the bride is “caught up” to meet her bridegroom. In the fifth chapter of Revelation we see this heavenly gathering. “And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;” Then in verse 12 we hear; “Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

The next thing we read from Genesis is this; “And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man’s sake; for the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done. While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.” Gen 8:21 & 22

In a later chapter I will go into more detail about why I believe the group that “sung a new song” are a relatively small number compared to all who will be saved, just as Noah and his family were a small group to be saved out of all who were living at their time.

10. God's Covenant With Man



“And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations:

I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.

And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud:

And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.

And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.

And God said unto Noah, This is the token of the covenant, which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth.” Gen 9:12-17

“And except those days should be shortened, there should no

flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.” Matt 24:22

As I said in the introduction, chapter 9 opens with God blessing Noah and his sons and getting them dominion over the animals, He gave some instructions and then comes the wonderful promise which we can also inherit.

*“And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying,
And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with
your seed after you;*

*And with every living creature that is with you, of the fowl, of
the cattle, and of every beast of the earth with you; from all
that go out of the ark, to every beast of the earth.*

*And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all
flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall
there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.*

*And God said, This is the TOKEN of the COVENANT which I
make between me and you and every living creature that is
with you, for perpetual generations:*

*I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a TOKEN of a
COVENANT BETWEEN ME AND THE EARTH.*

*And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth,
that the bow shall be seen in the cloud:*

*And I will remember my COVENANT, which is between me
and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters
shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.*

*And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that
I may remember the EVERLASTING COVENANT between God*

and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.

And God said unto Noah, This is the TOKEN of the COVENANT, which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth.” Gen. 9:8-17

So through Noah and his righteousness in God's eyes, because he had been obedient to the things God had required of him, all of mankind as in the past, and will in the future reap the benefits of God's COVENANT with Noah.

God, in his usual way, has given those willing to search the Scriptures, such a beautiful bridge between Genesis and Revelation through the BOW. Each time we see a rainbow it can serve as a reminder to us of God's COVENANT with Noah, who was representing all mankind. The sign of the bow is used as a bridge in Ezekiel to connect the Old Testament COVENANT which started between God and Noah and ends with the fulfillment and completion of the new covenant in the person of Jesus. Hebrews 12:24 Then the bridge is completed in revelation when Jesus appears with a rainbow upon his head. So in Genesis God tells Noah the BOW will be a sign that God will never destroy the earth and all mankind by a flood again. In Ezekiel, we clearly see the bridge between Genesis and Revelation through the presence of the BOW. Jesus made an appearance in this heavenly vision and the accompanying RAINBOW makes that marvelous bridge between Noah in Genesis and Jesus in revelation as you will see.

“And there was a voice from the firmament that was over their heads, when they stood, and had let down their wings.

And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it.”

(In the description of Jesus in Revelation 1:13 He is said to be like unto the son of man.)

“And I saw as the colour of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about.

As the appearance of the BOW that is IN THE CLOUD IN THE DAY OF RAIN, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake.

And he said unto me, son of man, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak unto thee.

And the spirit entered into me when he spake unto me, and set me upon my feet, that I heard him that spake unto me.”

Ezek 1:25-2:2

So we see there is little doubt that this has to be Jesus and about Him is the sign of the covenant God had made with Noah. This speaks to me that he, Jesus, is the hope of the fulfillment of a covenant, (the new covenant) the only hope of salvation, and the redemption of man. He is the only one who can give us that righteousness and holiness without which we are told, no man

can see God! Hebrews tells us that Jesus is the mediator of the “new covenant”, and that through him we can be made perfect, (Heb. 12:23) righteous and holy that we may see God.

“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;

And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

And having an high priest over the house of God;” Heb. 10:16-21

“And to Jesus the mediator of the NEW COVENANT, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:

Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.

And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that

those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

For our God is a consuming fire.” Heb. 12:24-29

This was God’s plan even then, when He made that COVENANT with Noah. We are even told of this in Colossians 1:26 & 27; “*Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:*” I especially like the way this same passage is put in the living Bible; “*He has kept this secret for centuries and generations past, but now at last it has pleased Him to tell it to those who love Him and live for Him, and the riches and glory of His plan are for you Gentiles too. And this is the secret: that Christ in your hearts is your only hope of glory.*” So, God had promised Noah that in spite of the wretchedness of man, He would ultimately save some to have Fellowship with Him for eternity. As I had shown before, and as is always the case with God, it must be on his terms! He did provide a way to save and redeem man, but they must be found righteous in his sight, and He also provided His only Son as our redeemer, our means of righteousness. He took all our sins upon Himself at the cross and by accepting this in a personal way we are covered by His righteousness. This means we must give our lives TO Him, just as surely and completely as He gave his life FOR us. We will leave that exciting link in Ezekiel where the Lord Jesus is shown with a

RAINBOW ROUND ABOUT HIM and move on to revelation where He is shown twice with the RAINBOW.

First in Revelation 4 verses 2 & 3 we read; *“And immediately I was in the spirit; and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a RAINBOW round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.”* Then in chapter 10 verse 1 we find; *“And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, CLOTHED WITH A CLOUD: and a rainbow was upon His head, and His face was as it were the SUN, and His feet as pillars of fire:”* So we see the beginning and the end, Genesis and Revelation tied together in Ezekiel by the BOW, or sign of God’s COVENANT, His promise to Noah to save mankind – – – and Jesus is the way. This was God’s plan, His provision, His gift to bring salvation and redemption to men.

“O Praise the LORD, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people. For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the LORD endureth for ever. Praise ye the LORD.” Psalm 117

Yes, there will be judgment and tribulation as never before and will never be again, but God will remember Noah and all the rest of His elect, and the COVENANT that He made with Noah, and He will put a stop to the catastrophes, before all flesh is destroyed, as He has promised. Judgment is coming, you can be sure of that; but we can look up, and know that our redemption draws nigh, in the CLOUDS. To remind us, we have the BOW IN THE CLOUDS TO CLING TO.

Here I would like to share a truly beautiful thing the Lord did

for our family this past summer (1982). We had just finished eating outside. That day in the mail we had received (how we got on that mailing lists, we don't know.) a sort of prophecy newsletter, from a "so-called" Christian group. It was entitled 'Saints alive!' On the inside it said; "The Saints and the little horn" and was going to deal with the book of Daniel. Since we are students of this book ourselves, we were eager to hear what they had to say. Terry, my son, began to read the piece aloud to us. I must confess I was a little suspicious of the "Saints Alive" since we had been exposed to the "Super-Saint" or "kingdom now" concept on quite a few occasions. Another group with similar beliefs call themselves "Historists". For quite some time the writing went along right on target, everything they were saying seemed be what the Holy Spirit had taught us, then came the bomb. "The widespread teaching that the Saints will be taken out before this time arrives, is causing many to take lightly the need for preparation." The piece went on to try to prove that the Saints would all remain on the Earth during the tribulation. Then we knew at once that they were the modern day Sadducees, "...which say that there is no resurrection..." We also knew by our own experience and because the Scriptures tell us this, that all who have the hope of seeing Him face to face when He appears, and knowing that we shall be like Him when we see Him as He is, the man who has this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure. Just the opposite of what this man was saying is true. One with this hope of being "caught up" to meet the Lord in the air, will not take holiness lightly, but rather seek righteousness. It is

the hope of being in his presence that makes us better able to achieve holiness, not by trying to run an endurance race, or working too hard in ourselves, or make ourselves righteous that makes us holy. It is allowing Him to prepare us to be “caught up” to meet Him in the air or dying to ourselves that is the key. Soon after we knew where the author of this “Saints alive!” teaching was coming from, not Saints “caught up” the remaining “alive” during the tribulation, we stopped reading it. We were discussing how timely the arrival of this mailing had been since we had, on several occasions recently seen strong signs and had heard a number of groups teaching this very doctrine, too many for me to go into now. Some were among those who used to strongly teach about the pre-tribulation “Rapture” of the church, but now have abandoned their belief in it. During the time we were discussing those signs Jeffrey who was seven at the time started yelling to us to come see the RAINBOW. His dad, Terry, thought he was kidding or saw something else. Perhaps partly because he was looking almost overhead, but slightly to the west, and we had never seen one to the west or overhead, and Jeff had been known to exaggerate. I felt I should check it out just in case. I never want to miss seeing one of God’s TOKENS OF HIS COVENANT with man. I could hardly believe what I saw, up over our house was the brightest and most beautiful RAINBOW I have ever seen. Not only was it the brightest and in an unheard of place but, it was upside down and had rays of light shafts shining through it. I called the others and they came, so we all saw it. I called to the woman across the street, but she never could see it, it seemed to be just

over our house. We knew at once it was a very special gift to us to increase our faith, and so perfectly timed, right after reading something sent to our house, in an attempt by Satan, to weaken our faith for the resurrection, the “catching up” of the bride of Christ, that she might escape all the things that are coming on the world to try men. (Rev. 3:10) We also felt that one part of the message was that men, (ones like the author of that writing) turn God’s COVENANT with His people upside down. They completely turn things around, but that the light from Him will shine through all that, and He will keep His COVENANT with those who believe all that He has said. The BOW was also seen first by a child, and we are to come to Him and continue to trust Him AS children. Jeffrey was seven at the time, and that is God’s number of perfection.

So we have seen that God made a COVENANT with Noah who is representing all men willing to be obedient to the commands of God their father. He promised Noah that he would leave the BOW in the CLOUDS as a TOKEN to remind not only men, but Himself of the inheritance He would give those willing to forsake all else, in favor of His plans for them. He has kept that promise throughout these thousands of years, not only as we saw mentioned in the Scriptures, but all of us at some time in our lives, have beheld this beautiful sign God has been faithful to show us. Even before I knew and understood all these things about RAINBOWS from God’s point of view, it was such a thrilling thing, even an indescribable feeling to see one, surely my spirit must have been giving me hints that there was a lot more to them

than just the beauty that met the eye. I know now to express the feeling as one of supernatural ecstasy.

II. As It Was, So Shall It Be!

“The Nephalim were in the earth in those days, and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bore children to them; the same were the mighty men that were of old, the men of renown.

And the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

And it repented the Lord that He had made man on the Earth, and it grieved Him at His heart.

And the Lord said: “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both men, and beast, and creeping thing, and fowl of the air; for it repenteth Me that I have made them.”

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.”

(Gen. 6:4-8... THE HOLY SCRIPTURES According to the Masoretic text.)

“But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” Matt 24:37

Having gone over some of the main events of the Biblical account of the life of Noah, we will return to our title Scripture from Matthew 24:37. As I mentioned in the introduction this is the teaching of Jesus when those closest to Him asked; “WHEN SHALL THESE THINGS BE? AND WHAT SHALL BE THE SIGN OF THY COMING, AND OF THE END OF THE WORLD?” (or age). In this section then, we will compare the days just before the flood

with the prophecies about the last days before the “rapture of the bride” and the conditions of today.

Usually, in God’s prophetic word, we get a clearer picture of things to come, by looking back to pageants God has had acted out for us. While working on this segment I saw just the opposite happening, with one exception. I realized there was little written describing the details and specifics of the wicked conditions in the time of Noah. I saw that this forced us to look forward, (for there are numerous details of the wickedness in the “last days”), thus helping us to look back. We will do just that after exploring that one exception.

Through the Scriptures, God leaves little doubt that He saw man so evil that He was sorry He had made him, and decided to destroy him altogether. The one word picture we do have to the conditions is in the introduction to the account of Noah and it fits perfectly into part of our theme, “marrying and giving in marriage.” After the genealogy in chapter five of Genesis we see chapter six begin in this way;

“And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the Earth, the daughters were born unto them,

that the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives, whom so ever they chose.

And the Lord said: “My spirit shall not abide in man forever, for that he also is flesh; therefore shall his days be a hundred and twenty years.”

The Nephilim were in the earth in those days, and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of man

and they bore children to them; the same were the mighty men that were of old, the men of renown.

And the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

And it repented the Lord that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him at His heart.

And the Lord said: "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast and creeping thing, and fowl of the air; for it repenteth Me that I have made them." Gen. 6:7 T.H.S

PART IV

OUR REDEMPTION DRAWETH NIGH

12. The Bride

“So the last shall be first, and first last: for many be called, but few chosen.” Matt. 20:16

“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And He saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.” Rev.19:7-9

Well now, one might ask: “How do I become another Noah?” How can I be a part of “that number?”...the “Bride of Christ?!” The requirements are scattered throughout the entire Word of God. Unfortunately very little is said about this in the professing church today. In fact, few make any mention of these things at all, or they require, even demand, a desire for true holiness and righteousness, and that is a very unpopular subject. There are many counterfeits, but true holiness is avoided like the plague, for it means dying to oneself and finding out what God requires. I am going to dare here to list the Scriptures I believe the Lord has shown me to help identify those who are the “Bride of Christ”, those who are the “called out ones”, for we are commanded to “*come out from among them, be separate and touch not the unclean thing*”. I will also cite some of the characteristics that make them

the chosen, or in that special marriage party. We will introduce, or set the stage for this segment by reviewing the questions most on the minds of Jesus' closest circle of friends. In Matthew 24 we find this account... *"And as he sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and the end of the world? (age) And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying I am Christ: and shall deceive many."* Another account of the same happening is in Mark 13:5-6....Jesus is recorded as having said; *"... Take heed lest any man deceive you: For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ: and shall deceive many."* Then in Luke 21 we also find; *"...For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them."* This urging by Jesus, certainly gives a strong indication of the present nearness of that time Jesus' friends wanted to know about. The mails, air waves, concert halls, parks and meeting places of cults whisper secrets of messiah's, while rumors are flying and christs or those who can become christ or some sort of saviour seduce the masses as well as those who say they are His head spokesman in His absence. May the reader be warned!

Jesus exhorts us on several occasions to make certain we are admonished concerning the seriousness of having any fellowship with false religion or idolatry. Paul in II Corinthians 6:14-17 warns; *"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath*

Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (WHEREFORE COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM, AND BE YE SEPARATE, saith the Lord, and TOUCH NOT THE UNCLEAN THING; and I will receive you.”)

Not only are we warned by Paul as he wrote to the Corinthians, but also in Revelation the 18th chapter, where we see the exposure and fall of Babylon the great.

“For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, COME OUT OF HER, MY PEOPLE, THAT YE BE NOT PARTAKERS OF HER SINS, AND THAT YE RECEIVE NOT OF HER PLAGUES.

For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works; in the cup which she hath filled, fill to her double.

How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.

Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and shall be utterly burned with fire:

for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.

And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning,

Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.” Rev. 18:3-10

As the people in Noah’s time were warned 120 years, through his preaching, so we have been warned too, continuously, since the flood, throughout the ensuing millennia, to reject idolatry.

In Leviticus God warns; “Turn ye not unto idols, nor make to yourselves molten gods: I AM the Lord your God.” And of course we all know that the second commandment agrees: “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of ANY THING that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.” Exo. 20:4 Then in John’s first epistle he concludes with this; “And we know that the Son of God is come and hath given us an understanding, that we may know Him that is true, and we are in Him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life. Little children, KEEP YOURSELVES FROM IDOLS. AMEN.” I John 5:20-21

BE READY

Jesus also exhorts us on several occasions to make certain we are ready, that is, that we find out what the requirements for brideship are and then make certain we are prepared, just as a bride must make herself ready through preparation. She must

have the proper relationship with her groom, and both of their families, she must make certain she is properly clothed.

Appropriate and sufficient food is a must, these and many more things are the responsibility of the bride, if she hopes to make the wedding meet the accepted symbolism. Most of the things one might think of that a bride is responsible for in a worldly wedding have parallels in the spiritual realm, as we prepare to become a part of the bride of Christ. So it isn't surprising that Jesus insists that we take care to hear his voice as we prepare for that day of days. (There is a very edifying story in a Book called "An Israeli Love Story" by Zola Levitt, about an old Jewish wedding custom which has great symbolic meaning.) Here is a sampling of what Jesus did say on this subject; *"Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."* Matt. 24:44 In Luke 21:34-36 He instructs the believers in this way; *"And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth."*

"Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." Then one of the last few warnings by Jesus is Revelation 16:15; *"Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame."* We are told that the white garments of the bride of Christ is the righteousness of the saints, and the righteousness

of the saints, is being covered by the righteousness of Christ when we receive Him into our hearts.

Jesus also tells us HOW He will come when the time arrives for Him to snatch up His bride and carry her away to the wedding. He has let us know that He will come with SPEED when He does come. “Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.” Rev. 3:11 In I Thessalonians 5:2 & 4 Paul reminds us; “For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.” Although He expects us to be ready, Jesus did warn us that; “NO MAN KNOWETH THE DAY NOR THE HOUR, ONLY THE FATHER!” when He, Jesus, will be given the signal from His Father to catch His bride away. We are told that not even the angels of heaven know when this day will be, so how could we?

In chapters 24 of Matthew and 17 of Luke, Jesus cautions us concerning the LAST DAYS, He likens those days unto the days of Noah as we have established. In Luke 17 He also reminds us of Lot and Sodom’s destruction in comparison with the days just before His return. He says; “But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed”

OUR ADMONISHMENT

We are admonished not to be attached to anything, if we happen to be living at that time, when the Son of man is revealed, to catch his bride away. “In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take

it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back.” Luke 17:31 Then in the next verse we find a subtle but very important requirement for this event. It was our Lord’s way of telling us we must be delivered from... yes, detached from the world and the things of this world. The subtle verse is simple and to the point! Verse 32 is just 3 words...“Remember Lot’s Wife”! She looked back toward that evil city of Sodom...and the implication is that she was going to miss it...that she was so attached to this evil symbol of the world, she had to look back and it brought her destruction. Her end fit her heart. She worshiped the world, and by her act of looking back at it, preferred it to God, IDOLATRY! So, what she practiced she became, she became a statue (a pillar of salt) like unto a graven image. Remember, just before reminding us of Lot’s wife, Jesus plainly tells us don’t be attached to anything, no “stuff”. When the time comes, we must not go down, go back, or look back, only look up and go upward to meet our redemption in the air. In both chapters, Matthew 24 and Luke 17 Jesus gives us some for instances, to emphasize the reality of things, in case one might not want to believe that some will be taken and others left, at the time of this thrilling event. “I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Then shall two be in the field, the one shall be taken, and the other left.” Luke 17:34-36 “Then shall two be in the field, the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.” Matt. 24:40-41 In the Luke 17 account

sandwiched in between “remember Lot’s wife” and the truth about one being taken and one being left, we find this; “Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.” He is telling us here if we are willing to give up our lives, our own wills, and give them over to Him, die to ourselves, put our lives in His hands, our lives shall be saved. Not only saved but saved from the horrors that are to come upon the world. This is a clear reference to the “catching up” of the bride...those who have been willing to do it God’s way, lay down their lives TO Him, are caught up, the others are left behind. So He has said; When I am revealed in the clouds, if you are like Lot’s wife and are too attached to this world, if there are idols in your life, (homes, clothes, jobs, religion, wife, husband, friends, cars, fun, or even children) others will be taken and you will be left behind, wherever you are...in bed, at work....or any other place you might be. REMEMBER LOT’S WIFE!

Jesus instructs us in what we must do to be “in that number”, and get our rewards at the very end. When He had His servant John write to the Philadelphia Church, one of the two main churches of the END in Revelation, He tells them because they have, “kept the word of His patience and not denied His name”, He will “keep them from the hour of temptation that is coming upon all the world, to try them that dwell there”. Even though the members of this company have only a little strength, (“for thou hast a little strength”), (power or recognition in the world), because they have done what He has required He even goes so far as to say; “Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are

Jews (believers) and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.”

What will determine our being found worthy of this great escape...well in chapter 14 of Revelation we find this group after their flight to safety, and now in the presence of their Lord, and we read this;

“And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with Him an hundred forty and four thousand, having His Father’s name written in their foreheads.

And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with harps:

And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.”

Now let us take this passage word by word or phrase by phrase and we will see that it tells us pretty clearly who these people are and how they came to be a part of that group or company. We will start with the whole of verse one. First, we see Jesus, the

Lamb of God! Where is He? He is standing on the heavenly mount Sion. Next, we are told that there is a group with Him and that their number is 144,000. We also see that they have Jesus' Father's name written in their foreheads. I would like to point out here this scene is shown right after we are warned of the mark of the beast, (Antichrist) and that no one will be able to buy without it, and the number of the beast is given (666). It is my opinion that these events are given in Revelation in this order to show that while that joyous reunion is taking place in heaven, the earth is under siege by the kingdom of the Antichrist and False Prophet. During the Great Tribulation or "Jacob's' Trouble" his mark is required on the hands or foreheads of those who concede to the Antichrist, in order to buy or sell, while those 144,000 in heaven are sealed with the Father's name on their foreheads.

Let's go back to verse 1 of Rev. 14 and I Peter 3:20. Because of his righteousness, Noah was God's elect and God saved eight, we are told in I Peter 3:20; *"..When once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the Ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water."* Eight is God's number for a "new beginning", the flood ushered in a new beginning. I believe this group of 144,000 will also be an ensign for a "new beginning", the signal that Christ's kingdom on earth is about to begin. I mentioned earlier that I felt the 8 saved from the flood were a sampling of those who would be found worthy to escape *"those things that are coming on the earth"*, those who will be "caught up" before the GREAT TRIBULATION gets into full swing.

PROMISED

As Jesus promised those of the Philadelphia church, which I believe to be the same group, *“...I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.”* I am convinced that the PHILADELPHIA CHURCH, the FIRSTFRUITS, the 5 WISE VIRGINS, the RAPTURED BRIDE, this 144,000 we see here on the heavenly mount Sion with the Lamb are one in the same. And if I am right the number is confirmed again in Jesus’ letter to the Philadelphia Church for He says; *“for thou hast a little strength”*. One hundred and forty-four thousand is a small number compared to the total number to be saved from all time, not to mention all those who will have lived.

Another opinion I hold is that those who will be saved will belong to many different companies who will have had walks of different depths. It seems the company one becomes a part of, would depend on the depth of his walk, and his rewards would also depend on that. If you divide 144 by 8 (the number saved by the flood) you get 18. In the book “Numbers in the Scriptures” by Bullinger, he says of the number 8; “to make fat, super-abound, superabundant fertility, oil, over and above perfect completion of 7, indeed the first of a new series.” He says that 10 has this significance; “Perfect divine order”. So this could mean that those who have the right to sing that “new song”; that no one else can learn, are those saved in a special way, from the final judgment of the earth and its inhabitants, by being “caught up”, without having seen the death of the body. I am convinced too, that, if so, it will be because they were willing to bring death to themselves,

spiritual death, by total surrender to the Holy Ghost, before the death of the body came.

All of this says to me that these singers have had an experience that no other group has had, and it is this, which gives them the ability or right to sing this song that no others are able to sing. Whoever they prove to be, I do think their number is designed to tell us something. I believe the 144,000 are connected with the 8 that were saved from the flood. Perhaps Enoch and Elijah will be among those singing that “new song” too. Remember Jesus encourages us to “Watch ye therefore, and pray always that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass...” I am persuaded these will be the first of a new series over and above perfect completion of 7, a new beginning, “made fat” superabundant, and in perfect divine order. Verse 2 confirms and makes even clearer that this pageant is taking place in heaven, and we hear that the voice of God is there, for His voice is described many times throughout Scriptures as thunder; and it also seems that heavenly beings may be harping.

Now I believe verse three confirms what I have just said about those 144,000 singing that “NEW SONG” and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand. The reason seems to be because they were “redeemed from the earth.” Since this tells us why they are the only ones able to sing this “new song”, let’s see exactly what that means. Using Strong’s concordance I found that the Greek word used for redeemed here was used only 3 times in the bible, in this passage, Revelation 14:3, then in the next verse, verse 4 , and in Rev. 5:9 (I

believe this to be the same group, for they also are shown singing a “new song”.) The concordance led us to this; agoradzo... to go to market, i.e. (by impl.) to purchase; specifically to redeem: -buy, redeem. Then it refers you to another number which is agorah (to gather; prob akin to 1453) prop. the town-square (as a place of public resort); by impl. a market or thoroughfare: market (-place) street. Then going on to 1453 we see this; to awaken i.e. rouse (lit. from sleep, from sitting or lying, from disease, from death; or fig. from obscurity, inactivity, ruins, nonexistence) :-awake, lift (up), rise (again, up), rear up, (a-) rise (again, up), stand, take up.

So let us see what we have here. This Greek word used for redeemed is used sparingly and has many implications, just this one word tells us a great deal about this group of 144,000. First we see that they have been purchased, bought, redeemed. Where from? They have been gathered out of the market place, town square, public resort, the street. How has this been done? They have been awakened, roused from sleep, from sitting or lying. (Matt. 24 and Luke 17-grinding, on housetop, sleeping in one bed). They are saved from disease, from DEATH: also from obscurity, (being unknown) inactivity, (no works, just waiting) ruins (tribulation of the world) non-existence (eternal damnation): How are they saved?...awakened, lifted (up), raised up, reared up, caused to arise up, stand and to be taken up. I must confess that these things I found, make what I believe by the Spirit, much clearer than I had hoped to find. Now I am much more convinced than ever before that these are those of the firstfruits, the “raptured” bride of Christ.

Revelation 14 Verse number 4 is packed, beginning with; *“These were they which were not defiled with women”*. I believe this is speaking of spiritual purity...those not having had relations with false religions, such as the “Scarlet Woman”...The MOTHER OF HARLOTS or any other spiritual harlot once they have been purified by the blood of the Lamb. Once they have experienced the new birth, the new life in Christ, when the truth has been revealed to them, they have remained faithful and chaste spiritually, for we have not been truly alive until this time. The verse goes on to say *“for they are virgins”*. That, I think, speaks for itself. The concordance gives this meaning of that particular Greek word; “a maiden; by implication an unmarried daughter:-virgin”. So they have remained true to their betrothal to Jesus, they have remained faithful since their new life and commitment to Him, they have waited for their marriage to Him, as a part of His bride. They have given up religion for their relationship with Jesus! They have not “known” any other spiritual lover since giving themselves to Him.

These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth, just as a wife in the flesh lives with her husband, and ideally shares everything about his life. *“These were redeemed from among men.”* Here we have the same word used for redeemed as in verse 3, they have been purchased from, and gathered out of the market place or town where they live, from the commercial world. They have been awakened from wherever they might be. Saved from all the ills of the flesh and the world, they have been awakened, caused to arise, (raptured), lifted (up).

So they have been redeemed from AMONG men. I do believe that “from among MEN” signifies that they were redeemed from the living men rather than from among the dead bodies.

FIRSTFRUITS

The next part says; “*being the FIRSTFRUITS UNTO GOD AND TO THE LAMB.*” Before sharing what the concordance has to say about FIRSTFRUITS I want to point out the obvious, that in order for this group to be the FIRSTFRUITS there has to be more at a later time. This again supports the point of view that they are only a relatively small part of the overall number to be resurrected and not to be confused with the dead in Christ who are “caught up” at the same time as the FIRSTFRUITS. See also Rev. 6:9-11 for the tribulation saints, those who give their life for Jesus after the “Rapture”. The concordance does have this to say about the word. A beginning of sacrifice i.e. (Jewish firstfruits). A comparison of two other numbers which said this; “it usually denotes separation, departure, cessation, completion, reversal, etc.” and “to commence (in order of time):- (rehearse from the) begin (-ning)”. What I get from all this is; These FIRSTFRUITS are a sacrificial number, separated from the rest of their kind by departure, to complete one phase and to commence the rehearsal for the new beginning. For whom? “Unto God and to the Lamb”! I don’t want to get into it here, because I want to stick to the theme of this piece, but there are Scriptures to show us that there are others redeemed at a later time, during the tribulation. (see Revelation 6:9-11) The last verse reads this way; “*And in their mouth was found no guile:*” I looked up the Greek for

guile and found; “A trick (bait) i.e. (fig.) wile: –craft, deceit, guile, subtilty.” These saints had put aside all these devices, for they are the tools of Satan. “...for they are without fault before the throne of God.” This speaks for itself, except to emphasize that they are found without fault, for they have been redeemed, they were chosen and they met the qualifications for brideship.

The Scriptures tell us “*many are called but few are chosen*”, and this by Jesus in Matthew 7:13-14; “*Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because straight is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*” Yes, I believe that number will be small in comparison to all the men that have lived. I do also believe that the Lord has given us some clues in the Scriptures as to the number of those who will be fulfillments of I Thessalonians 4:17, the ones who will be alive and remain, who will be “caught up” together with the saints having died belonging to Christ, yes, caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. When He comes for His bride I believe it is very possible that the number caught up without seeing death could be 144,000. Satan has done his best to discredit that number with such false teachings and half truths as are carried from door to door by the followers of Charles T. Russell, the founder of the Jehovah’s Witnesses. As opposed to their teachings we know that the number isn’t filled yet, and won’t be until the “TRUMPET CALL TO COME UP HITHER”, and that OPEN DOOR in HEAVEN is closed. Until then, as was the door to Noah’s Ark, it will be open so whosoever will,

may come, God Himself will close the door in heaven, and no one else may enter at that time. I present these qualifications and possibilities, believing the Holy Spirit has put them together for me and given me the understanding.

God has promised us if we meet the conditions and qualifications for “brideship” He will do for us as He did for Noah. He will keep us from “*the hour of temptation*” which “*shall come upon all the world.*” There are so many promises I can’t begin to cover all of them here, so I will attempt to give a good sampling. In Rev. 3:9 this promise for being faithful to him in spite of their weakness, and not denying his name was given to the Philadelphia church, as we quoted earlier. He tells us that he will make those of the synagogue of Satan, to come and worship at their feet. Then in verse 10 there is his promise to keep us from the time of God’s judgment of the earth and its inhabitants. In verse 11 the promise of a crown is given; “*Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.*” Verse 12 is a pledge that to all that overcometh, He will make a pillar in the temple of His God, and that they shall go no more out; and He will write upon them the name of His God, and the name of the city of God, which is New Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from God; and that He will write upon them His new name. In Revelation 19:6-9 we are told of the celebration to put all other parties to shame. “*And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to*

Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb.. And he saith unto me, These are the true saying's of God". Then in 11-14 we have the wonderful promise that those who have met the conditions will return with the victorious Christ, to rule the world.

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war.

His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called The Word of God.

And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean."

In chapter 20:6 we find this; "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection; on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years." AMEN!

13. The Ark of God!

“And the Lord said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.” Gen. 7:1

“And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee.

And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.” Exodus 25:21&22

“And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in His temple the ARK of His testament: and there was lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.” Rev. 11:19

In Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21, Jesus himself tells us what signs to watch for and how we will know the end is near. With the help of the Holy Ghost, those signs become quite clear. God as always is speaking through His prophets, in this day as well as in the past. (see Amos 3:7) They are telling us that *“our redemption draws nigh”!* But just as it was in the days of Noah...So it is again! *“They are eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage until the day”,* when the door will be closed. Matthew 24:39 tells us; *“And they knew not until the flood came, and took them all away: so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”* I believe the Lord has shown me that the flood this time will be *“the world”.*

After the bride of Christ is “caught up”, or enters into the “Ark of God” (where God dwells), the people will be carried away by the flood of evil or Satanic works, through the two Babylonian systems: commercial and religious Babylon, the works of the Antichrist and the False Prophet.

During the writing of this piece the Lord quickened to my understanding that the Ark is where God dwells. He put these things together for me and I want to share them now. During the flood the only place on the earth, where God was present, (that is in a loving way) and looking, after His elect, was in the Ark. Everything else met with His wrath and destruction. As the appearance of Jesus with the rainbow around His head in Ezekiel, acted as a bridge for the token of the covenant between the bows of Genesis and Revelation we have an Ark doing the same thing; connecting Genesis and Revelation. And this bridge was even called the Ark of the Covenant. This ark not only connected the Arks, but also incorporated God’s covenant as well. The Ark was introduced in Exodus 25 and I Quote, starting with verse 10; “*And they shall make an Ark of shittim wood: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof. And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, within and without shalt thou overlay it, and shalt make upon it a crown of gold round about.*” There are more detailed instructions but I will skip down to verse 21 & 22; “*And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the Ark; and in the Ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee. And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the*

mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the Ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.” In Numbers 7:89 we see this; “And when Moses was gone into the tabernacle of the congregation to speak with him, then he heard the voice of one speaking unto him from off the mercy seat that was upon the Ark of testimony, from between the two Cherubims: and he spake unto him.” And again in II Samuel 6:2; “And David arose, and went with all the people that were with him from Baale of Judah, to bring up from thence the Ark of God, whose name is called by the name of the Lord of hosts that dwelleth between the cherubims.”

1 Samuel 3:3 “...where the Ark of God was,...” I also found this to be an edifying tie; In Genesis 7:17 it says; “...and it was lifted up above the earth.” speaking of Noah’s Ark. The Ark of the covenant was transported by being carried only by those designated, being born up by them, lifted up if you will. “And Joshua spake unto the priests, saying, Take up the Ark of the covenant, and pass over before the people. And they TOOK UP the ARK OF THE COVENANT, and went before the people.” After the bride of Christ has been “lifted up”, “caught up”, in Revelation 11 we have a description of God’s wrath being rained out upon the earth, as in Noah’s time. The stubbornness of man comes to its fullness on the earth, while the first of the rewards begin to be handed out in heaven to God’s servants, prophets and saints. Then in verse 19 we see again the Ark of God; “And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in His temple the Ark of His testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake,

and great hail.” So we have two things always consistent where there is an Ark, on the earth, something is lifted up and God is present or dwells there. Judgment is also going on somewhere “THE FLOOD”, an earthquake, hail etc. etc..

The Ark of the covenant disappeared somewhere along the way, but everything I have been able to find out about it is very vague. There have been rumours about where it might be, and one of those places is in Ethiopia, some have thought that Haile Selassie was it's last known Guardian. I would be surprised if the real one turns up again. We know it certainly will not unless God ordains it, and it fits into His plans just prior to the return of the messiah.

JESUS THE NEW COVENANT

Look at how beautifully this all fits together. Noah was saved in the Ark, and God made a COVENANT with him, and gave him and all who came after him, the sign of the BOW (an ark) to remind us, and Himself of that COVENANT. Then the place where God spoke to only a few during the time of the LAW, was called the ARK OF THE COVENANT. It was the place where He dwelt, or could be found. Then Jesus, the Messiah was the promise of the NEW COVENANT. Remember He appeared in that “bridge” in Ezekiel with the RAINBOW around His head to show He was the NEW COVENANT. Then when the time was right the Ark of the Covenant was lost, and replaced eventually by the NEW COVENANT...JESUS! We are shown this in Hebrews;

“For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

Wherefore when He cometh into the world, He saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast THOU PREPARED ME:

In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.

Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

Above when He said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offerings for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law;

Then said He, Lo, I come to do thy will O God. He taketh away the first, that He may establish the second.

By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ ONCE FOR ALL.

And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

But this man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

From henceforth expecting till His enemies be made His footstool.

For by one offering He hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that He had said before,

This is the COVENANT that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in

their minds will I write them;

And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

By a new and living way, which He hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh;

And having an high priest over the house of God;

Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for He is faithful that promised;)" Heb. 10:4-23.

As we go on to Hebrews 12:22-24 we read; "But ye are come unto the mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus THE MEDIATOR OF THE NEW COVENANT, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel." So Jesus replaced or as He said fulfilled the law, He was in fact the promised Messiah, the NEW COVENANT, (The Law being the old covenant) and through His sacrifice on the cross we all have access to God and His throne as long as we are covered by the blood of the Lamb of God...Jesus!

We also find this in Heb. 8:6-8; "But now He obtained a more

excellent ministry, by how much also He is the MEDIATOR of a BETTER COVENANT, which was established upon better promises. For if the first COVENANT had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with them, He saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a NEW COVENANT with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah;" So Hebrews confirms for us that the OLD COVENANT, which was of the LAW, and the use of the ARK OF THE COVENANT as a meeting place with God, was replaced by the "NEW COVENANT"...JESUS, who is our means of contact with, or furnishes us our access to personal fellowship with the Living God.

Then the final appearance of the ARK OF GOD is here in Revelation after the "Catching Up" of the "Bride". *"And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in His temple the ARK OF HIS TESTAMENT: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail"*. To me this whole connection between the ARK, the BOW, COVENANT, WHERE GOD DWELLS, AND JESUS as the way to salvation shows the loving mercy of God and His perfect plan which He has had, and has been working out, to save men and have fellowship with them for nearly 7,000 years.

14. Hope!

“Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no HOPE, and without God in the world:

But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

For He is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

Having abolished in His flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in Himself of twain one new man, so making peace:

And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

For through Him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone;

In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.” Eph. 2:11-22

“Therefore the redeemed of the Lord shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.” Isa. 51:11

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.” Rev. 21:4

In II Thessalonians 1:7-9 Paul admonishes and encourages us in this way; *“And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels(messengers), in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power.”*

There is a way, to not only escape being swept away by the flood for all eternity, but to be under the protection of the “Ark of God”, where He dwells. And that isn’t all, those who are, can receive the greatest honour a man or woman ever has had bestowed upon them. That honour is to be a part of the “Bride of Christ”, to be among those chosen to be “in that Number”. I think this writing has pretty much spelled out how one may attain this honour! Let us review some of those things. First, we must give up insisting on our own righteousness and do it God’s way. This means receiving the righteousness He has provided through His

Son Jesus,...TOTAL SURRENDER to the Holy Ghost and that means DEATH! Death to ourselves, our own ways and ideas. We must search the Scriptures for God's requirements. We have to be willing to DIE now and get our rewards later....not LIVE (it up) NOW and PAY LATER. We must give up all idols, we must find out what our own idols are. Are they money, stuff, fame, our mate, our children, the human mind, our own cleverness, or just our own physical life? We must be delivered from the things of this world, while living in it until His call.

We must believe we are only sojourners. Jesus has to be our FIRST LOVE. To be a part of his "Bride" requires wanting to be, ... more than anything else in our lives. If these things are true, then we can have that blessed hope of spending "FOREVER" in His presence.

Going back to Revelation 3:12 the Lord shows us the epitome, the ultimate reward, the beautiful coming together of our relationship with Him, if we are truly His and keep ourselves unspotted by the world, once we know the truth, true spiritual virgins and wise, as did the five in Matthew twenty-five. They were redeemed from the world, the earth and from among men. Here is a promise to be with our God and His Christ for all of eternity. *"Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is New Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name."*

HALLELUJAH!!!

I believe this verse from Isaiah is a preview of the time coming when the redeemed church of Jesus Christ and the gathered and redeemed Jewish people, “the apple of God’s eye” shall be worshipping their Messiah together.

“Therefore the redeemed of the Lord shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.” Isa. 51:11

STAR OF DAVID

One night many years ago, God awakened me in the middle of the night. He asked me; “Do you know the Star of David?” I said; “Yes Lord.” He said; “Did you ever notice that it is made up of two triangles?” I had to answer that I hadn’t noticed that. He went on to say that one triangle represented the church and the other the Jews, and that the 3 points of the triangles stood for the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. He said that it represented a time when both groups would truly be under the trinity and that the center or core that the two triangles formed symbolized the Godhead. Ever since that night I have looked forward to the time with great anticipation. Not long after that night I had a dream in which I looked at the palm of my right hand and it had a tattoo of the Star of David in it. A very fascinating thing about all this is; My best friend for the past 30 years is a Jew and at least 25 years ago in South Bend, Indiana, she and I joked about starting a new “religion”. We, always in jest, said we would call it (since I was an Anglican at the time) Anglo-Judaism, or Judao-Anglicanism. Little did we know then God had already planned long, long ago

that one day the two groups would worship their Messiah together in Spirit and in truth. Praise the Lord! I know it has been the Father Himself who has kept our relationship together for us, as an acting out of His future plans. I Corinthians 15:28 encourages me in that Hope. *“And when all things shall be subdued unto Him, then shall the Son also Himself be subject unto Him that put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.”*

When this comes to pass then all of God's COVENANTS with man will have been made complete from Noah in Genesis to John in Revelation where we are promised that He will wipe away all tears from our eyes; and that there will be no more death, sorrow, crying, nor pain, for the former things are passed away. Those who have been partakers of God's COVENANTS will dwell in the New Jerusalem with their God and His Christ. The gardens of Eden and Gethsemane will have been redeemed, and redeemed man will have access to the “tree of life”, even ETERNAL LIFE! AMEN.

“...EVEN SO, COME, LORD JESUS!” Rev. 22:20

End