

“Signs In The Heavens—Is God Trying To Tell Us Great And Mighty Things We Do Not Know In Order To Prepare His People For The Season Ahead?”

In the beginning, God said in **Genesis 1:14** “*Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for **SIGNS** and **SEASONS**, and for days and years...*”

The word “**sign**” as used in Genesis 1:14 is the Hebrew word “**oth**” which means a flag, beacon, monument, omen, prodigy, evidence, etc.: mark, miracle, (en-)sign or token.

And, the word “**seasons**” as used in Genesis 1:14 is the Hebrew word “**mô’éd**” which means an *appointment*, that is, a fixed *time* or season; specifically a *festival*; conventionally a *year*; by implication, an *assembly* (as convened for a definite purpose).

Therefore, God uses the sun, the moon, and the stars to signify the following:

1. They establish God’s divine appointments, based on His calendar, not ours, concerning His seven (7) divinely appointed holy convocations/feasts we are commanded to **keep** and **observe** based on Leviticus 23.

Note these holy convocations/feasts of the Lord, are not Jewish feasts! Rather, they were established by God for **all** His people to keep for all generations throughout the *synergy of the ages*.

Let’s take the Feast of Passover, God’s **second** holy convocation which includes the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Here is an excellent article which conveys the truth of why Christians would want to participate in a Passover Seder, instead of celebrating Easter, besides the fact that God commands us to in His Word.

<http://www.aholyexperience.com/2009/04/messianic-passover-seder-why-christians/>

Furthermore, these holy convocations/feasts are to be “dress rehearsals” for all believers in our Jewish Messiah—Jesus Christ. Jesus and His disciples kept these holy convocation/feasts during His earthly ministry. Moreover, Jesus’ death, burial, resurrection and ascension perfectly fulfilled the spring feasts resulting in the great outpouring of the Holy Spirit during the Feast of Weeks, that Christendom refers to as Pentecost and the Jews refer to as Shavuot. Therefore, Jesus’ death, burial, resurrection and even His ascension into heaven was indeed according to God’s times and seasons exactly as it was predetermined **before** the foundation of the world. Therefore, when Jesus comes back to set up His millennial kingdom we will continue to keep them as well. For Jesus’ second coming will be the fulfillment of the fall holy convocation/feasts, including the exact precision of the timing according to God’s calendar, not the one we use. Therefore, God’s seven (7) holy convocations/feasts are as follows:

The **first** holy convocation is the **Seventh Day Sabbath** (Leviticus 23:3)

The **second** holy convocation is **Passover and Unleavened Bread** (Leviticus 23:4-8)

The **third** holy convocation is the **Feast of Firstfruits** (Leviticus 23:9-14)

The **fourth** holy convocation is the **Feast of Weeks** (Leviticus 23:15-22)

The **fifth** holy convocation is the **Feast of Trumpets** (Leviticus 23:23-25)

The **sixth** holy convocation is the **Day of Atonement** (Leviticus 23:26-32)

The **seventh** holy convocation is the **Feast of Tabernacles** (Leviticus 23:33-44)

Again, these seven (7) holy convocations/feasts are God’s established times of His visitation for all His people. Moreover, they are also “our” *dress rehearsals* of great prophetic things to come when Jesus establishes His millennium kingdom and the bride of Christ consummates her wedding with our bridegroom Jesus Christ just prior to the *Marriage Supper of the Lamb*. Therefore, for those of us who have planned a wedding, would you do so without first having a “*dress rehearsal*” in order to know to expect ahead of time?

In addition, as clearly indicated in Luke 22:14-19 below Jesus kept the Feast of Passover with His disciples before He went to the cross to become “the” perfect Passover Lamb without spot or blemish! In fact, Jesus kept all seven (7) holy convocation/feasts which are from Him to begin with! He is the Word made flesh!

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*"When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. Then He said to them, "With fervent desire I have desired to eat **this Passover** with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it **until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.**" ~ Luke 22:14-16 (NKJV)*

*Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine **until the kingdom of God comes.**" ~ Luke 22:17-18 (NKJV)*

*And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "**This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.**" ~ Luke 22: 19 (NKJV)*

Moreover, the Apostle Paul admonishes us in 1 Corinthians 5:8 (NKJV), *"Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with **the leaven of malice and wickedness**, but with **the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.**"*

One definition of leaven based on what Jesus says to His disciples in Matthew 16:6 (NKJV) *"Take heed and beware of the **leaven** of the Pharisees and the Sadducees..."* is this: the doctrine of the religious leaders who is Jesus' day are the Pharisees and Sadducees. This is based on Matthew 16:11-12 below.

*"How is it you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread?—**but to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.**" Then they understood that He did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but **of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees.**"*

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Therefore, it is time to get back to worshipping our Lord in Spirit and in Truth. Whose truth? The only one that matters in the end—His truth according to His Word! Moreover, in this hour our heavenly Father is calling us to return to the ancient paths and come out of Babylon so we do not share in her sins and receive her plagues. We must return back to the gospel which was once delivered to the saints in order to worship our God with sincerity according to His truth, rather than based on the traditions of men. We have made it all about how and when we choose to worship Him, rather than how and when He tells us to worship Him!

2. They are a warning signal foretelling prophetic events which shall come to pass on the earth based on God's Word. For Jesus says to us in Luke 21:11 (NKJV), *"And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and **great signs from heaven.**"* As a matter-of-fact, many of the end-time scriptures refer to the sun, the moon, and the stars no longer giving their light preceding the return of Jesus Christ which will be the total fulfillment of the **everlasting** covenant God established with King David that He pledged His own throne to protect, defend and uphold UNTIL the heavens and this earth passes away.
3. Last, but certainly not least, Jesus Christ, who is the author and finisher of our faith, has something to say about ALL the signs His disciples ARE to watch for while praying continuously! In addition, if Jesus' twelve disciples who walked with Him and witnessed His miracles with their own eyes asked Him about the *signs of the times* and *the end of the age* they were to look for based on Luke 21:7; Matthew 16:3; and Mark 13:3, then we had better know what they are and watch for them too!

Our heavenly Father Yahweh and His Son, Jesus Christ, loves us so much that He wants His people to know ahead of time **all** the things we are told to watch for that will come to pass before His second coming. This truth is proclaimed in Luke 21:36 (NKJV) where Jesus emphatically declares, *"**Watch** therefore, and **pray** always that you **may** be counted worthy to **escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.**"*

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Do not miss the significance that Jesus told us to first watch, and then pray! What are we watching for? The signs of the times, the fulfillment of end time prophecy, including the signs God gives us in the heavens so we know His appointed times and seasons.

Again, in Luke 21:36 we are admonished by Jesus to **always** watch and pray concerning **all** these things (signs) which will come to pass so we will be able to stand before Him, the Son of Man. The conjunction of “and” is used which connects clauses or sentences that are to be taken jointly. Therefore, what Jesus is really saying to us, His disciples is this. **IF** we watch and pray without ceasing concerning these things (signs) that shall come to pass *because “It is written!”* Only then, will we be counted worthy to escape ALL these things that will come to pass and we will stand before the Son of Man.

Moreover, this escape Jesus is referring to in Luke 21:36 will NOT occur by His people being gathered to Him (raptured) **before** His appointed time, when for the sake of the elect, God will cut the time of the tribulation period short.

Rather, Jesus is referring to His supernatural providence, protection, and provision just as the Hebrew people in the land of Goshen experienced when God brought His judgments against Pharaoh and the Egyptians before His people began their exodus out of Egypt under the leadership of Moses in order to take possession of the Promise Land. Always remember this truth—*“As it was in the beginning so it shall be in the end!”*

Therefore, when God brought all the judgments against Pharaoh and the Egyptians, the Hebrew children were supernaturally protected while they were still on the earth in the land of Goshen. They were not raptured off the earth! They witnessed the whole thing with their eyes up close and personal so that God could display His glory and saving power to His Hebrew people and the Gentiles too!

When God flooded the whole earth during the time of Noah, who was left behind when the flood came and removed all the unrighteous, wicked, unrepentant inhabitants off the face of the earth? The answer is only eight people were left behind on the earth—Noah a preacher of righteousness and his family! God did not rapture Noah and his family off the earth. Instead He told Noah to get into the ark in order to save himself, his family, and the animals as they had to endure a wild ride for forty days and forty nights as the raging flood waters made the entire land desolate of all life. Therefore, the righteous were left behind, not the wicked!

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What about Lot and his family who were living in Sodom and Gomorrah which God totally destroyed due to the wickedness of the people who lived there? Did God rapture Lot and his family off the earth to escape the wrath He poured out on Sodom and Gomorrah? No! Rather, God sent angels to escort Lot and his family out of harm's way based on Psalm 91:11 which says, *"For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways."*

The only reason why Lot's wife died when she was turned into a pillar of salt was because she looked back and was not obedient to do exactly what the angels of the Lord told her to do. Moreover, I believe she was too caught up with the things of this world and those people and things she had to leave behind as they were being led to a place of safety.

Therefore, do we really believe that God will pull His faithful remnant out of the world during the time when the harvest of souls has never been greater so we can enjoy ourselves in heaven while all hell is breaking loose on the earth and the eternal destination of countless souls is at stake of everlasting damnation?

Therefore, if you are still of the opinion that the rapture can occur at any time and the wicked inhabitants of the earth will be the ones left behind, while God's people escape without going through any intense persecution and martyrdom during the tribulation period, allow me to share a few more key passages of scripture concerning what God's Word has to say about this deception.

The most used scripture to substantiate the secret rapture of the body of Christ is in Matthew 24:40-41 below.

"Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left." ~ Matthew 24:40-41 (NKJV)

However, we are shown the truth of who will be taken and who will be left in Luke 17:30-37 below. Jesus Christ is clearly teaching that those who are taken, are the wicked not the righteous just like in the days of Noah shall it be at the return of the Son of Man! His disciples ask, *"Where, Lord?"* Jesus answer is very clear. The ones who are suddenly taken will die and their bodies will be food for vultures.

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*“It will be just like this on **“the day”** the Son of Man is revealed. On that day no one who is on the housetop, with possessions inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. (Remember Lot’s wife!) **Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life will preserve it.** (In other words, flee to a place of safety leaving behind your worldly possessions!) I tell you, on that **night** two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left.” **“Where, Lord?” they asked. He replied, “Where there is a dead body, there the vultures will gather.”** ~ Luke 17:30-37 (NIV)*

Remember when the death angel struck dead the firstborn of Pharaoh and the Egyptians, yet none of the Hebrew people’s children were touched because the death angel **passed over** their doors due to the blood of the lamb? As it was in the beginning, so it shall be in the end God will once again deal with the wicked unrepentant people first before we are gathered by His angels and are caught up in the air where we will be with the Lord forever more after the first resurrection of the dead takes place.

We spend all our time wanting to leave the earth and go to heaven, yet Jesus said to His and our heavenly Father—Yahweh in John 17:15 *“I’m not asking you to **take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one.**”* Well guess what? We may be spending the one thousand years in heaven, but as soon the new earth is created we will be coming right back down to live on it again based on Revelation 21.

Make no mistake about it! Based on God’s Word we will be faced with having to decide whether or not to take the *Mark of the Beast*, undergo intense persecution and perhaps even experience martyrdom for His Namesake. For the Apostle Paul warns us ahead of time in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-8 below that Jesus will not return and we will not be gathered together to Him before the falling away comes first and the man of sin is revealed—the son of perdition—the Antichrist, who will sit as God in the temple of God claiming he is God.

*“Let **no one deceive you** by any means; for **that Day** will **not** come unless **the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,**(the Antichrist) **who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God,***

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*showing himself that he is God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. **For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.*** ~ 2 Thessalonians 2:3-8 (NKJV)

Again, based on 2 Thessalonians 2:3-8 above, the body of Christ will NOT be raptured before the following events/things take place:

1. Many will fall away from the faith because of the great apostasy prevalent in the body of Christ. This is what is meant by the Apostle Paul when he says the *mystery of lawlessness* is already at work because it was already at work over 2,000 years ago! Within two to three hundred years after Jesus' death and resurrection the gospel which was once delivered to the saints was being perverted by those who practiced iniquity and based their theology on the doctrine of religious leaders and the traditions of men in their day!

Again, the KJV says *mystery of iniquity* instead of *mystery of lawlessness*. The Greek word for "iniquity" is "anomia" which means 1) the condition of without law; 1a) because ignorant of it 1b) because of violating it; 2) contempt and violation of law, iniquity, wickedness. And, I cannot begin to tell you how many Christians believe that Jesus did away with the law which is a lie from the pit of hell. What Jesus did away with is the curse we would reap for NOT keeping the *letter of the law*!

In addition, do you know why we will witness the great falling away from the faith, just prior to the Antichrist being revealed, worse than we are currently witnessing? Because many people in the body of Christ will lose faith when they figure out they were led astray and are still on the earth when all these things Jesus tells us to watch for take place! After all they did NOT sign up for great persecution and being martyred!

2. The Antichrist rises to power and sits as God in the temple of God claiming he is God. The Antichrist will only be revealed after God allows all the events to come forth at His

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appointed time, and not a moment before. It is God who is restraining these end-time events from coming forth before their appointed time based on Isaiah 42:14 (NKJV) which says, “*I have held My peace a long time, I have been still and restrained Myself. Now I will cry like a woman in labor, I will pant and gasp at once...*” Therefore, the Lord will restrain the events leading up to the revealing of who the Antichrist is, who by the way, his identity will only be revealed **when** the fullness of the Antichrist’s kingdom comes to fruition. And, the Antichrist is the He who will be taken out of the way by the Lord who will consume him with the breath of his mouth and destroy the Antichrist with the brightness of His [Jesus] coming!

Furthermore, according to God’s Word just prior to the second coming of Jesus Christ it will be just like the days of Noah and Lot. So for the sake of time, I will use the example of Noah only.

*“And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, **until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.**” ~ Luke 17:26-27 (NKJV)*

And, as indicated by Hebrews 11:7 below, because of Noah’s faith as evidenced by his obedience, he was divinely warned of things to come **that were not yet apparent to most people**. Furthermore, **action** was required from Noah as he “moved” and “prepared” to do what he was instructed by the Lord in order to escape what was to come.

*“**By faith** Noah, **being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved** [action required] **with godly fear, prepared** [action required] **an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned** the world and **became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.**” ~ Hebrews 11:7 (NKJV)*

Jesus Christ **is the ark** of the New Covenant and in this hour God is telling His people to keep our primary focus on Jesus and get into the ark by abiding in His presence so we too can prepare like Noah did based on the divine warnings God is issuing for a time such as this! However, He also expects us to watch what is going on around us and look for all the signs too!

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Moreover, if we are not constantly watching and praying in order to seek God's instructions based on **the signs** of *the times* and *the seasons* we are entering into, then how will we know what God wants us to do specifically for our own household in preparation for what is to come? The answer is we won't and we shall perish from lack of knowledge.

In Mark 13:32-37 below, Jesus instructs us to take heed, watch, and pray because no one, including Him or the angels, knows the day or hour He will return. Only our heaven Father knows the day and the hour! However, this does not mean we are to be ignorant of the timeframe that Jesus will return! If God did not want us to know the time frame of Jesus return, why would He give us so many signs to watch for so we would know the time of His return is at hand? Notice we are told to watch three times in this passage of scripture indicating God wants His people to watch for the *signs of the times* and *the end of the age*! When God says something three times in scripture He wants us to heed it by **“doing”** it!

*“But of **that day and hour** no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. **Take heed, watch and pray**; for you do not know when the time is. It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. **Watch** therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning—lest, **coming suddenly**, he find **you sleeping**. And what I say to you, I say to **all: Watch!**” ~ Mark 13:32-37 (NKJV)*

God's Word gives us numerous signs to watch for so we will not be sleeping and will pay close attention as we watch and pray! In other words, Jesus does not want us to be caught off guard and perish because we do not recognize **all** the signs He told us to watch for beforehand! Not only does Jesus tell us the signs to watch for, more importantly, He instructs us on how we are to respond and navigate through these perilous end-time scenarios.

Moreover, Jesus is more concerned with the body of Christ being deceived about the time we are in than being alarmed by these *“birth pains.”* Why? Because He wants His Ekklesia to be equipped and prepared so we can overcome and maintain our faith in Him until He returns. Furthermore, He does not want us to be deceived! And, last, but certainly not least, how can we help save others and share the *gospel of the kingdom* if we do not know what the Holy Spirit is saying for ourselves first on a continuous basis as we maneuver through these perilous times ahead? We have never been this way before and we must not rely on what God has previously

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told us to do in the last season! Rather, we must seek His face on a daily basis, while watching and praying!

In Luke 12:54-56 (NLT) Jesus says to us, His disciples, “When you see clouds beginning to form in the west, you say, “Here comes a shower.” And you are right. When the south wind blows, you say, “Today will be a scorcher.” And it is. **“You fools! You know how to interpret the weather signs of the earth and sky, but you don’t know how to interpret the present times.”**

How do we recognize the season we are in? Jesus tells us the signs we are to watch for in the Synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Luke, and Mark. The Synoptic Gospels include many of the same stories, often in the same sequence. However, it is only by us examining all three accounts of the Synoptic Gospels will we be able to get a more complete analysis of all the signs and scenarios we can anticipate encountering in the days ahead. I have studied them in depth and have written about them in detail in my book titled, “*Fantasy of Flight—the Truth About the Pre-Tribulation Rapture according to God’s Word.*” However, for the purpose of this writing, I will use passages of scriptures from Matthew, Mark, and Luke in CONTEXT spoken by Jesus Himself concerning His second coming. I am going to let God’s Word determine this matter concerning **when** we will be raptured and **when** Jesus Christ will return. In addition, I have highlighted key points in different colors so you will actually see what it says. We tend to read through passages of scriptures very quickly and miss what it is actually saying! Also, I have put my commentary in brackets.

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days **the sun** will be darkened, and **the moon** will not give its light; **the stars** will fall from heaven, and **the powers of the heavens** will be shaken. [HAVE WE SEEN THIS YET? THEN JESUS WILL NOT BE COMING BACK AT ANY TIME!] **Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven,** and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and **they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.** And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and **they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”** ~ Matthew 24:29-31(NKJV)

“But in those days, after that tribulation, **the sun** will be darkened, and **the moon** will not give its light; **the stars** of heaven will fall, and **the powers in the heavens** will be shaken. **Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.** And then He will send His angels, and **gather together His**

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elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven.” ~ Mark 13:24-27 (NKJV)

“And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, BECAUSE YOUR REDEMPTION DRAWS NEAR.” ~ Luke 21:25-28 (NKJV)

Based on the above scriptures...

1. Do not skim over the part of these scriptures which states, “Immediately **AFTER** the tribulation of those days.” Or, “But in those days, **after that tribulation.**” Jesus is telling His faithful remnant ahead of time **when** He will return to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him and God’s wrath to those who have rejected Him. Moreover, we will see with our “eyes” all these physical disturbances happening in the heavens, and then in the earth, and we will know when the time is near. Again, when does Jesus Christ return? Immediately **after** the tribulation of those days! When are we caught up (raptured)? Immediately **after** the tribulation of those days!

There will be **SIGNS** in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars. Moreover, on the earth we will witness the distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring. Therefore, these blood red moons which occur during God’s holy convocations/feasts are signs of end-time prophecy coming to fruition! Moreover, there will be tidal waves and tsunamis caused by earthquakes and meteors falling from heaven imploding on the earth. Also, do you know that the earth’s axis has already begun to shift as a result of the recent earthquakes in Japan and Chile?

Quake moved Japan coast 8 feet, shifted Earth's axis

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<http://www.cnn.com/2011/WORLD/asiapcf/03/12/japan.earthquake.tsunami.earth/index.html>

Chile quake may have tipped Earth's axis

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/americas/03/02/chile.quake/index.html>

This is one of the reasons why we are experiencing erratic weather patterns that are occurring causing category five tornados, rated F5, in Oklahoma and other places. Moreover, we are experiencing intense snow storms with hail happening in the springtime. Yet, it has only just begun and will continue to increase like a woman's labor pains do in intensity and frequency.

However, it shall come to pass that a **great** earthquake, the likes of which has NEVER happened before in the history of the earth, with a magnitude so great, that the earth will literally be knocked out of its orbit. This is based on Isaiah 13:13 which states, "*Therefore I will shake the heavens, And the **earth will move out of her place** (orbit), In the wrath of the LORD of hosts And in the day of His fierce anger.*"

As a result, the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven (meteors), and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. This is a result of Jesus opening up the sixth seal in the heavenly realm as detailed in Revelation 6:12-14 below.

*"I looked when He (Jesus) opened the **sixth** seal, and behold, there was a **great** earthquake; and the **sun became black** as sackcloth of hair, and the **moon became like blood**. And the **stars of heaven fell to the earth**, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the **sky receded as a scroll** when it is rolled up, and **every mountain and island was moved out of its place**. ~ Revelation 6:12-14 (NKJV)*

Moreover, the prophet Joel also refers to the sun, moon, and stars no longer giving their light in Joel 2:10 below.

*"The earth quakes before them, The heavens tremble; The **sun and moon grow dark**, And the stars **diminish their brightness**." ~ Joel 2:10 (NKJV)*

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In addition, the prophet Joel says when the sun, moon, and stars no longer give their full light this precedes “*the day of the Lord*” in Joel 2:1-2 below.

“Blow the trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; For the day of the LORD is coming, For it is at hand: A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, Like the morning clouds spread over the mountains. A people come, great and strong, The like of whom has never been; Nor will there ever be any such after them, Even for many successive generations.” ~ Joel 2:1-2 (NKJV)

Moreover, we glean more information about the “*Great Day of the Lord*” in Zephaniah 1:14-17 below. Zephaniah describes that day as being a day of God’s wrath which will result in trouble, distress, devastation and desolation. Also, like the prophet Joel, Zephaniah proclaims it will be a day accompanied by clouds of thick darkness, trumpet and alarm.

“The great day of the LORD is near; It is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the LORD is bitter; There the mighty men shall cry out. That day is a day of wrath, A day of trouble and distress, A day of devastation and desolation, A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, A day of trumpet and alarm Against the fortified cities And against the high towers. I will bring distress upon men, And they shall walk like blind men, Because they have sinned against the LORD; Their blood shall be poured out like dust, And their flesh like refuse.” ~ Zephaniah 1:14-17 (NKJV)

2. In the last part of the verse in Matthew above, it states the angels will gather His elect from one end of the heavens to the other while Mark expounds on this verse in Mark 13:27 (NIV) which states, “*And he will send **his** angels and **gather his elect** from the four winds, from **the ends of the earth** to the **ends of the heavens**.”* Some of the elect are already in heaven and some are still on earth.
3. What does it mean when Jesus says, “*Then will appear **the sign** of the Son of Man in heaven?*” We find the answer in Luke 17:24 (NIV) where Jesus says, “*For the Son of*

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Man in His day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other.” In other words, His return will be obvious and no secret at all. It will indeed be a grand entrance and **every** eye will see Him including the faithful remnant who has survived the tribulation period!

4. Let me ask you a question. If our gathering together to Jesus Christ is done in secret, why in Luke 21:25-28 below are we told to lift up our heads only **after** the earth experiences distress never seen or experienced before? In addition, we are told specifically that when we **see** the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory, we are then to look up and lift up our heads because our redemption draws near.

*“And **there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now **WHEN these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, BECAUSE YOUR REDEMPTION DRAWS NEAR.**” ~ Luke 21:25-28 (NKJV)***

Yet, so many men and women in the body of Christ are proclaiming our redemption draws near when we haven’t seen all the signs we are told to look for. Moreover, there is still 1/3 of end-time prophecy which must still be fulfilled before Jesus will return! This is because they are deceived by the teaching of the pre-tribulation rapture and do not read the **whole** counsel of God’s Word, especially the Book of Revelation!

5. In Matthew 24:30 it says, “Then **THE SIGN** of the son of Man **will appear in heaven, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they **WILL SEE** the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.**”

This is when Jesus confirms His covenant with many based on Daniel 9:27 which states, “Then He (the Messiah) shall **confirm** a covenant with many for one week; **But in the middle of the week He** (the Messiah) shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering...”

However, as always is the case, the Antichrist and his minions will counterfeit what God will do!

Therefore, when we **see** the Antichrist sitting on the Ark of Covenant and declaring he is god, this is *'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel*. It is then that the hammer of God's wrath will commence and Jesus Christ will confirm He is the Ark of the New Covenant. This occurs at the end of the first half of the tribulation period **when** the Antichrist's kingdom reaches its fullness. God's wrath will take place during the latter half of the three and one half years of the tribulation period.

Many people believe that we will see a peace treaty be established with Israel only to be broken three and a half years after it is entered into, thus this is the beginning of the tribulation period. And, I believe this is what the Antichrist and his minions will try to accomplish because this is what is being taught in the body of Christ! As I have already conveyed, Daniel 9:25-27 is not about establishing a peace treaty with Israel. Rather, it is about the Messiah confirming His Covenant **He already established** by shedding His precious blood at Calvary.

Therefore, the “He” in Daniel 9:27 is NOT the Antichrist making a covenant! Rather it is Jesus Christ confirming His covenant. In order to confirm something this means it ALREADY exists. The Hebrew word for “**confirmed**” is the Hebrew word: “**gâbar**” which literally means “**he shall make strong.**”

*“Then He [the Messiah] shall **confirm** a covenant with many for one week; **But in the middle of the week He** [the Messiah] shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering...” ~ Daniel 9:27 (NKJV)*

Again, the Antichrist will counterfeit what Jesus will do! And, the NLT version of the Bible which has totally rewritten Daniel 9:27 based on this heresy taught by the theories of men! It was while I was researching this subject that I saw this lie!

Below is how the NLT version has rewritten God's Word based on man's interpretation of scripture. However, the Antichrist will counterfeit what God is to do and this is why we are being taught this heresy. Many will fall away from their faith because they have been deceived!

*“The ruler **will make a treaty** with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. **And as a climax to all his terrible deeds**, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him.” ~ Daniel 9:27 (NLT)*

Versus

*“Then He [the Messiah] shall **confirm** a covenant with many for one week; **But in the middle of the week He** [the Messiah] **shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering...**” ~ Daniel 9:27 (NKJV)*

Therefore, the next question we need to answer is this. How does Jesus confirm His covenant? We are told in Revelation 11:19 which says, *“**Then the temple of God** was opened in heaven, and **the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple**. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.”*

Also, in order to understand the end, you must look at the beginning. Therefore, we must study exactly what happened at the beginning of time in Genesis and Exodus because God always calls the past to account and history always repeats itself. History is God's story and He has declared the end from the beginning as proclaimed in Isaiah 46:10 (NKJV), *“Declaring **the end from the beginning**, And from **ancient times things that are not yet done**, Saying, ‘**My counsel shall stand**, And **I will do all My pleasure...**”*

Furthermore, Jesus had the Apostle John write His testimony to His people for all the seven types of churches throughout the *synergy of the ages*. However, the Book of Revelation is extremely relevant to **this** generation who witnessed the birth of Israel—the fig tree nation in 1948!

*“**Now learn this parable from the fig tree**: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you*

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see ***ALL THESE THINGS***, know that it is near—at the doors! Assuredly, ***I say to you, THIS GENERATION will by no means pass away till ALL these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.***” ~ Matthew 24:32-35 (NKJV)

The word “**generation**” as used in Matthew 24:32-35 above is the Greek word “**genea**” and means: by implication an *age* (the period or the persons): - age, generation, nation, time.

Therefore, if we base “**this**” generation on the age of the people who witnessed the rebirth of the nation of Israel on May 14, 1948, then we are talking about people who witnessed this pivotal prophetic event who are at least seventy (70) to eighty (80) years old based on Psalm 90:10 (NKJV) which proclaims “*The days of our lives are **seventy** years; And if by reason of strength they are **eighty** years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.*”

Do the math and you will soon figure out time is very short especially given the fact that Jesus says to us, His disciples, that for the sake of the elect God will cut the days of the tribulation short, otherwise no flesh would survive! This is based on Matthew 24:22 (NKJV) “*And unless those days **were shortened**, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days **will be shortened.**”*

And, you may still be thinking, “*Well praise God, Jesus is talking about Israel—the Jewish people not the body of Christ because we will be raptured out of here by then—Halleluia!*”

This perspective is wrong for many reasons, but here are two reasons I will convey at this time:

1. The body of Christ has been grafted into the common wealth of Israel by our faith in Jesus Christ into the *house of Israel* [Jacob/Joseph/Ephraim]. And, we would have no New Covenant to stand on if it had not been for the Jews from the *house of Judah* based on the **everlasting** covenant God established with Abraham and King David! That God pledged His own throne to defend, uphold, and protect until the heavens and this earth pass away!

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Therefore, *spiritual speaking* Jesus Christ joined both houses into one house/one kingdom by what He did on the cross at Calvary as substantiated by the Apostle Paul in Galatians 3:28-29 (NKJV) when he states, “*There is neither Jew nor Greek [Gentile], there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ’s, then **you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.***”

Therefore, both the Jews from the *house of Judah* and those of us who were formerly Gentiles who have been grafted into the *house of Israel* (Jacob/Joseph/Ephraim) by our faith in Jesus Christ, is Israel because **Jesus Christ IS the Holy One of Israel**—He is the vine and we are the branches. Furthermore, in Christ, there is no such thing as a Gentile believer, because the word Gentile means a heathen pagan nation of people who are out of covenant with God.

2. The definition of the word “*elect*” Jesus used in Matthew 24:22 (NKJV) which says: “*And unless **those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.***”

According to *Strong’s Greek Lexicon* Number G1588 the word “*elect*” is the Greek word “*eklektos*” which is from [G1586](#); *select*; by implication *favorite*: - chosen, elect. However, *Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon* elaborates on this meaning as follows: 1) picked out, chosen 1a) chosen by God 1a1) to obtain salvation through Christ 1a1a) Christians are called “chosen or elect” of God 1a2) the Messiah is called “elect”, as appointed by God to the most exalted office conceivable 1a3) choice, select, i.e. the best of its kind or class, excellence preeminent: applied to certain individual Christians.

Let me put the meaning of the word “*elect*” in the proper perspective for the body of Christ based on 1 Peter 2:9-10 below.

“*But you are a **CHOSEN** generation, a **royal priesthood**, a **holy nation**, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him **who called you out of***

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darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.” ~ 1 Peter 2:9-10 (NKJV)

Do not miss the significance that this is the same thing that God told Moses to tell the children of Israel (all twelve tribes) at the base Mount Sinai as substantiated in Exodus 19:6 when God said, “*And you shall be to Me **a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.***” *These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.*”

In addition, you may think that *The Parable of the Fig Tree* that Jesus told us about in Matthew 24:32-35 applies to every generation since Jesus first spoke these words. However, the fulfillment of end-time prophecy concerning the nation of Israel is the “**key**” to understanding **this generation** is in the final hours of man’s self rule.

Therefore, Jesus expects us to read, study, and heed the Book of Revelation, which most in the body of Christ avoid like the plague because it causes many to be fearful. Moreover, many believers do not want to read the Book of Revelation for themselves, because at first it is difficult to understand without the revelation from the Holy Spirit.

Yet, rather than embracing the Book of Revelation as a message of hope unveiling events leading up to Jesus Christ’s second return, many view it as a book of “gloom and doom.” However, this perspective of many in the body of Christ is contrary to God’s Word for Revelation 1:3 (NIV) proclaims, “***Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.***”

Moreover, do **not** miss the significance of Jesus’ saying blessed is the one who reads the word of this prophecy out loud—He is specifically talking to the pastors and teachers who should indeed read this book of prophecy out loud to His sheep!

In summary, the body of Christ will **see** and **experience all** these things come to pass. Furthermore, God will be using the body of Christ to fight against the Antichrist’s kingdom and

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help bring in the end-time harvest of souls. This is why Jesus took the time to expound on the signs. We must know them in advance so we can prepare spiritually, mentally, and physically in order to overcome and maintain our faith in Jesus Christ until the end.

The season ahead is a time of great anticipation of God's next move when He releases His glory in a powerful way we have never encountered before. However, when God does fully release His Glory, His judgment will also ensue. Furthermore, the enemy will seek to counterfeit this move of God as well and we must be able to spiritually discern our Heavenly Father's voice. Our survival will depend on clearly hearing His voice and obeying it. It does not matter how we have physically prepared with gold, silver, or food! We must listen to and obey the leading of the Holy Spirit by doing only those things He leads us to do. Moreover, this is not the time to be distracted by all the ploys of the enemy. We must keep our focus on Jesus Christ by abiding in His presence.

We will only be able to overcome and endure the season we are now entering into by:

1. The words of our testimony
2. The blood of the lamb—Jesus Christ
3. Not loving our lives on earth so much we are not willing to die for our faith.
4. Walking in the power and authority of Jesus Christ by yielding to the Holy Spirit by **walking** in total OBEDIENCE to God's Voice and His Word!

Everything we need to overcome no matter what may come is absolutely contingent on us having a personal intimate relationship with both our heavenly Father Yahweh, and His one and only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, whom He sent. And, it begins by us cultivating a lifestyle of prayer, worship, and supplication **every** day of the week, while we watch and pray always in the Spirit! And, for those of us who take refuge in Jesus Christ who is our shield and our great reward—there is nothing to fear! For we shall experience His supernatural providence, provision, and protection as we **walk** in His power and authority until we die a physical death or Jesus returns! Until this happens, we must live our lives on the earth by being driven by eternity, rather than the things of this world which shall shortly pass away!

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