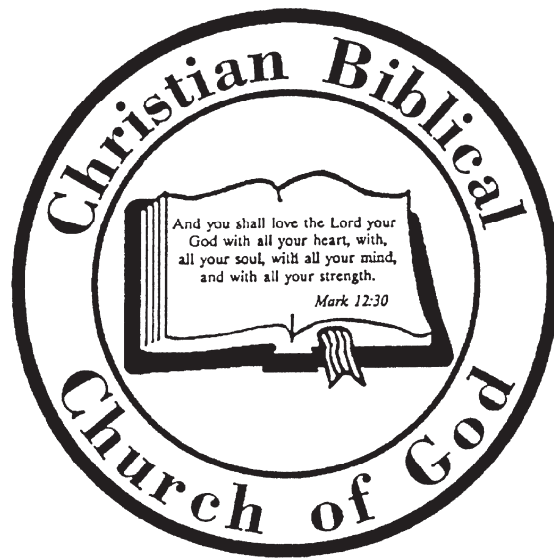


Day 49 and Pentecost 2017



Transcript Book

By Fred R. Coulter

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Fred R. Coulter
Christian Biblical Church of God
P. O. Box 1442
Hollister, California 95024-1442

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Day 49: Sabbath Before Pentecost

The harvest of those who are going to represent the Church of the Firstborn

Fred R. Coulter—June 3, 2017

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Day 49, the Sabbath before Pentecost, and Pentecost is the premier day for all the brethren down through time and history. As we will see tomorrow, *that pictures the first resurrection!*

Remember what was the important thing on the day portion of the Passover, which we covered, and that was *the firstborn*. We're going to look at the emphasis that God had for the children of Israel, and let's see what they did when they came to Mt. Sinai. They had traveled all the way, after crossing the Red Sea and stopping at various places along the line, and they came to Mt. Sinai:

Exodus 19:1: "In the third month when the children of Israel had gone forth out of the land of Egypt, **on the same day...**"—*of the week*, not the same day of the month. This means that this was a Thursday, and this becomes important for us to understand in relationship to what happened here in Exodus 20.

"...they came *to* the wilderness of Sinai; for they had journeyed from Rephidim, and came *to* the desert of Sinai, and had pitched in the wilderness. And Israel camped there in front of the mount. And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, 'Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the children of Israel, "You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and *how* I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you unto Myself. Now, therefore, **if you will obey My voice indeed...**"' (vs 1-5).

"...obey My voice..." we all know is the most important thing that God wants, and the most important commandment of all is to love God with all your heart, mind, soul and being. Everything else flows from that. Everything else flows from the Ten Commandments. But if you have commandment-keeping only, without the love of God, then everything becomes militaristic, authoritative and letter of the law.

However, God had a special mission for the children of Israel for the rest of the world. Like everything else that God does, He doesn't tell you everything all at once. There's a reason for it, and the reason is that He wants to know: **will you obey His voice!**

"...and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth *is* Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a Holy nation."...." (vs 5-6)).

What were they to do? *They were take the*

Word of God to the rest of the nations of the world! Had they done that, the world would have been a much better place. But look at the world today, how bad it is today, even with the knowledge of God that there is.

"...These *are* the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel'" (v 6). This is like a proposal of marriage. Will you marry me? *Yes!* All the rest of the details—good, bad and ugly—all come later.

Verse 7: "And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words, which the LORD commanded him.... [they went and told the people and the answer came back]: ...And all the people answered together and said, '**All**... [when you promise God something, He wants you to mean it] ...that the LORD has spoken we will do.' And Moses returned the words of the people to the LORD. And the LORD said to Moses, 'Lo, I come to you in a thick cloud that the people may hear when I speak with you, and believe you forever.' And Moses told the words of the people to the LORD. And the LORD said to Moses, 'Go to the people and sanctify them today and tomorrow... [that's Friday and Sabbath] ...and let them wash their clothes. And be ready for the third day... [which became the Day of Pentecost] ...for on the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon Mount Sinai. And you shall set bounds for the people round about, saying..." (vs 7-12).

They were to block it off, animals were not to come up there, no people were to come up there—no one get close—because this was going to be a spectacular event!

Verse 13: "There shall not be a hand to touch it, but he shall surely be stoned or shot through *with an arrow*; whether beast or man, it shall not live. 'When the trumpet sounds long...'—that's loud. I want you to understand something very important here: **it is the trumpet**, this for the Day of Pentecost. Remember that the book of Numbers says that on every Holy Day they are to blow the silver trumpets.

The Feast of Pentecost, as we will see tomorrow, is the Feast for the resurrection, and the trumpet is blown. So, we have a type of it here and we will see many types as we go through this.

Verse 15: "And he said to the people, 'Be ready for the third day. Do not approach a woman.' And it came to pass on the third day in the morning

that there *were* thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mountain. And the sound of the trumpet was exceedingly loud so that all the people in the camp trembled” (vs 15-16). God was showing His awesome ability and frightful power to the people, that they would remember this and tell their children. This is quite an event.

The only time that this many people heard the voice of God was on that Day of Pentecost. We’re going to see some things important and this is why I’m starting here before we get to Lev. 23.

Verse 17: “And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God. And they stood at the base of the mountain. And Mount Sinai was smoking, all of it because the LORD came down upon it in fire. And the smoke of it went up like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly” (vs 17-18). The very power of God being there!

He couldn’t come in the fullness of His glory, otherwise that would have destroyed everything. Remember what God told Moses later in Exo. 33:20^[transcriber’s correction], ***No man can look upon My face and live!*** That’s how much power that God has just in His Being.

Verse 19: “And when the sound of the trumpet sounded long, and became very strong, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice. And the LORD came down upon Mount Sinai on the top of the mountain. And the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up. And the LORD said to Moses, ‘Go down. Command the people, lest they break through unto the LORD to gaze, and many of them perish. And let the priests also, who come near to the LORD, sanctify themselves, lest the LORD break forth upon them.’ And Moses said to the LORD, ‘The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai, for You commanded us, saying, “Set bounds around the mountain, and sanctify it.”’ And the LORD said to him, ‘Away! Get you down, and *only* you shall come up, you and Aaron with you. But do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to the LORD, lest He break forth upon them.’ And Moses went down to the people, and spoke to them” (vs 19-25).

Then God gave the Ten Commandments!

An interesting sidelight here: I got an e-mail from a woman who had her 13-year-old granddaughter over and in the house there was a plague of the Ten Commandments. The granddaughter asked her: ‘Grandma, what are those?’ She just about fell over! She couldn’t believe that her 13-year-old granddaughter never heard of the Ten Commandments of God! That’s something!

Well, we’re arriving at here today! What is filling in the vacuum? *Satanism!*

After the Ten Commandments were spoken, Exodus 20:18: “And all the people saw the thunders, and the lightnings, and the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking. And when the people saw, they trembled and stood afar off. And they said to Moses, ‘You speak with us, and we will hear. But let not God speak with us, lest we die’” (vs 18-19). After God spoke to Moses, he told them. Then we find:

Deut.5 is the parallel account, and ***God said that the people were well intentioned*** when they said, “Moses, you speak to us and we will listen, but let God speak to you and not us.’ Then God gave them some instructions about making no gods (Exo. 20:23-25) and not making an altar, and if they did make an altar:

Verse 24: “You shall make an **altar of earth to Me**... [v 25: “And if you will make Me an altar of stone, you shall not build it of cut stone... [but of the earth] ...for **if** you lift up **your tool upon it, you have defiled it**” (vs 24-25).

Then Moses went back up to God and He gave Moses Exo. 21-23; all of these are the subdivision of how the Ten Commandments are applied, with various other instruction that is in there, as well.

Also, here’s what you need to understand. Some people say that ‘we don’t have to keep the Ten Commandment because they were not given at the same time.’ Well, that’s incorrect!

Exodus 23:14: “You shall keep a Feast unto Me three times in the year. You shall keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread. You shall eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded you, at the time appointed in the month of Abib, for in it you came out of Egypt. And no one shall appear before Me empty. Also, the Feast of the Harvest of the Firstfruits of your labors... [Pentecost] ...which you have sown in the field. And the Feast of Ingathering, in the end of the year, when you have gathered in your labors out of the field.... [Feast of Tabernacles] ...Three times in the year all your males shall appear before the Lord GOD (vs 14-17).

After giving all of these instructions (I’ll leave it up to you to read all of them) and you will find with these that they are judgments or ordinances that define what to do when certain violations of the Law have taken place. Just like you have judgments, statutes and ordinances in the land where you live, although they’re not based on the Ten Commandments.

Exo. 24 is a very special chapter, and we’re going to go through it because this becomes

important and helps us see what we talk about in the New Testament about the Sea of Glass and also the confirming of the covenant. Parts of the covenant began with the Passover. But the formalization of the covenant occurred on Pentecost when all the Laws of God were given.

This is important so that we understand how God thinks, what He wants us to do, what is important to Him, in our behavior and what we do, and we'll see it right here:

Deuteronomy 6:1: “Now, these *are* the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments which the LORD our God commanded to teach you so that you might do *them* in the land where you go to possess it, **that you might fear the LORD your God...**” (vs 1-2).

That means to hold God in awe, and also fear Him for He has the power of life and death.

“...to keep **all**... [when God says *all*, that means each and every one] ...**His statutes and His commandments** which I command you, you, and your son, and your son's son, all the days of your life, and so that your days may be prolonged” (v 2).

There's a benefit for commandment-keeping. However, all commandment-keeping is based upon v 3, and God uses this phrase quite often:

Verse 3: “**Hear therefore, O Israel**, and be diligent to *observe* it, so that it may be well with you, and that you may greatly multiply, as the LORD God of our fathers has promised you, in the land that flows with milk and honey. **Hear, O Israel...**” (vs 3-4).

God is talking directly to the people. Here's what God wants, and what He wants with His commandments, statutes and judgments. This is what He wants with the New Testament.

“...Our one God is *the* LORD, *the* LORD. And **you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might**. And these words, which I command you this day, shall be in your heart. And you shall diligently teach them to your children...” (vs 4-7).

Sidebar: Look at what has happened when they're not taught? We have a bunch of 20-year-olds who have been educated to about the level of 13 years, so their minds and emotions have not been developed and they're very deficient. This is why you see at the colleges that they don't want to hear anything except what they want to believe. That is very childish behavior. But this is a result of a Godless education, *instead of teaching them God's way based upon loving Him!*

Jesus made it very clear that all the Law and

the Prophets hang on loving God and loving your neighbor (Matt. 22).

Let's see what occurred in Exo. 24, because this is the finalizing of the covenant and the sealing of the marriage *between Israel and God*.

Exodus 24:1: “And He said to Moses, ‘Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship afar off.’”

Sidebar: What we will understand is that **they saw God! They heard His voice!** So, the God of the Old Testament *was not God the Father*. When Jesus came, one of His purposes was to *reveal the God the Father* to those that He would call.

Verse 2: “‘And Moses alone shall come near the LORD, but they shall not come near. Neither shall the people go up with him.’ And Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the judgments...” Here again everything in Exo. 21-23.

“...And all the people answered with one voice and said, ‘All the words which the LORD has said, we will do’ (v 2).

- Will you marry Me? *Yes!*
- Here are terms and condition, will you do it? *Yes!*

There we have it, right there!

Today all marriages never work out as we think they're going to work out before we're married. So likewise, was it was with the children of Israel. Everything didn't work out because they said they would obey. They had to obey and love God. So, everything that works out in a marriage between husband and wife is to love each other, serve each other and to love your family and teach your children.

Notice what Moses did. This is why when Judaism says, ‘Well now, we have the traditions of the elders, which God spoke to Moses, and this was passed down by word of mouth, *tradition*. **Not so! That is a lie!** Judaism, as a religion of traditions, **is based upon the foundation of a lie!** *God never spoke oral tradition to be kept!*

Everything He had was written down. Everything He wanted the people to obey was in writing. Moses wrote it! The Ten Commandments were written on the tablets of stone. The original ones were broken by Moses because the children of Israel sinned by making a golden calf and had what you might call a pagan orgy around the golden calf.

So, God had Moses make two more slates/tablets of stone and then God wrote on those, as well.

Verse 4: “And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD, and rose up early in the morning, and built an altar at the base of the mountain and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel. And he sent young men of the children of Israel who offered burnt offerings, and sacrificed peace offerings of bullocks to the LORD” (vs 4-5).

Notice this, because no covenant is sealed without sacrifice and without blood:

Verse 6: “And Moses took half of the blood, and put *it* in basins, and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. And he took the Book of the Covenant, and read in the ears of the people. And they said, ‘All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient’” (vs 6-7).

Very interesting! Remember: ***What you tell God, He’s going to take you up on it!*** Let’s see what else happened:

Verse 8: “And Moses took the blood and sprinkled *it* on the people, and said, ‘Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD has made with you concerning all these words.’ And Moses went up, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel. And they saw the God of Israel.... [that’s the One Who became Jesus Christ] ...And *there was* under His feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone...” (vs 8-10).

What is that? *A Sea of Glass!* Very important to remember, because when we are resurrected we’ll be on a Sea of Glass, only we’ll all be there, not just Moses.

“...and as it were the heavens in clearness. And upon the nobles of the children of Israel He did not lay his hands. Also they saw God, and ate and drank” (vs 10-11)—and that was from the offerings of the animals.

Verse 12: “And the LORD said to Moses, ‘Come up to Me in the mountain, and be there. And I will give you tablets of stone, and the law, and commandments which I have written, so that you may teach them.’” *That’s why we have the Old Testament and the New Testament in writing!*

That’s why there are so many Bibles in the world, because God wants every person to have had the witness of receiving the Word of God, whether they read it or not is up to them.

Verse 13: “And Moses rose up, and his attendant Joshua. And Moses went up into the mountain of God. And he said to the elders, ‘You wait here for us until we come again to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur *are* with you. If any man has a cause, let him come to them.’ And Moses went up into the mountain, and a cloud covered the mountain” (vs 13-15).

Verse 18: “And Moses went into the midst of the cloud, and went up into the mountain. And Moses was in the mountain forty days and forty nights.” After the covenant was made God gave them:

- instructions for the tabernacle
- instructions for all the instruments and implements
- instructions for every part of the work of the priesthood
- instructions for the altar
- instructions for the Ark of the Covenant

He did all of this for a very special reason:

Exodus 25:8: “And let them make Me a sanctuary so that I may dwell among them.” God would put His presence in the Holy of Holies. His presence was there all during the 40 years of the Exodus: the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night. So, God wanted to be there with His people. Think of what it would have been like if the children of Israel only obeyed God. *The world would be a different place!*

Let’s look at some instructions on how to get to Pentecost and on what day it really is, and let’s look at these instructions quite thoroughly, because this is important to understand. This is the longest commandment for any Holy Day, and we need to look at from that point of view, and how important that was.

We will find, just as we did after the Passover, the firstborn, the firstfruits, all of those are important to God. And we will see when we get to the New Testament that Jesus was the firstborn of Mary and the Firstborn from among the dead. God told he children of Israel to bring the firstborn and dedicate them to Him, all the males. All the females would go to the Festival fund for themselves, which they would offer when they came to the temple area and they could eat of that. But all the males belonged to God, and that went to the priesthood and the Levites.

Now let’s see what He asked them to do, and this becomes important because everything starts with Christ, just like everything in the Old Testament began with God; likewise in the New Testament everything begins with Christ. But here we have a ritual of the Wave Sheaf Offering, which was a foretelling of the fulfillment of the resurrection of Christ and ascending to the Father. Very important to understand.

Leviticus 23:9: “And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ‘Speak to the children of Israel and say to them, “When you have come into the land...”’” They could not carry this out until they entered into the land, which was 40 years later.

“...which I give to you, and **shall reap the harvest of it...**” (v 10). It is important to understand that phrasing.

- When did they enter the ‘promised land’?
They entered it just before the Passover, in the spring of the year!
- Where did that take place? *In Jericho!*

Jericho was below sea level, and was noted to have the grain ripe first of all because of being below sea level, and being in the valley they had the sun and all of the grain would ripen first there.

Also when they came in there, the crop had been planted the fall before. So, it doesn’t say ‘when you reap *your* harvest.’ He says when you “**...shall reap the harvest of it...**”

There are some who say that they really couldn’t keep the Wave Sheaf Offering the first year or the Passover the first year, because ‘the grain was planted by the heathen and thus it was not Holy and thus it would be contaminated.’ Pray tell:

What happens to grain when you plant it? *It disintegrates and rots into the ground as the plant grows!* That is new and has nothing to do with contaminated hands to plant it. ***A teaching of a man to add on, which God says, ‘Don’t do!’***

“...then you shall bring **the premier sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest** to the priest” (v 10). I became *their* harvest—not that they planted it—**because God gave it to them!** You bring it to the priest.

Verse 11: “And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD **to be accepted for you...**”—all the children of Israel; this is important to understand, as well. This is the day that Christ ascended to the Father and was accepted as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world, but beginning with the Church.

Notice the wording, because in translating the Bible we made this explicitly clear. Why? *Because there are some people who miscount!* When you number or count, you can’t skip a day, so we translated this correctly:

“**...On the next day after the Sabbath...**” (v 11). All Holy Days are called ‘Shabbat’—Sabbath; but **the Sabbath** is called ‘ha Shabbat’ meaning the seventh day of the week. This was to be on the **next day after** the seventh day of the week during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, or **the first day** of the week during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. That’s when this was to be waved.

“...the priest shall wave it. And you shall offer that day... [this is a particular offering] ...when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb without blemish of the first year for a burnt offering to the LORD. And its grain offering *shall be* two tenth

parts of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering made by fire to the LORD for a sweet savor. And the drink offering of it *shall be* of wine, the fourth *part* of a hin. **And you shall eat neither bread, nor parched grain, nor green ears until the same day, until you have brought an offering to your God. It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings**” (vs 11-14).

What did they eat during the 40 years? *Manna!* I’m sure that they celebrated Pentecost, but they could not do this Wave Sheaf Offering until they got into the land when they had the grain. Very important to keep in mind.

Furthermore, when the harvest began, it began *after* the Wave Sheaf Offering. That signaled the start of it. In *The Christian Passover* book we have a very important chapter on the Wave Sheaf Offering, so you can read it there.

There are some people—still a few—who keep Pentecost on a Monday. That’s completely incorrect. It was a mistake of the large Church of God because they misunderstood what was happening. But let’s stop and think about this for a minute after we read it:

Verse 15: “And you shall count to you beginning with the next day after the Sabbath, beginning **with...**”—inclusive counting; so the next day after the Sabbath is *day one*. Why is that important? *Because that day pictures Christ ascending to the Father!* So then, if you do not begin your count until Monday as the first day, then it’s **not the next day after the Sabbath!** It’s the next day after the first day of the week. It doesn’t say that here.

The next day after the Sabbath is day one, beginning with “...the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven Sabbaths shall be complete” (v 15).

That means a week of seven days, each one ending in a Sabbath. Stop and think for a minute! If you start on Monday, you cannot have a complete week of seven days. You have seven days, but a broken week, because you count:

- Sabbath as 6
- Sunday as 7
- Monday as 8

And eight goes back to one! I hope you understand that. “**...seven Sabbaths shall be complete**” (v 15).

Verse 16: “Even unto the day after the seventh Sabbath you shall number fifty days....” When was Monday the day after a Sabbath? *Nowhere in the history of the world could that be true!* That’s how far off that was.

To keep Pentecost on a Monday is the

wrong day, because you have to count *with*, even if—like in the *King James Version*, and this is the problem, I says, ‘count from.’ So, it was assumed that you go to the next day, because the Wave Sheaf Offering was on Sunday, you go to the next day on Monday and you count beginning with that day.

- If you work from Monday to Friday, do you get paid for five days? *Yes, you do!*
- What if your boss said that he counted a little differently, from means beginning the next day, so I’m going pay you for Tues.-Fri., four days?

‘But I worked five days.’ *Doesn’t make any difference, that’s how I count!*

- Would you accept that? *Of course not!*

There’s a lot to the instructions that we need to cover here.

(go to the next track)

Leviticus 23:17 talks about that they were to bring these two wave loaves and they were to made with leaven. I’ll cover that tomorrow. Also, all the sacrifices that were given here picture everything having to do with a type of the Church with the offerings and Christ and so forth.”

We will see about the harvest (Mark 4), and the harvest—Pentecost—pictures the completion of the harvest. Just like it was that the children of Israel arrived at Sinai, then on Pentecost they received the Ten Commandments. *Completion!*

Likewise, we’re going to see that the harvest—the seven weeks—pictures all the time from the day Jesus ascended into heaven, which was the first day of the week. He was raised at the end of the Sabbath, ascended to the Father the morning of the first day of the week. That’s why counting Pentecost does not begin with the Holy Day as the Jews do. It was on the first day of the week, and He appeared to His disciples.

- Was He alive from the dead? *Yes, He was!*
- Is that day to be counted? *Yes, indeed!*

And the 50 days after that ended up with the receiving of the Holy Spirit. So, these seven complete weeks pictures the time from Jesus being accepted as a sacrifice for the sin of the world, and the completion of the age and the resurrection of the firstborn, the firstfruits; we’re referred to as both.

Here we have the parable of the sower, and He explains the sowing, where the seed went:

Mark 4:10: “Now, when He was alone, those who were around Him with the twelve asked Him *about* the parable. And He said to them, ‘To you *it* has been given to know the mystery of the Kingdom of God; but to those who are without, all

things are done in parables” (vs 10-11).

The firstfruits are not the harvest of everything that there is, *just the grain!* After that, all the fruit of the land comes in. So, we’re likened to grain and to a new lump, unleavened; all of that ties together.

Verse 12: “So that *in* seeing they may see, and not perceive; and *in* hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest they should be converted, and *their* sins should be forgiven them.” God does not grant repentance to the world:

- only to those who seek God
- only to those who are willing to obey His voice
- only those whom God is drawing
- only those who are chosen

Jesus did not come to save the world then, He came to build His Church, as He said, ‘I will build My Church and the gates of the grave shall never prevail against it’ (Mat. 16). He is the Head of the Church.

Verse 13: “And He said to them, ‘Don’t you understand this parable? Then how will you know all the *other* parables? **The sower sows the Word.** Now the ones by the way, where the Word was sown, these are the ones who hear, but Satan comes at once and takes away the Word that was sown in their hearts” (vs 13-15).

Christ is the Sower, He sows the seed and He’s given the Word of God. We are to preach it! We are used as instruments to spread to help spread the Word of God. God has many other instruments that He has used down through time.

Verse 16: “And the ones which were in like manner sown upon the rocky places, these are *the ones* who when they hear the Word, immediately receive it with joy.” Oh, that’s wonderful! Oh that’s great!

Verse 17: “But *because* they have no root in themselves...” We have got to have roots; that means that ***you are grounded in the Truth of God!***

“...they do not endure; when tribulation or persecution arises because of the Word, they are quickly offended.... [they give up] ...And those which were sown among the thorns, these are the ones who hear the Word, but the cares of this life, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things *that* come into *their* lives choke the Word, and it becomes unfruitful” (vs 17-19).

That sure applies to today—doesn’t it? *Yes, indeed!* Read these two booklets:

1. *Why is “Christianity” Failing in America?*
By Philip Neal
2. *The Collapse of Anglican Christianity* by

Philip Neal

Both are in dire conditions. And you need to look at the Churches of God, as well. We need to be:

- rich in the Spirit of God
- rich in the love of God
- rich in the Truth of God

Not in the physical things around. Are we Laodiceans or not. Yes, we have more than anybody else. Don't set your heart on it. "...the lusts of other things *that* come into *their lives* **choke the Word, and it becomes unfruitful**" (v 19).

Verse 20: "Now, those which were sown upon the good ground, these are *the ones* who hear the Word and receive *it*, and bring forth fruit, one thirtyfold, and one sixtyfold, and one a hundredfold." That's likened to the Churches—seven weeks of harvest.

In the book of Acts Jesus appeared to the disciples for 40 days and 40 nights proving and showing that He was the resurrected Christ, showing everything that they had to be taught at that time. Think of the great joy and everything that they had, and the enthusiasm and ready to go out and really work. They were all excited and asked the Lord just before He ascended into heaven on the 40th day for the last time, on the first day of counting to Pentecost He ascended and came back that same day. But on the 40th day He ascended into heaven and did not come back.

He told the disciples to go into Jerusalem and wait there until you receive power from on high. They didn't know that that was going to happen on Pentecost, but they were there keeping the Feast.

Also, before Pentecost they selected one to replace Judas who had fallen, and they did it by lot because God is the One Who made the choice and it fell on Mathias. Remember they drew lots and asked, 'Which one, Lord?' ***God made the choice!***

One other thing, Jesus also told them that it wasn't for them to know the time or the authority that God had placed in His hands about setting up the Kingdom of God on earth. But they were also to go and preach 'unto the ends of the earth.' They didn't get there, but the Word of God has gotten there. With all the things that we have with audio, satellites, video, radio, all of that the Word of God is going to get to every nook and cranny of this earth:

- the words of the apostles
- the teachings of Christ
- the whole Old Testament
- all of the Prophets

It's going to be there!

Now today, they're rapidly getting more and

more digital copies of the Bible with APPs on smart phones. Who would have ever thought that that was going to be how God was going to get it to everyone? Now you don't have a Bible just on library shelves in office or den, or alongside your bed, you can have it on your smart phone and have it with you all the time. Now you can listen to at any time you want.

By the way *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* is in APP form for the smart phones: go to **afaithfulversion.org**, and that will show you how to receive the Bible on your phone, and you will have it with you all the time. How's that for getting the Word of God out for a witness; that God would send that kind of technology to the world. It's not just what we're doing, but it's what God is doing on a vast scale in the world.

Acts 2 was a *special Pentecost*. Think on this: Jesus had His ministry 3-1/2 years. Don't you think those who came to the Feast out of the Diaspora with the Jews went back and told people what was happening? Told them about Jesus? Don't you think that there were a lot of them who came after they had heard that He was crucified, but that they couldn't find the body? Where did His body go? *He must have been raised from the dead!*

Think of the anticipation of the people coming to Pentecost for this Holy Day, and there were those whom God had prepared to receive the Truth of the very first powerful message by the Apostle Peter and the other apostles there on that Day of Pentecost. God started it as *His* temple, because that's where He placed His name.

Not only that, He gave great signs and wonders with the power of the Holy Spirit. So, we have right here on Mt. Zion—and that's where the temple was, just north of Mt. Zion—where God placed His name.

A parallel type was when they came to Mt. Sinai. They received the Law. Now coming to Jerusalem, if they repented they could receive the Holy Spirit, which then gives them the power to love God and keep the commandments in the spirit, not just in the letter.

Also, remember that at this time there were Jews and proselytes, but there were no Gentiles at the temple. They could come to the temple **if** they were circumcised and stayed in the section designated for them.

Now then, let's see what happened on this day, Acts 2:1: "And when the Day of Pentecost, the fiftieth day, **was being fulfilled...**"

Sidebar: That is a special phrase in the Greek: an articular—meaning having an article—

infinitive, passive; meaning when the Day of Pentecost “...**was being** fulfilled...” What does it mean to be fulfilled? *People come to the temple area and are there on that day, fulfilling the command of God concerning Pentecost!*

“...they were all with one accord in the same place” (v 1). There were different rooms that were in the area of the temple and they were on Solomon’s Porch. This is where the disciples would come and go.

Verse 2: “And suddenly *there* came from heaven a sound like *the* rushing of a powerful wind...” A type of the wind and trumpet and everything back at Mt. Sinai.

What did they blow on the Day of Pentecost at the third hour? *The trumpet!* Consider this: Here are the Levites blowing the trumpet and the Holy Spirit comes and the power comes like a *mighty rushing wind* and the whole temple area, filled with thousands and thousands of Jews... Remember, God promised ‘the tents of Judah would receive salvation *first.*’ Here God fulfilled that in type, and when Christ returns a second time He’s going to fulfill it to the maximum!

This is what happened there; you know the rest of it, I won’t go any further into it here. We’ll cover that tomorrow. I want to come forward now to the book of Revelation to see some very interesting things indeed.

Rev. 1 sets the stage; Jesus announcing that He’s the First and the Last, the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, the One Who was dead, but now lives forever.

John saw Him in his glorified form! Also, John was told to *write*. Everything that God wants for other people He wants it written down. We know that He inspires the writing, because Peter said that ‘Holy men of God were *moved by the Holy Spirit* to record the words of God.’ So, we have the same thing here.

- Was the Apostle John a Holy man of God? *Yes!*
- Did he write the words of God? *Yes!*
- Were the apostles Holy men of God?
- Did they write the words of God? *Yes!*

They wrote the whole New Testament!

Another thing: the theologians and all of the ‘learned’ people who say it was all by word of mouth for 200-300 years, so ‘how can we depend on anything in the Bible?’ *No!* God doesn’t work that way. He doesn’t do it by oral tradition. He does it by having it written, and they started writing the New Testament at the time that Jesus was preaching. Read some of the words that are there, and you go

online to **truthofgod.org** and you download the sermon on the scribes of Jesus—*Jesus’ Stenographers.* *They were writing things as He was speaking!* Then they compiled it together. I mean, it’s an amazing thing.

So, Jesus told John to *write!* How could the book of Revelation ever be preserved correctly with oral tradition only? It’s so complicated and it sits as the seventh division of the seven divisions of the Bible, and you need the rest of all of the Prophets to interpret the things in the book of Revelation. So, the book of Revelation unlocks all of the prophecies.

Jesus said to John, Revelation 1:19: “Write the things that you saw, and the things that are...”

- What are the things that are? *The seven churches!*
- Were they in existence? *Yes!*

“...and the things that shall take place hereafter. The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, *is this:* the seven stars **are the angels of the seven churches;** and the seven lampstands that you saw **are the seven churches**” (vs 19-20).

That’s all important for us to understand. Speaking of the things that are, didn’t Jesus say “...are *the seven churches*”? *Yes!*

Rev. 2—the seven churches match up with the seven weeks of harvest. Now then, this becomes very important because John was Jesus’ secretary to write down Jesus’ words to the seven churches. What do they represent? *The things that are, and the things that will take place hereafter!* So, the seven churches represent three things:

- the actual churches down through history
- the epics of the churches
- at the end all the Churches of God are represented again

From the seven churches come the harvest of those who are going to represent the Church of the firstborn, who now are written in heaven. So, this is just exactly like the parallel of the harvest of the grain, just like it was written there in Mark 4, Matt. 13 and Luke 8 about the sowing of the seed.

We are told in 1-John 3 that we do not practice sin because we have the begetting of the Father, which is the seed or sperma from God! Seed in the Greek is ‘sperma.’ So, we are *begotten!* We are told that we are to grow in grace and knowledge. We are to produce fruit!

Now here are Jesus’ instructions to the seven churches, beginning with then, down through history and at the end. These are the special messages of Jesus directly spoken to His Church by

Him after His resurrection.

Let's look at each one, each one has some things. You will find that there are elements of all of these things within the various Churches of God. No one corporate organization can claim that they are the Philadelphia Church of God. Hardly any of them want to claim any of the others. Why is it that all the different ones want to claim to be the Philadelphians? *Because they did not sin!* But most of them are anything but the Church of Brotherly Love. Notice the message direct from Christ:

Church at Ephesus:

Revelation 2:1: "To the angel of the Ephesian church, write: 'These things says He Who holds the seven stars in His right hand, Who walks in *the* midst of the seven golden lampstands'"—like in a circle:

- Christ is in the midst of them
- Christ is the Head of the Church
- Christ is to be in us
- the Father is to be in us

All of this comes together here.

Verse 12: "I know your works..."

Sidebar—a little Protestant sidebar: If it is 'by faith alone' and 'works don't count,' why does Jesus judge His people by their works?

"...and your labor, and your endurance, and that you cannot bear those who are evil; and *that* you did test those who proclaim *themselves* to be apostles, **but are not...**" It doesn't say *were not*. There were false apostle then, just like there are now.

"...and did find them liars" (v 2)—which show that we are:

- to prove all things
- hold fast to that which is good
- search the Scriptures whether they are so

Verse 3: "And *that* you have borne *much* and have endured, and for My name's sake have labored and have not grown weary; nevertheless, I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love" (vs 3-4).

- What is the first love? *Loving God with all your heart, mind, soul and being!*
- What happens when people lose their first love? *They get involved in doing some things that God says, like feeding and clothing the poor and doing things like that.*

God says to do that, but that becomes the central focus of what they are doing, rather than growing

and developing in character and the love of God.

So, Jesus says—and He says this to five of the Churches; two He doesn't—v 5: "Therefore, remember from where you have fallen, **and repent, and do the first works...**" He doesn't say to have 'the first faith.' Because if you have the *first faith* you will do the first works, ***because the faith and belief will impel you to do it!***

"...for if *you do not*, I will come to you quickly; and I will remove your lampstand out of its place unless you repent" (v 5). Quite strong—isn't it?

Then Christ talks about the Nicolaitans, we'll talk about that when we get to Pergamos, but the Nicolaitans is the hierarchical structure of the ministry.

Then for each one He gives a promise, v 7: "The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the Churches.... [so you have read all seven] ...**To the one who overcomes...**" What are you going to overcome?

- the Nicolaitans
- the false prophets
- losing your first love

I will give *the right* to eat of the Tree of Life that is in *the* midst of the paradise of God" (v 7).

Church at Smyrna:

They were persecuted, thrown in jail, had tribulation ten day—which is ten years—and that was shortly after the death of the Apostle John. It was a great persecution against the Church in Smyrna.

Verse 8—Christ says: "...These things says the First and the Last, Who was dead but is alive. 'I know your works and tribulation and poverty (but you are rich)...'" (vs 8-9). All the troubles and difficulties, remember what Jesus said: *'Be of good courage, I have overcome the world! In the world you will have tribulation, but in Me you'll have peace!'*

"...and the blasphemy of those who declare themselves to be Jews... [true Christians, because that is a way of phrasing it here to point out those who say they are Jews] ...and are not, but *are* a synagogue of Satan" (v 9). ***The Christianity of this world is not of God!*** Maybe some of the Protestants are halfway there, but let me ask:

If you need a full tank of gas to get where you're going, how are you going to get there if you only have half a tank? *Isn't going to happen!* So, then He says.

Verse 10: "...Be faithful unto death, and I

will give you a crown of life. The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **The one who overcomes...** [that's what we need to be doing] **...shall not be hurt of the second death**" (vs 10-11).

Church at Pergamos:

That was quite a Church! It was right in the city of Pergamos where there was a gigantic altar to Zeus, which then the king of Pergamos transferred to the Roman Empire. The one who sits in that chair today is the successor of the religion of Zeus or Pergamos, and it's in Rome.

What did they have? Christ has things against them because they have, v 15 "...*those* who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans..." How does the Roman Catholic Church run? They say that you can't have salvation outside of anything other than the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church.

Then they also have things committing fornication and eating things sacrificed to idols. That has become the Eucharist or the Sacrifice of the Mass.

So severe was this that God will come and correct you, v 16: "Repent! For if *you* do not *repent*, **I will come to you quickly, and will make war against them with the sword of My mouth.**"

Every penalty that comes from rejecting Christ, twisting the Word of God, instituting a hierarchical government within a church, eating things sacrificed to idols and that means instead of taking the Passover, Christ is going to come and the penalty that He has said verbally is going to come.

Then He says, v 17: "The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who overcomes..."

Church at Thyatira:

Many of the Seventh Day Adventists say they come from the Church at Thyatira. Very possibly so. They did great works.

Verse 19: "I know your works, and love, and service, and faith, and your endurance, and your works; and the last *are* more than the first. But I have a few things against you, because you allow the woman Jezebel..." (vs 19-20).

- Who was Jezebel? *The daughter of the priest of Baal, the sun-god!*
- What is the big sunburst over the throne of the pope in St. Peter's Basilica? *A sunburst!*
 - I wonder how that got there? *It was a big job to get it up there, but they got it there!*

- I wonder what it stands for?

"...who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce My servants into committing fornication and eating things sacrificed to idols. And I gave her time to repent of her fornication, but she did not repent" (vs 20-21).

This is what Jesus is doing all of the time. That's why He has the message to the seven churches. If they don't repent of their works:

Verse 23: "And I will kill her children with death..." That sounds like being cast into the Lake of Fire, because if you kill someone, their dead. If you kill them with death, it could be the Lake of Fire.

"...and all the churches shall know... [here's what all of the Churches need to know and to understand, and never forget]: **...that I am He Who searches the reins and hearts...**" (v 23). As a man thinks in his heart so he is.

- Is Christ in your heart?
- Is Christ in your mind?
- Is the Spirit of the Father directing you?

This is what we need to ask ourselves. We are to examine ourselves. Aren't we told to do that for Passover? Is that the only time we examine ourselves?

- What are our thoughts?
- What are our hearts?
- What will God find if He's testing our reins and hearts?

"...and I will give to each of you according to your works" (v 23).

Notice how bad it got there, v 24: "But to you I say, and to *the* rest who *are* in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, and who have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak..." Right into the cauldron of the depths of Satan-worship.

"...I will not cast upon you any other burden, but hold fast what you have until I come. And to the one who overcomes and keeps My works unto *the* end, I will give authority over the nations" (vs 24-26).

Verse 28: "And I will give him the morning star." He's going to rule with Christ.

Church at Sardis[transcriber's correction]:

Has a name that lives, but is dead. Has a few doctrines. Those are the Churches that very little life, little understanding of the Bible. They have just enough where Jesus said:

Revelation 3:2: "...strengthen the things that

remain... [v 5]: ...and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life...” Very interesting statements:

- kill them with death (Rev. 2:23).
- blot them out of the Book of Life (Rev. 3:5)

Church at Philadelphia:

Let me tell you something: ***You cannot love the brethren the way they should be loved unless you have the love of God in you first!*** Otherwise it becomes a social club, and that replaces the true assembling together to worship God.

Christ commends this Church, v 8: “I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, and no one has the power to shut it because you have a little strength, and **have kept My Word, and have not denied My name.**”

1. keeping the Word of God—*that’s the whole message of Christ!*
2. have not denied His name

How do you deny His name? *When you start doing things and taking credit to yourself that you have done it by yourself without God!*

Verse 9: “Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan...” We run into all of this satanic problem all the way through with everything with the Churches.

Satan is there in every one: false prophets, Satan, synagogue of Satan. Here it is again.

“...who proclaim themselves to be Jews **and are not**, but do lie. Behold, I will cause them to come and worship before your feet, and **to know that I have loved you**” (v 9). Do you see that? *That’s what’s important!*

Right where we started in the beginning, the love of God with all your heart, mind, soul and being. When you do that, then you love others and you understand them. Think about that for just a minute. Love the brethren! And that’s *because you keep the Word of God!*

Verse 10: “Because you have kept the Word of My patience, I also will keep you from the time of temptation, which *is* about to come upon the whole world to try those who dwell on the earth.”

That temptation that is coming is *the mark of the beast!* And shortly after that comes the Tribulation. The temptation is not the Tribulation. The yielding to that temptation results in being in the Tribulation.

Quite a blessing, v 12: “The one who overcomes will I make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall not go out anymore; and I will write upon him the name of My God and the name

of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which will come down out of heaven from My God; and *I will write upon him My new name. **The one who has an ear, let him hear** what the Spirit says to the churches” (vs 12-13).*

What did Jesus tell Mary Magdalene to tell the disciples after she saw Him after He was resurrected? *I’m going to My God, and your God; My Father and your Father!* When He says, “...My God...” here, this means *the Father, the One we also worship!*

Church at Laodicea:

Very interesting! Laodiceans have been beaten up plenty, but let’s look at it. *They can repent!* These are the ones who are almost choked out because of thorns and deceitfulness of riches. They say they are ‘rich and increased with goods’ and they look to the physical blessing of things that God gives them as an affirmation that they are in right standing with God.

Well, Smyrna didn’t have any of that and Jesus said that they were *rich spiritually*. So, you can’t count physical things as an affirmation that you’re in right standing with God and that you’re loving God. That is what you have to keep developing and growing in your whole life.

Verse 15: “I know your works that you are neither cold nor hot; I would *that* you be *either* cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and *are* neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of My mouth. For you say, “I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing”; and you do not understand that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked” (vs 15-17). that means *spiritually!*

So, He says, v 18: “I counsel you to buy from Me gold purified by fire...” Because 1-Cor. 3 shows that the ‘gold, silver and precious stone’ is what we are to build on the foundation of Christ. Gold is the pure, valuable, rare quality, rare creation of God. That’s why He says that.

Then He says something else, “...so that you may be clothed, and the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed...” (v 18).

He also says, v 20: “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, **I will come in to him...**”—meaning that they have pushed Him out of their lives, and if they don’t repent, then you know what the end result will be.

Verse 21: “**To the one who overcomes will I give authority to sit with Me in My throne,** even as I also overcame, and sat down with My Father in His throne. **The one who has an ear, let him hear**

what the Spirit says to the churches” (vs 21-22).

Here is the seven-week harvest!

A little prophecy in Rev. 4 & 5: John was of the Aaronic priesthood but never was a priest. In the Old Testament, only the priest could go into the Holy of Holies once a year on the Day of Atonement.

When we’re resurrected from the dead, we’re going to meet Christ in the air on the Sea of Glass as we’ll see tomorrow, Pentecost, and we’ll see God the Father and Jesus Christ, and all the saints. So, Rev. 4 & 5 are a prophecy of ***the resurrection for the seven churches!***

- 7 weeks of harvest
- 50th day

In vision ***John saw the throne of God!*** That’s something! I’ll let you read it! Come back tomorrow and we’re going to go through the book of Revelation and see a lot of exciting things!

Scriptural References:

- 1) Exodus 19:1-13, 15-25
- 2) Exodus 20:18-19, 24-25
- 3) Exodus 23:14-17
- 4) Deuteronomy 6:1-7
- 5) Exodus 24:1-2, 4-15, 18
- 6) Exodus 25:8
- 7) Leviticus 23:9-16
- 8) Mark 4:10-20
- 9) Acts 2:1-2
- 10) Revelation 1:19-20
- 11) Revelation 2:1-5, 7-11, 15-17, 19-21, 23-26, 28
- 12) Revelation 3:2, 5, 8-10, 12-13, 15-18, 20-22

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Exodus 33:20;
- Deuteronomy 5
- Exodus 20:23; 21-23
- Matthew 22
- Leviticus 23:17
- Matthew 16; 13
- 1 John 3
- Luke 8
- 1 Corinthians 13
- Revelation 4; 5

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- *Why is “Christianity” Failing in America?*
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• *The Collapse of Anglican Christianity* by
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Sermon: *Jesus’ Stenographers*

FRC: bo
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Feast of Pentecost

Events of the Tribulation and the First Resurrection

Fred E. Coulter—June 4, 2017

Greetings, brethren! Welcome to the Feast of Pentecost! As we say every year, time marches on! And it does! Yesterday we ended up with what was going on with the temple in Jerusalem on Pentecost and then the seven churches, but let's come back to Lev. 23 and see some of the things that will be going on.

As I noted yesterday, all the instructions for Pentecost are the longest instructions of any of the Holy Days of God listed in Lev. 23. This is a new offering at the completion of the grain harvest. Of course, we find in Matt. 13, Mark 4 and Luke 8 the parable of the sowing of the seed and the grain that grows. God is interested in the full mature grain.

We can say that in the Churches of God today that there are an awful lot of us gathering more and more of the full head of grain. Some of it is bare grain with little hair, and other of it is gray hair, so that's kind of like the wheat without the whiskers on it, and the wheat with the whiskers on it; either way the harvest goes on.

Every year brethren complete their course by dying in the faith. That's what God wants, because that's the cutting of the grain. Then the grain represents our spirit, which goes back to God, and that's put in storage for the first resurrection. The Spirit of God and man combined together in that new spiritual character, which is solidified at death, goes back to God and does not function without a brain and body. It's just kind of like these recording chips that we record our videos and our audios on.

What's recorded is on there, but you don't know what is on there if you just look at the chip, until you put it into a player, and then you need electricity for the player to work, so that's kind like the analogy of the storing of the spirit of man and the Spirit of God perfected, and that's put into a new mind and a new body at the resurrection. That's the new grain offering, and here is how it is offered:

Leviticus 23:17: "You shall bring out of your homes two wave loaves of two tenth parts. They shall be of fine flour. They shall be baked **with leaven**, *they are* the firstfruits to the LORD." We'll talk about firstfruits and firstborn a little bit later.

All of the special offerings that are to be offered—vs 18-20—are to be waved with the offering bread of the firstfruits.

Why does it say *leaven*? We know that leaven during the Days of Unleavened Bread is pictured as sin. But all the rest of the year it's not pictured as sin. There is a proper and good use of

leaven. And leaven is also part of the peace offering offered to God. We offer leavened and unleavened bread, *both*.

Matthew 13:33: "Another parable He spoke to them: 'The Kingdom of Heaven is compared to leaven...'" We know that the Kingdom of Heaven is a kingdom of righteousness, not a kingdom of sin, so this has to be the good use of leaven.

Why would God have the offering on Pentecost with leaven? Well, when you put leaven in it, as it says here:

"...which a woman took and hid in three measures of flour until all was leavened" (v 33). When you bake it, it's permanent. But what the leaven does, it changes the bread and makes it rise, though you can't see the work of the leaven.

So, in this case, the leaven is likened to the Holy Spirit, which then makes the bread good, with good leaven. It's just like us: we're to grow in grace and knowledge, we're to prepare for the first resurrection, and then we die. Now everything is set, dying in this case is comparable to that which has been baked. Then the resurrection is like the finished product after it comes out of the oven, so the oven can be compared—in analogy—to the grave, though it's a cold place. So, the analogy breaks down at that point.

I'm sure someone is going to write me and say, 'How do you know the grave is hot?' Not unless you're buried next to a volcano, that might be a different story.

God also tells us that we are to bring an offering in addition to that on Pentecost, and we are not to come before the Lord empty. Think about how much God is going to give us on Pentecost at the resurrection: ***All the riches of the Kingdom of Heaven!***

So, we are to count our blessings, as we are told, and accordingly give. We're also told by Jesus telling the disciples about the example of the rich man throwing all of their large offerings into the treasury and a little widow woman puts in two little mites, which was all of the substance of her living for that day, and Jesus said that she 'gave more than all of them combined.' So, it depends on

- what you have
- what your attitude is
- how much you love God
- how many blessings God has blessed you with

Don't just look to the physical blessings, because that can become deceptive. Look at the *spiritual blessings*:

- What do you know?
- What do you understand?

Look at the lessons that God has been able to teach you through the trials that you go through. Because ***everything works together for good for those who love God and are called according to His purpose!***

(pause for offering)

We know that the Holy Days picture the framework of God's plan... See books at **truthofGod.org**:

- *God's Plan for Mankind Revealed by His Sabbath and Holy Days*
- *From a Speck of Dust to a Son of God*

The fulfillment of those Scriptures that are contained shows what is going to happen at the resurrection. There's a reason why we're made in the image and likeness of God. There's a reason why we follow the Word of God the way that we do. *It is the Truth!* Jesus personified is the Word, because the message of eternal life came through Him, to the apostles by the power of God's Spirit and Jesus told His apostles, ***'The words I speak to you, they are Spirit and they are Life; and the flesh profits nothing!'***

Let's see something very interesting concerning the beginning of the ministry of Jesus Christ. For all of those of you who are able to go to the website and download the Calculated Hebrew Calendar or in the back of the Bible we have all of the Holy Days listed through the ministry of Jesus Christ.

We know that Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist and the Holy Spirit came down upon Him, bodily in the form of a dove (Matt. 3). Then a voice out of heaven said, 'This is My Son, the Beloved in whom I delight, or am well pleased.'

Sidebar on *a burnt offering*: A burnt offering is that we come to God, a parallel is that the burnt offering was taken to the priest. The burnt offering represented Christ and the priest also represented Christ. Then the person who brought it laid his hand on it when it's throat was slit so that the priest could catch the blood in a bowl and sprinkle it on the altar. But it was wholly burned! The priest didn't eat any and the offerer didn't eat any. It was not for an atonement for sin, it was for atonement for 'at-one-ment' with God or acceptance.

Jesus fulfilled all of those things in His life. So, when He became before God to be baptized, He

was accepted, anointed, received the Holy Spirit of God for His Messiahship ministry.

The first thing He had to overcome was Satan the devil. Is that something we have to overcome? *Yes, indeed!* According to the chronology, in the year 26_{A.D.} in the fall, when Jesus began His ministry, that was a Jubilee Year and the Day of Atonement was on a Wednesday. That's parallel with His death on Wednesday.

One thing that many people don't know is that though Jesus' ministry was three and a half years, it was actually 44 months, because in the three and half years that Jesus was on the earth, there were two leap years with a second Adar.

- He began His ministry on *day 4*
- it was 44 months and He ended His ministry with His crucifixion on *day 4*
- He was raised from the death at the end of the Sabbath, being 3 days and 3 nights in the grave
- He ascended to the Father on the *4th day* and came back that same day to be with His disciples
- He was with the disciples for 40 days and 40 nights before He ascended for the last time

Now then, Jesus did not announce Who He was until the Day of Pentecost:

Luke 4:16: "And He came to Nazareth..."—after His baptism and so forth. You need *A Harmony of the Gospels* to get the timeframe from His baptism and the beginning of His ministry on the fourth day of the week, Wednesday, and His coming to the temple during the time of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, because Jesus was busy during that time.

Now, when "...He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and according to His custom, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath Day and stood up to read" (v 16). This Sabbath Day was a special Sabbath Day, which is ***on or in the day of the weeks***, which is Pentecost.

Pentecost is a mini-jubilee. He could not announce His Messiahship out in the wilderness with Satan the devil. Who would have heard Him? How would they have known? And His ministry was to be spiritual. So, Pentecost is a *mini spiritual jubilee*, because He was raised on the first day of the count—He ascended to heaven—and on the last day of the count all the saints will be resurrected. With seven weeks of continuous harvest, as we saw with the seven churches yesterday on Day 49.

Verse 17: "And there was given Him *the* book of the prophet Isaiah; and when He had unrolled the scroll, He found the place where it was

written... [no oral tradition; so He reads the quote] ...*'The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me; for this reason, He has anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal those who are brokenhearted, to proclaim pardon to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to send forth in deliverance those who have been crushed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord'*" (vs 17-19). ***The Jubilee Year or the beginning of the ministry of Christ!***

It was a *spiritual* ministry. Notice that if you go back and read Isa. 61, right after this quote it says that He came to execute vengeance. That's His second coming!

So, on this day of Pentecost in 27_{A.D.} a Jubilee Year, running from fall to fall, Atonement to Atonement, 26-27_{A.D.} This is Pentecost right in the middle of it, and ***He proclaimed that He was the spiritual Messiah!*** The people there said, 'Who is He? We know Mary, Joseph, His brothers and sisters, where does He get off saying this?' Of course, they were filled with indignation and wanted to kill Him, but He got away from them.

Let's see some things that are very important in this. Let's look at some Scriptures that talks about Christ and the resurrection and our resurrection, and when it will be.

It's very important for us to go through some of these Scriptures. Here's another thing that is true: ***every time we go over the Scriptures, we reinforce what we know, and we learn something new!*** And we put together other Scriptures during the year from Pentecost last year to Pentecost this year, and it gives us a better understanding of the Scriptures altogether.

Paul understood that he was 'least of all the apostles,' and just before he was ready to die he said that he was 'less than the least of the brethren.' Paul coming from unconversion, vanity and self-exaltation and authority to kill and persecute the brethren whom God has called, the true Christians, all the way down to 'I'm less than the least of the saints.' Truly an example of humility for us. '

1-Corinthians 15:10: "But by *the* grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me has not been in vain; rather, I have labored more abundantly than all of them..." He wrote about 60% of the New Testament. He supervised Luke because Luke was Paul's physician and secretary.

"...however, *it was* not I, but the grace of God with me. Now then, whether I or they, so we preach, and so you have believed. But if..." (vs 10-12). Because right back then at that point, the Greeks were bringing in the theory of the immortality of the soul. So, they were saying that the only resurrection

they needed was Christ.

How has that stuck with Christianity in the world? *Exactly the same!* Christ was raised from the dead, but all of our souls go to heaven. So, you see how sin—when people believe it—sticks around for centuries!

"...Christ is being preached, that He rose from *the* dead, how *is it that* some among you..." (v 12). Paul was really upset with them because they didn't have the knowledge of God. I wonder if that applies to some Christians today? *I think so!*

"...How *is it* that some of among you are saying that there is no resurrection of *the* dead? For if there is no resurrection from *the* dead, neither has Christ been raised" (vs 12-13). But we read in Rev. 1, yesterday, that He was the one Who was dead, but is alive evermore!

Verse 14: "**And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain, and your faith is also in vain.**" Every Sunday-keeper *listen up!* If you think that there's no resurrection and only Christ is the One Who has been resurrected, and we'll add in the Catholics who think that Mary was bodily assumed into heaven, which is a great fantastic lie; never was, you'd better read this verse 14. You Christianity is in vain!

- you worship on Sunday, *the* wrong day
- you keep the holidays of the this world, which originate with Satan the devil, *wrong days*

That's why you don't know anything!

- you may know how to pronounce the name of Christ, *true*
- you may do nice things for other people, *true*
- you may be good upstanding people in this society, *true*

But where are you concerning salvation? *That's the question!* So, your faith is in vain!

Verse 15: "And we are also found *to be* false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that He raised Christ, Whom He did not raise, if indeed *the* dead are not raised." They never found the body! Don't you think if they would have found the body...

Sidebar: We have the stupidity of people today examining the 'shroud' thinking they can get some DNA from here and they'll know about Christ.

Jesus was never buried with a shroud, because they way they buried they had burial cloth, wide linen and they put the spices on it and wound it, beginning with the feet, then around the legs and torso, then up and around the chest, arms and hands,

and then put a special cloth over the face, which was called a *napkin*.

Does that sound like a shroud? Besides, people worship it, and the Catholic Church promotes it in its worship and its veneration, because they hold people in the bondage of idolatry.

Verse 16: “For if *the* dead are not raised, neither has Christ been raised. But if Christ has not been raised, your faith *is* vain; you are still in your sins, and those who have fallen asleep in Christ have then perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most miserable. But now Christ has been raised from *the* dead...” (vs 16-20). All the apostles saw Him. After Jesus called Paul, he saw Him and heard His voice.

“...He has become the Firstfruit of those who have fallen asleep” (v 20). Death for a Christian is like sleeping, because they’re going to be raised. Their next thought after death will be the glory of the resurrection and looking at an angel face-to-face who is taking them up the Sea of Glass.

I’m getting ahead of myself, but that’s what’s going to happen here.

Verse 35: “Nevertheless, someone will say, ‘How are the dead raised?...’” That’s up to God. It’s not going to be the body that you have, because all of that has disintegrated.

“...And with what body do they come?” (v 35). How can that be? ‘It’s better being immortal souls going to heaven, you don’t have worry about that.’ Have you ever read what the Catholics teach about the resurrection and the immortality of the soul? It’s almost comical, because it’s so contradictory, it’s almost like it written by someone who is perhaps legally insane.

So, Paul says, v 36: “Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And what you sow *is* not the body that shall be; rather, *it is* bare grain—it may be of wheat, or one of the other *grains*; and God gives it a body according to His will, and to each of the seeds its own body” (vs 36-38).

Now, that’s very plain. You put a seed in the ground, the seed disappears, creates a plant and it grows, and nobody knows how it grows, but it grows. Same thing with electricity, we use it all the time, we depend on it with everything. We use it here to record this, we get it out to you, we duplicate it, it’s all done by electricity. Even though we use it and know some properties of it, we don’t know what it is. So, how advanced is man?

Consider this: *the day is coming when all electricity will be off, then what will you do?* If you’re not right with God, you’re going to be in

really big trouble. So, Paul continues on explaining about the resurrection of the dead.

Verse 39: “*Likewise*, not all flesh *is* the same flesh. Rather, *there is* one flesh of men, and another flesh of beasts, and another of fish, and another of birds. And *there are* heavenly bodies, and earthly bodies; but the glory of the heavenly *is* different, and the *glory* of the earthly *is* different. *There is* one glory of *the* sun, and another glory of *the* moon, and another glory of *the* stars; for *one* star differs from *another* star in glory” (vs 39-41).

Just wait, they’re developing a fantastic huge new telescope that they’re sending up into the heavens, and then we are going to see the heavens with a more complete picture of the glory of the heavens. What are atheists going to do then?

Verse 42: “So also... [in a parallel explanation and analogy] ...*is* the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption...” Yes, we all get old and withered, we’re weak and die and we’re put in the grave and all the flesh rots away.

“...it is raised in incorruption” (v 42). How is that going to happen? *By the power of God through His Spirit!*

Verse 43: “It is sown in dishonor...” Even Jesus told Peter, when you’re old ‘you’re going to be led around where you don’t want to go.’

“...it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body” (vs 43-44).

Think about this: We have a natural body, which is flesh. What does this tell us if we have the Spirit of God? With the Spirit of God our bodies are a living walking breathing witness every second of every day that the Word of God is true and that you will be raised from the dead, because you have a fleshly body.

Verse 45: “Accordingly, it is written, ‘The first man, Adam, became a living soul; the last Adam *became* an ever-living Spirit.’ However, the spiritual *was* not first...” (vs 45-46). Sorry, Mormons! We weren’t spirit beings up in the stars and sent to possess a physical body. You have it all wrong!

“...but the natural—then the spiritual. The first man *is* of the earth—made of dust. The second Man *is* the Lord from heaven. As *is* the one made of dust, so also *are all* those who are made of dust; and as *is* the heavenly *One*, so also *are all* those who are heavenly. And **as we have borne the image of the one made of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly One**” (vs 46-49).

There is that guarantee, and we’re going to

see that Pentecost, picturing the harvest of the firstfruits is the day of the resurrection of those who are true Christians.

We'll explain a little more of that as we go along. "...**as we have borne the image of the one made of dust...** [we all came from Adam] ...**we shall also bear the image of the heavenly One.**"

Verse 50: "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit *the* Kingdom of God, nor does corruption inherit incorruption." We can understand this a little better than they did back then, but not much.

Verse 51: "Behold, I show you a mystery..." What did Jesus say about the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven? *It has been given to you to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of God or of Heaven!* But to those out in the world it is not given!

Think about the preciousness of your calling and the receipt of the Holy Spirit that you have, and how you need to really concentrate on loving God the Father and Jesus Christ with all your heart, mind, soul and being. As we've covered, with the grace of God we have direct contact with the Ruler of the universe:

- Who has called us
- Who has opened our minds
- Who has given us His Holy Spirit

So that we can become His children at the resurrection. Think on how great that is! The only problem is that too many people and men don't understand it and they get all caught up in authority and things like that.

"...we shall not all fall asleep..." (v 51). They were expecting Christ to return during their lifetime, but somewhere at the end there are going to be those who are alive when Christ returns.

"...but we shall all be changed, in an instant... [it's going to happen] ...in *the* twinkling of an eye, **at the last trumpet...**" (vs 51-52). I want you to focus on the last trumpet.

Sidebar: There are still those people who believe that the resurrection is on the Feast of Trumpets. How are we going to know when the last trump is going to sound on the Feast of Trumpets, because it starts in the morning on the Feast of Trumpets, and the memorial of the blowing of trumpets all day long, and you come clear down to sunset and the day ends. That would make the resurrection on the day after the Feast of Trumpets. Have you ever thought of that?

We're going to see why it has to be on Pentecost, and we're going to see why we need all of that time between Pentecost and Trumpets to find out:

- what we're going to do
- where we're going to
- how we're going to do it
- to receive our new name
- to receive all the blessings that God gives us
- to see God the Father
- to see Jesus Christ
- for the Church and Christ to be married

Then all the preparation to come and rule the world!

We've got to know that! Look how long it took them to get ready to start the change of Presidency from Obama to Trump. It took two whole months, and that's just one single government, and they're still not done doing it. This is the whole world!

"...for *the* trumpet shall sound..." (v 52). What did we read in Exo. 20 on the Day of Pentecost when the Ten Commandments were given? *The Trumpet was blown!* But not all day long!

"...and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and **we shall be changed**" (v 52). And do we need that! The older we get the more we know that. When you're young and healthy and all this sort of thing and you can do the things that you do, you don't think about getting old. None of us, when we're young, think about getting old.

Sidebar: I was carrying something going down the stairs and I said to Delores, 'Remember when we took the stairs by leaps and bounds, two or three at a time?' Now we've got to be very careful one at a time. Never thought of that when we were bounding up and down with the steps, but now that we can't do it, we understand.

Verse 53: "For this corruptible..." That's what's happening, we're wearing out. You may be young, but you're going to wear out.

I talked to a woman that I knew when she was 12-years-old, and now after all of those years—close to 40 plus years—she and her husband have three sons and they're all grown up and have left home. Their mother, whom I knew, is 88-years-old. When you enter into that time of being old, things change! Yes, they do.

Just as we took our first breath and cried... Why do babies cry when they're first born? *They need to expand out their lungs so they can breathe!* You breathe regularly all your life, sometimes irregularly, and you need some adjustments, whatever needs to be. Then you do like Jacob—he was 147—he was nearly blind, he blessed Ephraim and Manasseh and blessed all the 12 sons and gave them the blessing of the end time. Then he sat on the edge of his bed, rolled up on the bed and died, took

his last breath.

But that end has a new beginning.

Verse 53: “For this corruptible must put on incorruptibility...” No more weakness, no more aging, no more any of those things, but living forever.

“...and this mortal must put on immortality. Now, when this corruptible shall have put on incorruptibility, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then... [not until then, the resurrection] ...shall come to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in **victory**’” (vs 53-54)—over-comer!

That’s the background for the resurrection. Now let’s come to the book of Revelation and we’ll pick up where we left off yesterday on Day 49.

Remember, you have Christ, Who says that He’s the Beginning and the Ending, the First and the Last, Alpha and Omega, that He was dead and is living. He let it be known in Rev. 2-3 to the seven churches that **He** is the Head of the Church, and that He judges all of us for eternal life according to our works, our spiritual works of loving God and keeping His commandments; loving the brethren, loving our neighbors and even loving our enemies, though part of loving our enemies is asking God to let the fall into the ditch that they have made for themselves, or keep them far from us, or convert them, like God with Saul who became the Apostle Paul.

Rev. 4—Remember this is in vision. So, when it says that no man has seen God, that is the Father, that’s still true, even though in vision you see somewhat what He looks like, but you don’t meet Him face-to-face like we do in Rev. 22.

So, this has a Pentecost theme: seven churches, seven weeks, then the 50th day, Pentecost.

Revelation 4:1: “After these things I looked, and behold, a door opened in heaven; and the first voice that I heard *was* as if a trumpet were speaking with me...” What was blown on Pentecost? *A trumpet!* Here’s a type, but this is a vision.

“...saying, ‘Come up here, and I will show you *the* things that must take place after these things’” (v 1). We’re going to reach a point with the churches, and then all of a sudden it is going to change, and then we get into the seven seals and the seven trumpet plagues and seven last plagues.

Verse 2: “And immediately I was in *the* Spirit; and behold, a throne was set in heaven, and *One* was sitting on the throne.” He couldn’t tell exactly who it was.

Verse 3: “And He Who *was* sitting was in

appearance like a jasper stone and a sardius stone; and a rainbow *was* around the throne, like an emerald in its appearance. And around the throne *were* twenty-four thrones; and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders... [specially created beings] ...sitting, clothed in white garments; and they had on their heads golden crowns. And proceeding from the throne were lightnings and thunders and voices; and seven lamps of fire, which are the seven spirits of God, *were* burning before the throne” (vs 3-5).

The seven spirits of God are, Revelation 5:6: the seven spirits of God that are sent into all the earth.” These are the eyes of God showing to God, bringing back to Him, everything that is going on in the earth.

- that’s why He knows when a sparrow falls
- that’s why He knows when someone dies
- that’s why He knows the events that are going on
- that’s how He sees men
- that’s how He knows their heart
- that’s how He understands what they are doing

Those who are seeking God, then one of the seven spirits let’s God know who is seeking Him, and then God Himself gets involved to draw them. That’s what it says:

John 6:44: “No one can come to Me **unless the Father, Who sent Me, draws him**; and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, “**And they shall all be taught by God.**” (vs 44-45).

So, everything that you learn of the Bible comes from God, a revelation from God.

- it’s not because we’re smart
- it’s not because we know more than anybody else
- it’s not because we’ve been in the Church longer than anybody else

It’s because God gives the understanding and revelation through His Spirit (1-Cor. 2). Seven Spirits of God burning before the throne.

Revelation 4:5: “...the seven spirits of God, *were* burning before the throne. And before the throne *was* **a sea of glass**, like crystal...” (vs 5-6).

What did we learn in Exo. 24 yesterday? Moses and the 70 elders—and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu and Joshua—all looked up and saw a sea of glass looking through it, and they saw the Lord God. That was the One Who became Jesus Christ. But now is the first time in the Bible that anyone has been allowed a vision of the throne of God, of the Father, and that one was only to John the apostle who was of the Aaronic priesthood line.

So, that fulfills what was required back there in Lev. 16, that only the priest could go once a year into the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement.

“...And around the throne and over the throne *were* four living creatures, full of eyes before and behind; and the first living creature *was* like a lion, and the second living creature *was* like a bull, and the third living creature had the face of a man, and the fourth living creature *was* like a flying eagle. And each of *the* four living creatures had six wings respectively; *and* around and within *they were* full of eyes; and day and night they cease not saying, ‘Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was, and Who is, and Who *is* to come’” (vs 6-8).

Now, if you don’t have the dramatized audio the book of Revelation, write for it and we’ll send it to you. You’ll find that it will be very inspiring!

Verse 9: “And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanksgiving to Him Who sits on the throne, Who lives into the ages of eternity.” This shows that they were saying in a continuous pattern, not saying it all the time. If they were saying it all the time, then the 24 elders would always be down there on their face worshipping God.

So, a certain time, of whatever you would call a time period of whatever it is in heaven—there’s no day or night there, so I don’t know how that is figured:

Verse 10: “The twenty-four elders fall down before Him Who sits on the throne; and they worship Him Who lives into the ages of eternity, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, ‘Worthy are You, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power because You did create all things, and for Your will they were created and exist’” (vs 10-11).

You came into being because of the will of God, and you answered the call of God and received His Holy Spirit because He wants *you!* That’s why it’s so important that we really maintain a relationship with God. Listen! We’ve been given the greatest and the most precious promises of all. Think of it! As Peter wrote that **we have been promised that we’re going to escape the fleshly existence and nature and receive the Divine nature, the sons and daughters of God!**

- I want you to grasp that!
- I want you to let that burn in the forefront of your mind and in your thoughts!

Don’t get all involved with things in the world and ‘woe is me’ or whatever the situation may be. Think of this! This is why John was given this vision. It wasn’t just for him, because Jesus said to ‘write it!’ It’s for *all* the brethren, *all* the Church, to know the great destiny that God has for us, and we see that it

comes through Jesus Christ.

(go to the next track)

Rev. 5 has to do with the slain Christ, pictured as a lamb slain with seven horns, which pictures the seven churches coming out of His head symbolic that He is the Head of the Church.

That’s why the seven letters to each of the seven churches personally from Jesus Christ. So, that’s why those two chapters are very good for us to use to measure what Christ things of what we do, and how we should do it. Very profound!

Then it was determined that He was the only One worthy to open the seven seals of the book that was in the hand of God the Father.

Revelation 5:11: “And I saw and I heard *the* voices of many angels around the throne...”

Sidebar: For all the trinitarians, this is a vision of the throne of God. You believe that the Holy Spirit is a person. How many persons did John see? *He saw 26: 24 elders, the Father and the Lamb Christ!* Where was the Holy Spirit, the person? *Not there, because the Holy Spirit is the power of God, not a person!* If it were a person, Paul would have honored it in every one of the openings of His epistles. If it were a person we would see it here, because it’s supposed to be at the throne of God.

- What do we find? *24 elders, the Father and the Son, and now thousands of angels!*
- Where is the Holy Spirit, the person?
- Do you know why it’s a mystery? *Because it’s a lie!*

All lies, when you compare it with the Truth, it’s a mystery as to how they could come to such an understanding!

“...and *the voices* of the living creatures and the elders, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, ‘Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory and blessing’” (vs 11-12).

You listen to the dramatized audio of the book of Revelation; it’s very inspiring.

Verse 13: “And every creature that is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and those that are on the sea, and all the things in them, I heard saying, ‘To Him Who sits on the throne... [God he Father] ...and to the Lamb... [no Holy Spirit, the person] ...*be* blessing, and honor, and glory, and sovereignty into the ages of eternity.’” And you can pick that up in Rev. 21-22.

Verse 14: “And the four living creatures said, ‘Amen.’ And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped *Him Who* lives into the ages of eternity.”

This shows us very clearly that the prophecies and their fulfillment are not done to our understanding, but are due to the timing of God the Father and Jesus Christ—*period!*

If we have the right understanding from the Word of God, we have the timing in the way that it should be, and we will see that there are certain things of timing. But remember, what did Jesus say? *No man knows the day or the hour, only the Father!* And at the time that Jesus was on the earth, He didn't know. We'll refer to that as we go along.

Revelation 6:1: “And I looked when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures say, like the sound of thunder, ‘Come and see.’ And I looked, and behold, *there was a white horse...*” (vs 1-2)—the false christ, the false religion, and it's being formed. As I brought out at the conference, many of the Muslims, especially the older ones, are turning to Christianity, i.e. Catholicism and Protestantism, because they're tired of the blood and guts and gore.

Remember, it says in 1-Thess. 5 that when they say, ‘Peace and security, or peace and prosperity, then sudden destruction comes upon them as a thief in the night.’

So, we have the development (Rev. 13) of *the beast and the false prophet*. That has to develop before we come to the second seal. So, here's the false religion. Seventh Day Adventists believe this is Christ. No, it's not! Christ is on a white horse, the real thing (Rev. 19) and so are we.

“...and the one who was sitting on it had a bow, and a crown was given to him; and he went out conquering, and to conquer” (v 2). To win in the universal religion that is coming.

Go on churchathome.org and I have a whole series on *The Coming One-World Religion*, and it is going to happen. You look at it and say, ‘How is that going to take place?’ *You read in Rev. 17 that the reason it's going to happen is because God is going to put into their hearts to fulfill those prophecies, because of their rebellion against God!*

Verse 3: “And when He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, ‘Come and see.’ And another horse went out *that was red*; and *power* was given to the one sitting on it to take peace from the earth...” (vs 3-4). A time of peace will be coming.

- Right now we don't have it!
- Right now we don't have the beast formed, yet.
- Right now we don't have the combined religions all together, yet.

They do have their universal Bible, thought, supposedly ‘holy writings’ from all different books. The second seal is the break out of the Tribulation, and it's 3-1/2 years long. Now, there are two parts to the Tribulation:

- the first part is the Tribulation against Israel
- the second part—which we will see is 18 months or a year and half—is for the rest of the world with mighty, *mighty, mighty* destruction beyond our comprehension

Let's look at the first part of the Tribulation against the children of Israel. Think about what is happening to Ephraim in the UK. We have a man who attends with us who is from Britain, and his mother lives there. An article I read said that 500 Church of England buildings closed down because of the lack of attendance, while at the same time, 467 mosques were built. They have 83 Sharia Law zones scattered throughout the UK.

So my question to him was: Will the Brits be so complacent that they will submit voluntarily to Sharia Law rather than fight and suffer the internal tribulation of the abuse of the Muslims against them? *Could happen! Don't know!*

Hosea 5:13: “When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah saw his wound, then Ephraim went to the Assyrian and sent to King Contentious. Yet, he could not heal you nor cure you of your wound.”

Brexit: the UK is no longer in the European Union. What's going to happen in the European Union? *There has to arise ‘a savior who is going to set things aright,’ because the Catholic Church is not going to go away and it needs to be rescued from the Muslims!*

How is that going to work out? *We don't know!* But we know that it will happen because of the prophecy of Rev. 13. And furthermore, it says that the world cannot make war against *the beast*. Are they going to discover something at the Hadrian Collider? *Don't know! There are a lot of prophecies that have to be fulfilled before the Tribulation begins!*

Verse 14: “For I *will be* to Ephraim as a lion, and as a strong lion to the house of Judah. I, *even I*, will tear and go away. I will take away, and none shall rescue him. I will go; I will return to My place until they confess their guilt and seek My face; in their affliction they will seek Me earnestly” (vs 14-15). *Yes, they will!*

Now we will see how long the first part of the Tribulation is against Israel.

Hosea 6:1: “Come and let us return to the

LORD, for He has torn, and He will heal us; He has smitten, and He will bind us up. **After two days He will revive us...**" (vs 1-2). How long is a day in prophecy? *One year!* So, after two years!

"...in the third day He will raise us up... [we will see how that translates into understanding Rev. 7] ...and we shall live in His sight" (v 2). Very important to know!

That's why it talks about when these things take place that war breaks out on the fourth part of the earth.

Revelation 6:4: "And another horse went out *that was* red; and *power* was given to the one sitting on it to take peace from the earth, and *to cause* them to kill one another; and a great sword was given to him. And when He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, 'Come and see.' And I looked, and behold, *there was* a black horse; and the one sitting on it had a balance in his hand. And I heard a voice in *the* midst of the four living creatures say, 'A measure of wheat for a silver coin, and three measures of barley for a silver coin: and *see that* you do not damage the oil and the wine'" (vs 4-6—because it's so precious.

Verse 7: "And when He opened the fourth seal, I heard *the* voice of the fourth living creature say, 'Come and see.' And I looked, and behold, *there was* a pale horse; and the name of the one sitting on it *was* Death, and the grave followed him; and authority was given to them over *one-fourth* of the earth..." (vs 7-8). Not the whole earth, yet, because the Tribulation comes in two phases. The second phase begins in Rev. 8, and we will see how that is started.

"...to kill with *the* sword and with famine and with death, and by the beasts of the earth" (v 8). Stop and think for just a minute! We are the most susceptible to any disaster of any age in the world, because everything is dependent upon electricity, everybody is crowded into cities and small towns. But when the electricity goes off, when war takes place, we are going to be susceptible to the greatest number of deaths beginning probably in the third day of the disaster. Why? *Because:*

- people will not be able to get their medications
- people will not be able to drive
- there will be no water because the pumps won't work
- there will be no food because the stores are out of food
- there will be gangs of people running around looting, stealing, killing

That's what it's going to be like!

- How long are you going to last with no supplies?
- How long are you going to last without any electricity?
- How long are you going to be able to drive your car without any gasoline?

Now, the fifth seal is opened and this comes to the end of the first part. That ends the two years of Tribulation against Israel. But it opens another whole sequence of things. And we'll see that in Matt. 24 in a little bit.

Verse 9: "And when He opened the fifth seal, I saw... [in vision, so the souls are not there, but it's a vision of those]: ...under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the Word of God, and for the testimony that they held; and they cried out with a loud voice, saying... [this is symbolic, so John understands the time-setting here] ...'How long, O Lord, Holy and true, do You not judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?'" (vs 9-10).

So, right when this takes place against Israel, there's going to be the martyrdom against the Church. There are going to be those (Rev. 12) who will be taken to a place of protection and safety just as the Tribulation is breaking out. And those who are left behind have to be a witness to the world, giving their lives like they have all during the time in history down to our day.

Verse 11: "And white robes were given to each of them; and they were told that they should rest a short time, yet, until *it* be fulfilled *that* both their fellow servants and their brethren also would be killed, just as they had been." That's right up to the end of the second year.

Verse 12 announces what is coming on the rest of the world in great power, and we're going to see how that will be.

Verse 14: "Then *the* heaven departed like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the powerful men, and every bondman, and every free *man* hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains; and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, 'Fall on us, and hide us from *the* face of Him Who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, because the great day... [extended day—1/1-2 years] ...of His wrath has come, and who has the power to stand?'" (vs 14-17).

Verse 12: "And when He opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as *the* hair of sackcloth, and the moon became as blood; and the

stars of heaven fell to the earth... [v 14]: Then *the* heaven departed like a scroll..." (vs 12-14).

The heavens are going to open and people are going to see things they have never seen before! Jesus spoke of it in Matt. 24. Let's mention something else that has to happen before the Tribulation begins. There must be a temple rebuilt in Jerusalem in order for there to be a 'Holy Place' for the abomination of desolation for the one who is *the beast* who goes into the Holy place and says that he is God (2-Thess. 2). We've covered that many times, that he is to be worshipped above all objects of worship. So, the Jews have to build their temple.

That's why in Hosea 5 it talks about Ephraim and Judah, because those things will happen simultaneously. That sets off the Great Tribulation, because *the beast power* goes into the temple and says, 'I am God.' Then he declares war from there upon the rest of Israel, a fourth part of the earth.

Matthew 24:22: "And if those days were not limited, there would no flesh be saved; but for the elect's sake those days shall be limited"—to two years to Israel and three and a half years to the world.

What kind of weapons will be developed to where there will be no flesh saved? Leading up to the time we had before Pentecost we have threat of nuclear war.

- Did the world survive after Hiroshima and Nagasaki? *Yes!*
- Did the world survive all the nuclear tests of Russia and the United States? *Yes!*
- Did the world survive the blowing up of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant? *Yes!*
- Did the world survive the meltdown of the nuclear power plants in Japan? *Yes!*
- Will there be nuclear war? *Undoubtedly!*
- How will it come? *We don't know!*
- Will the world survive? *Yes! Because Christ is returning to save all flesh!*

What kind of weapon are the going to develop that will give the beast power the strength to where it says, 'Who can make war against the beast?'

Verse 23: "Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here *is* the Christ,' or, '*He is* there,' do not believe *it*. For there shall arise false Christs and false prophets, and they shall present great signs and wonders, in order to deceive, if possible, even the elect" (vs 23-24).

If you're a slumbering, sleeping Laodicean cuddling all of your riches and goods and thinking how blessed you are, and this comes upon you and you see that this universal religion that is developing

under the power and auspices of Satan the devil with miracles, wonders, signs and great things like this and you think, 'Look at the Church of God, they don't have any of that. I wonder what is wrong? Maybe they're right.' Jesus gave the warning! They're going to try to deceive even the elect!

Verse 25: "Behold, I have foretold *it* to you. Therefore, if they say to you, '*Come and see!* He is in the wilderness'; do not go forth. '*Come and see!* *He is* in the secret chambers'; do not believe *it*'" (vs 25-26).

Here is how Christ is coming, v 27; then this describes everything that takes place, vs 28-31. Many times in the Bible you have an introductory verse that tells you what's going to happen, then the details follow. Here is how Christ is going to return, phase one:

Verse 27: "For as the light of day... [the sun] ...which comes forth from *the east!*... [Where does the sun rise? *In the east!*] ...and shines as far as *the west!*... [Where does it set? *In the west!*] ...so also shall the coming of the Son of man be. For wherever the carcass may be, there will the eagles be gathered together" (vs 27-28). That could be talking about the angels and the resurrection there. This is always a mysterious verse to try and understand. But v 29 isn't:

Verse 29: "But immediately after the tribulation of those days... [against Israel] ...the sun shall be darkened... [Rev. 6] ...and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken. And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven; and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming upon the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" (vs 29-30).

What's going to happen?

- the heavens are going to depart as a scroll
- everything is going to be shaken
- the sign of the Son of man as a sun appears in the heavens
- and it shines from east to west!

This sun is going to stay right there until it comes down to the time of the resurrection. So, for a year and a half the world is going to see that sun out there, the second sun, and they're not going to be able to do anything about it. Let's understand something very important concerning that. They will get use to it, but let's see what they do right after it appears; we'll see that in a bit.

Then Jesus talks about the resurrection and the angels take them to the Sea of Glass.

- When will the sign of the Son of man

appear in heaven?

- Could it be to introduce Pentecost!
- *Could be! Very likely!*

What follows that, after everything is shaken and the second sun appears, which is the Son of man coming, then all of a sudden time seems to stop, the winds don't blow, and here we have the 144,000 and the great innumerable multitude are sealed (Rev. 7). That is at the end of the two years of Tribulation against Israel. Notice that Jesus starts out by saving 12,000 from each one of the 12 tribes, and the first one saved is Judah, just like God said. Then the great innumerable multitude. That's because the Gospel is going to be preached in the world by a far greater way than we have ever understood. So, stick around, a lot of things are going to happen.

They do not immediately go to heaven, because *no one* goes to where the Sea of Glass is, which is in the first heaven; that's why I said *heaven*. It shows where they're going to be, but they're not going to be there until the seventh trump is blown.

Now think about this for a minute: We have all of these who are saved. Who are the ones who are alive when the resurrection takes place? *Those in a place of safety and those who have been sealed here—the 144,000 and the great innumerable multitude!* Then notice what happens after that:

Revelation 8:2—the trumpet plagues: “Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.” Then they get ready to sound after there's some preparatory of that:

Verse 3: “And another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar; and much incense was given to him, **so that he might offer it with the prayers of all the saints...**”

This shows that they are still alive in the flesh, because if they were dead they couldn't pray. If they were already in heaven, then they got there before the first resurrection. So, neither one of those are correct.

The angles blow their trumpets, the first four blow, and great things happen on the earth. Then the three woes take place.

Rev. 9—then God opens the prison for the demons to come out like locust upon the earth, and this is probably done by the *power of the beast and the false prophet*. Then they are going to strike to the North and to the East, and they're going to have this super secret weapon that will sting men like a scorpion, and for five months they won't be able to do anything.

Then the kings with their armies of the East with 200-million that will be strung out from the Far

East clear over to the Holy Land and then the angels that are bound in the River Euphrates are loosed so the armies can come and gather to fight at Armageddon.

We have the seven thunders, and no one knows what they are because God told John not to write about them.

Rev. 11—the two witnesses and their ministry is 1,260 days, plus three and a half. That's how you know when they start. You count from Pentecost resurrection backward 1,263-1/2 days. That's when they start.

- sermon series: *Daniel/Revelation*
- book: *God's Plan for Mankind Revealed by His Sabbath and Holy Days*

Those will help you understand the prophecies.

When the two witnesses' ministry is over, the beast power kills them. Previous to that time, anyone who tried to kill them—because they could call plagues down anytime around the world at will—but fire would shoot out of the mouth of the two witnesses and destroy those who were coming to kill them. Finally, Satan himself is able to do it with the beast that is sent out of the abyss.

They lay dead in the streets of Jerusalem for 3-1/2 days, and the world is ecstatic because that happens. The world celebrates because they are dead. The world finally thinks that, ‘yes, we're going to pull through this whole thing ourselves’ and then all of a sudden there's a great earthquake. Then a voice from heaven says to the two witnesses who come back to life and stand on their feet, ‘Come up here!’ So, they ascend into heaven, and that ends the second woe, and immediately the third woe is blown with the seventh trumpet and the seventh trumpet is the last trumpet of the seven. That's when the first resurrection takes place.

Think about this: the two witnesses, the last to be martyred are the first to be raised. Is the Word of God true down to the very last detail that *the last shall be first, and the first shall be last? Yes, indeed!*

Rev. 14:14-16—here we have another vision of the resurrection and tells us what's going to happen:

vs 17-20 tells us what's going to happen with the seven last plagues, and that leading of the return of Christ and the saints to the Earth.

Revelation 14:14: “And I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and *one* like *the* Son of man sitting on the cloud, having a golden crown on His head; and in His hand *was* a sharp sickle.” How do you cut grain? *With a sharp sickle!* Today they do in combines, but it's still a sickle.

Verse 15: “And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him Who was sitting on the cloud, ‘Thrust in your sickle and reap, because the time has come for You to reap; for **the harvest of the earth is ripe.**’” Think of that! All those who are still living, the 144,000 and the great innumerable multitude, all of those who have been martyred and are in the grave, all of those who died a natural death and are in the grave.

Verse 16: “And He Who was sitting on the cloud thrust forth His sickle upon the earth, and the earth was reaped.” And the angels carry us up to meet Christ in the air in the clouds on the Sea of Glass.

So, when this event takes place what’s probably going to happen is that just before this, the sun that is out there—the second sun—starts moving to the Earth, closer and closer, and everybody gets excited and then all of a sudden it’s going to streak right over the area over Jerusalem and Palestine, which is the ‘Holy Land’ but really the most unholy in the whole world, because of what men and Satan have done to it.

That’s where the Sea of Glass will be! Then when the earth is reaped in the first resurrection, we’re going to be carried up to the Sea of Glass.

The other one is gathering in the grapes of wrath, and v 19: “And the angel thrust his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth...” Remember the vine of the earth is that wicked vine, starting with those who have false religion:

“...and cast *its fruit* into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood spewed out from the winepress as high as the horses’ bridles, to the distance of a thousand six hundred furlongs” (vs 19-20). Amazing, isn’t it? *Yes, indeed!*

Those verses go with Rev. 16. This is telling us what’s going to happen, and then it gives us how it’s going to happen, ending with the Battle of Armageddon. But that takes place between Pentecost and is finished by Trumpets.

Review:

- go back to the next to the last Pentecost—144,000 and great innumerable multitude are sealed
- the last Pentecost—the return of Christ, the resurrection takes place for everyone

Then after that, the seven last plagues. This year, I’m going to end with the Sea of Glass, and then for Trumpets I’m going to pick up in Rev. 16, rather than try and rush through it. This is something!

Revelation 15:1: “Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and awesome: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is filled up. And **I saw a sea of glass mingled with fire...**” (vs 1-2). Go back and see what that is in Exo. 24.

“...and those who had gotten the victory over the beast... [the resurrected saints] ...and over his image, and over his mark, *and* over the number of his name, **standing on the Sea of Glass...**” (v 2). What did God stand on when He brought the Ten Commandments and let those men see Him? *A sea of glass!*

Here this is for the whole Family of God! How are we going to meet Christ in the air and not immediately come back? That would be mass confusion; we wouldn’t know what to do. It would be like you’re raise and an angel throws a horse at you and, ‘Get on it.’ Where am I going to go? ‘Don’t know, you just follow.’ What am I to do? ‘Don’t know, just follow.’

No! there’s going to be time from that last Pentecost to the last Trumpets, about four and a half months and everything we need to learn, we’re going to learn on the Sea of Glass:

- we’re going to get our reward
- we’re going to get our new name
- the marriage supper of the Lamb is going to take place
- we’re going to meet God the Father
- Christ will present us to Him
- we’re going to see Him
- we’re going to see the angels
- we’ll have time to meet all the saints
 - Won’t that be something?
 - Who is that you want to meet?

We’ll all be there from Abel to the two witnesses! From the first to the last. We’re going to be singing. For all of those of you today is all you know how to do is make a joyful noise, then you will sing.

Verse 3: “And they were singing the song of Moses... [commemorating all of those who came into the first resurrection, the patriarchs and the kings] ...*the* servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, ‘Great and awesome *are* Your works, Lord God Almighty; righteous and true *are* Your ways, King of the saints. Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For *You* only *are* Holy; and all the nations shall come and worship before You, for Your judgments have been revealed’” (vs 3-4).

A projection of the coming Millennium! Remember that the Bible does this. It tells you what’s going to happen in an overall description,

then the details you find someplace else.

Let's leave it right there. Here we are, we're getting all ready for the marriage supper of the Lamb.

- What's it going to be like?
- What are we going to eat?
- How are the angels going to serve us?
- What is that going to be?

What a joyous time that is going to be, because, brethren, ***we are the firstborn, the firstfruits in the first resurrection as the servants of God preparing to come back to the Earth to rule with Jesus Christ for a thousand years!***

So, come back for Trumpets! See you then!

Scriptural References:

- 1) Leviticus 23:17
- 2) Matthew 13:33
- 3) Luke 4:16-19
- 4) 1 Corinthians 15:10-20, 35-54
- 5) Revelation 4:1-5
- 6) Revelation 5:6
- 7) John 6:44-45
- 8) Revelation 4:5-11
- 9) Revelation 5:11-14
- 10) Revelation 6:1-4
- 11) Hosea 5:13-15
- 12) Hosea 6:1-2
- 13) Revelation 6:4-11, 14-17, 12-14
- 14) Mathew 24:22-30
- 15) Revelation 8:2-3
- 16) Revelation 14:14-16, 19-20
- 17) Revelation 15:1-4

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Mathew 13
- Mark 4
- Luke 8
- Leviticus 23:18-20
- Matthew 3
- Isaiah 61
- Revelation 1
- Exodus 20
- Revelation 22
- 1 Corinthians 2
- Leviticus 16
- 1 Thessalonians 5
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- 2 Thessalonians 2
- Revelation 16; 9; 11
- Exodus 24

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Semenyih,
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