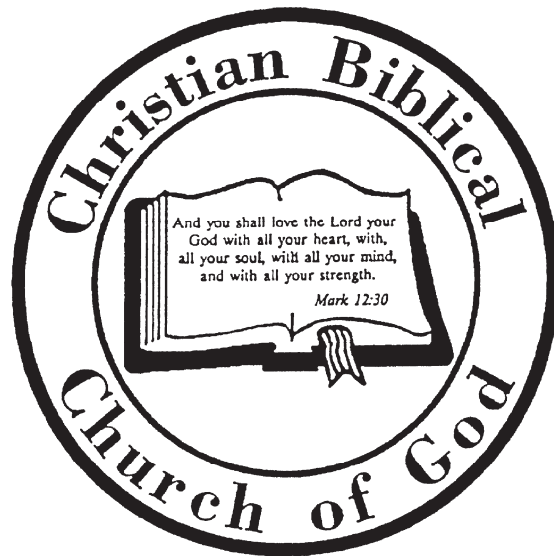


Day 49 & Pentecost 2019



Transcript Book

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The End of the Seven-Week Harvest of God (Day 49)

Blessed is that servant whom the LORD, when He comes, shall find so doing
Fred R. Coulter—June 8, 2019

Greetings, brethren! Welcome to Day 49, the end of the seventh week in counting to Pentecost! Tomorrow is Pentecost, because after Day 49, Day 50 is Pentecost. The way that the Jubilee is counted is exactly the same way as it is for counting Pentecost.

Let's see the sequence of things that God has in Exo. 23, and they follow right along with the Sabbath and Holy Days and what we are to do. Remember that every single thing in the Law also has a *prophetic* meaning and an *eternal* meaning! Not just something temporary to be done away, but something that is spiritual, *and the spiritual always supersedes the physical!*

Exodus 23:12: "Six days you shall do your work, and on the seventh day you shall rest..." the seventh day has a spiritual blessing, and that is that God puts his presence in the day:

- for learning
- for comforting
- for teaching
- for our connecting with God every seventh day

"...so that your ox and your donkey may rest, and the son of your handmaid, and the stranger, may be rejuvenated" (v 12).

Verse 13 is something that people don't pay much attention to. When we go through the Scriptures, we need to look and see why God said this. This is a very interesting verse:

Verse 13: "And **be watchful in all**...not some, not more important than the other] ...**that I have said to you**. And make no mention of the name of other gods, neither let it be heard out of your mouth. You shall keep a Feast unto Me three times in the year" (vs 13-14). *Think about that!*

God says to be watchful, or pay attention, to "...**all that I have said to you**..." and "...keep a Feast unto Me three times in the year."

Verse 15: "**You shall keep** the Feast of Unleavened Bread..." We had that, and this year it was very interesting that the first Holy Day was on a Sabbath. Therefore, the first day after that is the first day of the count toward Pentecost. The seventh day of the Feast was on a Friday and the Sabbath was after that seventh day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread; don't get that mixed up. The last day of the

Feast of Unleavened Bread was on the sixth day of the week. The Sabbath after the last day of Unleavened Bread ends the first full week of the count toward Pentecost. The next day begins the first day toward the second week. *So, pay attention!*

"...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.... [think about that] ...Also, the Feast of the Harvest of the Firstfruits of your labors... [we're going to look at the firstfruits, what that means and what we need to do] ...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. Three times in the year all your males shall appear before the Lord GOD. You shall not offer the blood of My sacrifice with leavened bread, neither shall the fat..." (vs 15-18).

Verse 19: "**The first of the firstfruits of your land you shall bring into the house of the LORD your God**..." Why is that so important? Not just the firstfruits, but the first of the firstfruits? *This is the grain harvest!* It talks about the wheat harvest in Exo. 34. So, you have the barley harvest and the wheat harvest.

Let's see the instruction that we need to follow in counting, and it starts immediately. Look at it this way:

- we have the Passover for the forgiveness of our sins
- we have Feast of Unleavened Bread so that we learn how to overcome sin and develop Godly character
- the we have seven weeks going to the harvest
 - What the First of the firstfruits?
 - Why is that so important?

Leviticus 23:9: "And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying... [it's always God's Word] ...'Speak to the children of Israel and say to them, "When you have come into the land which I give to you, and shall reap the harvest of it, then **you shall bring the premier sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest**'" (vs 9-10).

What they had at the temple was a special place where they grew the barley and the wheat for the *premier sheaf*. Remember, this is a harvest of

grain. Contrast that with Trumpets, which is a *war harvest*, or a *war feast*. That is the harvest of the wicked—Rev. 14—the grapes are then compressed and the blood flows up to a horse's bridle.

Verse 11: “And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD to be accepted for you...” *This is a type of Christ ascending to the Father in the week that the Passover occurred; the Passover, during Christ's crucifixion, was on the 4th day, the middle, of the week.*

He was in the grave three days and three nights. He was resurrected from the dead at the end of the third day and the beginning of the next day. Then about nine in the morning He ascended to the Father *as the First of the Firstfruits for all of mankind!*

Think about how important this is and remember that this is a *harvest*. Then it says what you shall offer for it and so forth. It also says that you're not to eat any bread or grain until you enter into the land. So, whatever they did on Pentecost at that time, it was only manna.

Verse 15: “And you shall count...”—number. When you count that's different than adding and subtracting. Example: when you go to high school you're there four years: 9, 10, 11, 12. But if you subtracted 9 from 12 you would get 3. Counting is always different, and counting—nearly every time—is inclusive.

So, this day of the Wave Sheaf Offering, at the time that Christ was ascending to the Father about 9_{A.M.} In the morning, is the *Premier Sheaf!* Then you are to count beginning with that day.

“...to you beginning with the next day after the Sabbath...” (v 15). The regular Sabbath during Unleavened Bread, not the first Holy Day as the Jews count it. All Holy Days are called ‘Shabbats’; *the* Sabbath is called ‘ha Shabbat’ and has the definite article

“...beginning with the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven Sabbaths shall be complete” (v 15). *That means it's full week from the first day of the week to the seventh day of the week—seven full weeks!* That's where we are today!

We'll talk a little bit about the offering that they were bring—the wave offering—in a little bit when we get into Matt. 13. As we saw in Exo. 23, there's a parallel between the firstborn and the firstfruits.

Let's remember that Jesus was called the firstborn *twice*:

1. the Firstborn of Mary when He was born as a physical baby

2. the Firstborn from among the dead (Rev. 1)

Let's see how important it was that Jesus was raised from the dead and ascended to the Father on the Wave Sheaf Offering Day. That is important! If it did not happen that way then no one is going to be saved, because that's how God said He's going to do it.

Notice how emphatic Paul is. This helps identify what we're talking about. The resurrection takes place first and then the ascension. Then we know He came down and spent 40 days with the apostles before ascending for the final time.

1-Corinthians 15:11: “Now then, whether I or they, so we preach, and so you have believed. But if Christ is being preached, that He rose from *the* dead, how *is it that* some among you are saying that there is no resurrection of *the* dead?” (vs 11-12).

One of the first heresies that was coming into the Church was that Christ was the only One resurrected, but everybody else goes to heaven—*the immortality of the soul!*

Verse 13: “For if there is no resurrection from *the* dead, neither has Christ been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching *is* in vain, and your faith *is* also in vain. And we are also found *to be* false witnesses of God...” (vs 13-15).

Look at how many false witnesses there are out there of God saying that people are going to go to heaven. The Bible does not teach it. We're going to be raised from the dead and—as we will see tomorrow—meet Christ on the Sea of Glass in the air.

“...because we have testified of God that He raised Christ, Whom He did not raise, if indeed *the* dead are not raised. 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” (vs 15-19).

God wants the Gospel preached to the whole world, and those who answer the call God leads and brings them to repentance, baptism and the receiving of the Holy Spirit and to be able to grow in grace and knowledge.

Verse 20: “But now **Christ has been raised from the dead**; He has become the Firstfruit... [the Premier Wave Offering of Lev. 23] ...of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came the* resurrection of *the* dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order...” (vs 20-23).

What is the order? "...Christ *the* Firstfruit; then those who are Christ's at His coming" (v 23)—*that's the order!* Has Christ come, yet? So, no one else has been raised from the dead to eternal life. ***No one else, yet!*** But it is coming!

We also know that we are called as sort of firstfruits. So, we have Christ *the Firstfruit*, and we are called *firstfruits of God's creation!*

It's interesting all of this is put together and the Scriptures give us a tremendous and exciting understanding of the Word of God. Just think about it. We can meditate and think about eternal life, but we cannot grasp the magnitude of it, yet. Every once in a while we get a very inspired thought, or something when we see some pictures of the universe and the greatness of things that God has created out there. We're going to be a part of it, and that inspires us in it.

James 1:17: "Every good act of giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, **with Whom there is no variation, nor shadow of turning.**"

Another way of saying it is: Christ the same yesterday, today and forever. ***Neither one of Them change!*** That's important to understand. When we go back and see the history of the Waldensians... By the way, John Guenther has done a magnificent job in bringing out that history for us. There were thousands and thousands of people at that time—during the Waldensians and that 500 year period when they suffered persecution off and on—and at the end terrible persecution. *But they are all part of the firstfruits, too!*

Verse 18: "According to His own will..." think about this: it is the will of God that He has called you, that you have answered the call, that you were baptized and received the Holy Spirit and are now growing and overcoming and developing the character of God. ***Christ in you the hope of glory!*** The Spirit of the Father and the Spirit of Christ in us.

"...He begat us by *the* Word of Truth... [that includes His Spirit] ...that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all His created beings" (v 18).

Think about special that is! That's why we need to understand what God is doing and His plan, and how it's likened to a harvest, so that we can understand what is going on.

We're going to spend a little time in Matt. 13, and we're going to examine it carefully. We are going to see that if we really fully go through it, it gives us a great deal of understanding from the Word of God.

This shows very clearly that what God is

doing is likened to a harvest. Trumpets is a *war feast* and the only harvest of that war is the death of the wicked fighting against Christ.

This shows how God is working with His harvest; Matthew 13:37: "And He answered *and* said to them, 'The One Who sows the good seed is the Son of man.'"

So, Christ is actively busy making sure that His Word goes out. Just think of all the Bibles that we have. God is the One behind all the Bibles in the world. Think about how many of you can now have a laptop or a smart phone, and you can have the entire Bible right there. You can go to it anytime you want. *Amazing!*

Verse 38: "And the field is the world; and the good seed, these are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked *one.*"

Let's see how this works. The calling goes out and it's going out in many, many different ways. We all have to do our part.

"...the field is the world..." so the Word of God is going out to many different people. We also know that there are those who are seeking God, and 'the Father is seeking those who seek Him and worship Him in Spirit and in Truth' (John 4). Jesus knows who is seeking because He's in charge of directing the seven spirits of God to find those who are seeking God.

I don't know what happened in your life, how you began, and how God called you, but in every case it is unique and different, and God is the One Who has intervened in your life, and brought you to repentance, baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit. "...and the good seed, these are the children of the kingdom..."

Verse 10: "And His disciples came to Him and asked, 'Why do You speak to them in parables?'"

- the field is the world
- the One Who sows the seed is the Son of man

Let's see how people receive the Word of God. Various conditions, and not only that but there are the counterfeits as depicted by the tares.

Verse 11: "And He answered *and* said to them, 'Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven...'—***the secret of God!***

If you know and understand about the Passover, Holy Days and Sabbath and the meaning of them, and how God is using them in prophecy to fulfill His will, ***you understand the mysteries or the***

secrets of the Kingdom of God! It's not given to the world, because it is a spiritual thing and **must be spiritually understood!**

"...but to them... [the world] ...it has not been given. For whoever has *understanding*, to him more shall be given..." (vs 11-12).

Look at how much understanding that God has given us today. The only way that we retain that is to actively use it to grow in grace and knowledge and the understanding of it. To learn more from what we already understand and keep building and building. It's a spiritual thing, spiritually understood. That's what He means when He says, "...more shall be given..."

"...and he shall have an abundance, but whoever does not have *understanding*, even what he has shall be taken away from him" (v 12). *So, people end up being more ignorant than ever!*

Verse 13: "For this *reason* I speak to them in parables, because seeing, they see not; and hearing, they hear not; neither do they understand." *You can see that in Protestantism and Catholicism. That's just the way it is, because:*

- unless you repent
- unless you keep the commandments of God
- unless you're baptized
- unless you keep the Sabbath and the Holy Days

you will never understand the plan of God! You may grasp a little here or a little there, but you'll never understand the plan of God.

Verse 14: "And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah, which says, 'In hearing you shall hear, and in no way understand; and *in* seeing you shall see, and in no way perceive; for **the heart of this people has grown fat, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed...**'" (vs 14-15). *Think about how this applies to the Protestants!*

- Have they closed their eyes to the Truth of Old Testament and God's commandments?
- Have they closed their eyes to the Sabbath, Passover and Holy Days of God?
- *Yes!*
- How much understanding do they have?

Oh, they can preach good, psychological sermons on how you can be nice people. But understanding Who God is and what God is, they have little to no understanding at all, because of what it says right here:

"...lest they should see..." (v 15). God doesn't want them to see. You either understand it

all, or none! What little you understand, it's not the full enough picture for you to really grasp what God is doing. So, it's *all or none!* That's how God has made it.

"...with their eyes, and should hear with their ears, and should understand with their hearts, and should be converted, and I should heal them" (v 15).

Every good Protestant ought to read that. If you think that you have to get out there and try and save all the world, and the ones you don't save are going to be burning in hell for ever and ever, because they haven't answered the call of whatever Protestant or Catholic church it is. *Think about that in relationship to:*

- what we're doing
- that you can open your Bible and understand the Word of God
- that you have knowledge and understanding of the plan of God through the Passover and Holy Days

Amazing!

Verse 16: "But **blessed are your eyes, because they see...**"

If you're having trouble because of physical things around you, don't worry about it, **God will help you overcome it!** That will become a passing thing in whatever time God lifts it from you.

"...and your ears, because they hear" (v 16). Think about how many times Jesus said, 'The one who has ears, let him hear.' He says it in v 9. Didn't He also say that all the way through, in many parts in the book of Revelation.

Notice what they understood, and then add all of the New Testament on top of that to what we, today, understand. Think about how this verse magnifies itself.

Verse 17: "For truly I say to you, many prophets..." Didn't Daniel say, 'O Lord, what are these things.' *It's not for you to know, Daniel! You go your way, you're going to be in the resurrection, but you're not going to understand it!* And Daniel gave all those fantastic prophecies.

When you couple the book of Revelation to Daniel, it gives us a lot of understanding. But then there are a lot of things that are difficult to understand. I want you to think about what God has given you as the gift of knowledge and understanding, through His Word and through His Spirit. What a fantastic thing that that is.

And lest at anytime we think we're filled and don't need anything else, remember that the

Word of God is eternal and we are constantly adding to our understanding as God opens our mind to see from His Word.

“...many prophets and righteous *men* have desired to see what you see, and have not seen; and to hear what you hear, and have not heard” (v 17).

The Apostle John was the secretary for Jesus Christ, to write the whole book of Revelation, and it comes from Jesus Christ and God the Father, written by John. That is a fantastic thing to understand. *Christ wrote the book of Revelation through the scribe of the Apostle John!* Some people say, ‘Why didn’t Jesus write a book?’ *He did! Revelation!*

Then Jesus goes on to explain the parable. This happens in life, you can see it; v 18: “Therefore, hear the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the Word of the kingdom and does not understand *it*, the wicked one comes and snatches away that which was sown in his heart....” (vs 18-19).

Isn’t that amazing? Our calling and everything that God has for us is so important that Satan wants to come and take it away.

“...This is the one who was sown by the way. Now, the one who was sown upon the rocky places is the one who hears the Word and immediately receives it with joy” (vs 19-20). *Oh, this is wonderful! How great!*

Verse 21: “But *because* he has no root in himself, *he* does not endure; for when tribulation or persecution arises because of the Word, he is quickly offended”—*and goes away! We’ve seen that happen!*

Here’s what needs to be for us; we need to be the *good* seed! The seed that God gives us, and the begetting of His Spirit... There are two seeds: the words of God and the begetting of God’s Spirit, which consists of from the Father and the Son.

Verse 22: “And the one who was sown among the thorns is the one who hears the Word, but the cares of this life and the deceitfulness of riches choke the Word, and it becomes unfruitful.”

More interested in making money, accumulating wealth. ‘Just think of how much I can make. I don’t have to keep the Sabbath if I’m making money. By the way, I’ll double my tithe, won’t that be nice?’

Go back and read 1-Sam. 15 and what happened to Saul when he did not obey the words of the Lord. He said that he did, then he blamed the people. That’s much like this.

Verse 23: “But the one who was sown on good ground, this is the one who hears the Word and

understands, who indeed brings forth fruit and produces—one a hundredfold, another sixtyfold *and* another thirtyfold.”

Then study the parable of the pounds and talents. You understand that God gives us free moral agency to choose to do what is good in God’s sight. God isn’t going to give it to us and then we sit back and do nothing. *No!* He created us in His image, so:

- we can think
- we can do
- we can love God
- we can serve Him

All of these combined together!

Let’s see the next parable, and we have all lived through this.

Verse 24: “And He put another parable before them, saying, ‘The Kingdom of Heaven is compared to a man who was sowing good seed in his field.’”

- Who is the sower? *Christ!*
- What is the good seed? *The Word of God!*

Verse 25: “But while men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away.”

- Who is the enemy? *Satan!*
- Didn’t we see that in one of the parables? *Yes!*

*Satan wants to come and **destroy! take! remove! change! amend!***

Verse 26: “Now, when the blades sprouted and produced fruit, then the tares also appeared”—*because the tares do not produce any fruit!*

Apparently, it comes up looking like the real thing. But it’s a counterfeit. Isn’t that the way it is Protestantism. Yes, even some Churches of God have a few tares in them. They need to get rid of them.

Verse 27: “And the servants came to the master of the house *and* said to him ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? Then where did these tares come from?’ And he said to them, ‘A man *who* is an enemy has done this.’ Then the servants said to him, ‘Do you want us to go out and gather them?’ But he said, ‘**No, lest while you are gathering the tares, you *also* uproot the wheat with them**’” (vs 27-29).

I want you to be very concentrated on how this is a harvest of grain. That’s what the whole Church is about.

Verse 30: “Allow both to grow together

until the harvest; and at the time of the harvest...”
Before the harvest comes, there are various cycles where this happens with the Church of God! Tares come in and then there has to be a scattering to get rid of them. God is the One Who scatters them so that those who are faithful will leave the unfaithful and hateful, and will stay faithful to God, loving God, even if it means being alone for a time being.

Go back and look at the account of Elijah. Look at how he withstood all the prophets of Baal, and how his sacrifice was consumed with fire from God. Then they took and killed all the prophets of Baal and then Elijah got afraid. Jezebel was going to come and Elijah was afraid that she was going to kill him. So, he went to Mt. Horeb and went into a cave. The God appeared to him as ‘a still voice’ and said, ‘Elijah, I still have some more work for you to do. You’re going to go and anoint the king of Syria Hazael, and there are 7,000 that haven’t bowed the knee to Baal.’

Likewise with us, we may be alone, but there are people of God in many different places in the world that we don’t even know about. We may know about some, but God is doing a greater work. When it happens that there is one of the separations, remember that God is going to bring those who love Him back together again.

“...I will say to the reapers, ‘Gather the tares first, and bind them into bundles to burn them; but gather the wheat **into my granary.**’” (v 30). What is that?

We know that those who die in the faith are awaiting the resurrection. We also know that in Ecc. 12 that Solomon wrote, ‘When a man dies the body goes back to dust and the spirit goes back to God.’

So, a person could say, just reading the Old Testament and not having the New Testament, that they wouldn’t know what a granary is. That’s where you store all the grain. They wouldn’t know what would happen to the spirit of man.

Hebrews 12:22—think about this when you pray: “But you have come to Mount Zion, and to *the* city of *the* living God, heavenly Jerusalem; and to an innumerable company of angels; **to the joyous festival gathering**... [the Day of Pentecost] ... and to *the Church of the Firstborn*...” (vs 22-23).

Christ the Firstborn in the flesh of Mary and the Firstborn from the dead, via the resurrection.

“...registered in *the Book of Life* in heaven; and to God, *the Judge of all*; **and to the spirits of the just who have been perfected**” (v 23).

So, the spirit of man with the Spirit of God when we die goes back to God, and He puts it in the granary.

We can stop and do a little adding on to this. This is for the first resurrection. Therefore, since there is a second resurrection—there are two phases of it—the resurrection of those who have not committed the unpardonable sin, and the resurrection of those who have committed the unpardonable sin. So, there must be a place where their spirits are also put into that particular granary, as Christ talks about in Matt. 13.

(go to the next track)

Now let’s see some of the other parables in Matt. 13; He gave quite a few parables here.

Matthew 13:31: “Another parable He presented to them, saying, ‘The Kingdom of Heaven is compared to a *tiny* mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field; which indeed is **very small among all the seeds; but after it is grown, it is greater than all the herbs, and becomes a tree**, so that the birds of heaven come and roost in its branches” (vs 31-32).

What’s it going to be like? We’re going to see that God is going to give us some fantastic and great things, and unbelievable responsibilities in the Kingdom of God.

Verse 33: “Another parable He spoke to them...” This is very hard for some people to grasp, so we’re trying to understand what it means:

“...‘The Kingdom of Heaven is compared to leaven...’ (v 33). During the days of Unleavened Bread leaven is compared to sin. But the Kingdom of Heaven is righteousness, joy and goodness, so why does Jesus compare it to leaven? *There’s a good aspect of leaven!*

“...which a woman took and hid in three measures of flour until all was leavened” (v 33).

When you’re making bread and you put the leaven in, it changes form. It rises or grows from the unseen work of the leaven. It’s like a gas; you can’t see it, likewise with the Spirit of God. You can’t see the Spirit of God, but God has given you the Spirit of God. This leaven is the good leaven. This helps us answer one part of Lev. 23 concerning Pentecost. Let’s see what they were to do on the 50th Day.

Leviticus 23:15: “And you shall count to you beginning with the next day after the Sabbath, beginning with the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven Sabbaths shall be complete. Even unto the day after the seventh Sabbath you shall number fifty days. And you shall offer a new grain offering to the LORD” (vs 15-16).

Here's what they were to do, v 17: "You shall bring out of your homes two wave loaves of two tenth parts. They shall be of fine flour...."

Isn't it interesting that we're likened to flour beaten fine. What is that? *That's the growing, overcoming and the resisting against the world; the trials, tribulations and afflictions that we go through! That is beaten into to fine character!*

"...They shall be baked with leaven, *they are the firstfruits to the LORD*" (v 17)—***the completed product!***

When you make a loaf of bread and put it in the oven—that's like the oven of trials that we go through—it is baked, permanently changed. Before it's baked, after you let it rise, you can beat it down. But the leaven is still in there and it will rise again. But once it's baked, if you beat it down you will have nothing but crumbs.

This pictures our new spiritual existence! It doesn't mean that God accepts us because we have sin in our lives. The resurrection is going to remove all sin! So, this has to be the unseen work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Think about that for a minute: All the trials and all the difficulties that you have gone through, and will go through and experience.

Matthew 13:34: "Jesus spoke all these things to the multitudes in parables, and without a parable He did not speak to them; so that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, 'I will open My mouth in parables; **I will utter things hidden from the foundation of the world**'" (vs 34-35).

What we are talking about are things that God has planned *from the foundation of the world!* He has made it so that we will possess the earth with Christ during the Millennium, and live in New Jerusalem forever! Think about how great that is.

If you've got a trial, trouble or difficulty against you now, focus in on that and ask God to help you find a solution to the difficulty. *He will! God always answers prayers!*

Verse 36: "And after dismissing the multitude, Jesus went into the house. Then His disciples came to Him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field.' And He answered *and* said to them, 'The One Who sows the good seed is the Son of man; and the field is the world; and the good seed, these are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked *one*. Now, the enemy who sowed them is the devil...' (vs 36-39).

When we're coming to the end of the age,

the devil is working *big time!* Big things are going to happen! It comes to what's going to happen to us. All the wicked are going to be burned up, then notice what Jesus says about us:

Verse 43: "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father...."

What kind of glory will that be? The apostles got a glimpse of what it would be like to be a spirit being.

Matthew 17:1: "And after six days, Jesus took with *Him* Peter and James and his brother John, and brought them up into a high mountain by themselves."

These were the leading apostles of the twelve. Jesus wanted to have emblazoned in their minds this experience of the transfiguration so that they would always be faithful.

Unfortunately, James was beheaded (Acts 12). But both Peter and John refer to this very specifically concerning the Word of God and how it came together.

Verse 2: "And He was transfigured before them; and His face shined as the sun..." *Just like it says that we're going to shine as the sun in the Kingdom of the Father!*

"...and His garments became white as the light" (v 2). I don't know what kind of spiritual clothes we're going to have, or what our wardrobe will look like as spirit beings. I have no idea at all. I can imagine some things, but it just escapes trying to understand what it's going to be like wearing spiritual clothes, or rather clothes made out of spirit.

Verse 3: "Then behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah talking with Him." *One is on the right hand and one is on the other hand!*

But later what did James' and John's mother do? *Lord, grant my sons can sit one on Your right hand and one on Your left hand!* Jesus said, 'It's not Mine to give; the Father gives that.'

Verse 4: "And Peter answered *and* said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here. If You desire, let us make three tabernacles here: one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah.'"

All of sudden human nature comes in there and wants to do something extra special for God!

Verse 5: "While he was speaking, a bright cloud suddenly overshadowed them; and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, 'This is My Son, the Beloved, in Whom I delight. **Listen to Him!**'"

How many times did Jesus say, 'The one who has an ear, let him hear'?

Verse 6: “And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces in extreme terror. But Jesus came *and* touched them, and said, ‘Arise, and do not be terrified.’ And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus alone. Now, as they were descending from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, ‘Tell the vision to no one until the Son of man has risen from *the dead*’” (vs 6-9). *That mystified James, Peter and John!*

Verse 10: “Then His disciples asked Him, saying, ‘Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?’ And Jesus answered *and* said to them, ‘Elijah shall indeed come first and restore all things. But I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him; but they did to him whatever they desired. In like manner also, the Son of man is about to suffer from them.’ Then the disciples understood that He was speaking to them about John the Baptist” (vs 10-13).

That’s what it means to shine like the sun in the Kingdom of our Father!

Matthew 13:44: “Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is compared to treasure hidden in a field; which when a man finds, he conceals, and for the joy of *finding* it, goes and sells everything that he has, and buys that field.”

That’s like saying that’s how our lives need to be. The Kingdom of God to us is worth nothing compared to anything on the earth. *It’s like a great fantastic treasure!* You talk about the splendor and glory that God is going to give to us! It’s going to be greater than the treasures that we could even imagine.

- Are we putting the maximum effort into attaining it?

That’s what God wants to know!

- Are we putting forth in loving God with all our heart, mind, soul and being?

That doesn’t mean that we aren’t going to sin and have difficulty! But we come to God and:

- repent
- change
- grow
- overcome

We are building that treasure!

Verse 47: Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is compared to a dragnet cast into the sea, gathering in every kind of *fish*; which after it was filled was drawn up on shore; and they sat down and collected the good into vessels, and the unfit they threw away” (vs 47-48).

Again, separating the righteous from the

wicked! You see that all the way through in different parables in the Gospels.

Verse 49: “This is the way it will be in the end of the age... [all of the parables come down to the end of the age] ...the angels shall go out, and shall separate the wicked from among the righteous.”

What are the righteous going to be doing? *The angels are going to be carrying them, resurrected and are going to take us up to the Sea of Glass!* That’s quite a thing! For the wicked:

Verse 50: “And shall cast them into the furnace of fire; there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.” *It’s going to come!*

- the Kingdom of God is going to come
- the righteousness of God is going to come
- all the things we’ve ever studied and read about are going to come to pass exactly as Jesus said in the timing that He said

John 5—here Jesus talks about the resurrection, but also it shows us some very important lessons. Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath, told him take up his bedroll and go. The Pharisees and the religious authorities were astonished that he was walking. They asked, ‘Who healed you?’ *I don’t know!* ‘Why are carrying your bedroll?’ *The One Who healed me told me to carry it!*

Later he found out that it was Jesus, and Jesus told him, ‘Go and sin no more lest a worse thing come upon you.’ Then he went to the authorities and said that it was Jesus Who healed him. They wanted to know why Jesus did this on the Sabbath. We know from other parables that Jesus showed that it was *good to do good on the Sabbath*. ‘Can you heal, or do evil?’ *Heal! Nothing wrong with that!*

John 5:17: “But Jesus answered them, ‘My Father is working until now, and I work.’” *God is always doing spiritual do good on the Sabbath Day!*

- Who comes into our midst with His Spirit?
- Who gives us inspiration of God’s Word?
- Who helps us in teaching to teach the right things to the brethren?
- **God does!**

That is a *spiritual work!* In addition to it physically He keeps the earth rotating on its axis and going around the sun. He keeps all the planets, all the universe upheld. So, ‘He’s working until now, and I work!’

Verse 18: “So then, on account of this *saying*, the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, not

only because He had loosed the Sabbath, but also *because* He had called God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.” *That’s God intent* (John 10).

Verse 19: “Therefore, Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Truly, truly I say to you, the Son has no power to do anything of Himself...’” *Likewise with us!*

How much power do we have to do anything other than what God does with us through His Holy Spirit. That’s referring to things *spiritual*. We can do physical things. We can build, clean, draw, devise, work at computers, whatever. We can do those things, but we can’t do anything spiritual and lasting without God. *That’s the whole lesson!*

That’s why on the Sabbath God gives us—with His work—what we need to learn, know and understand. Jesus is working!

“...‘Truly, truly I say to you, the Son has no power to do anything of Himself, but only what He sees the Father do. For whatever He does, these things the Son also does in the same manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him everything that He Himself is doing...’” (vs 19-20).

Here’s a great key. Remember what the greatest commandment is *to love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength!* That’s a fulltime occupation. When we do, God gives us:

- understanding of His Word
- understanding how we need to live
- understanding how we can overcome

Those all come as a result of it! These things don’t happen automatically. We have to work. Christ is working and the Father is working; all of this is spiritual work.

“...And He will show Him greater works than these, so that you may be filled with wonder. For even as the Father raises the dead and gives life, in the same way also, **the Son gives life to whom He will**” (vs 20-21). *That’s an interesting statement!*

He does the will of the Father! It’s the will of the Father that He is doing, because God has shown it to Him.

Verse 22: “For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son”—*because He became a human being!*

He had to fight the pull of the law of sin and death, human nature, Satan the devil, and He knows all the difficulties that we go through. He suffered a most gruesome death in order to be that sacrifice for the sin of all mankind, and was raised from the dead to give us hope of eternal life.

Verse 23: “So that all may honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. The one who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father Who sent Him. Truly, truly I say to you, the one who hears My Word...” (vs 23-24). *We’re hearing it, whatever the Word of God is here or anyplace!*

“...and **believes Him**...” (v 24)—*the Father*. You have ***hear, know and believe!*** Believe means *to keep and obey!* It’s not just ‘I believe there’s Jesus!’ *No! You believe that He’s the Son of God, so you repent and are baptized!*

“...Who sent Me, has everlasting life and does not come into judgment; for he has passed from death into life” (v 24). *That judgment is referring to the judgment of the last day!*

- Our judgment is now!
- The world’s judgment is coming!
- The judgment of the wicked will be the final into the Lake of Fire and the removal of Satan the devil forever!
 - it’s important how we live
 - it’s important how we love God
 - it’s important how we love the brethren
 - it’s important how we love our neighbor

Some of those things may be difficult to do sometimes! But nevertheless:

- Does God still loves us even though we get difficult for God sometimes? *Yes, indeed!*
- Does He lead us to repentance so we can change and overcome? *Yes, indeed!*

1-Peter 4:16: “Yet, if anyone *is suffering* as a Christian, he should not be ashamed; but let him glorify God because of this, ***for the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God;*** and if it first *begins* with us, what *will be* the end of those who do not obey the Gospel of God?... [notice how we are saved]: ...And if the righteous are saved with much difficulty... [yes, it is a difficult process] ...what will become of the ungodly and *the sinner?* For this reason also, let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls *to Him* in well doing, as to a faithful Creator” (vs 16-19).

Let’s see the hope of the resurrection we are looking to. It’s good to go over these and understand how fantastic our calling and everything that we are doing really is. Sometimes we just get bogged down in the physical mundane things of doing this and that and the other thing. But keep this in mind, concerning God:

1-Peter 1:2: “*Who have been chosen* according to ***the predetermined knowledge of God***

the Father...” *I want to think on that statement for a minute. You are part of that. God has:*

- called you
- selected you
- forgiven you
- baptized you
- given you the Holy Spirit

so that you can grow into a son or daughter of God!

“...by sanctification through *the* Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of *the* blood of Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you” (v 2).

Set aside everything and think on that! That grace and peace not be given, **but multiplied** over and over again! The greatest grace is going to be the resurrection.

Verse 3: “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who, according to His abundant mercy, has begotten us again...”—*because we were first begotten then born, and now we have to be begotten again* with the Spirit of God to be born into the Kingdom of God, which tomorrow pictures.

“...unto a living hope... [active] ...through *the* resurrection of Jesus Christ from *the* dead” (v 3). Every word of God is **God-breathed!** That is fantastic for us to know and understand. When you read the Bible that will help you understand it even more, **by a living hope through the resurrection of Christ!**

Let’s see what Jesus said, and see the blessing and promise that He has given. It’s quite amazing when you look at the creation of God. Jesus is saying that **the fantastic beautiful creation of God**—the flowers and animals, the heavens, the earth and oceans and all that is in them—**is nothing to be compared with what God is going to give us!** That is awesome to believe. Think on that. The next time you go out on a starry night and look up at the stars and think: O God, You have made all of this for Your Family, for Your people, for Your everlasting Kingdom! You have called us to be a part of it; what a magnificent thing!

Luke 12:27: “Consider the lilies, how they grow; they do not labor, nor do they spin; but I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory was adorned like one of these. But if God so adorns the grass that today is in the field, and tomorrow is cast into an oven, **how much more shall He clothe you, O you of little faith?**” (vs 27-28). *Those are some powerful words!*

Verse 29: “Then do not be seeking what you shall eat or what you shall drink, and do not be

anxious. For all the nations of the world seek after these things; and your Father knows that you have need of these things. But **seek the Kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you. Do not be afraid, little flock...**” (vs 29-32).

- yes, we’re few
- yes, we’re scattered
- yes, the world hardly knows anything about us

But one day they’re going to know a whole lot about all the saints of God down through the history of all the earth at the resurrection! We are going to be the alien invaders to attack the earth. That’s what they’re going to think of us at the resurrection.

“...for your Father **delights in giving you the kingdom**” (v 32).

Verse 35: “Let your loins be girded about and *your* lamps burning.”

Remember the parable of the 10 virgins; five wise/five foolish. The foolish didn’t take any oil in their containers, but the wise did. They all slumbered and slept because they all had their own problems. The foolish did not prepare! The foolish did not react to God with full vigor and energy and everything that they have to love and serve God and let God build the character in them:

- through the difficulties that they have in their lives
- through overcoming and changing
- through prayer and study

Verse 36: “And you yourselves be like men who are waiting for their lord, whenever he shall return from the wedding feast; so that when he comes and knocks, they may immediately open to him.... [that’s the resurrection] ...Blessed *are* those servants whom the lord, when he comes, shall find watching....” (vs 36-37).

Not only watching prophecy, but more importantly, watching your own life and how you’re living, and what you need to do.

“...Truly I say to you, he will gird himself, and will make them sit down, and will come *and* serve them” (v 37). *That will probably be sometime during the wedding feast of the Lamb! Think about that!*

Verse 38: “And if he comes in the second watch, or comes in the third watch, and finds *them* watching, blessed are those servants. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. Now you, therefore, be ready; for the Son of

man is coming in an hour *that you do not think*” (vs 38-40).

I imagine that when the resurrection takes place, those who were from the first century onward through many centuries, they will probably ask the angel, ‘How long has it been since Jesus left the earth? How long have I been in the grave?’ *200 years, 800 years, 1,000 years, 1,400 years!* ‘Really?’ *Yes!* He said that He would come at time we wouldn’t think, and they all died before it ever happened. ‘Here we are being taken up to the Sea of Glass by the angels.’

Imagine the conversation you could have with an angel if it’s your own personal angel. You’d probably say, ‘Remember that time that I was in the car wreck, or fell off the horse, or whatever thing happened, and I was able to survive.’ The angel will say *I was there to help you!* ‘Really, you were there, I didn’t see you.’ *I was there!* Imagine that conversation. That’s going to be something! ***Be ready!***

Verse 41: “Then Peter said to Him, ‘Lord, are You speaking this parable to us *only*, or also to all?’” *He didn’t even know what that statement meant!* He had no idea that it would be nearly 2,000 years before He would return.

Verse 42: “And the Lord said, ‘Who then is the wise and faithful steward...’” *We’re all stewards; someone who takes care of someone else’s property to make a profit for them. That’s what we are to do with the Word of God and the brethren.*

“...whom the lord shall put in charge of his household, to give to *each one* the portion of food in season? **Blessed is that servant whom the lord, when he comes, shall find so doing**” (vs 42-43). *That has to be our attitude continually!*

Verse 44: “Of a truth, I tell you, he will set him over all his possessions.”

Verse 32: “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father delights in giving you the kingdom.”

Quite a thing! It’s very humbling to really think, to kind of let it really sink in. It’s hard to sink in—we have to think on it quite a few times—that God has made all of this for His Family. ***He’s going to give it to all of us IF we remain faithful!***

Verse 45: “But if that servant shall say in his heart, ‘My lord delays *his* coming’...”

That’s exactly what happened exactly after John died. The apostasy came in and took over! They said:

He’s not coming! He’s delaying His coming! Look, you all expected Him to be here, and for

John not to die until Christ came. But John died, and look, there’s been 20 years since he died. Now things have changed and they’re a whole lot better. We keep Sunday and we don’t have to worry about being thought of as being Jews any longer.

That was quite a thing that took place!

“...and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidservants, and to be gluttonous and become drunk” (v 45). *The hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church!*

Look at all the Protestant ministers that you see on TBN that have got to have 1, 2, 3 and even one man said, ‘I need four jets!’ Whoa!

Notice what’s going to happen, v 46: “The lord of that servant will come in a day that he does not expect, and in an hour that he does not know, and will cut him asunder, and will appoint his portion with the unbelievers.”

Those are quite some warnings! We have to endure, not only in prophecy through Day 49, *but to day 50 so we’ll be part of the resurrection!*

Verse 47: “And that servant who knew the will of his lord, but did not prepare, nor did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.”

I don’t know what that means, but I don’t want to be resurrected and be beaten! This may have other implications than what we think of here.

Verse 48: “But the one who did not know, and did *things* worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few. **For to whomever much has been given...**”

Think about that; think about everything that we have. We’ve had a lot given to us! We do not need to take the Laodicean way of saying, ‘I’m rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing!’ BANG! God is going to intervene and do some correction!

Whatever we have and whatever we have done, that means we’ve been working and producing. But we cannot say, ‘Look at all we have done! How great we are!’ ***NO!*** All that has been done is because of the Spirit of God! In our lives to change, grow and overcome, to learn the way of God.

“...For to whomever much has been given, **from him shall much be required**; and to whom much has been committed, from him they will demand the more” (v 48).

Verse 32: “**Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father...** [*the One Who rules the whole universe*] **...delights in giving you the kingdom.**”

Scriptural References:

- 1) Exodus 23:12-19
- 2) Leviticus 23:9-11, 15
- 3) 1 Corinthians 15:11-23
- 4) James 1:17-18
- 5) Matthew 13:37-38, 10-30
- 6) Hebrews 12:22-23
- 7) Matthew 13:31-33
- 8) Leviticus 23:15-17
- 9) Matthew 13:34-39, 43
- 10) Matthew 17:1-13
- 11) Matthew 13:44, 47-50
- 12) John 5:17-24
- 13) 1 Peter 4:16-19
- 14) 1 Peter 1:2-3
- 15) Luke 12:27-32, 35-44, 32, 45-48, 32

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Exodus 34
- Revelation 14; 1
- John 4
- Matthew 13:9
- 1 Samuel 15
- Ecclesiastes 12
- Acts 12
- John 10

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Fulfillment of the Harvest of God (Feast of Pentecost)

Picturing the 50th Day fulfillment of those called to enter the Kingdom of God

Fred R. Coulter—June 9, 2019

Greetings, brethren! Welcome to the Day of Pentecost! As we say, time marches on! Yes, indeed, and all of us who have been in the Church a long time, we're a long way from already having been in the Kingdom of God.

It just shows, and proves the point that Jesus said, 'No man knows the day or the hour!' However, we have the Holy Days that picture all the important things in God's plan:

- the Passover
- the first day of Unleavened Bread
- the last day of Unleavened Bread
- Pentecost
- Trumpets
- Atonement
- Tabernacles
- Last Great Day

We don't know when Christ is going to return. We have a good idea; we can come close, but we really don't know—do we? *No, we don't!*

As we read with the history of the Church, even the Waldensians in the 1100s, with everything going on, with all the plagues with the Mongols and the Crusades and everything that went on for a couple of hundred years, they thought that the Day of the Lord was not too far away. When was that? *That was from 700-800 years ago! Amazing!*

Yesterday we already covered concerning how to count, and we also covered a very important part of the keeping of the Day of Pentecost. *It is a special day!*

Then after the 50 days to bring a new grain offering; fine flour made into two loaves leavened. That ties in with Matt. 13, that there is a good use of leaven. We explained how when you bake that which is leavened, it is permanently fixed!

Leviticus 23:18: "And you shall offer with the bread seven lambs without blemish of the first year, and one young bull, and two rams...."

We can discern that the seven lambs may depict the seven churches in Rev. 2 & 3. How that fills it out, we don't know.

"...They shall be *for* a burnt offering to the LORD with their grain offering, and their drink offerings, *even* an offering made by fire, of sweet savor to the LORD. Then you shall sacrifice one male goat for a sin offering, and two lambs of the

first year for a sacrifice of peace offerings. And the priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits..." (vs 18-20).

The priest was to wave these, and everyone else who was there were to have these loaves leavened, and that pictures the resurrection. We're to get rid of sin during Unleavened Bread—that's when leaven is pictured as sin—but now leaven is pictured as the hidden interaction of the Holy Spirit.

Verse 21: "And you shall proclaim on the same day that it may be a Holy convocation to you. You shall do no servile work *therein*. *It shall be* a statute forever in all your dwellings throughout your generations."

We always take up an offering. Look at the offerings that were given here. Many offerings, indeed! We always take up an offering on all of the Holy Days, and that's perfectly appropriate because no one can come before God empty.

God shows and gives us plenty of understanding in His Word that if we sow bountifully, we will reap bountifully. And that if we give willingly and lovingly that God will bless us even all the more.

(pause for offering)

Let's see something about the Day of Pentecost; we need to see how God works. We know that in the travels of the children of Israel coming out of Egypt, it took seven weeks for them to get to Mt. Sinai. Then it was on the Day of Pentecost.

Calendar Map: *Exodus 12: Passover Timeline* {truthofGod.org} If you take it day-by-day, place-by-place, as they traveled toward Mt. Sinai, that they came shortly before—actually on Thursday of the week—before Pentecost. Moses went up to God on Thursday and they had Friday, Sabbath and the third day they were to meet God, which then was Pentecost.

So, Pentecost is a great and fantastic Feast of God. For the children of Israel it was that they were gathered around the base of Mt. Sinai and God came down on top of the mountain, and it burned with fire, and smoke rose, and there was a windstorm and a tempest because God was there. This the first time that human beings heard the voice of God! He came down and spoke the Ten Commandments (Exo. 20 [transcriber's correction]).

The first thing He said was, ***'I am the Lord your God! You shall have no other gods before Me.'*** Why? *Because He was the One Who brought them out of the land of Egypt!* He proved with the demonstration and destruction with plagues in Egypt and destroying all the gods of the Egyptians, that all the pagan gods that people create are nothing! The whole rest of the story is *love God and keep His commandments!*

When Moses was reiterating the Law again to the children of Israel just before they went into the 'promised land' (Deut. 5). Here is how God wanted it to be (Deut. 6). But there's one major thing: *free moral agency!* And another thing tied in with that: *the law of sin and death!*

So therefore, even though God wanted all of these things for them, He said

Deuteronomy 5:29—concerning everything that He spoke: "Oh, that there were such a heart in them that they would fear Me and keep all My commandments always so that it might be well with them and with their children forever!"

That's what God desired! But with free moral agency we all have to *choose*, even today. Here's what God said on that Day of Pentecost, after given the Ten Commandments and Moses writing down all of these things.

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).

Yes, because God is awesome and powerful! Remember when they stood before the mountain, they were all trembling and afraid. They said, 'Moses, you talk to us; don't let God talk to us anymore lest we die!' *You are to fear God, fear to go against God!*

"...to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you, and your son, and your son's son, **all the days of your life...**" (v 2).

Not some of the time, not part of the time, not when you want to come to God and sort of placate His anger so that you might find a little grace for a short space of time. "**...all the days of your life...**" Doesn't that apply to us? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 3: "Hear therefore, O Israel, and be diligent to *observe* it, so that it may be well with you..."

God wants it to be well with us! But on the other hand we can't have it so wonderful and smooth

that there's never any trials or troubles or difficulties, otherwise we would be of most people the most arrogant and self-serving, selfish and snobbish that could ever be.

"...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" (v 3). ***Doesn't that describe us today?***

Verse 4: "Hear, O Israel..." *The Church is spiritual Israel!* Even though God gave this, this was also in mind for the spiritual application when the time came for the Church.

"...Our one God is *the* LORD, *the* LORD. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart... [see what a full time occupation this is] ...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).

We saw what happened, and the rest of the history of the Old Testament has all the ups and downs of Israel through all the stages that God brought them through.

Now let's see another time that is important for us to understand, another Day of Atonement. In the first part of Luke 4 Jesus had to be tempted by Satan the devil and to overcome him, which Jesus did! He was there 40 days and 40 nights. Also, He began His temptation on the 4th day of the week in a Jubilee Year.

Now then, when we come over a little further, after He had recovered and began preaching again... This is very profound and what happened here? *The people in the synagogue didn't understand!*

Luke 4:16: "And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and according to His custom, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath Day..."—Greek: *the day of the Sabbath, which then is Pentecost!*

So, just like God gave the Ten Commandments to the children of Israel on Pentecost, Jesus announced that ***He*** was the Messiah on the Day of Pentecost in the synagogue in Nazareth.

"...and stood up to read. 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, **'The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me...**'" (vs 16-18).

Think about that because that's right out of the Scriptures. He's applying it directly to Himself.

“...for this reason, **He has anointed Me**... [no one else] ...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” (v 18)—*by Satan the devil!*

Not only the physical healing and bringing sight to those who are blind, but the *spiritually blind!* Remember what Jesus said to the Pharisees? *If the blind lead the blind they both fall into the ditch!* He’s talking about *spiritually blind!* Isn’t it an amazing thing that God has opened our mind, our eyes, our heart to understanding? It started on Pentecost, the first Pentecost in His ministry to announce Who He was.

Verse 19: “To proclaim *the acceptable year of the Lord.*”

If you read Isa. 61, there is the other part of it, *the vengeance of the Lord!* That’s also connected with Pentecost.

Verse 20: “And after rolling up the scroll and delivering *it* to the attendant, He sat down; and the eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fixed on Him. Then He began to say to them, “Today...” (vs 20-21)—*Pentecost, the day of the weeks!*

“...this Scripture is being... [present tense passive] ...fulfilled in your ears” (v 21). They never grasped the importance!

Verse 22: “...‘Is not this the son of Joseph?’” *Then they sought to kill Him!* Wonderful reception for the Messiah! That’s the way human nature is.

This is quite astounding, because what we are seeing is that **God uses Pentecost for major, large fulfillments!**

- we have Pentecost at Mt. Sinai
- we have Pentecost at Nazareth announcing that Jesus was the Messiah
- we have Pentecost after His death and resurrection, ascension to the heavens and coming back to the disciples for 40 days and 40 nights

And Jesus told them to go wait in Jerusalem until they would be ‘endued with power from on high.’ Just like everything else, they didn’t get it! But let’s see what happened ten days after Jesus ascended the final time into the heavens on the Day of Pentecost. *A fantastic and important thing!*

Remember that on Pentecost at Mt. Sinai God gave everything to the nation of Israel, all 12 tribes; actually 13 when you count Ephraim and Manasseh. Levi and Aaron were to be scattered throughout the other tribes of Israel.

God is beginning a major work involving a great number of people. This is just the start to go out from there. Remember that ‘this Gospel is going to be preached unto the ends of the earth! That is being fulfilled *now!*

Acts 2:1: “And when the Day of Pentecost, the fiftieth day, was being fulfilled... [present tense passive articular infinitive] ...they were all with one accord in the same place.”

What happened at Mt. Sinai? *God came down on top of the mountain!* It burned and smoked, and the wind was blowing and everything was shaking.

Notice what happened, and the reason that it had to happen at the temple was to verify the fact that this same God Who gave the Ten Commandments and established Israel as a nation was the One Who gave the Holy Spirit of God at the temple where He placed His presence and His name. If this would have happened in Nazareth no one would have believed it. If it would have happened in another country, it would never have been accepted. But notice what a fantastic thing that this was on this Day of Pentecost.

Pentecost at Mt. Sinai began the complete nation of Israel under God. *Here the Church under Christ began!* Not with the power of fire and smoke, but power in the sense of the power of the Holy Spirit of God, to make sure that everyone knows that what is going to happen from now on is only going to be accomplished with the Spirit of God.

“...they were all with one accord in the same place. And suddenly *there came from heaven*... [not from earth] ...a sound like *the rushing of a powerful wind*, and filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them divided tongues as of fire, and sat upon each one of them. And they were all filled with *the Holy Spirit*; and they began to **speak with other languages**...” (vs 1-4). *God is not the author of confusion!*

The fake thing which is called *Pentecostalism* today is not of God, well, the god of this world Satan, but he’s not God!

“...as the Spirit...” (v 4). What is the Spirit? *The Spirit of the Truth!*

“...gave them *the words* to proclaim” (v 4). *In their mind they were speaking in their language!* What came out of their tongue were multiple languages to all different people gathered at the temple. So, this established that it is the same God Who dealt with the children of Israel.

Verse 5: “Now, *there were many Jews* who

were sojourning in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven.”

I want you to think about this a little bit. Jesus had His ministry for three and a half years. There were always people coming to the temple on the Holy Days whenever it was from the Diaspora, wherever there Jews were scattered. They would come from their synagogues to the temple and bring their special offerings and everything.

Imagine what those who traveled there during Jesus’ ministry—because Jesus taught in the temple all the time—they would go back to their homes and tell the marvelous and fantastic things that Jesus did and spoke. Of course, when they came every year they would hear this again. Then those who were there at the crucifixion week brought back the news that Jesus was crucified and died!

The disciples said that He rose from the dead and no one could find the body. All the authorities—Jewish and Roman—were looking for His body and they never found it.

So, imagine what all these Jews were doing there. And of course, God inspired them to come. To do what? *To take back this message to their synagogue of what happened at the temple on the Day of Pentecost!*

Verse 6: “And when word of this went out, the multitude came together and were confounded, because each one heard them speaking in his own language.... [this was a marvelous and fantastic thing] ...And they were all amazed, and marveled, saying to one another, ‘Behold, are not all these who are speaking Galileans?’” (vs 6-7).

- it’s not the priest
- it’s not the Pharisees
- it’s not the Sadducees

Verse 8: “Then how is it *that* we hear each one in our own language in which we were born?... [then it lists all of them] ...Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and those who inhabit Mesopotamia, and Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, both Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya which *are* near Cyrene, and the Romans who are sojourning *here*, both Jews and proselytes, Cretes and Arabians; **we hear them speaking in our own languages the great things of God**” (vs 8-11).

Verse 12: “And they were all amazed and greatly perplexed, saying to one another, ‘What does this mean?’”

Remember what Jesus said, ‘The Jews require a sign.’ So, God gave them how many signs through:

- the ministry
 - the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ
- and now*
- on the Day of Pentecost with the beginning of His Church

An amazing thing was taking place!

Verse 13: “But others were mocking *and* saying, ‘They are full of new wine.’” *Peter stood up and said that they were not drunk and then gave a powerful message talking about Jesus Christ and His life*, and that they were responsible for killing Him, as well as the leaders and everything at the temple.

Peter quoted a Scripture showing that Christ would be resurrected, and that this was not David who was resurrected but his grave was still there with them.

Verse 34: “For David has not ascended into the heavens, but he himself said, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand”’” That is describing the most powerful thing next to God that can be, ***and that’s Christ!***

Verse 35: “Until I have made Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.”

How many of those out there in that great audience that were there, probably 50,000, maybe even more than that.

Verse 36: “Therefore, let all *the* house of Israel know with full assurance... [no doubt at all] ...that God has made this *same* Jesus, **Whom you crucified...**” *They were out there, and some of them were probably those who were asking for Him to be crucified!*

The wages of sin is death! And Jesus’ life pays for the sin of the world, and every one of our sins. ***We all have our parting killing Christ!***

Verse 36: “Therefore, let all *the* house of Israel know with full assurance that God has made this *same* Jesus, **Whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.**”

Those had ringing powerful meanings to them, because they were looking for the Messiah, even from the time of the birth of Jesus.

Verse 37: “Now, after hearing *this*, they were cut to the heart; and they said to Peter and the other apostles, ‘Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?’ Then Peter said to them, **‘Repent and be baptized each one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you yourselves shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.** For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all those who are afar off, as many as *the* Lord our

God may call” (vs 37-39). *That includes us! All down through time!*

Verse 40: “And with many other words he earnestly testified and exhorted, saying, ‘Be saved from this perverse generation.’”

- That’s the same message today— isn’t it?
- Isn’t this generation one of the most perverse that has ever been?
- How bad is it?

Jesus said that *it was just like in the days of Noah before the Flood!* How bad were they? *So evil continuously in their hearts, minds and actions that God destroyed them with the Flood!* Think about how magnificent this is.

Peter said that *we are responsible to make our calling sure, or permanent!*

Let’s skip ahead to the Epistle of Jesus Christ! Did you know that there’s in the Bible an Epistle of Jesus Christ? It’s not named that, but that’s what it is.

We’re not going to go through the other places where the New Testament Church kept the Day of Pentecost. Of course, if you’re going to diligently keep all the commandments, statutes and judgments of God, you’re going to keep the Sabbath and the Holy Days the way and at the time that God provided for us.

The book of Revelation is not the revelation of John, but the revelation of God the Father to Jesus Christ to give to John to write. So, this is direct from God the Father and Jesus Christ. That becomes important, and let’s really think about these words, and let them sink deep into our heart and mind.

Revelation 1:1: “*The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave to Him...*”—*so this came from the Father!*

Sidebar: Remember what we covered during Passover and Unleavened Bread, especially the Passover night, which is the renewal of the spiritual covenant with God the Father and Jesus Christ.

God the Father gives His Spirit to us as a begettal to become a son or daughter of God *spiritually*. And the Spirit of Christ—two parts to the Holy Spirit—so that we may develop the mind and character of Christ.

This is fantastic when you understand it; **awesome indeed!** A letter to all the Churches and parts of it to the world.

“...to show to His servants the things that are ordained to come to pass shortly...” (v 1).

Shortly to God can be ‘a day is as a thousand years and a thousand years is as a day.’ So, shortly can be a couple thousand years, which it is.

“...and He made *it* known, having sent *it* by His angel to His servant John who gave witness to the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ, **and all the things he saw**” (vs 1-2).

This doesn’t come with any other epistle or book of the New Testament; v 3: “**Blessed is the one who reads...** [we’re reading] **...and those who hear...** [we’re hearing] **...the words of this prophecy and who keep the things that are written therein; for the time is at hand.**” *Think about that for a minute!* You’re going to find:

- the love of God
- the grace of God
- the commandments of God
- the statutes of God
- the prophecies of God
- the timetable of God

All in the book of Revelation! Then you reach back and you pull the basis of it out of Daniel and the other Prophets altogether. This is fitting that it comes from Jesus Christ!

Verse 4: “John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace and peace be to you from Him Who is... [living now] ...and Who was... [Christ in the flesh] ...and Who is to come; and from the seven spirits that are before His throne.”

The seven spirits are important! We will see that these are the spirits of God going into the world seeking those who are seeking God. Our calling comes when we desperately cry out to God because we need His help because our lives are a terrible mess!

Verse 5: “And from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness, the Firstborn from the dead, and **the Ruler of the kings of the earth...**”

Those who are there now, and those who will be kings and priests under Christ during the Millennium.

“...To Him Who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood” (v 5).

I want to emphasize something that lots of times we just overlook, or we don’t emphasize it, or we don’t think about it as we should. Let’s look back and think about where we were before God called us.

Ephesians 2:1: “Now, you were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you walked in times past according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air...” (vs 1-2).

The whole world is being deceived by Satan the devil! Has been, is being and will continue right up until he's removed.

"...the spirit that is now working within the children of disobedience" (v 2).

Whenever people are sinning and doing the will of Satan the devil, they are *dead in their sins and trespasses, and are* "...the children of disobedience."

Verse 3: "Among whom also we all once had our conduct in the lusts of our flesh, doing the things willed by the flesh and by the mind, and were **by nature**... [with the law of sin and death] ...*the children of wrath, even as the rest of the world.*

Notice v 4 because I want you to answer the question, which this does: How did you get here?

Verse 4: "But God, Who is rich in mercy **because of His great love with which He loved us.**" *God knows all the things for all of our lives! He called us out of it, has forgiven our sins and helps us every year renew the covenant with Him, the Covenant of Eternal Life. That's why we are here! Not because of what we're doing, but what God is doing! That's why we need to always yield to God.*

Verse 5: "Even when we were dead in *our* trespasses, has made *us* alive together with Christ. (*For you have been saved by grace.*)" Then it talks about being raised up together at the resurrection and so forth.

Verse 7: "So that in the ages that *are* coming... [we'll see that more on Trumpets, Atonement and Tabernacles] ...He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this *especially* is not of your own selves; **it is the gift of God**, not of works... [human works] ...so that no one may boast" (vs 7-9).

This is the key that we're going see as we go into the book of Revelation even more. This is what God is doing:

Verse 10: "For we are His workmanship, **being created**..."—*by giving us His Spirit, by writing the laws and commandments in our heart and mind, preparing us for eternal life!*

"...in Christ Jesus unto *the* good works... [God's good works] ...that God ordained beforehand in order that we might walk in them" (v 10).

Let's see how powerful that this is. Notice what the goal is after washing us from our sins and so forth.

Revelation 1:6: "And has made us kings and priests... [not yet, but coming] ...to God and His

Father; to Him *be* the glory and the sovereignty into the ages of eternity. Amen."

Then He says that He's coming with the clouds, and that's going to be a fantastic thing! The world is not going to know what on earth is happening, **but we will!**

Verse 8: "I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the Beginning and the Ending,*' says the Lord, 'Who is, and Who was, and Who *is* to come—the Almighty.'"

Notice what John writes, because we all have to go through these things. Preparing for eternal life is work, and it's not easy. We need:

- the Spirit of God
- the Word of God
- repentance
- yieldedness
- conversion

to do it!

Verse 9: "I, John, who *am* also your brother and joint partaker in the tribulation and in the kingdom and endurance of Jesus Christ..."

Look at all John went through! They wanted to kill him by through him in a big vat of boiling oil, but it didn't touch him. So, they exiled him to the Isle of Patmos.

"...was on the island that *is* called Patmos because of the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. I was in *the* Spirit on the Day of the Lord..." (vs 9-10).

This tells you what all the rest of the book of Revelation is all about.

"...and I heard a loud voice like a trumpet behind me, saying, 'I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, and what you see, write... [the epistle of Jesus Christ written by His secretary John] ...in a book, and send *it* to the churches that *are* in Asia: to Ephesus, and to Smyrna, and to Pergamos, and to Thyatira, and to Sardis, and to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.'" (vs 10-11).

(go to the next track)

We know that in Eph. 1 it says clearly that Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church. No man! No council! No group! **Christ!** We all need to yield to God the Father and Jesus Christ so that we can attain to fulfill our calling!

Revelation 1:12: "And I turned to see the voice that spoke with me; and when I turned, I saw seven golden lampstands."

These are not like the lampstand in front of

the Holy of Holies where it was an abra with a candle in the middle and three on each side. These have to be in a circle. Why? *Because we see that Jesus stands in the middle of them connected to all seven churches!* Completely different from the tabernacle or the temple.

Verse 13: “And in *the* midst of the seven lampstands *One* like *the* Son of man, clothed in a *garment* reaching to the feet, and girded about the chest with a golden breastplate. And His head and hair *were* like white wool, white as snow; and His eyes *were* like a flame of fire” (vs 13-14).

That’s Christ in His powerful glory as a spirit being. We don’t know what that is like. We will be similar to Him.

Verse 15: “And His feet *were* like fine brass, as if *they* glowed in a furnace; and His voice *was* like *the* sound of many waters. And in His right hand He had seven stars, and a sharp two-edged sword went out of His mouth...” (vs 15-16).

That is the Word of God and it cuts like a sharp two-edged sword (Heb. 4) *because it is a discerner of the thoughts and the intents of the heart!* No other book in the world can do that! We will see that it’s because the words are backed with sprit and life.

“...and His countenance *was* as the sun shining in its *full* power. And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as if dead; but He laid His right hand upon me, saying to me, ‘Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last’” (vs 16-17).

God’s plan from the first to the last is going to be fulfilled and carried out by Jesus Christ as God the Father wants it.

Verse 18: “Even the One Who is living; for I was dead, and behold, I am alive into the ages of eternity. Amen...” *Think about that, because we’re going to be brought into the ages of eternity at the resurrection!*

“...And I have the keys of *the* grave and of death.... [no one else has that] ...**Write**...” (vs 18-19). *This is a letter from Jesus; His epistle to the Churches and some parts to the world.*

“...the things that you saw, and the things that are, and the things that shall take place hereafter” (v 19). *Little did John know that that would take us clear to the new heavens and new earth!*

Verse 20: “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.”

We have seven of them; isn’t that interesting? We don’t have five or six, nine or ten, we have seven. What did we see on Day 49 with the harvest? How many weeks are there to the harvest with the wheat and barley? *Seven!*

This pictures the fulfillment of those who are called and can enter into the Kingdom of God. God gives quite a bit of correction to almost all of them so that it’s possible to enter into the Kingdom of God.

Ephesus—notice that Christ always starts out with:

Revelation 2:2: “I know your works...”

- What are our works?
- What are they?
- What are we doing?
- How are we doing?
- How are we performing?

They had some good. They couldn’t stand the Nicolaitans. They had some things not so good. Even though they endured a lot, they lost their first love.

Let’s clarify that: the first love is to be the important love all the time toward God the Father and Jesus Christ. It is not the zeal of when you first come to the knowledge of the Truth and are baptized, that that is the first love. *No!* The first love is to God! Isn’t that what Jesus said? *To love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength* (Matt. 22). And the second one is like it, *love your neighbor has yourself!* Then we’re to love each other as Christ loved us. We’re also to love our enemies.

Guess what? Jesus said, ‘On these two—loving God and neighbor—hang all the Law and the Prophets.’ Then Christ is the Chief Corner Stone for the Church.

They hated the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which God hates, and that’s the oppressive hierarchy over the brethren.

Then Jesus says this concerning the blessing that they would receive, v 7: “The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the Churches.... [that Spirit is Christ] ...To the one who overcomes I will give *the right* to eat of the Tree of Life that is in *the* midst of the paradise of God.”

That shows that they’ll be in the Kingdom of God! But five of the seven churches have things to repent of.

Smyrna

Verse 9: “I know your works...”

They were up against the synagogue of Satan, and they would suffer persecution and be killed for ten days (years).

Verse 10: "...Be faithful unto death, and I will give you a crown of life."

Notice the blessing that comes with each one.

Verse 11: "The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who overcomes shall not be hurt of the second death."

Sidebar on death: When Jesus talks about those who have been 'delivered from death' because they believe in Him, it's the *second death* where there is no resurrection. When you die and you haven't committed the unpardonable sin, you're sleeping. Your death is temporary.

Those who have committed the unpardonable sin, their first death is temporary but they are destined for permanent death, not to exist—***period!—as if they never were! That's the second death!***

Pergamos

Right in the middle where Satan's throne is there was a temple to Zeus right there. They had quite a few things that were good.

Verse 14: "But I have a few things against you because you have there *those* who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit fornication."

It's *spiritual* fornication today. Then you have those who hold to the doctrine of the Nicolaitans. He says,

Verse 16: "Repent! For if *you* do not *repent*, **I will come to you quickly...**" that means that God—Christ—is going to bring about circumstances that He causes to be carried out that will punish them and test them!

"...I will come to you quickly, and will make war against them with the sword of My mouth" (v 16). Haven't we gone through some of that? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 17: "...To the one who overcomes I will give *the right* to eat of the hidden manna; and I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written, which no one knows except the one who receives *it*."

Thyatira'

We have been learning a lot about that through what John Guenther had done with the history of the Waldensians. That was far greater and far more vast than we ever, ever supposed. Remember when HWA said, 'The Gospel hasn't been preached in 1800 years.' *Not true!* The Gospel has never ceased to be preached from the time of Christ until He returns.

Verse 19: "I know your works..."

Verse 20: "But I have a few things against you, because you allow the woman Jezebel..." *That's the whole Baal-worship; the whole thing of the Catholic Church, and all the other daughters!* All different forms of Baal-worship.

They made inroads "...committing fornication and eating things sacrificed to idols" (v 20).

- Isn't the Eucharist called the *Sacrifice of the Mass*?
- What is surrounding everything about that ceremony? *Idols!*

If those who take the Eucharist in a Catholic Church, *there it is!* Christ gave her time to repent, but she didn't.

Verse 22: "Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation... [that's coming] ...unless they repent of their works."

Even with the most wicked, God give time to repent!

Verse 23: "And I will kill her children with death... [the second death] ...and all the churches shall know... [Christ doing? *We'll read it!*] ...that **I am He Who searches the reins and hearts...**"

How does God do that? *We're created in such a way that God has the ability to understand what we're thinking and what our heart really is!* That's why He says that *all the secrets of men and women are going to be uncovered unless there is repentance!* We can learn from this.

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

Verse 26: "And to the one who overcomes and keeps My works unto *the end*, I will give authority over the nations, and he shall shepherd them with an iron rod..." (vs 26-27).

Sardis

Revelation 3:1: "...I know your works, *and* that you have a name as if you are alive, but are

dead.” I’ve likened this many times as *a corpse with a pulse!*

Verse 2: “...strengthen the things that remain, which are about to die. For I have not found your works complete before God.”

Verse 4: “You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments, and they shall walk with Me in white because they are worthy. The one who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments; and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life, but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels” (vs 4-5).

Philadelphia

We covered this in the sermon *What is the Difference Between Temptation and Tribulation?* But the key here is *faithfully keeping the Word of God and always looking to Christ!*

Laodicea

We’ve covered them enough. They’ve been beaten up enough, but everyone never needs to be content with the physical things and overlook the spiritual things. Otherwise, you’ll be spewed out of His mouth and you’re going to have to really, really repent, far greater than you have ever supposed.

So, the seven churches represent the seven weeks of harvest leading to Pentecost; then Pentecost is the resurrection day. Now then, there are those who say that Trumpets is the resurrection day. It is not, because Trumpets is a *war feast, not a harvest feast!*

There are those who say that you can’t know the day or the hour. Absolutely true! But if you read all of the prophecies of the end-time in the books of Isaiah, Ezekiel, Joel and so forth, you will see that this earth is going to be literally turned upside down and inside out so that the correct day of Pentecost only God the Father will know. The earth and the moon and the space in our solar system is going to be so out of whack that only God will know.

But for those who say it’s Trumpets, they say it’s that day, and when we tell them it’s Pentecost, they say how do you know it’s that day? The question goes back to them: How do they know that it’s Trumpets?

Rev. 4 begins a whole new thing. In vision, John was the only man to really see the Throne of God. Isaiah and Ezekiel saw some close-ups, but not like John. Also, Ezekiel was a priest. Isaiah was priest. John was of the descendants of Aaron. So, he’s the only one who received this vision. No one else!

Now, let’s go back to the tabernacle and the temple. The priests could only go in there one day a year, the Day of Atonement. That’s it! Here God only let one man, one time, see the right into the Throne Room of God!

For everyone who believes that everyone goes to the Throne of God with an immortal soul, John didn’t see any! These are pretty spectacular!

Rev. 5 is when the seven sealed book is given to Christ, and only He can open it. That’s given to Him directly from God the Father sitting on the throne. So spectacular is this, to start the unfolding of the all the end-time events, that let’s see how they praised God the Father and Jesus Christ.

Revelation 5:9: “And they sang a new song, saying, ‘Worthy are You to take the book, and to open its seals because You were slain, and did redeem us to God by Your own blood, out of every tribe and language and people and nation, and did make us unto our God kings and priests; and we shall reign on the earth’” (vs 9-10).

That’s the hymn we are going to sing when we are raised on the Day of Pentecost. Notice how spectacular this was:

Verse 11: “And I saw and I heard *the* voices of many angels around the throne, 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.’ 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...” (vs 11-13).

Now, I don’t know how this is going to be, but this is going to be a fantastic event, just before the things at the end begin.

“...‘To Him Who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, *be* blessing, and honor, and glory, and sovereignty into the ages of eternity.’ And the four living creatures said, ‘Amen.’ And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped *Him Who* lives into the ages of eternity” (vs 13-14).

Then Christ opens the seals. The first four horses leading up to the sixth seal, which in prophecy comes just before Pentecost. Read Hosea 5-thru 6:3 and the children of Israel are in captivity for two full years, and in the third year God begins to raise them up. That happens right after the sixth seal. So, the sixth seal must be some time before the next to the last Pentecost in the flow of things in the book of Revelation.

Let’s see what happens when He opens the

sixth seal; look what happens to everything.

Revelation 6:12: “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, as a fig tree casts its untimely figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then *the* heaven departed like a scroll that is being rolled up... [WHAM!] ...and every mountain and island was moved out of its place” (vs 12-14).

So, you see why no one knows the day or the hour. Everything is out of whack!

Verse 15: “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” (vs 15-16).

So, right at first they say it’s God; later they will attack and fight, because Satan will say that these are aliens from outer space.

Verse 17: “Because the great day of His wrath has come, and who has the power to stand?”

Rev. 7 is God’s 50th day harvest. At the eleventh hour—refer to the parable of the men who go to work in the vineyard, the 1st hour, 3rd hour, 6th hour and 11th hour—they all get a silver coin; a type of eternal life.

These 144,000 are from the children of Israel, and a great innumerable multitude out of every language and people and tribe of the earth. They’re all going to be in the resurrection. This has to be God’s last harvest, the 50th day!

Let’s look at the flow of things right now, which they’re getting close to, and they will build it in the right place once they discover it, because it’s not going to be built until God wants it built. Just before the Great Tribulation begins, God is going to call the high priest of the temple, and the governor of Judea (Zech. 3 & 4). *They will be the two witnesses!* It won’t be anybody from the Church. Anybody who thinks that just doesn’t understand the Truth of prophecy.

The temple is built and the two witnesses come on the scene and they prophesy and bring plagues for 1,260 days.

Revelation 11:3: “And I will give *power* to My two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred *and* sixty days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and *the* two lampstands that stand before the God of the earth....

[Zech. 3 & 4] ...And if anyone attempts to harm them, fire will go out of their mouths and devour their enemies....” (vs 3-5).

This is going to be a spectacular thing to see, and the whole world is going to see it.

“...For if anyone attempts to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. These have authority to shut heaven so that no rain may fall in *the* days of their prophecy; and they have authority over the waters, to turn them into blood, and to smite the earth with every plague, as often as they will” (vs 5-6).

The world is going to hate them! Now, it looks like they’re going to be defeated.

Verse 7: “And when they have completed their testimony, the beast who ascends out of the abyss will make war against them, and will overcome them, and will kill them. And their bodies *will lie* in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.... [Jerusalem] ...Then those of the peoples and tribes and languages and nations shall see their bodies three and a half days, for they will not allow their bodies to be put into tombs. And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, and will make merry, and will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets had tormented those who dwell on the earth” (vs 7-10).

How are they going to see it? *On their smart phone!* Everyone will know! They are going to think, and Satan will convince the world, that ‘we have finally got it done. We have defeated those who have plagued us!’ ***But God has a surprise!***

Verse 11: “Then after the three and a half days, *the* spirit of life from God entered into them and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who were watching them. And they heard a great voice from heaven, say, ‘Come up here!’ And they ascended into heaven in a cloud; and their enemies saw them *rise*. And in that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell; and seven thousand men were killed in the earthquake. And the rest were filled with fear, and gave glory to the God of heaven. The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming *immediately*. Then the seventh angel sounded *his* trumpet; and *there* were great voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and His Christ, and He shall reign into the ages of eternity” (vs 11-15).

Right before their eyes, the two witnesses are raised from the death, literally ***the last shall be first!***

Now let’s see the resurrection; Revelation

14:16: “And He Who was sitting on the cloud thrust forth His sickle upon the earth, and the earth was reaped.” *A harvest!* You can’t have a harvest if all souls go to heaven!

Verse 17: “Then another angel, who also had a sharp sickle, came out of the temple that *is* in heaven. And out from the altar came another angel, who had authority over fire; and he called with a loud cry to the one who had the sharp sickle, saying, ‘Thrust in your sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the earth, because her grapes are fully ripe’” (vs 17-18).

Two harvests: one of the righteous, and then those for the Battle of Armageddon and they are the grapes.

We’re going to see what it’s going to be like to be a spirit being, but first:

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).

“...and those who had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, *and* over the number of his name, standing on the Sea of Glass, having *the* lyres of God. And they were singing the song of Moses, *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 2-4). *There’s the Sea of Glass!*

All of those down through time. It’s a mighty work that God is doing, because He’s preparing for the greatest takeover of the world. He’s not just conquering a nation, He is conquering the world! He’s going to bring His government and they have to be raised from the dead; they have to be spirit beings. What does it say about being raised from the dead? *The last part of Philippians says that our bodies will be changed to be like His glorious body!*

What is it going to be like to be a son or daughter of God? Let’s see what it says about God:

- He lives in heaven
- He has a place
- He has fantastic glory

Isaiah 57:15: “For thus says the high and lofty One **Who inhabits eternity...**” What’s it going to be like?

We have shed everything of this physical body, and we saw where we are His workmanship. Everything of this physical body is going to be left behind. We will have a new spiritual body. We won’t just be inhabiting the earth; ***we will be inhabiting eternity with God!***

This is exactly as it says, ‘here a little, there a little’ and we put it all together.

Psalm 93:1: “The LORD reigns; He is clothed with majesty...” What is it going to be like that we have majesty? That we are spirit beings?

“...the LORD is clothed with strength. He clothed Himself and the world also is established; it shall not be moved.... [the Millennium] ...Your throne is established of old; You are from everlasting” (vs 1-2). *We are going to enter into the stream of everlasting, the stream of inhabiting eternity!*

Psalm 90:2: “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting **You are God.**”

Look at us! Look around! Most of us are old, and getting older. But that’s okay. When we’re old and running down and we’re hobbling around, we need a new body, and you’re going to be given one!

- one that won’t breakdown
- one that won’t get old

Inhabiting eternity from everlasting to everlasting!

Psalm 145:12: “To make known to the sons of men His mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of His kingdom.... [What is that going to be like?] ...Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations” (vs 12-13).

We won’t have many generations once we’re there, because it will be forever and everlasting!

Jeremiah 31:3: “The LORD has appeared to me from afar, *saying*, ‘Yea, **I have loved you with an everlasting love**; therefore, with loving kindness I have drawn you.’”

Sidebar: It never says that His love is unconditional. *It’s very conditional!*

If you don’t love God and keep His commandments, you ‘ain’t a gonna’ be there!

Psalm 112:1: “Praise the LORD! Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who delights greatly in His commandments.” *That’s what we need to do now!*

- His commandments
- His love
- His mercy
- His grace
- His Truth
- His righteousness

Verse 2: “His seed shall be mighty upon earth; the generation of the upright shall be blessed. Wealth and riches shall be in his house, and his righteousness endures forever” (vs 2-3).

Just think, we are going to share the wealth of the Kingdom of God as joint heirs with Christ! When we’re resurrected to be on that Sea of Glass... Let’s understand that we’re going to be there from Pentecost until Trumpets.

There’s a lot that we’re going to have to learn and do while we’re on the Sea of Glass. I will cover some of that next week. It’s not going to be a maze of confusion and no one knows what they’re doing. God is going to have us all organized. We’re going to be there with one language. That’s going to be something!

Verse 4: “To the upright there arises light in the darkness... [the resurrection] ...he is gracious and full of compassion and righteousness.” *Quite a tremendous thing!*

All of these things, because there is choice, depend upon our choice, depend upon how we yield to God so we can grow in grace and knowledge, and really be deeply converted with God’s Spirit.

John 3:15: “So that everyone who believes in Him may not perish, but may have **everlasting life**. For God so loved the world... [with His great love as He loved us] ...that He gave His only begotten Son... [that’s the story of the whole Bible from Gen. to Rev.] ...so that everyone who **believes**... [this believe is so deep that you obey] ...in Him may not perish, but may have everlasting life” (vs 15-16).

John 17 is the actual Lord’s prayer that Jesus had to give to John in a very special way. John was not there in the Garden of Gethsemane taking notes when Jesus was praying before He was arrested. So, Jesus had to reveal this to him.

This is a summary of the whole plan of God, so let’s go through it and understand it.

John 17:1: “Jesus spoke these words, and lifted up His eyes to heaven and said, ‘Father, the hour has come; glorify Your own Son, so that Your Son may also glorify You; since You have given Him authority **over all flesh**... [pay attention to that; He’s committed all judgment to Christ] ...in order

that He may give eternal life to all whom You have given Him” (vs 1-2). *God is the One Who draws us and gives us to Christ!*

Verse 3: “For this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, Whom You did send. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work that You gave Me to do” (vs 3-4). *That is in preaching the Gospel!*

Then He finished it on the crucifixion day of His sacrifice. Then all the rest of it is finishing it after His resurrection and the beginning of the Church (Acts 2).

Verse 5: “And now, Father, glorify Me with Your own self, with the glory that I had with You before the world existed. I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, and You have given them to Me, and they have kept Your Word” (vs 5-6).

This tells us that if we keep the Word of God, which comes from the Father, that we will be there with Christ.

Verse 7: “Now, they have known that all things that You have given Me are from You. For I have given them the words that You gave to Me...” (vs 7-8).

That’s interesting because Jesus said, ‘Of My own self do nothing. As the Father has taught Me, as I have seen the Father, as He commanded Me, these things I do.’

“...and they have received *them* and truly have known that I came from You; and they have believed that You did send Me” (v 8).

Here’s a prayer for all of us, and we will see that He reiterates it again a little later:

Verse 9: “I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world... [Why? *Because now is not the time to save the world!*] ...but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. All Mine are Yours, and all Yours *are* Mine; and I have been glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I am coming to You. **Holy Father, keep them in Your name**... [which is *the Father*] ...those whom You have given Me, so that they may be one, even as *We are one*” (vs 9-11). *The whole plan of God!*

Verse 12: “When I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. I protected those whom You have given Me, and not one of them has perished except the son of perdition, in order that the Scriptures might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to You; and these things I am speaking *while yet* in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in

them. I have given them Your words, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that You would take them out of the world, **but that You would keep them from the evil one**” (vs 12-15).

Verse 16: They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. **Sanctify them in Your Truth...** [make Holy in the Truth of God, the words of God; Jesus said that they are spirit and life] ...Your Word is the Truth. Even as You did send Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, so that they also may be sanctified in *Your* Truth. I do not pray for these only, but also for those who shall believe in Me through their word” (vs 16-20)—*that’s us!*

Christ prays for us! We pray to Him and He answers our prayers! What a marvelous thing indeed!

Verse 21: “That they all may be one, even as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; **that they also may be one in Us, in order that the world may believe that You did send Me.**”

Isn’t that something? Think about the importance of the Feast of Pentecost as it pictures the resurrection.

Verse 22: “And I have given them the glory that You gave *to* Me, in order that they may be one, in the same way *that* We are one.”

I can’t imagine how absolutely beyond description that is! That’s the whole plan of God!

Verse 23: “**I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected into one...** [the workmanship of the Father] ...and that the world may know that You did send Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. Father, I desire that those whom You have given Me may also be with Me where I am...” (vs 23-24)—***in the Kingdom of God, and that begins on the Sea of Glass on the day of the resurrection!***

“...so that they may behold My glory, which You have given Me; **because You did love Me before the foundation of the world.** Righteous Father, the world has not known You, but I have known You, and these have known that You did send Me. And I have made known Your name to them, and will make *it* known; so that the love with which You have loved Me may be in them, and I in them” (vs 24-26).

That’s the fullness of the meaning of Feast of Pentecost!

Scriptural References:

- 1) Leviticus 23:18-21
- 2) Deuteronomy 5:29
- 3) Deuteronomy 6:1-7
- 4) Luke 4:16-22
- 5) Acts 2:1-13, 34-40
- 6) Revelation 1:1-5
- 7) Ephesians 2:1-5, 7-10
- 8) Revelation 1:6, 8-20
- 9) Revelation 2:2, 7, 9-11, 14, 16-17, 19-20, 22-23, 26-27
- 10) Revelation 3:1-2, 4-5
- 11) Revelation 5:9-14
- 12) Revelation 6:12-17
- 13) Revelation 11:3-15
- 14) Revelation 14:16-18
- 15) Revelation 15:1-4
- 16) Isaiah 57:15
- 17) Psalm 93:1-2
- 18) Psalm 90:2
- 19) Psalm 145:12-13
- 20) Jeremiah 31:3
- 21) Psalm 112:1-4
- 22) John 3:15-16
- 23) John 17:1-26

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Matthew 13
- Exodus 20
- Isaiah 61
- Ephesians 1
- Hebrews 4
- Matthew 22
- Revelation 4
- Hosea 5 thru 6:1-3
- Revelation 7
- Zechariah 3; 4

Also referenced: Sermon:

Calendar May: *Exodus 12: Passover Timeline*
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What is the Difference Between Temptation and Tribulation?

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