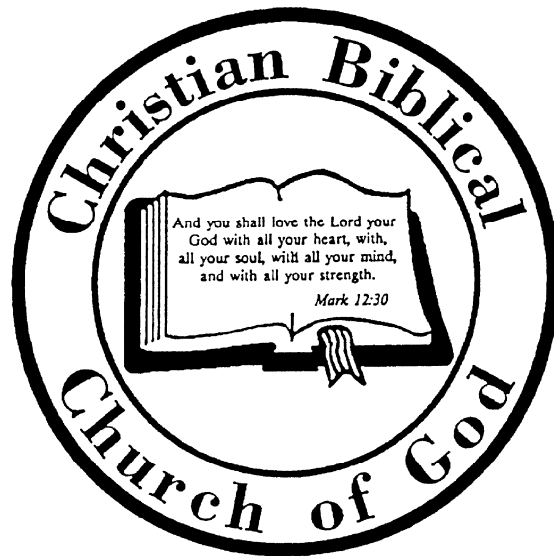


Day 49 & Pentecost 2024



Transcript Book

By Fred R. Coulter

© 2024
Fred R. Coulter
Christian Biblical Church of God
P. O. Box 1442
Hollister, California 95024-1442

All rights reserved. Except for brief excerpts for review purposes, no part of this publication may be reproduced or used in any form or by any means without the written permission of the copyright owner. This includes electronic and mechanical photocopying or recording, as well as the use of information storage and retrieval systems.

Contents

Day 49 & Pentecost 2024

	PAGE
Day 49: Lessons from the Seven Churches of Revelation 2 & 3 -----	1 – 15
Feast of Pentecost—God’s Direct Intervention Into This World -----	16 – 29

Compact Disc

Tracks 1 & 2 Day 49: Lessons from the Seven Churches of Revelation 2 & 3

Tracks 3 & 4 Feast of Pentecost— God’s Direct Intervention Into This World

Lessons from the Seven Churches of Revelation 2 & 3

(Day 49)

Fred R. Coulter—June 15, 2024

Greetings, brethren, and welcome to Day 49, the seventh Sabbath, the day before Pentecost. As we will see tomorrow, ***Pentecost is going to be an absolute worldwide shaking of the greatest magnitude possible!***

We need to understand about the Word of God, and we need to understand about the Churches. So, let's come to the book of Revelation, because on this, the 7th Sabbath or the 49th day, we're going to do a survey of the seven Churches in Rev. 2 & 3.

We're going to learn what we need to do, because as we will see, Jesus says to every one of the Churches, ***The one who has an ear, let him hear!*** That means listen intently ***so that you:***

- may believe
- may obey
- may love

God the Father and Jesus Christ!

Now one of the ways that God intends us to understand what is happening is to realize this. Remember what Jesus said in John 10, that ***My sheep hear My voice!***

Every time you read the Word of God, you're hearing the voice of God spoken to you that way, which is a miracle itself, ***and you need the Spirit of God within you!*** You need to exercise your free moral agency to understand, first of all, the awesomeness of God ***and His great creation and what He has made and how He has made it!***

The universe is so fantastic and so far beyond anything we can grasp or imagine, even with the greatest telescopes in the world, to view clear into the outer reaches of the heavens.

This is the God that is dealing with us! That's why everything here is 'God spoke...' The Word of God came to the prophet speaking, saying, whatever, ***Jesus Christ coming into flesh and speaking the very words of God as a human being!*** But the Son of God to those whom the promise was given, that He would come, ***and He did!***

Then we have the four Gospels and the book of Acts showing and preserving these words. So, whenever you read anything in the Bible, it is the voice of God to you, to me, to anyone who reads it.

We know that in Deut. 30 that God sets before us life and death, blessing and cursing, and He says, ***Therefore, choose life that you may love the Lord your God!***

We're going to see that's the theme of everything here with the seven Churches. We will see that too many times, just like as in the Old Testament, men

- add to
- delete from
- neglect
- try and compromise

with the world, and they always get in trouble!

Let's come to Rev. 1, and let's understand about this book. Remember how many times we have covered that every introduction in the Epistles of Paul or any of the other apostles, it is always ***from God to Father and Jesus Christ!***

The first two or three verses tell us that and everything in there is what God wants us to know. In this time with impending troubles and difficulties coming, we're going to see that we've got to take advantage of every minute of tranquility and lack of turmoil:

- so that we can draw close to God
- so that we can learn His Word
- so that we can have it written in our heart and mind
- so that we can love God and serve Him and do what He wants

Let's begin here Rev. 1 and let's understand the importance of it. As we will see that the messages to the seven Churches are the direct messages to all the Churches at all times, so that they do not fall into the same traps.

This comes from God the Father! Do we understand that? So, let that sink in. Let it sink into our heart and mind ***that these words of God come directly from God to us!*** With His Spirit in us:

- He gives us understanding
- He gives us Truth
- He gives us knowledge
- He gives us willingness

Revelation 1:1: “*The* revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave to Him, to show to His servants the things that *are* ordained to come to pass shortly; and He made *it* known, having sent *it* by His angel to His servant John.”

Now then, isn't that interesting? John was the one who Jesus loved!

Verse 2: “Who gave witness *to* the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ, and all the things he saw.”

Here's a summary of the whole book of Revelation in the first two verses. Notice what is to come of this. All of this is to be a benefit to every one of Christians down through time. Of course, we've had the opportunity as it says on our letterhead, *Restoring Original Christianity for Today*, the way that God wants it. That's what we're going to focus in on for Day 49!

Verse 3: “Blessed *is* the one... [that blessing comes from God] ...who reads, and those who hear the words of this prophecy and who **keep**...”

That means not only to do and perform, **but it also means to guard and protect!**

“...the things *that are* written therein; for the time *is* at hand” (v 3).

For every Christian in every age, the time for each one of us is always at hand, whether it is day-to-day while we're living and overcoming and staying close to God, or whether we are close to the end of our lives, or whether we are close to the return of Christ.

All of those things apply here, because God's Word is multi-layered. It's not like any other book, because other books, without the Word of God, have very little if any, inspiration of value spiritually for God.

Here's what John did, what comes to him, so here's what he writes:

Verse 4: “John to the seven Churches that *are* in Asia...”

Why did he pick that? *Because it was a mail route, from Ephesus all the way to Laodicea!* This shows that the connection to the churches down through time will be there.

“...Grace and peace *be* to you from Him Who is, and Who was, and Who *is* to come; and from the seven spirits that are before His Throne” (v 4)

So right here, this tells us Christ is active, the seven Spirits of God are the seven Spirits sent into all the earth as the eyes of God to find those who are seeking Him. Then the Spirit of the Father draws them:

- we come to repentance
- we are baptized
- we receive the Holy Spirit

God opens our minds as we yield to Him and takes away the hostility of the carnality of the human mind that is so desperately wicked, evil and deceitful above all things.

That is to be converted! But in the process we will see there are difficulties that come along, and we need to be aware of those so we don't get entrapped by any of them.

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

Now that's over all the kings of the earth today (Jer. 18). He judges all nations all the time, and with His laws He's judging every human being all the time, for good or for evil, depending on how they live their lives. That has nothing to do with conversion, that's just physical existence. Conversion is another process. Conversion means you answer the call of God and God gives you His Spirit when you are baptized.

It's for us doubly, because this is to educate us to be the kings and priests (Rev. 20) and reign with Christ a thousand years.

“...To Him Who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to God and His Father; to Him *be* the glory and the sovereignty into the ages of eternity. Amen” (vs 5-6).

How's that for an introduction? That is tremendous, that is awesome!

Verse 7—this will happen, and as I wrote in my May-June letter. You know how it's going to happen and we'll find out tomorrow at Pentecost some more of it.

Verse 7: “Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye shall see Him...” *That means every eye of every human being on the earth!*

“...and those who pierced Him...” (v 7) won't see him until the second resurrection, but *they will see Him!* However, because our sins have been paid for through the sacrifice of Christ, and we are conjoined to the sacrifice of Christ, that piercing of

Him was part of letting out all of the blood so that He would shed all of His blood, because He was God in the flesh.

- there can't be any better blood
- there can't be any better sacrifice
- there can't be anything that any man can add to that to make it any better or to make it effective

Any more than God can Himself personally!

“...and all the tribes of the earth shall wail because of Him. Even so, Amen: (v 7).

Two verses ending in *Amen*. That means **so be it!** Now notice what Jesus says; here's where we really get:

- the feeling and understanding of what is transpiring in our lives
- our calling
- what we are doing
- why we have the Word of God
- why we need to study
- why we need to pray
- why we need to live God's way

always asking God

- to help us
- to guide us
- to direct us
- to lead us

especially in this evil generation that we are living in now!

Verse 8: “I am the Alpha and the Omega...”—*first letter and last letter of the Greek alphabet*, showing that He intended this to be written in Greek.

So, all of those out there who say that it was written in Aramaic, *you're liars!* All those out there who say that it was written 200 or 300 years after the apostles, *you're liars!*

“...*the Beginning and the Ending,*’ says the Lord...” (v 8).

God started the whole process with creation, carrying it on down through time, the ending with things on the earth, and *then a new beginning* when we find in the last two chapters of the book of Revelation the New Heavens and the New Earth.

“...Who is, and Who was, and Who *is* to come—the Almighty” (v 8).

If He's Almighty, can anybody do anything against Him and succeed? *No!* All you have to do is just read Isa. 40:

- no one has been the counsel of God
- no one was there when He laid the foundation
- no one was there, that is human beings
 - there were angels
 - there was Lucifer before he fell
 - there were the angels that went with him before they fell

They were there and they saw it; an amazing thing! This is what we need to grasp.

Verse 9: “I, John, who *am* also your brother and joint partaker in the tribulation and in the kingdom and endurance of Jesus Christ, was on the island that *is* called Patmos because of the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

So, John is saying, ‘Here's what happened, and here's what came to me.’ When we read this and we understand, don't you think that John would write everything exactly as Jesus said? *Yes!*

But men, in all of their egotistical, intellectual ignorance, reject revelation, reject the Word of God, say there is no God. Well, just wait and see. All of you who believe that, what are you going to do when you look at Christ in the face and He says, ‘What have you done?’

Verse 10: “I was in *the Spirit* on the Day of the Lord...”

Now some egotistical Protestants try and say that's Sunday! *It's not!* It's the day of the coming of the Lord and all of the events leading up to it.

The book of Revelation tells us all of the events leading up to the first resurrection in one straight line. All of the time in between, we find in other parts of the Bible so we can put the whole thing together.

“...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 in a book**...” (vs 10-11)—*that's why we have it!*

It doesn't matter, God preserved it in spite of men, but though He used them, because He wanted His Word preserved so that down through time all would have it.

“...write 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” (v 11).

Notice what a startling revelation this was. This is important because it's just like:

- when Isaiah saw God
- when Ezekiel had a vision of God
- when Jeremiah had a vision of God

God does this to put it in our mind that God is the One Who is doing this. **IF** we:

- get that
- understand that
- realize the greatness of God through it
 - **THEN** we can understand more of the Word of God
 - **THEN** we can love God more
 - **THEN** we can draw close to God more

Verse 12: “And I turned to see the voice that spoke with me; and when I turned, I saw seven golden lampstands; and **in the midst** of the seven lampstands... [they were in a circle] ...*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 12-14).

- think about that
- think about the power
- think about what it is to be a spirit being

We’re going to be the sons and daughters of God!
We’re not going to be exactly like that, but we’ll have the same kind of existence as Christ!

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’s the Word of God; Heb. 4 ‘the Word of God is living and sharper than any two-edged sword.’ All God has to do is speak it, and it is done! Let’s think of that in relationship to the printed Word of God, because John was told to write it.

“...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, even the One Who is living; for I was dead, and behold, I am alive into the ages of eternity. Amen. And I [Christ] have the keys of *the* grave and of death’” (vs 16-18).

Only He can unlock death, ***and that’s through the power of the resurrection!***

Verse 19: “**Write**...”

He says that also back in Rev. 19: ‘Write, for these are the true and faithful words of God.’ So, how important is the Word of God written? ***Amazing! Amazing!***

Verse 19: “Write the things that you saw, and the things that are, and the things that shall take place hereafter.... [then He revealed the mystery]: ...The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, *is this*: the seven stars are *the* angels of the seven Churches; and the seven lampstands that you saw are *the* seven churches” (vs 10-20).

What’s most important to God of everything that’s on this earth? *His people, His churches!* He wants every one of us—wherever we are, whatever time period it is—to understand as much as we can of the Word of God.

These were the seven Churches that were in Asia. They also depict the seven iterations of the Church of God down through time to the coming of Christ.

Also, we can see from looking at history, looking at back as much as we’re able to with the history that we are able to discern as the proper history, that even though one of the Churches characteristics is predominant at any one period of time down through history, ***there are still parts of all seven Churches!***

At the end, we have all seven Churches all together, wherever they are. Listen, brethren, there are Churches of God we know nothing about in countries that we don’t know, and brethren that we have no idea about because God has them there and He knows them Himself.

Now, we know in some of the countries that we’re able to do some things, we understand that. But what we’re going to cover here now in the seven Churches are all of the difficulties that the Churches are confronted with in various times in varying degrees. ***But the lesson is here for us to learn!***

Revelation 2:1: “To the angel of the Ephesian Church, write: ‘These things says He Who holds the seven stars in His **right hand**... [meaning *work*; that the Churches of God must be doing the work of Christ] ...Who walks in *the* midst of the seven golden lampstands.’”

That means Christ is always there guiding and directing what goes on as long as we are yielding to God. He’s still doing it even if there’s sin involved. ***We will see whenever there’s sin involved that Jesus corrects it!***

Church of the Ephesians

Now then, we're coming to the most important thing for all the Churches. Right here in the Church of the Ephesians.

Verse 2: "**I know your works...**" *We're going to see He talks about:*

- works
- faith
- repentance
- hearing
- doing
- repenting

We'll see that in all of the seven Churches!

Verse 2: "**I know your works...**"

Remember that we're going to ***be judged by our works!*** Never does He say you're going to be ***judged by your faith, because if you have the faith of Christ, you're going to have the works!***

So, anyone who says that because we have the grace of God, you don't need works, read Eph. 2; it says ***that for those who are under grace, that we are to walk in the works that God has beforehand provided or ordained for us to walk in!*** That's *the way of God with Christ!*

"...and your labor, and your endurance, and that you cannot bear those who are evil; and *that* you did test those who proclaim *themselves* to be apostles, but are not, and did find them liars" (v 2).

Do we still do that today? *Yes, indeed!* So, that element is still in the Churches!

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

Christ always brings out the things that we need to repent of. As long as we're in the flesh, we're going to have things to repent of every single day, especially today with all of the digital and visual input and sound that comes into our mind, which were never there in the centuries leading up to us.

Here we can just add into it right here: Remember when that helicopter crashed in Iran? We knew about it the instant that it happened, right after it happened. That's halfway around the world. So, we know the things that go on.

Christ says He has something against us; here it is. Here's the first step of problems that each one of us will have if we allow this to happen:

"...**that you have left your first love**" (v 4).

What is the first love? First love is ***to love God with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your soul, with all your being, and with all your strength!*** (Matt. 22, Mark 12 and Deut. 6). ***It's there all through the Bible!*** Loving God is the most important thing!

When we leave the love of God, what do we do? *We start implementing the ways and mindset of men!* Can anything replace the love of God the way that God wants? *No!*

Verse 5: "Therefore, remember from where you have fallen, and repent..."

Of the seven Churches, only two were not told to repent. All the other five, and some of them especially—Pergamos, Thyatira, and Laodicea—had terrible problems.

"...and **do the first works; for if you do not...**" (v 5).

- Is loving God *a spiritual work* as well as an emotional attachment: devotion, as well as worshiping in awe? *Yes, indeed!*
- Are those spiritual works? *Yes!*
- Is that what God wants? *Yes!*

That's why he told us that!

"...if *you do* not, I will come to you quickly; and **I will remove your lampstand** out of its place unless you repent" (v 5).

That's why the daily prayer has repentance in it as the model for us.

Verse 6: "But this you have: that you hate the works of the Nicolaitans..."

The Nicolaitans were those who believed in a hierarchical structure; that you could only get to God through that hierarchical structure. That they would rule over their subjects or over the brethren.

Remember what Jesus told the apostles back in Matt. 20? Even had 'mother Zebedee' bring James and John with her to Jesus and said, 'Lord, I've got something I want to ask you.' *What is it?* 'That these two, my sons, one may sit on Your right hand and one on Your left hand in Your Kingdom.'

Jesus said, 'Woman, you don't know what you are asking.' Then He turned to James and John and He said, 'You're going to be baptized with the same baptism as I am. Do you think you're going to take that?' They said, 'Oh yes, we will.'

Then He went on to explain how not to have a hierarchy. Take a look at the Roman Catholic Church.

- Where in the New Testament does it say you need a pope? **Never!**
- Where does it say you need a college of cardinals? **Never!**
- Where does it say that the pope has sole authority? **Never!**
- Where does it say that you cannot have any salvation unless you agree to the hierarchy and trinity of the Roman Catholic Church? **Not in the Bible!**

That's the end result of what was started right here, and that's with us today.

"...you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, **which I also hate**" (v 6).

What did Jesus say? *You know that the rulers of the earth lorded over them!*

I don't think we understand about how powerful that over-lording was in the days of Jesus and their religious figures. They exercised authority upon them. That is, they tell them what to do in their lives rather than for the brethren to study the Word of God and learn what to do in their lives.

So, He says, "...you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, **which I also hate.**"

That's an answer to what happened to Worldwide Church of God. You can kind of take all the sins of all the seven Churches and mix them all together with everything that was in Worldwide and understand why God destroyed it.

Those of us who were scattered, that's a blessing today because great persecution and threats of death are going to come in increasing intensity like we have never known. So, to be removed, to have small gatherings where they don't know where we're meeting is a blessing."

Verse 7: "The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the Churches. To the one who overcomes... [we're always to be overcoming, He says this to all seven Churches] ...I will give *the right* to eat of the Tree of Life that is in *the* midst of the paradise of God."

Church at Smyrna

We have all the faults that lead to complacency by leaving the first love. When you leave the first love, what tries to enter in at that time? *Satan the devil!*

We will find that was a powerful movement. And the way it was after the Apostle John died with Polycarp, Polyquities, and all of those who followed John, that they stayed true. **But Satan was there:**

- forming the proto-Catholic Church
- denouncing everyone who kept the Sabbath and Holy Days
- proclaiming that they shouldn't keep the Sabbath

and all of those who didn't would be killed!

Verse 8: "And to the angel of the Church of the Smyrneans write: These things says the First and the Last, Who was dead but is alive. 'I know your works...'" (vs 8-9).

- God knows all of our works
- He knows what we do
- He knows our thoughts
- He knows our intent

But our free moral agency, He hasn't taken away. We need to use that:

- to draw close to God
- to pray
- to study
- to live God's way

Verse 9: "I know your works and tribulation and poverty (but you are rich)..."

If you are close to God, there are no riches in the world that could pay for that.

"...and the blasphemy of those who declare themselves to be Jews and are not, but *are* a synagogue of Satan" (v 9). *The synagogue of Satan resides in two places:*

1. in Rome
2. in rabbinic Judaism

Both of them exert power over a great deal of the earth!

Verse 10: "Do not fear any of the things that you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast *some* of you into prison, that you may be tried; and you shall have tribulation ten days...."

That was the ten years of intense persecution right after the Apostle John died and on into the later 100s and 200_{S.A.D.}

"...**Be faithful unto death**..." (v 10).

That's for every one of us, not just the Samaritans. We have to be faithful unto death.

Remember, Hezekiah, he was faithful until he showed the ambassadors from Babylon all of the wealth and gold and things that God delivered to them from the Assyrian army that he killed. They had all the wealth and all the booty and all of that thing brought into Jerusalem.

Then Hezekiah made the stupid thing of vanity, of showing it to the ambassadors from Babylon. Isaiah had to come to him and ask, ‘What is this that you have done? What did they see?’

Hezekiah said, ‘Well, I showed them everything.’ Isaiah said, ‘All of this is going to Babylon.’ It wasn’t going to go there until Hezekiah made that stupid decision! Likewise! So, you’re going to be tried.

“...you shall have tribulation ten days. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you a crown of life. **The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the Churches. The one who overcomes...**” (vs 10-11).

Meaning you can overcome these things. You can’t overcome death, but death can be overcome by Christ.

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.**”

That’s a warning that if you go too far, guess what’s going to happen? ***The second death!***

There are a lot of lessons in here for us and we need to learn them. You can look up other Scriptures to add to this, to put in play here, but I want to concentrate on going through the seven Churches so that we get the message for all the brethren everywhere, *that they are for us today and for those in the future whom God would call! So that we can help everyone come to love God with all their heart and mind and soul and being and trust in Christ and trust in his strength and have their lives directed with the Spirit of God in them!*

(break@44:00)

We saw that the synagogue of Satan is introduced in the Church of Smyrna and in a historical setting we’ll put this in the late 100s and through 400_{A.D.}

Church in Pergamos

Look what happens if you don’t shut the door on Satan. We have the Church in Pergamos. Here we have the things that they introduce into the Church would seem good to them *because they use*

human reasoning—instead of the Spirit of God—*which seems right to them* because it looked good, but were actually satanic.

So let’s read what Christ says to the Church of Pergamos, the city where they had the great altar to Zeus, Satan’s headquarters at that time.

When Satan is deceiving the whole world today, think how that affects the whole world, because whenever Satan can get in through the door, he takes over the whole thing. Is that what’s happening in the world today?

Verse 12: ““And to the angel of the Church in Pergamos, write: ‘These things **says He Who has the sharp two-edged sword.**”

Meaning that they weren’t following the Word of God, ***and God was going to execute upon them His Word!***

Verse 13: “I know your works and where you dwell, where the throne of Satan *is*; but you are holding fast My name, and did not deny My faith, even in the days in which Antipas *was* My faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.”

So, they were faithful as long as they had a leader that was faithful. But when he was killed, look at what happened:

- paganism creeps in
- changing of the Passover creeps in

This is the introduction of the Sacrifice of the Mass that the Catholics have today, and the introduction of Easter, which Catholics and Protestants have today.

So what it means is that the thing that Satan likes to get after, likes to change and likes to destroy as much as possible is the Passover.

Isn’t that the thing that these churches of Satan have destroyed and substituted their own sacrifice of things which Paul writes in 1- Cor. 10 are sacrifices to demons in the Churches of God? Obviously, they apostatize. Some few left, but it cost them their lives.

Verse 14: “But I have a few things against you because you have there *those* who hold the teaching of Balaam...”

Now the teachings of Balaam was that you get them involved in adultery and illicit sex and you can destroy them because God will destroy them for you if you get them involved in that. Doesn’t that sound a lot like what’s happening in the world today? *Yes, indeed!*

“...who taught Balak to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit fornication” (v 14)—*that’s sexual immorality!*

So, there you have it. Not only physical sexual immorality, but:

- look at the sexual immorality within the Catholic Church
- look at the sexual immorality that we have in this society today
- look at the sexual immorality that is in Islam
- look at the sexual immorality that is in Judaism

Wherever it may be, once any society, any group, any family, any person gets involved in sexual immorality, *they bring the judgment of God upon them!*

- What happened in the Worldwide Church of God?
- Remember a man called Garner Ted Armstrong?

When he finally got caught, he admitted to—during the time that he was a minister—to having affairs with 200 women or more.

- Was that sexual immorality in the Church?
- What happened to the Church?
- What happened with the lies that came with it?

Sound a little bit like Smyrna here? *Yes, exactly!*

Verse 15: “Moreover, you also have *those* who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.”

- hierarchy
- ruling over the brethren
- all of those things combined

Then some people say, ‘I wonder why God took down Worldwide?’ There are even some people that have a whole website devoted to Herbert W. Armstrong. Well, as long as he did good, he was fine. But when he started lying about his son Ted, that all of these things were rumors and not true, and he started preaching another gospel that wasn’t correct... It wasn’t the coming Kingdom of God.

- What is that called?
- What happened to the Church?

Just like right here, just like I said at the beginning, these things you can find in varying degrees in various Churches of God down through time and history.

Verse 16: “**Repent!**....”

Well, Herbert Armstrong probably repented of his personal sins the last two years before he died. I have that on firsthand testimony of a woman who met with him every day for the last two years of his life.

But Christ says, “...For if *you* do not *repent...*” (v 16)—because that repentance was only for himself (HWA), because the Church had gone too far.

So let’s see what Christ says He does when it goes too far.

“...I will come to you quickly, and will make war against them with the sword of My mouth” (v 16).

Did God destroy Worldwide? *Yes!* It was Christ’s war against the Church for sin, just exactly as it was with Pergamos.

Verse 17^[transcriber’s correction]: “The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the Churches....” *That means:*

- hear
- listen
- learn
- overcome
- repent
- don’t do the same things again.

“...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*” (v 17).’

Now then, with Pergamos it got worse. Same way, after God scattered Worldwide, it got worse. They went and converted to Protestantism. Now some of the remnant are thinking about, ‘How do we speak in tongues today?’

Listen, we don’t need to speak in tongues today because English is the universal language, and the Bible is translated into over 3,000 different languages. Back in the days of the apostles, they didn’t have that. So, they had speaking in tongues to unbelievers, just like it was on the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came. But they also had the problem of satanic speaking in tongues, and that’s what we have today.

Church of Thyatira

They really got into it. So, this is the time during when the Catholic Church came to power and when they persecuted the true Christians and those who were living in the place that God put them to protect them up in the Alps and so forth.

All of this was going on, and the greatest compromises were coming. Those who remained steadfast to the Truth were martyred, just like in Pergamos.

Verse 18: “And to the angel of the Church in Thyatira write: ‘These things says the Son of God, He Who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet *are* like fine brass. **I know your works...**” (vs 18-19).

Understand this: God knows the works of every one of us all the time. So, don’t let our deceitful minds trick us into thinking anything other than that.

Verse 19: “I know your works, and love, and service, and faith, and your endurance, and your works; and the last *are* more than the first.”

Very interesting! The Seventh-Day Adventists tie their origin to this time in the history of the Church. Look at how they’re compromised today. The only thing they have left is the Sabbath, and most of them keep it from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday, but some keep it from midnight to midnight.

Verse 20: “But I have a few things against you, because you allow the woman Jezebel...”

- Who was she? *She was the daughter of the high priest of Baal!*
- What do you have with the Roman Catholic Church? *Baal! Sun-worship!*

“...who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce My servants into committing fornication.... [that’s spiritual fornication and physical fornication] ...and eating things sacrificed to idols” (v 20).

They say that in their communion with the Sacrifice of their Mass, which they also call the Eucharist, that the priest has the power to command the bread to turn to Jesus’ flesh and the wine to His blood.

- How blasphemous of a lie can there be than any such thing?
- Can any man tell God what to do? *Never!*

So, that’s a lesson for all of us to learn, as well!

Verse 21: “And I gave her time to repent of her fornication, but she did not repent..”

That was through the decades of the Council of Trent. And it went like this: The Protestants had left and their motto was ‘Solo Scriptura’ that is Scriptures only. We just need to follow the Scriptures. Let’s get rid of all the idols and all the things.

So, the Protestants started out well, but they never came to the point of keeping the Sabbath. A lot of those in Britain did, a lot of those in Holland did. In the days of Cromwell, he got rid of Christmas and these pagan things for 20 years.

Now then, here we have it “...eating things sacrificed...” The space of repentance is the Council of Trent, because there was within the Catholic Church at that time a segment of the Scripturalist within the Catholic Church that were wanting to get rid of the idols and all the traditions of men and follow the Scriptures.

But after Luther refused to keep the Sabbath and Carlstadt, one of his close friends, tried to convince him to keep the Sabbath, but he wouldn’t do it. Then Luther joined the Catholics in putting down the farmers’ rebellion. So, the decision of the Council of Trent was this: In order to understand what has happened here is there are those who say Scriptures only and not tradition.

But even those Protestants who left still keep Sunday, which is a tradition of the Roman Catholic Church. So therefore, we cannot go by Scripture only, but by Scripture *and tradition!*

When you come to that, you have a wide open door for Satan the devil to continue, and that’s what happened here. They gave them space to repent, but they didn’t.

Verse 22: “Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation...”

Look at all the tribulation that they had, especially the 1100s through 1300s there in Europe. *Amazing! Amazing!* Even the armies of the Mongols coming in right to the doorsteps of Vienna.

“...unless they repent of their works. And I will kill her children **with death**...” (vs 22-23)—*that’s the second death!*

If you kill someone, they’re dead. But if you say *kill with death*, I mean, can you kill someone and not have them die? *So, that means the second death!*

“...and all the Churches shall know...” (v 23).

Here's the lesson right smack in the middle of everything that Christ is saying to the seven Churches and for us to learn.

Verse 23: “And I will kill her children with death; **and all the Churches shall know that I am He Who searches the reins and hearts...**”

Christ is always actively looking, judging, evaluating, searching, trying, testing the hearts and reins. Now, the reigns is that special thing that God has that He can know our thoughts, that He can test us that way spiritually.

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

Because as you think and as you do, you have worked and God is going to judge what you on what you think and what you do and the works that are a result of what you do with that.

Verse 24: “But to you I say, and to *the* rest who *are* in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, and who have not known the depths of Satan...”

Now how far of a compromise did they get into? *I mean look at the Roman Catholic Church today and all of the things that they have!*

It's nothing but pure paganism with the name of Christ attached to it, or the name of Mary, or the name of some saint.

“...as they speak; I will not cast upon you any other burden, but hold fast what you have until I come. **And to the one who overcomes and keeps My works...**” (vs 24-26).

We're going to see a little later, *keeps the Word of God!*

“...unto *the* end, I will give authority over the nations. and he shall shepherd them with an iron rod, as vessels of pottery are broken in pieces; as I have also received from My Father; and I will give him the Morning Star. **The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the Churches**” (vs 26-29).

All of the Churches, all of these things apply at all times. There are times when in history one of the Churches of God will prevail much greater than the other.

Rev. 3—after all of this and down through the Middle Ages and down through all the slaughtering of the Catholic Church and the wearing out of the saints, the Church became small. It became hard to hold to the true doctrines and it looked like it was going to disappear, *but it didn't!* It

was revived beginning with the Church of God Seventh-Day. In the 1800s they did a lot of:

- writing
- preaching
- teaching

Now you can go to **FriendsofSabbath.org** and there Greg White has the history of the Churches and all the things that Church of God Seventh-Day taught.

Now most of them did not keep the Holy Days and because they didn't keep the Holy Days they didn't have a very good understanding of prophecy.

Church of Sardis

Revelation 3:1: “And to the angel of the Church in Sardis, write: ‘These things says He Who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your works...’”

Stop and think about it! God knows what we're doing at any time!

“...and that you have a name as if you are alive, but are dead” (v 1). *In other words, they were just a warm corpse.*

Verse 2: “Be watchful, and strengthen the things that remain, which are about to die....” *Because:*

- ***IF*** we don't overcome every day
- ***IF*** we don't pray every day
- ***IF*** we don't study every day
- ***IF*** we don't hold fast to the Word of God
- ***IF*** we're not learning to think with the Word of God With the Spirit of God

which is the greatest way to think that there is would you not say? Yes!

- ***THEN*** it can dwindle down to almost death!

“...For I have not found your works complete before God” (v 2).

Isn't that interesting? *A lot of them substitute faith for faithful works!* Keep that in mind.

Verse 3: “Therefore, remember what you have received and heard, and hold on *to this*, and repent. Now then, if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you shall by no means know what hour I will come upon you.”

- Isn't that interesting?

- Did that not happen to Worldwide? They didn't know that Christ was going to come—and BOOM!

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).

So they're still going to make it. They'll receive eternal life. That fits in with everything that God is going to do, only Christ and God the Father know.

Verse 6: “**The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the Churches.**”

So, as we go through all of this, let's ask ourselves this:

- Are we going to hear what God is telling us?
- Are we going to learn the lessons that God has given us here?
- Are we going to apply ourselves with diligence every day, every Sabbath, every Passover, every Holy Day, in everything that we do?

Because we have the time right now to have in the forefronts of our mind ***all the Word of God*** and everything that there is that He has provided for us that we've been able to do and make and produce and distribute.

That's why it's very important that all of you have been active passing out the Bibles. Remember this: the Bibles in the warehouse don't do anybody any good. God provided the funds and provided the way and provided the means so that we could have these Bibles printed.

All of you, brethren out there, can now be part of helping get the Word of God out with *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version!* With the commentaries and appendices we have, we give them more than just the Bible. We give them the tool and how to understand it. Pray that God will use that as a means:

- of calling new people
- as a means of calling new brethren
- as a means of helping those who have been in the Church a long time that need to be encouraged and rekindled and stirred up
- that this will help them do it

Church of Philadelphia

Verse 7: “And to the angel of the Church in Philadelphia, write...”

Philadelphia means *brotherly love!* What happens when Satan enters in, as we saw in these other Churches? ***Love disappears! Judgment and false doctrine come in!***

You can't have brotherly love without loving God with all your heart, mind, soul and being! Isn't that true? *Yes, because if we have the love of God in us, that will come out as love of the brethren!* Remember that!

Christ says, “...write: ‘These things says the Holy One, the One Who is true; the One Who has the key of David, Who opens and no one shuts, and Who shuts and no one opens’” (v 7).

What is the key of David? *The key of David is to understand God in your heart and mind and through repentance and deep devotion to God!*

Verse 8: “**I know your works...** [we have our works] ...Behold, I have set before you an open door, and no one has the power to shut it because you have a little strength, **and have kept My Word...**”

We're small, but we keep the Word of God, and 'keep' means *to guard and protect!* In that sense, ***restoring original Christianity is part of what this is and what we do!***

“...and **have kept My Word and have not denied My name**” (v 8).

Now then, notice confrontation with the synagogue of Satan. Isn't that what happened with the Church? *The synagogue of Satan came in and took it over right in Pasadena!* An amazing thing! The auditorium that was supposed to be to the true God was dedicated by Benny Hinn of the Speaking in Tongues Chinese Church. *Amazing! Absolutely amazing!* Synagogue of Satan! **So, we need to be alert to that all the time!**

Verse 9: “Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who proclaim themselves to be Jews and are not, but do lie. Behold, I will cause them to come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.”

Now, this is very important here; this is 'agape love.' ***Love directly from God,*** because that's how we have the love of the brethren—***agape love***—keep that in mind.

Think about the last few verses of John 21 when Jesus came to Peter and He said:

‘Simon, son of Jonah, do you *love* [agape] Me? And Peter says, ‘Lord, You know I love [phileo] You’—*that friendly love!* That’s not the deep devoted love of ‘agape.’ Then Jesus said, ‘Feed My sheep.’

Jesus asked Peter the second time and he answered the same way. And Jesus said, ‘Shepherd My sheep.’ Then Jesus asked Peter the third time and lowered it from ‘agape’ to ‘phileo’: ‘Do you love Me?’

Peter said, ‘Yes, Lord, You know I love You.’ And Jesus said, ‘Feed My lambs.’

There’s a lesson for us here. We’ll see that in a little bit when we get to Laodicea.

Verse 10: “Because you **have kept** the Word of My patience...”:

- to keep
- to do
- to guard

That’s what we do! We are to guard the Word of God from any encroachments of:

- Satan the devil
- the synagogue of Satan
- doctrines of men
- thoughts of men

trying to be added to the Word of God, we reject!

He says, “...I also will keep you from **the time of temptation**, which *is* about to come upon the whole world to try those who dwell on the earth” (v 10).

We don’t know exactly what that temptation is. Is that referring just to the mark of the beast *or* is it also referring to tribulation? Well, both could fit! However, it’s saying that only Christ can deliver us from the troubles that we’re going to be facing.

Verse 11: “Behold, I am coming quickly; **hold fast that which you have so that no one may take away your crown.**”

That’s what we do. That’s why when we stand for the Truth and protect the Truth and will not yield to any man, that that’s what we are doing. Though it may be no one will stand with us for quite a while, *but that’s what God wants us to do!*

Verse 12: “**The one who overcomes will I make a pillar in the temple of My God...**”

The greatest promise given to any of the seven Churches right here! Why? Because all the

problems of the other Churches leading up to this point, we don’t partake of!

“...and he shall not go out anymore; and I will write upon him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which will come down out of heaven from My God; and *I will write upon him My new name*” (v 12)—*a triple name!*

- name of God the Father
- name of the city
- name of Christ

Amazing!

Verse 13: “**The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the Churches.**”

Church of Laodicea

Verse 14: “And to the angel of the Church of *the* Laodiceans, write: These things says the Amen... [this is God’s final word to the Churches!] ...the faithful and true Witness, the Beginner of the creation of God.”

That tells us something very interesting! He made everything that there was. It’s interesting that when people begin to forget God, they don’t think that He won’t take it into account. Well, unless there is repentance and the kind of repentance worthy of whatever the transgression was, **He *is* going to take it into account!**

Laodicea, at that time had every convenience, every wonderful thing that they could have. Much like the society that we have today, everything is here at our fingertips. Yet, we don’t realize how fragile that it really is when complacency sets in.

This is what happened to the Laodiceans. They became dull of hearing, they became lukewarm in what they were doing to God. Yet, God still hasn’t given up on them. So, let’s take this as a lesson for all of us today living in a society where everything we have is at the push of a button at our fingertips. An amazing thing indeed!

I think about that every day. Everything that we have. Walk into a store. What do you want? You pick up a catalog, and you can have hundreds of catalogs with thousands and thousands of things of every description of every kind. You can go to your computer, you can order it, you can have it sent to you, you never see a person, you never talk to a person, but you get what you want. *Amazing!* Same thing with buying and selling.

Same thing with the food that we have. Same thing with all the conveniences that we have. But remember, the Achilles heel of all of it is electricity. You take away electricity, everything is gone.

Verse 15: “I know your works that you are neither cold nor hot; I would *that* you be *either* cold or hot”—*because God can deal with you in a better way!*

Verse 16: “So then, because you are lukewarm, and *are* neither cold nor hot, **I will spew you out of My mouth.**”

How many people are there, even in the Church of God, that wonder, ‘Where is God?’ Well, you might reverse the question: **Where do you stand before God?**

- Would you not say that destroying Pasadena and Worldwide Church of God was really a massive spewing out of the mouth or the Body of Christ? *Yes!*
- Have we learned anything? *That’s a question we all need to ask ourselves.*
- What are we going to do once we know and understand it?
- Are we going to repent?
- Are we going to come to God?
- Are we going to be zealous, as Jesus says here?

Notice the attitude:

Verse 17: “**For you say...** [this is the reason He spews them out of His mouth] ...**I am rich, and have become wealthy...**”

- Is that true? *Look at Worldwide! The highest income was \$120 million in a year! Think of that!*
- Where did it all go?
- How was that all squandered?
 - ✓ lukewarm
 - ✓ rich and wealthy
 - ✓ have need of nothing

It’s like the parable: The man had a wonderful crop and he said:

Oh, look, I got all of this. What am I going to do? Well, I’m going to say to my soul, ‘My soul, you have all of this, so I’m going to build bigger barns and greater fields and have more and just sit back and I have everything that I need.’

That’s a paraphrase of it! What was God’s answer to him? ***Know this, tonight your soul I will require!*** Nothing like a little fast judgment here!

“...and have need of nothing’; and you do not understand that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, *and naked*” (v 17)—*physically and spiritually! Both!*

Isn’t that what we have today? I read this and I can’t help but think about perhaps there may be a good number of Protestants that are part of this. They have a name, but what are they doing?

Now notice, *they are blind!* Who does the blinding? *Satan, the devil, and our own carnal nature!*

“...**and naked**” (v 17)—*meaning you don’t have the spiritual clothes of Christ!*

Here’s God’s Word to them; God’s Word to each one of us, because in all the seven Churches there are things we can apply to ourselves so that we can do as Jesus said, ***The one who has an ear, let him hear. Repent!***

Here’s what God tells the Laodiceans; v 18: “I counsel you to buy from Me gold purified by fire...”

What does that mean? You come to Christ and that is going to cost you all of the carnality that you have allowed to come into your life; ***that you need to repent of and get the true spiritual riches from God!***

We’ve got a book coming out on that: *The True Spiritual Riches of God.*

“...purified by fire...” *by trial!* Tie in 1-Cor. 3, you have gold, silver, precious stone, wood, hay, and stubble. All of this right here referring to the Laodiceans is wood, hay, and stubble.

They need to get the pure gold and the silver so that you may be rich. In other words, the true riches that Jesus said, ‘Don’t lay up treasure for you on the earth, but in heaven.’ ***Let your treasure be in heaven!***

What does that mean? ***You receive from God all of the spiritual blessings and things for you to overcome and grow and develop into a son or daughter of God so at the resurrection you will shine in glory and splendor!***

What can that be compared to any physical riches on the earth? *It can’t!*

“...and white garments so that you may be clothed, and the shame of your nakedness may not

be revealed; and to anoint your eyes with eye salve, so that you may see” (v 18).

When real repentance comes and it’s just between you and God and you really see what you are as God sees you. That can only come through prayer and study and yielding to God and fasting so that you understand.

Verse 19: “As many as I love...”—very interesting here, this is not ‘agape’; this is ‘phileo.’

“...I rebuke and chasten...” (v 19).

There are going to be things we’ll go through that are difficult; they’re rebukes and chastenings.

“...Therefore, be zealous and repent” (v 19)—*this is what God wants from everyone!*

- repentance from the heart
- true repentance
- honest evaluation of our own selves compared to the Word of God
 - ✓ compared to what we are doing
 - ✓ compared to our works
 - ✓ compared to how we approach God

All of it together!

Verse 20: “Behold, I stand at the door and knock...” ***This is the door of your mind!***

So, this says they are lacking very much the Spirit of God. Or that the Spirit of God with Christ is on the outside knocking to get in.

Is this where a lot of the Protestants stand? *I don’t know!* I just bring this out as a possibility because many of the things that are here can apply to those Protestants who think they’re really doing the will of God, but are not.

Everything here applies to them as to even many members in the Churches of God.

“...**If anyone hears My voice...**” (v 20).

As I started out, how are you going to hear the voice of God? *By studying!* You know what God has said, and opens the door. That is you open your mind to Christ. *You open your heart and your spirit to Christ!*

- you begin to love Him with ‘agape’ love
- you begin to obey Him and keep His Word
- you begin to be zealous

“...and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me” (v 20). So that you can have that true spiritual riches of God:

- of knowing His plan
- of understanding
 - ✓ by loving Him
 - ✓ by believing Him
 - ✓ by doing the things that God wants in the way that God wants
 - ✓ by coming close to God

Now notice what He says here, because He doesn’t give up on the Laodiceans. The Laodiceans are not the unpardonable sin. The Laodiceans are those ***who need to be zealous and come to God and not handle all of these things in a lukewarm, half-hearted way!***

Verse 21: “**To the one who overcomes** will I give *authority* to sit with Me in My Throne, even as I also overcame, and sat down with My Father in His Throne.”

These are the messages to the seven Churches! So it’s fitting on Day 49—the day before Pentecost, which pictures the resurrection:

- that we evaluate our lives
- that we evaluate our relationship with God
- that we as individuals and Churches come to God
- that we look at it the way that God looks at it
- that we look at it through the lens of Scripture and the Holy Spirit

and not through the lens of our self-contentment and satisfaction of the good things that we have!

This is the message for today, and we’ll end it with:

Verse 22: “**The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the Churches.**”

Scriptural References:

- 1) Revelation 1:1-20
- 2) Revelation 2:1-29
- 3) Revelation 3:1-22

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Deuteronomy 30
- Jeremiah 18
- Revelation 20-22
- Isaiah 40
- Hebrews 4
- Revelation 19
- Ephesians 2
- Matthew 22
- Mark 12

- Deuteronomy 6
- Matthew 20
- 1 Corinthians 10
- John 21
- 1 Corinthians 3

FRC:bo/po
Transcribed: 5/29/24

Copyright 2024—All rights reserved. Except for brief excerpts for review purposes, no part of this publication may be reproduced or used in any form or by any means without the written permission of the copyright owner. This includes electronic and mechanical photocopying or recording, as well as the use of information storage and retrieval systems.

God's Direct Intervention Into This World

(Feast of Pentecost)

Fred R. Coulter—June 16, 2024

Greetings everyone. Welcome to Pentecost, and we're another year closer to the Kingdom of God coming to this earth!

- all of the brethren
- all of the elders
- all of those down through time and history that are mentioned in the Bible
- all of those from the time of Pentecost in Acts 2

are all waiting for the coming Kingdom of God!
But the Kingdom is not going to come in one day!

- we'll see that and the importance of Pentecost
- we'll see Pentecost pictures the first resurrection
- we'll see why
- we'll see how important that that really, really is

Let's come to Lev. 23; we know that we have all of the Holy Days listed here according to the sequence of the Calculated Hebrew Calendar. However, the meaning of each of these days is found mostly in every other place in the Bible pertaining to whatever particular Feast day is coming up.

This is done in such a way so that those who are blinded and can't see will look at this, and they will discount Lev. 23 as 'ritual feasts that we don't have to be concerned about today, because it's for the Jews.' What happens? ***They stay in their blindness!***

We've gone through Sabbath, Passover, first day of Unleavened Bread, last day of Unleavened Bread and we have counted seven weeks and we come to the day after the seventh Sabbath. Each week must end in a Sabbath; each week means the full seven-day week, no partial weeks.

Leviticus 23:9: "And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 'Speak to the children of Israel and say to them, "When you have come into the land..."'" (vs 9-10). *This Feast was not kept this way until they came into the land where we find in Josh. 5!*

"...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. And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD to be accepted for you. On the next day after the Sabbath

the priest shall wave it" (vs 10-11).

We've already covered that during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, but that is ***always the first day of the week during Unleavened Bread!***

Sidebar: ***Whenever the Passover falls on a Sabbath***—and that Sabbath is an unleavened bread day—***then the first Holy Day is on the first day of the week!*** That is the day—in the years that the Passover falls on a Sabbath—of the Wave Sheaf Offering!

This is where the Jews get mixed up in counting because they use Josh. 5 as the basis for determining their Pentecost and it always comes out on a different day of the week, except once in seven years. So, this is why the Jews have their Pentecost on the 6th of Sevin.

Verse 12: "And you shall offer that day when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb without blemish of the first year for a burnt offering to the LORD. And its grain offering.... And the drink offering..." (vs 12-13).

Remember that the children of Israel all during the time that they were in the wilderness had no bread. They had manna, and manna must have been unleavened so they could keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Verse 14: "And you shall eat neither bread, nor parched grain, nor green ears until the same day, until you have brought an offering to your God. *It shall be* a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings."

Then it tells how to count to Pentecost; v 15: "And you shall count to you beginning with the next day after the Sabbath..."—that's the first day of the week! Every week runs from the first day through the seventh day, and there are to be seven weeks.

"...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.**..." (vs 15-16).

Stop and think for just a minute; when the Church kept it on a Monday can you show me any place in history that Monday followed a Sabbath. *Never happened!* Then it says what they were to bring; we'll cover that in just a bit.

Deuteronomy 16:16—*here we have the*

command for taking up the offering: “Three times in a year shall all your males appear before the LORD your God in the place which He shall choose: in the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and in the Feast of Weeks... [which is Pentecost; we’ll see that a little bit later in the New Testament] ...and in the Feast of Tabernacles. And they shall not appear before the LORD empty, every man *shall give* as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God, which He has given you” (vs 16-17).

So, we’ll at this time take up an offering. Know that all of the offerings and all of the tithes go to producing:

- all the books
- all the booklets
- all the videos
- all of the websites
- for those who are working for the Church for their salaries

Everything goes to that and every year we send out a complete financial statement from our independent auditor Garino and Associates, giving an account for what we have done with the money.

We appreciate the blessing of the offering, and we appreciate your thought in giving whatever you are giving. We know that we are to give it from our heart, because we love God, **and He has given us the promise of entering into His Kingdom!**

(pause for the offering)

Let’s come back to Lev. 23 and see something very unusual here. The reason it’s very unusual is *because during the Feast of Unleavened Bread leaven is a type of sin*, and that’s why the Passover Day is an Unleavened bread day, because of what God did on that day with the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Let’s see what He brings out here because now we’re going to see a different application of leaven that God commands to be done.

Leviticus 23:16: “Even unto the day after the seventh Sabbath you shall number fifty days. And you shall offer a new grain offering to the LORD. You shall bring out of your homes...” (vs 16-17).

That is everyone who comes to the Feast you bring out of your house. You make it in the house, you bake it in the house and you bring it out.

Verse 17: “You shall bring out of your homes two wave loaves of two tenth parts.... [specific size] ...They shall be of fine flour...”—*meaning it’s been beaten really fine!*

Of course, that’s a type of all the trials and difficulties we go through.

“...They shall be baked **with leaven...**” (v 17).

Why bake it with leaven? *Unleavened bread was baked **without** leaven*, and that was to show that ***we need to get sin out of our lives!***

Now here is a completely different application of leaven! (we will see this in just a minute).

“...***they are the firstfruits to the LORD***” (v 17).

When you have a lot of people coming to the Feast and each family is bringing two loaves to wave before the Lord...

Isn’t that interesting that the *premier sheaf* that was offered on the first day of the week during Unleavened Bread ***was the ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven to be accepted by God the Father!***

We have here that *that sheaf* was waved before the Lord. So, here we have it similar here: the two loaves were to be taken and waved before the Lord ***on the day after the seventh Sabbath!***

The day after the first Sabbath pictures the ascension of Jesus Christ after being resurrected from the dead!

These wave loaves baked with leaven shows something very interesting. When you put leaven in bread and you let it raise, then you bake ***it it’s permanently changed!*** Whereas, when they had the unleavened dough they could beat it down, and they could take whatever they need to bake. ***But once you bake it with leaven it is set!***

As we will see, ***this is the type of all of us at the resurrection being accepted as the firstfruits!*** “...***they are the firstfruits to the LORD***” (v 17).

Then it says that you’ll offer the lambs and the grain offerings and the other ones and those are all of the offerings at the temple

Verse 20: “And the priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits, a wave offering before the LORD, with the two lambs. They shall be Holy to the LORD for the priest. And you shall proclaim on the same day that it may be a Holy convocation to you.... [Pentecost is a Holy convocation] ...You shall do no servile work *therein*. ***It shall be a statute forever in all your dwellings throughout your generations***” (vs 20-21).

Let's see something in Matt. 13. We will see another application of leaven that has nothing to do with leaven being a type of sin. Obviously, these loaves that were baked with leaven, ***you're not waving sin before God for God to accept sin!***

Matthew 13:33—we also find this in the *Gospel of Mark*: “Another parable He spoke to them: ‘The Kingdom of Heaven is compared to leaven...’”

The Kingdom of Heaven is going to be *sinless!* But this shows the action of leaven when it is baked, then it permanently changes the character of the dough into bread. ***That's a type of us being converted and then resurrected from the dead having been changed by the inner working and unseeing activity of the leavening that's in the flour!***

“...‘The Kingdom of Heaven is compared to leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of flour until all was leavened’” (v 33).

That shows—with the waving of the leavened loaves—a ***resurrection on Pentecost!*** (We'll see that again a little later in other things when we come to it.)

Let's look at some other Scriptures that we need to cover here with this. Let's see what happened on Pentecost in Exo. 20. Remember this: every Holy Day ***pictures the direct action of God into this world!*** Did He not do that with the children of Israel?

- bringing them out of Egypt, *direct intervention*
- killing the firstborn, *direct intervention*
- crossing the Red Sea, *direct intervention*
- giving the Ten Commandments, *direct intervention*

Remember, they were all prepared and came and met God at the base of the mountain, and then God came down in power and in glory to speak the Ten Commandments directly to all the people assembled below. ***God's direct Divine intervention in the world to carry out His Word and make it manifest to those who were there at the time!***

Can you imagine what that was when they heard God speak and a mountain burned with fire? The smoke was going up and the wind was blowing and the people were all terrified! Then God spoke the Ten Commandments, and so awesome was it that the children of Israel, when it was all done, said, ‘Oh Moses, you speak to us don't let God speak to us lest we die!’

That shows how human nature is toward spiritual things and God. It's hard for them to take,

so God said of them, ‘***O I would that there were such a heart in them.***’ We'll see that! Let's see what God said; here's what Moses wrote:

Deuteronomy 5:27: “You go near and hear all that the LORD our God shall say. And you speak to us all that the LORD our God shall speak to you, and we will hear *it*, and do *it*.”

That's what they said, ‘We don't want to hear the voice of God, it scares us to death!’

Verse 28—*Moses speaking*: “And the LORD heard the voice of your words when you spoke to me. And the LORD said to me, ‘I have heard the voice of the words of this people, which they have spoken to you. They have well *said* all that they have spoken.’”

In other words they were well intentioned, but they didn't really understand what they were doing. Now, isn't that the way it is with human beings always well intentioned, but not understanding how it's going to work out? *Yes indeed!*

So, this shows the long suffering of God through everything that He dealt with *with the children of Israel!* Why did He go through all of this? Even in the book of Isaiah He said to them, ‘You, Israel, have made Me serve with your sins.’

Why did God put up with that for a certain length of time before He sent him off into captivity?

- because of His promise to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob
- because God kept His promise to Moses
- because when the children of Israel sinned with the golden calf (Exo. 32).

God told Moses, ‘Leave Me alone and I'll kill all these people and I'll raise up people through you.’

Moses said, ‘O Lord God, don't do that; be merciful and take my life instead. But if You won't, please let Your presence go with us.’ God said, ‘All right, I'll do that.’

We find here that with all of this and the carnality of the people—even though they're well intentioned—they always end up in sin; they always end up in trouble.

Verse 29—*God said*: “Oh, that there were such a heart in them that they would fear Me and keep all My commandments always...”

Why? *Because all the commandments of God were made for our good out of love from God for us!* So that we can have good lives, good families, understand things.

In the New Testament it goes a step beyond that. With the Holy Spirit of God we are begotten with the Holy Spirit when we repent and are baptized. We become the future children of God actually called. We are now children as Paul writes.

Notice what God says, *that they* "...keep all My commandments always so that it might be well with them and with their children forever!" (v 29). *That's an amazing thing that God did!*

Let's see something else that happened after the giving of the Ten Commandments. Then we have in Exo. 21-23 are a number of laws and precepts based upon the Ten Commandments, which were to be common law in the community of the children of Israel. That covers everything, including:

- murder
- accidental death
- thievery
- swearing

and all of the different sins!

Then here's what God said to Moses beginning in Exo. 24^[transcriber's correction]; this becomes very interesting indeed, because here we're going to see something very, very important. ***Because the covenant that God made with Israel was a type of a marriage covenant!*** We find in Isa. 54 that God says that He was a husbandman to Israel, and that was made by covenant.

A covenant is very important. That's different than a testimony or a will, which can be changed at any time. A covenant cannot be changed! Everyone who enters into that covenant ***has to pledge his own death if he doesn't carry it out!***

We find out originally with Abraham and God in the offering in Gen. 15. So, let's read it here and see what happened.

Exodus 24:1^[transcriber's correction]: "And He said to Moses, 'Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship afar off.

This represents the witness to the covenant that God was entering into with the children of Israel. God gave His part; He gave all of His commandments; He gave all of His laws!

Verse 2: "And Moses alone shall come near the LORD, but they shall not come near. Neither shall the people go up with him.' And Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD... [everything in Exo. 21-23] ...and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one voice and said, '**All the words which the LORD has said, we**

will do'" (vs 2-3).

That's their part of this covenantal marriage relationship between God and the children of Israel!

Now then, ***so there be no future misunderstanding***—because whenever there is something that is given orally and passed down orally it is changed—***God wants it in writing!*** Now we have that as a testimony for the whole Bible. You want to know what God says? ***It's written down!*** Furthermore, today in 3,500 different languages! ***Just like God***—in the book of Revelation—***told John, 'Write!' God wants it written down!***

Verse 4: "And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD, and rose up early in the morning, and built an altar at the base of the mountain and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel. And he sent young men of the children of Israel who offered burnt offerings, and sacrificed peace offerings of bullocks to the LORD. And Moses took half of the blood..." (vs 4-6)

Blood and the covenant is very important. In the New Covenant we are sanctified by the blood of Christ. ***When we are baptized we are placed right alongside and conjoined to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and His blood applies to each one of us individually!*** So, there's the Old Testament we're reading now, and that's what the New Testament tells us.

Verse 6: "And Moses took half of the blood, and put *it* in basins, and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. And he took the Book of the Covenant, and read in the ears of the people..." (vs 6-7).

Not only did Moses tell them what he was going to bring to them, but he wrote it down and then he read it all to the people and here is their answer:

"...And they said, '**All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient**'" (v 7). *They didn't do it!*

Verse 8—*this becomes important*: "And Moses took the blood and sprinkled *it* on the people, and said, 'Behold **the blood of the covenant**, which the LORD has made with you concerning all these words.'"

Let's see what happened here; let's see that this took place right after Pentecost the words were spoken on Pentecost! Then the covenant was made. Let's see what happened then, and we'll see the same thing in the New Testament with the marriage

supper of the Lamb. ***That will be the new eternal covenant with all the resurrected saints!***

Verse 9: “And Moses went up, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel. **And they saw the God of Israel.** And *there was* under His feet as it were **a paved work of a sapphire stone...**” (vs 9-10).

We're going to see that's like the Sea of Glass in Rev. 15. That has to do with us entering into the eternal covenant as resurrected saints of God.

Let's come back to here and see, because this is the Sea of Glass that is like:

“...sapphire stone and as it were the heavens in clearness. And upon the nobles of the children of Israel He did not lay his hands. Also, they saw God and ate and drank” (vs 10-11). *That is the covenant meal!*

- first of all, you have the covenant *spoken*
- then you have the covenant words *written*
- then you have the covenant sacrifice *confirming it*
- then you have the covenant *meal*

All of that's tied up in the covenant! We'll see that applies when we get to the New Testament, as well.

After that God spoke to Moses, and the first thing that He told him to do was to build a tabernacle. The tabernacle was to be built according to the specifications of God. God said in Exo. 25:8^[transcriber's correction] concerning what He wanted to do. This becomes important, because when we're resurrected and we enter into that covenant we're going to be in covenant to dwell in New Jerusalem.

Exodus 25:8: “And let them make Me a sanctuary so that I may dwell among them.”

That's what God wanted; He wanted to have in the Holy of Holies what is called the 'shanika' or the presence of God that would be there in the Holy of Holies.

Now let's see the events leading up to the resurrection and the second coming of Christ, and see what we need to learn and how it will apply to us.

How many of the things that we've seen in Exo. 20-25 that will be with it. Let's look at some other occurrences in the New Testament concerning Pentecost. First of all, Luke 4, because this is a special announcement by Jesus in the synagogue where He normally attended. We will see what He announced to them, and we will see that this was done on a Day of Pentecost.

Furthermore, it was also done in a Jubilee year, which is releasing people from all debt and giving the inheritance back to those who gave it up.

So, this is when Jesus came, in a Jubilee year. Also, it made it important that it was a Jubilee year, because a Jubilee year is a year of forgiveness. A Jubilee year is when a lot of people were not working, so that's why they had so many crowds following Him wherever He went.

After He was tempted by Satan the devil—and He had to pass that test first—we find this:

Luke 4:14: “Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee; and word about Him went out into the entire country around. And He taught in their synagogues, *and* was glorified by all” (vs 14-15).

He went from synagogue to synagogue, town to town, and He taught and He taught! So, all of you hardcore Protestants out there if you have a chance to listen to this message, think on this: ***He never once mentioned that He was going to change the Sabbath to Sunday!***

Pentecost being on the first day of the week does not authorize weekly Sunday-keeping, because this first day of the week is a 50 Jubilee, in a Jubilee year!

Verse 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...”

This is an interesting phrase and you will see the footnote in the bottom of the page (in *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*). It is in the day of the Sabbaths. Technically speaking, that is the Day of Pentecost. This was the day that Jesus went into the synagogue “...and stood up to read” (v 16)

Let's read what Jesus says, because what He is really, really doing here. He is announcing that ***He*** is the Messiah. That ***He*** is the One spoken of in the Old Testament over and over again. This was astonishing to the people in Nazareth in the synagogue, because He came there as a child with the family with Joseph and Mary and the other children, and kept the Sabbath every week and all the all the Holy Days, etc., there in Nazareth.

Verse 17: “And there was given Him *the* book of the prophet Isaiah; and when He had unrolled the scroll, He found the place where it was written, ***'The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me...'***” (vs 17-18). *I want to emphasize ***Me!**** He didn't say, 'all of you.'

“...for this reason, He has anointed **Me** to preach the Gospel to *the poor*; He has sent **Me** to heal those who are brokenhearted, to proclaim pardon to *the captives* and recovery of sight to *the blind*, to send forth in deliverance those who have been crushed, to **proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord**” (vs 18-19).

That is the announcement on the Day of Pentecost in the beginning of His ministry after the temptation of Satan the devil, **to proclaim that He was the Messiah!**

Let's see what the people did; v 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.”

They were looking at Him, listening to what He said. Who is this? Notice what He said them:

Verse 21: “Then He began to say to them, ‘**Today...** [not any other day] ...**this Scripture is being fulfilled in your ears.**’”

In other words, He's telling them: ‘You want to know who the Messiah is, I just read it to you, **and that is Me**, no one else.’

Verse 18: “*The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me*; for this reason, He has anointed **Me** to preach the Gospel to *the poor*; He has sent **Me** to heal those who are brokenhearted, to proclaim pardon to *the captives* and recovery of sight to *the blind*, to send forth in deliverance those who have been crushed, **to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord**” (vs 18-19)—*an amazing thing!*

Then let's see another fulfillment of Pentecost, which we're all familiar with in Acts 2, and then we'll look at something else where, again, Pentecost was the place where something began. *Paul said* in another place that he would stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, and in another place he said he needed to go to Jerusalem for Pentecost.

Let's see what happened here in Acts 2. In the Acts 1, after Jesus had spent 40 days and 40 nights with the disciples teaching them out of the Scriptures like we see in Luke 24 out of the Law, of the Prophets and the Psalms, the things concerning Him.

So, they learned a great deal during that 40 days. Now think on this, it's interesting indeed, and the parallel is really profound: When He began His ministry He had 40 days of temptation with Satan the devil. When He finished His ministry after His resurrection and returned back to the earth he was here for another 40 days. So, it began with 40 days and ended in 40 days.

The beginning was overcoming the things and sins that go clear back to Adam and Eve and in the ending of it on the Wave Sheaf Offering Day in the beginning of counting toward Pentecost.

Jesus told them [the disciples] to go to Jerusalem and stay there ‘till you're endued with power’; so that's another 10 days after the 40. Here's what happened, and that turned out to be Pentecost.

Acts 2:1: “And when the Day of Pentecost, the fiftieth day, **was being fulfilled...** [that's the true, accurate translation and meaning of that day] ...they were all with one accord in the same place. And suddenly *there* came from heaven a sound like *the* rushing of a powerful wind, and filled the whole house where they were sitting” (vs 1-2).

On the Day of Pentecost and giving the Ten Commandments they heard the power of God speaking the Ten Commandments. Now here they are on Pentecost all gathered together, and all of a sudden BOOM! here comes the Holy Spirit a direct intervention of God on His Holy Day for all the apostles. This was the beginning of the preaching of the Gospel beginning in Jerusalem at the temple.

It had to be there at the temple because if it would have been any place else it would not have been accepted. It wasn't accepted very well by the leaders of the of the Jews the religious leaders at that time.

Verse 3: “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, as the Spirit gave them *the words* to proclaim” (vs 3-4). *This is another miracle!*

Pentecost here is this: Even though it went out to every language of those who were there, **it was a day in which God made His Word heard**, that was going to go out to all nations beginning there in Jerusalem.

Then Peter got up and gave a very inspired message about the life and death, and crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. They were all out there stunned! They were amazed!

- How could this be?
- How could everyone hear in his own language in which he were born?

All of the nations were listed out there!

Then here's how Peter ended his message after telling him about all of these things, and the power of God:

Verse 36—*this is the conclusion of Peter's message to them*: "Therefore, let all *the* house of Israel know... [a prophecy not only to all those who were there at the temple, but out and beyond] ...with full assurance **that God has made this same Jesus, Whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ**"—*that is Lord and the Messiah!* So, they knew what he was talking about.

Verse 37: "Now, after hearing *this*, they were cut to the heart... [because God gave them repentance] ...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...**'" (vs 37-38).

Here is the start for every one of us: *repentance and baptism!* We won't get into all the details of a baptism, but it's very profound!

"...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...**" (vs 38-39).

God gave the promise first to Israel, and then later to the Gentiles,

"...and to your children, and to all those who are afar off, as many as *the* Lord our God may call" (v 39).

Now Peter shows that ***God does the calling***; it's not who you are born by, whoever parents that were yours that were to the children of Israel. Now it goes out to all the world.

This shows us how God intervenes on His Holy Days. We'll see this with all the other Holy Days in the Bible:

- this is why it's so important
- this is why we keep them
- this is why God gives us understanding on these days

He is with us in His Spirit and His Power in ways that He's not with us on a daily basis in our lives, because these are special things to God, special things to us! Acknowledging:

- Who God is
- Who Christ is
- what all of these things are all about
- the preaching of the Gospel

(break@47:58)

We have seen what has happened now that Jesus announced that:

- He was the Messiah on Pentecost

- He gave the Holy Spirit after His death resurrection and ascension to God the Father
- He gave the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost to all those gathered at the temple

Now imagine how many were there! Can you imagine the stories that came back for all of the Jews who were scattered out in the Diaspora?

- all the nations that it listed that the Jews came from
- they heard about what was going on in Jerusalem and Who is this man Jesus
- then when Peter gave this tremendous message about being baptized
- they were just cut to the heart; their conscience really giving them an understanding of what it was all about
- then they were baptized and received the Holy Spirit

Now let's see something else about ***God's intervention in the world on Pentecost***, because it's going to come and it's going to be an astounding thing that's going to take place. We will see that the coming of Christ comes as announced on a Pentecost, and then the sealing of the 144,000 and the great innumerable multitude. Isn't that a parallel with what went on at the temple, only on a vast scale?

Let's see what's going to happen. The Scriptures leading up to that are very interesting because as we're going to Rev. 6 we'll look at the timing of what we have here concerning the events that are going to take place. We are going to see just like God, in giving the Ten Commandments to the children of Israel on Pentecost, that on Pentecost during the Tribulation, ***Christ is going to reveal Himself in a very profound way!*** The whole world is going to see it! It's not like the children of Israel who saw the fire up on top of Mount Sinai and heard the voice of God.

This time they are going to see the action of God, and what God is going to do to make it known!

Let's look at it; we know that the first seal is bringing all the religions together; that's taking place right now. The second seal is ***when the one who is the Beast Power goes in to the Temple of God***—which the Jews will build, and they're getting ready to build right now—***and proclaim himself to be 'God'!***

Now let's add a little more intrigue with this. Before he does that the two witnesses come on

the scene (Rev. 11) dressed in sackcloth. They are pronouncing that God is going to come to this earth.

The one who is the Beast Power, possessed of Satan the devil, won't like that. So, there will be this back and forth they'll be trying to kill the two witnesses they'll finally be able to do it just before the resurrection.

Revelation 6:3: "And when He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, 'Come and see.'... a major event is going to happen] ...And another horse went out *that was red*; and *power* was given to the one sitting on it to take peace from the earth..." (vs 3-4).

Doesn't it say of the beast in Rev. 13 that no one can make war against the beast; but he has the power and it says here:

"...takes peace from the earth, and *to cause* them to kill one another... [there's going to be a great deal of fighting] ...and a great sword was given to him" (v 4).

Now, this is when the Tribulation begins, right there. This is when 'the man of sin, the son of perdition goes into the temple and declares that he is 'God.'

Let's see how Jesus defined this in Matt. 24, because He gives us the specific thing to watch for about the return of Christ and when the Tribulation would begin.

Now here's something that didn't take place when the temple was destroyed in 70 A.D. There was no 'abomination of desolation.'

Mathew 24:15: "Therefore, **when you see...**"

That's real interesting! If this is going out to the whole world it means the whole world is going to see it, and this means that this prophecy is for the end-time when the ability for the whole world to see this at the same time he goes into the temple.

Think about that! Today don't we have instant communication if there's an earthquake somewhere far away from us, we know it right away right on the television. There was a big earthquake over here—7. earthquake—and it caused damage, and a lot of people died. It shows all the death and destruction right away. Now 200 years ago that could never happen. They would hear of the earthquake probably a year or two maybe three years later. They wouldn't be able to see it and that's what's important.

"...when you see the abomination of desolation, which was spoken of by Daniel the Prophet, standing in the Holy place.'..." (v 15)

Now then, here's a very unusual statement in parentheses. Jesus did not speak these words; this is a parenthetical statement: "...(**The one who reads, let him understand.**)" (v 15). Why was that put there?

All the apostles, including John who wrote the book of Revelation, and helped canonize the final version of the New Testament with the help of Andrew, Philip and Mark; they knew that the temple had been destroyed, ***but there was no 'abomination of desolation'***; yet, they understood the prophecy of 2-Thess. 2.

Verse 15: "Therefore, **when** you see the abomination of desolation, which was spoken of by Daniel the Prophet, standing in the Holy place.' (The one who reads, let him understand.)" *When that happens:*

Verse 21: "For **then** shall there be Great Tribulation..."

We know from Dan. 9 that the Great Tribulation is going to be three and a half years. So, this starts it and that's where the second seal begins with the war.

After he does this then he goes out to kill and destroy. Let's see what 'the abomination of desolation' is:

2-Thess. 2—we've gone over this before, but let's understand what is happening with this so that we realize how these events are going to unfold. We will understand in just a little bit when, in the three and a half year timeframe—this is going to occur. That will be based upon the sealing of the 144,000. That will tell us the time when we look at Hosea 6.

So, let's first of all come to: 2-Thessalonians 2:1 "Now, we beseech you, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ..."

The coming of Christ is going to be known and seen by everyone, and it's going to take place over a period of one year.

So, when Jesus said, '**WHEN** you see the abomination of desolation standing in the Holy Place, **THEN** there will be Great Tribulation.'

Paul writes "...concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, that you not be quickly shaken in mind, nor be troubled—**neither by spirit...** [because there are many false prophets] ...**nor by word...** [any

communication that someone would speak to you about] ...**nor by epistle, as if from us...**" (vs 1-2)—*because:*

- there were false apostles
- there were false epistles
- there were false teachers

and John called them *antichrist* (1-2 John).

Verse 3: "Do not let anyone deceive you by any means because *that day will not come unless the apostasy shall come first...*"

That is a great moving away from God completely, and we're seeing it and are coming against all forms of Christianity, even Sunday-keepers. Then it will get down to us; it will get down to the people of God!

"...and the man of sin shall be revealed—the son of perdition, the one who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God..." (vs 3-4).

There has never been a man on earth like that, but he is going to ***be totally possessed of Satan the devil***, so this is actually the speaking of Satan through this man!

"...or that is an object of worship; so that he comes into the Temple of God..." (v 4)—*because the temple was destroyed in 70 A.D. and the abomination didn't take place!*

That's why John put in there that 'the one who reads, let him understand.'

"...so that he comes into the Temple of God and sits down as God, **proclaiming that he himself is God**" (v 4).

Now then, Paul says ***not to listen to anything from anyone else!***

Verse 7: "For the mystery of lawlessness is already working... [that is in his day, it was starting there] ...only *there is* One Who is restraining at the present *time* until it arises out of *the midst*."

In other words, Christ is holding this back until the time of the prophecy of its fulfillment.

Verse 8: "And then the lawless one will be revealed... [How do we know this is the end of time?] ...**whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth, and will destroy with the brightness of His coming.**"

We find that in Rev. 19. He speaks the word and it happens!

Verse 9: "*Even* the one whose coming is according to *the* inner working of Satan, with all power and signs and lying wonders."

He's going to deceive the whole world, and the whole world is going to follow him!

Verse 10: "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness **in those who are perishing because...**"

Notice what happens if people reject the Truth of God. Now that applies to anyone who's even in the Church!

- don't reject the Truth of God
- don't reject the Commandments of God

"...**because they did not receive the love of the Truth**, so that they might be saved" (v 10).

*Notice what God does, v 11: "And for this cause **God will send upon them a powerful deception** that will cause them to believe *the lie*."*

The lie was that ***this one proclaimed himself to be 'God'!*** This starts the Great Tribulation!

Then we find in Hos. 6 that the children of Israel after, being corrected by God, say that He will correct us for two years, and in the third year he will raise us up!

- What does that mean?
- Where will that be fulfilled? *That will be fulfilled here in Rev. 7!*

But let's see what brings us to that point of raising up the children of Israel during the time of the Great Tribulation beginning in the third year.

How long is the Great Tribulation? *Three and a half years!* So, if this is done after two years, and in the third year, that means that the children of Israel are given relief from the Tribulation will be at the beginning of the third year, how much time is left? *A year and a half!*

So, the Tribulation will be there and then come back here to Rev. 6; we see everything that follows after that; we see:

- starvation
- rationing
- other wars and death and the grave (Rev. 6:8)

Then he opened the fifth seal (Rev. 6:9) and we see the martyrdom of the saints. That's where they're going to go out and try and find everyone who really believes in God. They will be beheaded!

That's why we have to have the faith today! So that we don't give up; we don't give in!

Revelation 6:12: "And when He opened the sixth seal..."

This is going to be a tremendous event that's going to take place: ***the direct intervention of God***, probably on Pentecost because of those children of Israel who are saved after this. Notice how Christ is going to reveal Himself and then we'll come back to Matt. 24 and see that Jesus talks about this very thing.

Verse 12: "And when He opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as *the hair of sackcloth*, and the moon became as blood; and the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its untimely figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. **Then the heaven departed like a scroll...**" (vs 12-14)

Everyone's looking up into heavens seeing all of these things take place! Then all of a sudden VOOM! the heavens opened up, and something that they have never imagined that they could see! Let's see how they respond to it:

Verse 14: "Then *the heaven departed like a scroll that is being rolled up*, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place."

That's the shaking of the heaven and the earth that Christ is going to do, and will do more than once! But here is the beginning of it. He's going to shake the heavens, shake the earth, and here's their reaction: At first they will believe that it is the coming of Christ, but it will be the foretelling of His coming, not the actual coming.

When this happens they will first believe that it is the coming of Christ, but Satan and the Beast Power will convince the people that this is not the coming of Christ, *but this is the coming of the invasion of aliens from outer space!*

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, because the great day of His wrath has come... [announcing that it's coming] **...and who has the power to stand?**" (vs 15-17).

Let's see that this fulfills what Jesus says, and this becomes important, because ***the rolling back of the of the heavens like a scroll will create something in the heavens that every eye will see***, and every person ***will know that this is from God!*** It's called **'the sign of the Son of Man'**

Matthew 24:26 "Therefore, if they say to you, '*Come and see! He is in the wilderness*'; do not go forth. "*Come and see! He is in the secret chambers*'; do not believe *it*. **For as the light of day...**" (vs 26-27).

The Greek for *light* is 'astrape' which is the basis for *star!* What is our sun? *A star!*

Verse 27: "For as the light of day, which comes forth from *the east* and shines as far as *the west...*"

Isn't that what the sun does? *Yes!* So, the sign of the Son of man they see in heaven will look like what a sun! We'll see that verified in just a minute.

"...so also shall the coming of the Son of man be" (v 27).

Verse 29: "But immediately after the tribulation of those days... [that's the Tribulation against Israel] ...the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light..." ***Is that not we read in Rev. 6? Yes!***

"...and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken" (v 29). ***Isn't that what we read in Rev. 6? Yes!***

Verse 30: "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven..."—*which is the light of day that shines from the east to the west!*

"...and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see... [that is shall last until the coming of Christ] ...the Son of man coming upon the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" (v 30). ***Then v 31 is the resurrection!***

Mal. 4—let's see how it is defined for us; this tells us that it is the sun. What they will see out there is a second sun and the sign of the Son of man is a second sun in the heavens will be visible for a year and a few months. We'll see the timeframe; this begins on Pentecost and here's this sun out there.

Malachi 4:1: "'For behold, the day is coming, burning like a consuming oven; and all the proud, and every doer of wickedness, shall be stubble. And the day that comes shall burn them up,' says the LORD of hosts, 'and will leave them neither root nor branch. **But unto you who fear My name...** [those are all of the saints] ...the **Sun of Righteousness** shall arise..." (vs 1-2).

That's the sign of the Son of man that is coming, and it's going to be up there in the heavens shining.

“...and healing will be in His wings...” (v 2). *Then it goes on in into the setting up of the Kingdom of God!*

Let's see another key important thing that gives us a timeframe. When Israel is raised up at the beginning of the third year, right after Pentecost. So, we'll put this *sign of the Son of man beginning on Pentecost!*

The next Pentecost, as we will see, will be the resurrection. That will be up there for a whole year and everything else is going on the earth. But the first thing that God does with Israel is this: ***the 144,000 and the great innumerable multitude are sealed with the Holy Spirit of God*** (Rev. 7)

That is a great harvest of God! Think about this: Could this harvest of God, the last harvest of all, be greater than everything else that the Church has done down through history? *I don't know, but that's something to really understand!*

Then it listed 144,000 and a great innumerable multitude (Rev. 7:5-8). It says that these are the ones who came out of Great Tribulation (Rev. 7:14).

What does this also tell us? *We'll see the in the things that take place, that God is interested in repentance, and we have all of these who repent!* That's quite a wonderful thing to happen!

What happens after shaking the heavens and the earth and then the beginning of the sealing of the 144,000 and a great innumerable multitude. Here the whole earth is all out of shape, so we find in:

Rev. 8—the trumpet plagues begin. What day do you suppose that the trumpet plagues will begin on the Feast of Trumpets.

So, we have from Pentecost to the Feast of Trumpets where there is not any great battle going on at all. What is everybody else doing even though that the God is converted the 144,000 and a great innumerable multitude. They are cleaning up the mess, they're straightening it out. They have four months and a little more from Pentecost until Trumpets to get everything cleaned up and ready. So, when they clean it up what happens? ***The trumpet plagues begin;*** the first four! It goes through every one of them (Rev. 8)

Then in Rev. 9 we have the fifth angel sounds. Each one of the trumpet plagues that follow the first four are called 'WOE! WOE! WOE! right here in:

Revelation 8:13: “And I looked; and I heard an angel flying in the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, ‘Woe, woe, woe to those who are

dwelling on the earth, because of the voices of the remaining trumpets of the three angels who are about to sound *their* trumpets.”

Then starts the greatest wars of all, the fifth trumpet is sounded and this is the war, the retaliation of the beast to try and hold off the armies from the east. This is spoken of in Dan. 11, that tidings out of the north and the east trouble the King of the North who is the Beast Power.

Then men are stung like they're stung with a scorpion, and it lasts for five months. After that comes the horde of 200-million in the sixth seal for the final battle that's going to come in Armageddon, with all the armies of the earth and those great armies from the east—armies of 200-million—and they're going to come.

Satan's going to stir them up, and they will come thinking that they have got to come and destroy this great thing that is coming on the earth. Then we come to Rev. 11 and we will see what happens here. This is something that takes place all during this time, the Beast Power is trying to kill the two witnesses, but can't kill them. Fire comes out of their mouth and devours the enemy!

Revelation 11:7: “And when they... [the two witnesses] ...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.... [finally, we're making progress in this] ...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. Then those of the peoples and tribes and languages and nations shall see their bodies three and a half days... (vs 7-9).

How they're going to see them? *All of our digital communication is still going to be operational, they will see them!*

Remember what Jesus said in Matt. 24, **'When you see...'** *So, here it is again:*

“...for they will not allow their bodies to be put into tombs. And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them... [They'll say 'Hooray! Finally we got the problem solved!'] ...and will make merry, and will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets had tormented those who dwell on the earth.' Then after the three and a half days...” (vs 9-11).

Here we come now to the prelude ***to the first resurrection***, which is when the 7th trump sounds. Remember it says there in 1-Thess. that the last trump the dead shall be raised. Well, the only place you find the last trump is right here in Revelation, which is the 7th trump.

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!’....” (vs 11-12).

Now, think about this: the last two martyred will be the first two resurrected. How’s that *‘the last shall be first’!*

“...‘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**” (vs 12-14).

What is the third woe? *The 7th trumpet, which is the last trumpet!* Now let’s see what this tells us.

Verse 15: “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.’ And the twenty-four elders, who sit before God on their thrones, fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying, ‘We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, Who is, and Who was, and Who *is* to come; for You have taken *to Yourself* Your great power, and have reigned. For the nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time for the dead to be judged, and to give reward to Your servants the prophets...’” (vs 15-18).

This is the first resurrection! The first resurrection will be on Pentecost, because:

- we are the firstfruits
- we are the Church of the Firstborn

“...to Your servants the prophets, and to the saints, and to *all* those who fear Your name, the small and the great; and to destroy those who destroy the earth” (v 18).

Let’s see another vision of this of the first resurrection. We will see where we will come and we will see that that ties in with what we saw in Exo. 24 with the Sea of Glass.

Revelation 14:14: “And I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and *one* like *the* Son of man sitting on the cloud, having a golden crown on His head; and in His hand *was* a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him Who was sitting on the cloud, ‘Thrust in your sickle and reap, because the time has

come for You to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.’ And He Who was sitting on the cloud thrust forth His sickle upon the earth, and the earth was reaped” (vs 14-16). ***That’s the first resurrection!***

It tells us in 1-Thess. 4 that we are going in the air, and also it says in Matt. 24 that the angels will take us up to it! So, it has to be and we will see right here in Rev. 15 the Great Sea of Glass right over the Holy Land where all of the resurrected saints will come. Those who were alive at that point ‘will be changed in a moment in a twinkling of an eye’ the angels will carry them up to the Sea of Glass. Those who were who died in the faith will be resurrected first:

- all of the patriarchs will be resurrected
- all of the prophets will be resurrected
- all of the apostles will be resurrected
- all of the saints
- everyone who had the Spirit of God
- even those at the last minute of the 144,000 and the great innumerable multitude

Revelation 15:2: “And I saw a Sea of Glass mingled with fire, 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).

That is getting into what we’re going to be doing.

- What are we going to do on the Sea of Glass?
- Why does God have to have that?

We’ll be on the Sea of Glass from Pentecost until Trumpets.

- What are we going to do up there?

Think about this: all those in the first resurrection will come from:

- many different places
- many different languages
- many different people

What’s the first thing that has to happen for us when we are there? *God has to communicate with us!* How is He going to communicate with us unless He gives us, first of all:

1. a new language

so that we can understand what He's going to tell us!

Let's see some of the things that we have to have. Let's see what's going to be given to us when we are on the Sea of Glass

2. a new name

Doesn't that require a new language? *Yes!*

3. the saints will receive their rewards, whatever that will be

God will determine that and give them out!

4. the saints will receive their assignment

We're going to know what we're going to do. We're going to take over the world; that's going to be a big project.

- Don't we have to be organized?
- Don't we have to know
 - ✓ what we're going to do
 - ✓ who we're going to work with
 - ✓ how we're going to take care of the things that God wants us to do

We'll have our assignments! After that, just like in Exo. 24 when the 70 of the elders of the children of Israel, and Moses, Nadab, Abihu, Aaron and Joshua all saw the Lord, and they ate a meal there.

5. we're going to have the marriage of the Lamb

and after the marriage of the Lamb

6. the marriage supper of the Lamb

That's going to be something; what is that going to be like? We're all on the Sea of Glass; how's that going to work out? *I imagine they're going to be a whole host of angels waiting on us!*

- I don't know what it's going to be like
- I don't know what kind of food we're going to eat
- I don't know how it's going to be

but it's probably going to be the best meal that we have ever had in our entire lives!

7. we're going to witness the seven last plagues (Rev. 16)

That is brought upon those that remain, which fulfills a promise of God where He says 'vengeance is Mine'! So, everyone's going to see the vengeance of God.

8. We'll be gathered together in God's army and we will fight with Christ and return to the earth to take over.

That completes everything up to that point!

That's quite a thing! Remember: every Holy Day *is a direct intervention of God into this world* and into the lives of those:

- who are His
- who have His Holy Spirit
- who have been called
- who have been faithful
- who have been chosen
- who are going to rule and reign with Christ as kings and priests and administrators
- who will carry out everything

to bring peace to this world so this is the meaning of the Feast of Pentecost!

Scriptural References:

- 1) Leviticus 23:9-16
- 2) Deuteronomy 15:16-17
- 3) Leviticus 23:16-17, 20-21
- 4) Matthew 13:33
- 5) Deuteronomy 5:28-29
- 6) Exodus 24:1-11
- 7) Exodus 25:8
- 8) Luke 4:14-21, 18-19
- 9) Acts 2:1-4, 36-39
- 10) Revelation 6:3-4
- 11) Matthew 24:15, 21
- 12) 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4, 7-11
- 13) Revelation 6:12-17
- 14) Matthew 24:26-27, 29-30
- 15) Malachi 4:1-2
- 16) Revelation 8:13
- 17) Revelation 11:7-18
- 18) Revelation 14:14-16
- 19) Revelation 15:2-4

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Acts 2
- Joshua 5
- Exodus 32; 21-23
- Isaiah 54
- Genesis 15
- Acts 1
- Luke 24
- Revelation 13
- Daniel 9
- Hosea 6
- 1-2 John

- Revelation 19; 7; 6:8-9
- Matthew 24:31
- Revelation 7:5-8; 14; 9
- Daniel 11
- Revelation 9-10
- 1 Thessalonians 4
- Exodus 24
- Revelation 16

FRC:bo/po
Transcribed: 5/29/24

Copyright 2024—All rights reserved. Except for brief excerpts for review purposes, no part of this publication may be reproduced or used in any form or by any means without the written permission of the copyright owner. This includes electronic and mechanical photocopying or recording, as well as the use of information storage and retrieval systems.

Christian Biblical Church of God Offices:

United States

Post Office Box 1442
Hollister, California 95024-1442

Canada

Post Office Box 125
Brockville, Ontario
K6V 5V2 Canada

Australia

GPO 1574
Sydney 2001
Australia

New Zealand

Post Office Box 8217
Cherrywood
Tauranga 3145
New Zealand

Republic of South Africa

Post Office Box 494
Frankfort 9830
Rep. of South Africa

Malaysia

WDT 00009
Semenyih,
43507 Selangor, Malaysia

La Verdad de Dios

www.laverdadedios.org
Post Office Box 831241
San Antonio, Texas 78283

www.truthofgod.org
www.cbcg.org
www.churchathome.org
www.afaithfulversion.org