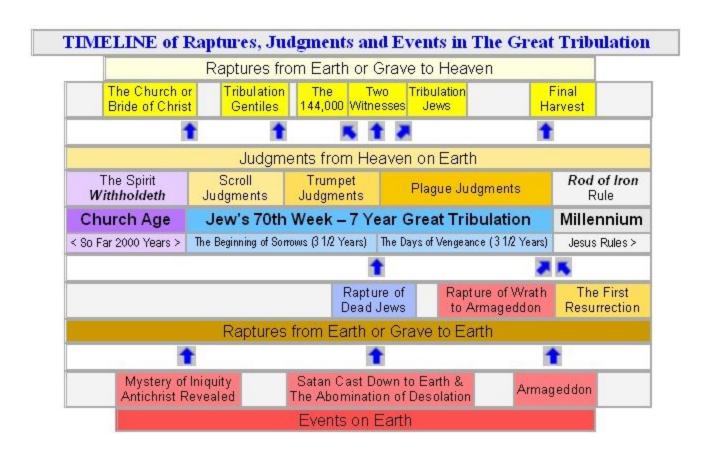
**SECTION 10** The Coming Posttribulation Raptures: The Final Harvest Rapture to

The Marriage of The Lamb and The Rapture of Wrath to Armageddon



#### The Final Harvest Rapture to The Marriage of The Lamb



We're finally ready for the end of The Great Tribulation in Revelation 19. The events in this chapter are no longer concurrent with the 'stacked' accounts of the events of The Days of Vengeance in Chapters 12-18 because they follow these events. Remember that Chapters 12-18 give at least five different perspectives and each of them more or less covers the entire Days of Vengeance from beginning to end. However at the end of one of these 'stackable' accounts—the heavenly perspective in Chapter 14—we find two Great Tribulation-ending events we have yet to cover. In Jesus'

Discourse on the Mount of Olives these two events must fit 'Immediately after the tribulation of those days'. And they must also fit immediately before all the Armageddon markers in Daniel's prophecies. And like the 'drying up' of the great river Euphrates in The 6<sup>th</sup> Plague Judgment, these two events also help position the armies that will meet at Armageddon. And they must be in step with The Marriage and Marriage Supper of the Lamb in Heaven which is the first event described in Chapter 19. The events I'm talking about are the seventh and eighth group raptures of The Great Tribulation.

But there is reason to believe that these raptures take place a few weeks apart. In this way each marks a different end to The Great Tribulation depending what 'end' you're talking about. So far we have attempted to properly 'stack' together the various perspectives of this story in order find a single timeline. Now we're ready to attach the 'ends' of this story from these same perspectives to distinguish these raptures. Here's a brief review of how we got here that also shows the challenges still before us.

In the last section we grappled with trying to decide whether or not *Gog* survived long enough to be able to float *ships of Chittim* in The Mediterranean Sea Blockade between those constantly quarreling 'kings of the north and south'. Though probably not, there is some doubt and this is no surprise. This analysis attempts to put together accounts from several prophets, apostles and Jesus too, which in turn must be laid atop John's account of The Beginning of Sorrows (Revelation 6-11) because all these accounts generally fit in this period. Again, the exact order of all these events remains speculative to a certain extent due to the 'stacking' and 'sorting' required to place them all.

On top of all this, near the middle of Revelation, the account of The Ministry of the Two Witnesses (Chapter 11) 'stacks upon' the rest of John's otherwise sequential account of The Beginning of Sorrows. And this account of the Two Witnesses 'steps on' each of the five or more subsequent accounts of The Days of Vengeance that follow (Chapters 12-18). And each of these perspectives of The Days of Vengeance makes it increasingly difficult to establish the precise order of events. So any attempt to decipher the order of events in the transition from The Beginning of Sorrows to and throughout The Days of Vengeance must align these several separate but stackable second-half summary accounts in conjunction with another account that initiates them all. The challenge that remains is to attach one more account (Chapter 19) at the 'ends' of the 'separate but stackable' second-half summary accounts which surely will lead to more uncertainty.

But by this *understanding* we have come a long way. Despite these challenges you should see in this *study* how we have made some very encouraging, God-led progress. Surely we're on schedule in God's plan in the natural progression of the *revelation* of His Word. We have identified at least the general placement in time of many specific events and conditions that will take place both before and throughout The Beginning of Sorrows in their differing perspectives. These include the pretribulation period of the manifest invincibility of Israel including the tearing down of her security walls, the pretribulation rise of Egypt, Russia, China, and probably Venezuela, and the continuing strong influence of The U.S. and The U.K. in World affairs.

We can also see that the beginning of The Great Tribulation is marked by The Rapture of the Church, The Mystery of Iniquity, the start of The Ministry

of The Two Witnesses, the start of The New European Catholic Revolution and The Second Russian and Chinese Communist Revolutions, and just before all of these, the rise of unprecedented persecution of Protestants and Jews, with all of this followed by The First Egyptian War. Early on we also encounter other Seal Judgments that cause worldwide economic and technological collapse, and billions of casualties by wars, famine and pandemic. About halfway into this first 3 ½ years we come to the initiation of The Ministry of the 144,000 Jews, The Rapture of the Tribulation Gentiles, and The First Great Earthquake including Israel's big reunion with God when He deals defeat to Russia and many other Muslim nations when they attack Israel. And following The Seal Judgments is The Ministry of the 144,000 Jews and the horrific Seven Trumpet Judgments. And near the start of this set of judgments is where I'd place The Second Egyptian War including the start of the more covert period of The Indignation Against the Holy Covenant. Of course some of these events in The Beginning of Sorrows overlap and may also continue into The Days of Vengeance.

Midterm events that conclude The Beginning of Sorrows and start The Days of Vengeance include The Third Egyptian War, The Rapture of the 144,000 Jews, The War in Heaven and The Fall of Satan and the Angels, The Death and Resurrection of the Antichrist including The Empowerment of the Antichrist and the False Prophet, The Slaughter, Resurrection and Rapture of the Two Witnesses including a worldwide celebration, but also likely along with that some localized *revelation* and *mourning* of Jesus Christ by Jews in Israel, then probably The Rapture of the Dead Jews at The Midterm Great Earthquake and The Celebration of the Kingdom of God and of Christ in Heaven, and finally The Abomination of Desolation, The Flight of the Jews, the start of The Absolute Enforcement of the Worship of Satan and the Antichrist —otherwise known as The War with the Saints—which likely begins with a flash global holocaust that is followed by The Rapture of the Tribulation Jews, all of which marks the start of the overt period of The Indignation Against the Holy Covenant—with overlapping in all these events again common.

Other overlapping events of The Days of Vengeance include The Jewish Sanctuary of 1260 days, The Herald Angels, the economic and spiritual control of the World through the mark of the beast and the image of the **beast** managed by the empowered False Prophet who is the Pope of the Catholic Church, the overthrow of *many nations* by the empowered Antichrist, the establishment of his *palace* and *seat* in Israel, and the torturous Plague Judgments from Heaven ending with The Final Great Earthquake. And somewhere late in The Days of Vengeance we can also add the overthrow of the Pope, Vatican City and the Catholic Church by the Antichrist's ten kings, and the emergence of the extremely unorthodox worship of the Antichrist's **god of forces** church. But this evidently mostly ideological upheaval only reduces the Pope to a subordinate of the Antichrist and leaves the economy of Vatican City and the institutional holdings of the Catholic Church mostly intact and in the control of the Antichrist. After this we see the remaining white and red forces gathered for war at **Armageddon** where, during The Final Great Earthquake, the God Zone goes dark while the rest of the planet settles into probably an extended hazy period that stabilizes the global temperature, but just after the widely viewable, sudden and total destruction of Vatican City by God.

See how much you've *learned* about The Great Tribulation! Now we can

gather other events that are clearly Great Tribulation-ending events or Millennium-starting events. This takes us to Revelation 14 where we find two more raptures. To identify them we will *continue* to rely on the same deductive process that has served us so well so far.

But before I go on I want to make sure I haven't undersold God's **promises**. So far the process of elimination and deduction has taken us a very long way toward certainty in the order of most of the events and the identification of most of the players. And remember that in cases where this hasn't taken us all the way—and probably by design so as not to over-equip the enemy—the alternatives are severely limited. We have reduced the speculation on positioning to just a few events and to fairly narrow ranges of time. And we have restricted the remaining speculation on players to a very narrow range of possible perpetrators.

And my testimony is that we are providentially on schedule. I mean, God is <u>not</u> saying to Himself, "Oops, I made this puzzle a little too difficult for those stupid humans to figure out—I should have made it a little easier so they would have figured it out a long time ago. No, the new *revelations* in this *study* have come exactly on His schedule. And He has advanced the state of the art of *prophecy* to this *promised* time. And I mean that the *more sure word of prophecy* is now no longer even somewhat *shut up*. So come all ye 'skilled', 'diligent', 'experienced' and 'wise' handlers of The Word of God, for now it can be handled as fully open and unsealed, because certainly *the time of the end* has now finally fully come.

### Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God.

This is a quote from the **people in heaven** at the end of The Great Tribulation from Revelation 19:1, which makes it an appropriate response for what we have covered so far too.

However, I should not neglect to add that the process of deduction and elimination, etc., can leave the honest, diligent practitioner looking a little silly from time to time. I mean if the Apostle Paul can make mistakes, we should expect it will happen to us too. But we have clues to this danger. One of the most obvious clues is seen in 'apparently contradictory' precepts. But such clues will not be found or proven without regular exercise in scripture. And without this, misinterpretation is undetectable and will not be exposed. Yet those who are *diligent* and *continue* will find more crossroads than in any maze, and more pieces to place than in any crossword puzzle. Still, we are only really lost when we fail to admit the times when we are unsure of the right choice. Because God has designed His Word to test us with these kinds of speed bumps and stop signs. God expects us to slow down, and to stop to ask questions, and then to **patiently** wait for the answers as necessary. And He expects us to formulate new questions until a good answer is **revealed**. Then He expects us to 'continually' test it to make sure it will stand up to all scrutiny. All this is part of the natural progression of The Word of God. And **integrity** is required in this process to keep you on course. Among other things this means that there are no good reasons for unrelenting resistance to a recognizable course correction. After all, such waywardness will ultimately be **proclaimed upon the housetops** to your **shame** (<u>Luke 12:3</u>), though hopefully not at the cost of your salvation. I mean Paul feels free to

tell those who **know** Jesus but **have not the knowledge of God** that they are a **shame** 1 Cor 15:34. And surely the day is coming when God will too.

But the wise see that it's better to find and admit their missteps earlier than later. So I have taken us on a few 'wild goose chases' and other similar 'missteps' in case you haven't yet experienced or acknowledged dealing with too many of these course corrections on your own before. These misadventures, along with the general construction of this **study**, are meant to simulate what growing in The Word of God is really like. I mean it's generally 'two steps forward and one step back'. And I mean you have to routinely give up conclusions you have held dear from time to time in order to **arow**—which means that sometimes there will be deeply lodged throat impediments that must occasionally be purged. But the impediments I have more gently maneuvered down your throat in this **study**—just so you could experience having them pulled out again, let alone trying to pull them out yourself—have been small ones compared to some of the more serious 'gaggings' that way too many **believers** still need to get off and out of their chests. And such 'dislodgings' could be hardest on some of the better teachers of prophecy that I am indebted to for teaching me. So I can only hope that the harder 'transitions' still to be **revealed** in this **study** can be accomplished without too much choking, kicking and screaming. And any cheering would be nice—it's all for God after all. And we should be happy He has protected His Word in this way, because this clearly divides those with integrity from those without it, and to the degree that they have it.

The *interpretation* of Revelation 14, unfortunately, is not just where we unfold events that connect to the 'conclusions' of our story. It's also where we find one of our most embarrassing and damaging examples of prophetic misinterpretation that we have yet to correct. This popular misinterpretation is embarrassing for two reasons. It's because our best Protestant *teachers* have been misled by a clearly untrustworthy source, and because they have failed to recognize how Jesus' *teaching* on this subject properly interprets it. And this has naturally led to the most popular misplacement of The Rapture of the Church of them all. Be *patient*. We'll unravel all this in this section.

But we've done most of the elimination and deduction on The Rapture of the Church already. In this process we placed the first six raptures we have already covered. And once a perfect fit is found and continues to hold up to the exclusion of all other alternatives, it's no longer a candidate for other positions, and so it generally gets easier and easier to place all the remaining players, places, positions, times, etc., the farther you go. But there is still some speculation left—more shoes to try on for size. And we must also not forget that you can never **know** for sure until you try them all on and find a fit that continues to stand up to the tests over time. Still and again, it's safe to say, because of extensive cross-examinations, our case has progressed to a narrow list of suspects and alternatives, and the conclusions have become increasingly **'more sure'**.

Take for example the regions of the World that have been considered reasonable candidates to host the coming Antichrist Kingdom. Sticking to the most popular there are Europe, Southwest Asia and The U.S. But **understanding** the **prophecy** of the eye-opening events in Ezekiel 38-39, and their placement in The Great Tribulation, Southwest Asia is absolutely eliminated because it will not remain in a condition to host the Antichrist Kingdom in The Beginning of Sorrows. And this means that Russia and the

Muslims get early elimination as dominant players. But of course Southwest Asia is a region the Antichrist later conquers, and where he establishes his **palace** and **seat** after The Abomination of Desolation, though this will be in relatively untouched Israel.

And The U.S. can be eliminated easily enough too because Daniel 11 shows us that that the Antichrist is **a king of the north**. And Daniel 8 also shows us that The European Union is the only reasonable power in a position that could expand **toward the south**, **and toward the east** to eventually encompass **the pleasant** land of Israel. Not to mention we also need reasonable candidates for those who would stand in the way of the Antichrist when he attempts to attack **the king of the south**. The U.S. and The U.K. are the best fits for that.

So by elimination we can determine that Europe is the only possible choice for the original Antichrist Kingdom and home of the literal 10 kingdoms under their *ten kings*. And the 10 most principally Catholic of these nations—with the likelihood of some consolidation of nations between here and there—are the most likely to be included in these 10. But if you're inexperienced with all these precept you shouldn't close the case yet. And besides that, over time the case should be improved if not corrected because the deeper you get into the finer details the stronger and more focused the whole case should get. Remember this *study* is just a kind of 'get your bearings' view of end times *prophecy*. I say this again in case this *study* alone turns out not to be enough to break your attachments to other interpretations, though what we've covered so far should already be more than those with such death grips were bargaining for. For such let the choking, kicking and screaming *continue*.

The remaining players in the final raptures of The Great Tribulation in Revelation 14 obviously include Jews and/or Gentiles, and the already dead and/or the still living. And as in other raptures they will travel to destinations either on Earth or in Heaven, and the participants may be redeemed but possibly not. Another telling distinction in these raptures would be whether they are for mark-takers or mark-avoiders. Also we can tell for sure that The Rapture of the Church is not seen in this chapter.

**Continuing** then at the end of Chapter 14, after the account of the orbiting Herald Angels that warn of unprecedented impending danger about to menace the entire globe in The Days of Vengeance, and about the only salvation from it, we come to these raptures that **'sever between'** participants in The Days of Vengeance. These participants will be separated by where they choose to stand throughout this worst **time, times and an half** ever. One of these raptures will be of a group that stands on the right side, but the other is for those who are going to get 'royally' **trodden under foot**.

Between the account of the Herald Angels and the account of these raptures we see a final encouraging 'blessing' promised from another **voice from heaven**, saying,

...the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth...may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them <u>Verse 13</u>.

This blessing implies that many die in order to be redeemed throughout The Days of Vengeance. And it must be a clue to the identity of those who

participate in the first of these two raptures. But does this tribulation-ending rapture account for the remainder of **the dead** who will be redeemed in The Great Tribulation? No, not all **the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth** make this rapture. This is clear because we will see that a specific part of **the dead** are described to be 'resurrected' even later. So only part of these **dead**—and possibly some that are still alive—will make this privileged rapture in Chapter 14. This rapture is popularly called 'The Final Harvest' because of the way it's described in <u>Verses 14-16</u>. John writes,

And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.

This **Son of man** with **a golden crown** cannot be just **'another angel'**, but must be Jesus Himself. During His ministry on Earth Jesus refers to Himself as **the Son of man** frequently. And He will be seen to be involved in a couple of other events just following these raptures too. So the **sickle** Jesus will use on cue from **another angel** to **reap...the harvest of the earth** makes it a **harvest**, and this event's proximity to the end of The Great Tribulation—as better **revealed** in the next rapture—makes it 'final'. But who is **reaped** here? Again, the preceding clue leads us to suspect that it at least includes some of **the dead which die in the Lord** in The Days of Vengeance. And a brief review of the destinations of the earlier, large, supernaturally-extracted groups to Heaven or Earth will help us see who is left to be involved in this 'final' one.

At the beginning of The Age of Grace, all the spirits of the newly converted dead in Christ from other ages, the ones pre-selected by God to wait in **Abraham's bosom**, are taken by Jesus all the way up to **paradise** to again wait for all the spirits that will join them during The Age of Grace, and to wait to be finally reunited with their bodies that remain *in the grave*. At the end of The Age of Grace, in The Rapture of the Church, all these dead **bodies** are instantaneously immortalized as they are rejoined by their **spirits**, and others that are still **alive** in Christ are simply immortalized. And in this twinkling of an eye, all these new immortals will meet the Lord in the air. And though it's promised that they will stay with Jesus from then on, this must be only generally *true* because sometime after this 'meeting' they evidently split up. The four and twenty elders do go to their four and twenty seats around the throne of God where lesus can also be seen, and the souls of them that were slain for the word of God end up under the altar inside The Temple in Heaven too, but apparently everyone else participating in this rapture end up in some unknown place in Heaven. apparently out of view of the throne, and probably outside The Temple, maybe because this is when they begin 'making themselves ready' for The Marriage of The Lamb. But we know that their ultimate destination, according to Jesus, will be to become kings and priests who shall reign on **the earth** which we will talk about more in the remaining sections.

Next, a year or two later in the middle of The Beginning of Sorrows, a batch of Gentiles is redeemed up to The Temple in Heaven to **serve** in it. Maybe some of them will leave Earth alive but more likely all these first die in The Seal Judgments apparently becoming **absent from the body** but **present with the Lord** 2 Cor 5:6-8 where their **spirits** will fill or refill some holding area in **paradise** while their dead bodies stay on the Earth until they are immortalized and rejoined by their spirits in this rapture to The Temple in Heaven. And their rapture should empty out a waiting place for disembodied **spirits** somewhere in **the third heaven** for the second time.

Near the midpoint in probably the fifth rapture God commands a lot of dead Jews to...

#### ...come up out of your graves... Ezek 37:12

And in the process their **spirits** evidently 'come up out of' **Abraham's bosom**—likely the second evacuation of this holding tank, third if you count the Two Witnesses. And this group of **spirits** must wait down there because they're definitely not yet *in Christ* when they die, just 'real Jews'. And they plainly do not go up to Heaven when they're raptured. These spirits instead rejoin rejuvenated mortal bodies from the grave and get transported into the land of Israel to join other lews that will have already been gathered there in defense of or in *indignation against the holy covenant*. Those who would defend the holy covenant best flee to safety at the start of the immediately following Days of Vengeance because if they fail to do so they will have a much harder time of it. Still, one way or another, all the lews who side with God will eventually meet up with Him and they will all eventually be **blessed**. And we will count the ways. But those who side with the indignation against the holy covenant will be double-crossed by the Antichrist. And this will be a hard road that offers no blessings but instead the punishment of **hell** and ultimately a doomed eternity in **the lake of fire**. But shortly after this 'resurrection-style' rapture to Israel and just after The Abomination of Desolation, there will be hard times for all Jews, because this is when there will be a great slaughter of Jews on both sides of **the holy** covenant, all of which happens not too long before the next rapture.

The sixth rapture of The Great Tribulation which follows the worst of this slaughter redeems some of those killed who stand for **the holy covenant**. I mean that only Jews who are slain resisting Satan and the Antichrist will get this particular **victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark**. These Jews are the ones who will sing **the song of Moses** standing on the **sea of glass** before The Throne of God. And **the spirits** of these **dead in Christ** can have but a very short stay in **paradise** before rejoining their immortalized bodies and being transported to The Temple on Mount Zion in Heaven—which apparently removes all 'disembodied spirits' from **the third heaven** once again.

Or does it? Actually we're still missing a group or two. I mean since there is evidently some 'spiritual holding period' for everyone who dies before a redemptive or even a non-redemptive rapture, then there must be some overlapping of these periods. We can certainly see that different groups are coming from and going to different places and at different times. Jesus empties a tank in the Earth when he ascends to Heaven and fills up another place in Heaven. But the one in the Earth evidently starts filling up again

with lews not in Christ until it is finally emptied out back on Earth near the midpoint of The Great Tribulation at The Rapture of the Dead Jews. And the one in Heaven also continues to grow in occupancy with those in Christ until The Rapture of the Church drains it. But after that this holding place—or some other place in *paradise*—must start to fill up again with Tribulation Gentiles. And when these are raptured halfway through The Beginning of Sorrows this holding place must empty out again. But it should then start to fill up again with new casualties in Christ for the rest of The Great Tribulation. This would include for a short period some Christian Jews who come and go just before The Rapture of the Tribulation Jews. And at the end of The Great Tribulation there is another evacuation at The Final Harvest Rapture. But still this can't leave *paradise* empty because there must still be one more group that will have been growing since The Abomination of Desolation that we'll clearly see does not participate in The Final Harvest Rapture. Again, this group will be 'resurrected' to another call of duty shortly afterward which we'll cover in the next section.

By-the-way, it should occur to you that each group may have their own special spiritual holding areas somewhere in Heaven since they clearly end up in different places of service—or not. And maybe some of the groups that I have assumed wait in *paradise*—especially the all Jewish ones—may instead wait for redemption in *Abraham's bosom*. But that would only be <u>if</u> the *promise* that being *absent from the body* is to be *present with the Lord* 2 Cor 5:5-8 is only for The Age of Grace—which I doubt.

So Jews *in Christ* who die resisting the Antichrist at the very beginning of The Days of Vengeance are redeemed in The Rapture of the Tribulation Jews. And we will see that other Jews and Gentiles *in Christ* who are later *beheaded* for resisting the Antichrist will be redeemed after The Final Harvest. This implies that the rest of the Jews and Gentiles *in Christ* who don't make earlier raptures, and who die by other means than resisting the Antichrist, must be redeemed in The Final Harvest Rapture because there is no other opportunity for these *saints* to be redeemed.

And from all this we can see that anyone who dies in Christ starts (or restarts) their spiritual *captivity*. Some of these, whether lews or Gentiles, will serve a total time of confinement in *paradise* very near two millennia if their incarceration began just after the resurrection of Christ. But 'real Jews' who haven't yet been given their chance to choose Jesus will instead spend this time in Abraham's bosom. And between these two detention centers, the immediate descendants of Adam and Eve. the first to die since Creation. could serve nearly six millennia separated from their bodies. And Jews now in prison in the lower parts of the earth may again become captive in the third heaven during the final times, time and an half, either that or in **hell**. And other lews and Gentiles born late in The Age of Grace—or anyone who dies just before a rapture—may only have brief stays in Abraham's **bosom** and/or **paradise**. But those raptured **alive** spend no time in 'captivity'. Of course those that survive The Great Tribulation will likely die sometime in The Millennium and I expect that their **spirits** would then wait in either heavenly or subterranean spiritual confinement too—while they're bodies remain in their graves—until The Millennium-ending raptures. But remember we're constructing this picture with some arguably obscure clues and certainly while looking through 'dark glass'. So there must be a lot we're missing that we'll see much more clearly on the other side of it.

But we're now better ready to consider what is to become of the Gentiles who survive beyond The Rapture of the Tribulation Gentiles and who avoid the Antichrist but nonetheless die and end up waiting in *paradise* and the Jews who after The Rapture of the Tribulation Jews also avoid the Antichrist but also find themselves disembodied in Heaven. These later *dead in Christ*—both Jews and Gentiles—must participate in The Final Harvest Rapture because they die by some cause other than resisting the Antichrist, and too late to make earlier raptures, and again, because there is no other place for them to be redeemed. Likely the most common 'other cause' of their deaths must be God's judgments. But even if by 'accident', from God's perspective these fatalities are mercy killings. And this is what I meant when I said God would save some by killing them. Certainly He will instigate the death of some of *his own elect* in order to spare them from an overwhelmingly horrifying confrontation with the Antichrist. And this brings new meaning to an Age of Grace *promise*. Paul says,

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it 1 Cor 10:13

Since The Spirit of God is 'off duty' so to speak during The Great Tribulation, death may be the best means available to God to provide **a way** to escape from temptation in many circumstances. And even though The Ministry of The Spirit of God in The Age of Grace must offer many more ways for this **promise** to be **fulfilled** that would not be available **in other ages**, I still **believe** that in one way or another God always fulfills this **promise**, and that everything going on in The Great Tribulation is a necessary transition in God's plans in order to save as many as He can. And He will **continue** to do so by **all means**, only abandoning those **means** when they are no longer effective. And besides, God must always make a way to avoid temptation for everyone at all times—I mean, up to the time when He chooses to give the *reprobate* over to their *corrupt minds* (Rom 1:18-2:11; 2 Tim 3:1-9) because this *reveals* Him as an incomparably *righteous judge*. And I mean He not only takes responsibly for judging *evildoers*, He also takes responsibility for keeping the **righteous** on the right path. And surely everyone will have witnessed the proof of this beyond any shadow of a doubt at least when they are finally **iudged**. Of course we cannot presume to be able to share all His *higher...thoughts* with Him.

So true to His character, He will be faithful to step things up as much as possible to save as many as possible when the time comes. I mean He will resume and intensify His tactic of getting attention by displays of His awesome power and unbelievable finesse that He has already proven in times past to be effective. I mean how do you think he filled up Abraham's Bosom before The Resurrection. And just as God takes some out from this age in a timely manner for their own good, so He will on a much grander scale after the suspended previous age restarts. Some of the Gentiles that are slain will be redeemed as temple servants in The Rapture of the Tribulation Gentiles. And some of the slain Jews will also be redeemed to God's Temple in The Rapture of the Tribulation Jews. Still other expired both

Jews and Gentiles will participate in The Final Harvest Rapture. And still more Antichrist victims will be resurrected in yet another even later rapture that we'll cover more fully next section.

But will The Final Harvest Rapture also include living Jews who survive The Days of Vengeance in their special sanctuary *prepared of God*, and also other Jews hiding in Israel? My first impression was that these survivors are the most likely candidates for this 'final' *harvest of the earth* by Jesus because this rapture is at the end of the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel's *prophecy* and must be primarily for Jews to complete Gods plan...

...to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy Dan 9:24.

And it seems the 1260-day sanctuary that keeps these special Jews safe may also serve as their holding place while they await their rapture. And this would mean that God would be rapturing alive both Jews and Gentiles at the beginning and end of The Great Tribulation. But I have to assume that some surviving Jews and Gentiles will have no need of a rapture or holding tank because they must survive to repopulate Israel and the nations during The Millennium. And the need to repopulate Israel is a good reason to instead think that those who survive in God's sanctuary will instead simply return alive to Israel led by Jesus when He returns. But it's time to acknowledge the difference between speculation and *truth* on this subject—assuming you've considered it at all—and let *scripture* have it's say. And this is where the plot thickens.

There is another 'angle' to the triumphal return of Jesus to the Earth we need to consider. We **know** He likely first touches down on **the mount of Olives** just like he left, except when He lands He will split the **mountain** making **a very great valley** running east-west (Acts 1:11; Zec 14:4). And I would expect that Jesus immediately destroys all His enemies in Jerusalem upon arrival likely including the Antichrist himself. Then I would expect that Jesus goes northeast to the Jezreel Valley—formerly the Valley of Megiddo or **Armageddon**—for two reasons. First, because this is where most of His enemies will be **gathered** Rev 16:16. And also because this seems to be where He will get the best opportunity to get His clothes all bloody (Rev 19:11-16; 14:20). But this is probably not the only place He gets bloodied up, because He is ultimately seen coming **with** [red] **dyed garments from Bozrah** Isa 63:1-4.

**Bozrah** was a city in **Edom** or **Idumea**—Esau's homeland—that was generally southeast of the Dead Sea, and should not be confused with any modern cities by that name presently in Southwest Asia. The city and region Isaiah speaks of is around 150 miles south of the present day Jezreel Valley. This **Bozrah** must have been very close to where Petra is today. And we see in <u>Isaiah 63:1-4</u> that Jesus must do some trouncing in **Bozrah** too. In fact there are several references to the coming permanent ruin of this region of **Edom** or **Idumea** including **Bozrah** (<u>Isa 34:5-6</u>; <u>Ezek 35:15</u>; <u>36:5</u>; <u>Jer 49:13</u>, <u>17</u>, <u>22</u>; <u>Amos 1:11-12</u>). And if you read the entire **prophecies** involved with these references you can see that God may save **Edom, and Moab**, **and...Ammon** from Satan and the Antichrist (<u>Dan 11:41</u>), but only so He can

finally destroy them on His day of vengeance Himself.

Now restricted to this collection of *scriptures*, some think that no fighting really goes on at *Armageddon* in the north. They think *Armageddon* is just a staging area and that all the trouncing happens when these armies move south to *Idumea* to attack the sequestered Jews. I suppose this is possible. But I think it is more likely that these are different groups that Jesus comes to destroy—these being the contending *white* and *red* forces of the Antichrist and China in the north, and the characteristically unrelenting anti-Semite descendants of *Esau* in the south. And there is another clue to consider. It's back in one of John's descriptions of the overflowing bloody slaughter in Revelation 14, an event that evidently follows after The Final Harvest Rapture. This is when an *angel...* 

...gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs [about 180 miles] Rev 14:19-20.

Remember this is where I get the idea of 'Lake Armageddon'. Indeed it would take an incredible number of people to produce so much **blood**. But maybe we should think of it more as a river. Take a look at the MAP of Israel and its current topography and then consider the following.



Note: The Gaza Strip is not presently in Israeli control, sort of

Since the **blood** from Jesus' slaughter runs 'bridle-deep' for about 180 miles, we could assume it runs from **Armageddon** all the way to **Bozrah** uninterrupted. Formerly called **Armageddon**, the Jezreel Valley is bordered on the north by the Sea of Galilee, on the south by the West Bank and Mount Gilboa, on the west by the Mount Carmel range, and on the east by the Jordan Valley or the Jordan Rift Valley which is the northern end of the Great Rift Valley which runs southward all the way to Mozambique. Yes, in Southern Africa. But the Jordan Rift Valley ends at the

Mozambique. Yes, in Southern Africa. But the Jordan Rift Valley ends at the Dead Sea. South of the Dead Sea continues another section of the Great Rift Valley called the Arabah (or the Wady el-Arabah). It's a valley that runs all the way to the Gulf of Aqaba (or Akaba or Akabah) which empties into the next section of the Great Rift Valley called the Red Sea. And situated in the rose-colored mountains on the eastern side of the Arabah is a rock-buttressed basin known today as Petra. And there are some really nice accommodation carved into these mountains which presently attract a lot of tourists.

Now the Dead Sea is the lowest part of this rift. In fact it's the lowest land location on Earth. And with the introduction of enough water into this section

of the Great Rift Valley, it could be filled from the Sea of Galilee all the way to a high point just over half way down the Arabah, at which point, with a little more water, would begin to spill over from there and run down into the Gulf of Agaba. And just how **Satan** will **cast...water as a flood after** the lews that he might cause them to be carried away of the flood Rev 12:15 I can't be sure. But I'm guessing that he either drives water north up the Arabah from the Gulf of Agaba, or he pushes it south out of the Dead Sea at them. Whatever the case, I'm expecting that with 'the Earth's help' (Rev 12:16), there will be a unique basin in the mountains on the eastern side of the Arabah that becomes even more inaccessible to foot soldiers because of all the water that I expect that will **pool** up nearby (<u>Isa 35:7</u>). However we'll see in the next section that this rift is supplied by a new source of water that lesus creates when He arrives on Earth. But we should now see, one way or another, that Petra has the potential to become a place *prepared of God* where many Jews will be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent Rev 12:14. And I also expect that these and/or other renovations will somehow cause all the **blood** to flow downhill for about 180 miles through this section of the Great Rift Valley, and that all this implies that Jesus will be kicking buttresses from **Armageddon** all the way to **Bozrah**.

And when Jesus is done with the slaughter, Micah gives us a clue where Jesus goes next. And Micah also reveals where the sequestered Jews have been in the mean time. God says,

I will surely assemble, O Jacob, all of thee; I will surely gather the remnant of Israel; I will put them together as the sheep of Bozrah, as the flock in the midst of their fold: they shall make great noise by reason of the multitude of men. The breaker [Jesus] is come up before them: they [the Jews] have broken up [or have been broken out], and have passed through the gate, and are gone out by it: and their king [Jesus] shall pass before them, and the LORD [Jesus] on the head of them Micah 2:12-13.

God describes a two-step, time-separated operation here. First He pins up the Jews in *Bozrah* like *sheep*—a very 'great and noisy' *flock* of *sheep*. Later He sends their *king* to 'break them out'. Go to <u>BlueLetterBible.org</u> and click on the block "V" next to Verse 13 in the KJV for some easier to understand translations of this verse. Or it's safe to just try your own modern translation here. Presumably we are told here that Jesus will literally break open this mountain fortress and lead the Jews out and back home to Israel. And this means these sequestered Jews are not raptured to Heaven but will live on in Israel into The Millennium. This is the beginning of their unique station in Christ's eternal kingdom. And we'll talk a lot more about them in the next section.

And from this we can *understand* that probably the only ones who make The Final Harvest Rapture are the ones who avoid the Antichrist but nonetheless <u>die</u> *in Christ* after The Rapture of the Tribulation Gentiles if Gentiles or after The Rapture of the Tribulation Jews if Jews. And we'll have more to say about this group in the next section too. But remember there is an important way to distinguish 'Jews' who recognize their true Messiah. Some make it to Israel and some do not. The ones who do not can only at

best expect a fate like other Gentiles. I say this because we *learned* in the last section that God tells Ezekiel that He brings every last living 'real Jew' *scattered* among the nations back to Israel by The 6<sup>th</sup> Seal Judgment— except for the ones who die and are later raptured *there* from Abraham's Bosom and from their *graves*. The *LORD their God* says,

**Then** [because of The 1<sup>st</sup> Great Earthquake and other marvels of The 6<sup>th</sup> Seal Judgment] **shall they know that I am the LORD their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there Ezek 39:28.** 

So God gathers every last one of his *chosen* 'real Jews' to Israel one way or another. And once there surely some of them will not escape to *the mountains* in time and will be slaughtered in time to make The Rapture of the Tribulation Jews. And others will escape and be 'pinned-up' by God alive but finally be led home by Jesus to live with Him in The Millennium. And I guess a few others must somehow survive alive in Israel. And I guess a few more might flee in the wrong direction and somehow survive to return back home too. But anyone alive who doesn't come home to Israel by The 6<sup>th</sup> Seal Judgment can only hope to be saved as other Gentiles can be.

Beyond that, those redeemed in The Rapture of the Tribulation Gentiles and later in The Rapture of the Tribulation Jews have identifiably distinct stations in eternity. So do other Jews and Gentiles who fall prey to the designs of the Antichrist in The Days of Vengeance. But there are still other **believers** who die in The Great Tribulation who are not eligible for any of these raptures. And there is no other time for them to be redeemed other than in The Final Harvest Rapture. And these must also share a distinct station in eternity.

Of course there must also be survivors worldwide. And this part of the **few there be that find it** Mat 7:13-14 make it into God's eternal Kingdom simply by surviving The Great Tribulation. And we can deduce that these must also have a distinct station—or stations—in The Eternal Kingdom of God and of Christ. And we'll talk more about these survivors in the following sections too. But before we're done with this one we'll see that anyone who takes **the mark of the beast** will not survive The Great Tribulation.

| CHART of the Raptures and Stations of the Immortals |   |
|---|---|
| Rapture   | Station   |
| The Church  | kings and priests and the wife of Jesus             |
| The Tribulation Gentiles                            | servants of God in the Temple in Heaven             |
| The 144,000 Jews                                    | virgins, firstfruits and entourage of Jesus         |
| The Two Witnesses                                   | two witnesses and two candlesticks before God       |
| The Tribulation Jews                                | victory over the beast, mount Sion Temple Jews      |
| The Final Harvest                                   | ?   |
| The First Resurrection                              | beheaded for the witness of Jesus millennial rulers |
| The Second Resurrection                             | the nations and the new Jerusalem city dwellers     |

Now we're ready to consider a different but even more important question. Why do these distinctions matter? The answer is really already in the previous paragraphs—stations. And though we're still missing an account of one of the two groups of Antichrist-resisters who are casualties in The Days of Vengeance, and also accounts of a couple of other identifiable raptures and stations, I think it's time to outline the identifiable eternal stations of the immortal **sons of God**. So, excluding the damned, and only leaving the station of those redeemed in The Final Harvest Rapture still unidentified, I see eight general stations of groups redeemed in eight different raptures as depicted in the CHART of the Raptures and Stations of the Immortals.

And there is a lot about these stations we already **know**. We **know** the members of the Church will be kings and priest and will be the wife of Jesus. But maybe we should instead consider ourselves 'queens and priestesses' in that our **royal** offices will come with our **marriage** to Jesus. We also **know** those raptured in the middle of The Beginning of Sorrows in The Rapture of the Tribulation Gentiles will **serve** God **day and night in his temple** in Heaven. And we **know** that at the midpoint that those raptured in The Rapture of the Dead Jews join other Jews in Israel who then have a shot at no less than five different stations if you include **the lake of fire** as one of the destinations. Can you name the other four? One 'blessed' result is had by those that get victory over the beast and end up with God on mount Sion (or Zion) in The Rapture of the Tribulation Jews shortly after the midpoint. But other Jews and Gentiles will also do well in their deaths by avoiding the Antichrist and be redeemed at The Final Harvest Rapture to some unknown station at the end of The Great Tribulation. And Jews who are **beheaded** resisting the Antichrist who die after The Rapture of the Tribulation lews—as well as Gentiles who die this way from The Abomination of Desolation on—will participate in The First Resurrection immediately following The Great Tribulation. John tells us that these **saints** will 'live and reign' **with Christ a thousand years**. And a **first resurrection** implies that there will be a second. Apparently there will need to be a resurrection at the end of The Millennium too for the dead in Christ who die sometime during that dispensation—which I expect should also include a transition to immortality for all those who survive to the end of the physical

World. These two 'resurrections' are also covered in the last two sections. So now that we can generally exclude what everyone else will be doing, what is left for the redeemed in this final *harvest of the earth* in The Great Tribulation? This is hard to say because there is no direct indication in Chapter 14 as to their actual function or position in The Millennium and beyond. We only *know* by the position of the rapture itself that it involves those who are redeemed at the end of the 70<sup>th</sup> week, and that this must make them a select group. All 'wild goose chasing' aside, I'm not sure what their assignment will be. But we can narrow it down a bit when we deduce where they go after their rapture. This is apparently seen in Chapter 19. Surely everyone that has been raptured during The Great Tribulation will attend *the marriage of the Lamb*, and the following wedding reception, *the marriage supper of the Lamb*.

And John records a **promise** here for everyone who attends this wedding. He says,

### Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb Rev 19:9.

This must refer to the 'more privileged' groups in The Eternal Kingdom of God and of Christ. And they are 'more privileged' because we will confirm that many of the 'less-privileged' eternally redeemed will miss this ceremony and celebration altogether. They are simply not invited. However you could also argue that everyone up to that point is invited but that many simply decline their invitations to this premier gathering of all time (Mat 22:1-14; Luke 14:16-24). And the fact remains that those who survive into The Millennium or are born in it, and even some who die *in Christ* during The Great Tribulation, will have no chance at all to attend.

And I'm guessing that there must be some kind of a 'cut line' that distinguishes these 'Blessed' from others who are redeemed. But it's not the case that these more fortunate ones will be the only ones that get to live with Jesus in Jerusalem—and ultimately New Jerusalem—as we will verify next section. Specifically, we will verify that those beheaded by the Antichrist for the witness of Jesus and all survivors of The Great Tribulation will miss this cut, but that a lot of these will nonetheless live in Jerusalem with Jesus. However these divisions must indicate different stations. And surely those in different stations will have different roles and probably live in different places. In the same way the marriage and marriage supper of the Lamb must indicate some of these dividing lines too. Maybe those who attend the wedding will minister more directly to God and Jesus or 'inwardly', and those who don't attend will minister more directly to Israel and the nations or 'outwardly'. Just an idea. But we'll get a clearer picture of all this in the remainder of this study.

But there also appears to be a distinct division between these select invitees. Some of them are part of the *wife*, but apparently the rest are only *called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb* Rev 19:9. I mean it's not likely that all who are *called* are part of the *wife*. Some must be quests at this wedding because you can't have a wedding and a reception without guests. I mean surely the Two Witnesses, the 144,000 Jews, the Mount Zion Jews and the Gentile Temple Servants will be invited but are not part of the *bride*. And surely these will all be guests at this temple *marriage* and at *the marriage supper of the Lamb* when Jesus marries His *wife*, who are

the *kings* and *royal priesthood* redeemed in The Rapture of the Church.

Now you may have assumed thus far that the *wife* is represented only by those that participate in The Rapture of the Church. And so far I have only offered subtle clues that it could be otherwise. But now it's time to be more obvious about it, because we have not determined the station of those taken in The Final Harvest Rapture. Apparently this *marriage* takes place after The Final Harvest Rapture. So the *saints* redeemed in it must attend the wedding. But are these last to be redeemed in time for this wedding expected only as guests, or to complete *the bride*? I can't say for sure. But if they are 'just guests', I doubt that they will be your average, run-of-the-mill Jerusalem 'city dwellers'. And we'll try to better identify all the city dwellers —as well as the nation dwellers—before we're done.

The big picture here is that it will matter throughout eternity when and where you accept Jesus and possibly whether you are a Jew or a Gentile when you do because these factors will forever bear upon your ultimate station in eternity. The best choice for anyone who would participate in this wedding seems to be to accept Jesus in The Age of Grace. And the best choice for the average Jew who ends up in The Great Tribulation must involve being in Israel. And I'm guessing the best choice in The Great Tribulation for Gentiles—and I said best not easiest—involves surviving passed The Rapture of the Tribulation Gentiles but then later dying with their heads attached. Because Jews or Gentiles who survive the whole thing or are **beheaded** by the Antichrist will miss this wedding.

And though all this is a little confusing, it should not be a surprise. We **know** that God has made some **vessels of wrath** and some of **mercy** and **honor** (Rom 9:14-24, 2 Tim 2:20-26, Jer 18:1-10). And surely God also decides the position of **wrath** or **honor** each man receives. But it's also a universal perspective that we all **experience** the choices that take us to where we end up. Still, no matter how much **the potter** may influence or refrain from influencing our choices, He certainly has anticipated them, because He's already told us about the different places of **wrath** and **honor** He has planned for all of us in advance. But these coming rewards and punishments also imply—at least from our perspective—that we have at least some say in the matter because He is a **righteous judge**.

And unless your **experience** is fundamentally different than mine, it won't help to check from time to time for thoses hooks in your mouth. If you ever get one in yours I'm guessing you won't **experience** it that way. And simply believing that it's all just fate won't really help much to **experience** it that way either. But you will surely **experience** that you are responsible for what side you choose to stand on, and also for how solidly you choose to stand on that side. In fact, I have supernatural insider **knowledge** that you're rather stubborn and selfish this way. I mean I **know** you were born with a...

# ...heart [that] is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked |er 17:9

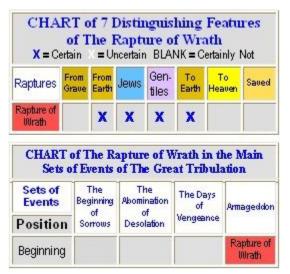
And that you ultimately insist on your own way—or at least think that you do. But hopefully God is already having some success in 'fixing your vessel' in order to save you from yourself and strengthen your foundation in Him.

And just as sure as you are born with one of those **desperately wicked** hearts, **continuing** in God's Word will help quite a lot with your 'condition'.

In fact Jesus and Peter *promise* that it's a guaranteed cure. But those who don't *study* God's Word make this recovery much harder for both God and themselves. And such neglect will not likely lead to choices anyone would be completely happy with—even if they choose to stand on the right side. Yes, this is part of what Jesus means when He says that there will be *the least in the kingdom of heaven* as well as the *great in the kingdom of heaven* Mat 5:19. The reality is that half of the redeemed will end up on the low end of the totem pole in The Kingdom of God and of Christ throughout eternity. And you'd best believe it and start making better choices if you don't really want to choose to end up in that position. And I mean if wanting to do God's *will* is not your #1 *pleasure* Phil 2:13, you are in a seriously dangerous state of mind. And the best remedy for this condition is *the fear of the Lord* (Job 28:28; Psa 111:10; Pro 1:7; 9:10; 15:33; Isa 11:1-5; 33:6, etc.), because this state of mind will not fail to get you on the fast track to being *great in the kingdom of heaven*.

Now we're ready to get back to that dangerous misinterpretation of **prophecy** I told you about. It's related to the mess made with a popular misinterpretation of the rapture that Jesus describes in His Discourse on the Mount of Olives. Again, most who **believe** in The Rapture think it will be at the start of The Great Tribulation. But others connect this rapture with the <u>first</u> of the two raptures John describes in Revelation 14, if with anything at all. The problem is that the one Jesus describes really connects to the <u>second</u> rapture from Revelation 14. And no speculation is necessary here. I'm speaking for God.

#### The Rapture of Wrath to Armageddon



The next and eighth rapture—the 'bad' final harvest of the Earth—is described in Revelation 14:17-20. And it's unmistakably bad. John sees...

...another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. And the angel thrust in

his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.

We should notice here that Jesus does not personally administer this 'second harvest'. This is because he's got a particular job to do connected with it. And that would be His romp around what I call The Lord's Triangle—from Jerusalem to Armageddon to Bozrah and back. And I'm guessing that the heavenly temple marriage and the marriage supper of the Lamb take place between these two 'harvests' for one very good reason. Doing both 'harvests' before the marriage would pile too many people into this winepress way too soon. So I'm guessing that the angel of this second harvest won't thrust in his sickle into the earth and 'gather' the evil fruit of the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God until just in time for it to be trodden under foot along with the other bad grapes who will have already voluntarily climbed into this great 'wine vat' on their own.

Bringing the metaphor back to the literal, we *understand* that we are talking about producing an unbelievable amount of *blood* that comes out of this figuratively 'foot-powered' *winepress* which will literally flow *even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs*—or for about 180 miles according to most translations. However one translation I'm following suggests *blood* will flow closer to 200 miles. And I'm guessing that The Great Tribulation-sized, topographical renovation caused by The Final Great Earthquake will dredge out a declining trough on Israel's eastern border so that it will fittingly slowly drain this *blood*. And conveniently enough, it's about 200 miles from the Jezreel Valley down to the Gulf of Aqaba. And we will see next section that God has other profitable

uses for this section of The Great Rift Valley in the future beside a flood catcher or a blood drain.

By-the-way, I don't know exactly how long a *furlong*—or **stadia** in the Greek—is. But I know that *Bethany*—where *Lazarus*, *Mary* and *Martha* lived—*was nigh unto Jerusalem*, *about fifteen furlongs off* John 11:18. And my encyclopedia tells me that Bethany is between  $1 \frac{1}{2}$  and 2 miles or about 3 kilometers from Jerusalem. This would make a *furlong* about 1/8 of a mile (1.86 miles / 15 *furlongs*). And this would make 1600 *furlongs* very close to 200 miles (1600 *furlongs* x 1/8 miles/furlong). And this would be a supernaturally large flow of real human blood that only God could make.

This horrendous event must be when...

...the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and [when] he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it <u>lsa 13:9</u>.

And He will evidently be doing a good portion of this 'desolating destruction' within The Lord's Triangle, because any **sinners** that don't come there voluntarily in The 6<sup>th</sup> Plague Judgment, or already live in the general vicinity, He will have His **angel** 'gather' them and transport them there. And this must be the case because a voluntary gathering of 'bad grapes' in the Jezreel Valley—along with some Herculean plumbing alterations—could create a 200mile blood drain, but probably not up to **the horse bridles**—say 3 or 4 feet deep. Again, only a supernatural cause could explain how so many people could come together and release that much **blood** altogether in one flow. So besides the supernatural plumbing, the supernatural explanation that makes possible the collection of such an incredible amount of **blood** is The Rapture of Wrath. And the Herald Angels of Revelation 14 must not only be giving us a clue of who will be redeemed in the first Harvest, they also must be warning us of who will be flushed in the second. This is why I expect that everyone who has taken the mark of the beast—whether they come voluntarily or not—will experience first hand this cruel and fierce Godpowered *great winepress of the wrath of God*. And Revelation 19 must give us even more details of this horrific day.

The account of *Armageddon* in Chapter 19 begins in <u>Verses 11-16</u> where we are introduced to Jesus and his mission that follows *the marriage of the lamb*. John tells us Jesus will perform this mission riding His *white horse*. In <u>Verse 14</u> John adds that...

...armies in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

These **armies** must include at least some of the previously redeemed, though not likely all of them as we will see. But we already **know** that this will include His new **bride**, because to the Church Paul says,

When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory Col 3:4.

Of course, maybe this is instead a reference to the earlier 'in the sky' appearance at The Rapture of the Church. But if that is the case, Paul also tells us that once we are with Him in the sky, we will from then on for ever be with the Lord 1 Thes 4:17, which must mean that we will be with Him on this ride from Heaven to Earth too. And this means that this reference in Colossians may very well be a brief description of this ride. Just in case, I recommend that you take as many opportunities as you can to ride horses, unless you don't mind missing too much at the back of the pack. I mean it may not be like in that movie **The Matrix** where we are 'automatically preprogrammed' to know how to ride a horse. And surely at least the horses will know where to go, but just because God can put ideas in our heads doesn't necessarily mean He will. However there is at least one more supernatural, mind-altering transformation coming. We will see the evidence of this in the final section.

But just as there are exceptions to the 'once to die' rule, there must also be exceptions to the 'always being with the Lord' rule. I say this because it appears we will not be going with Jesus on His trip to Armageddon or Idumea but will wait for Him in Jerusalem. This also implies that we will all go to Jerusalem first so that Jesus can leave us there. And if you had read the earlier references about the destruction of Idumea—Edom, and Moab, and...Ammon—you would have already suspected this. In Isaiah 63 we find out that we apparently remain in Jerusalem because Jesus does His winepress thing alone. Jesus says,

I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come. And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me <a href="Isa 63:3-5">Isa 63:3-5</a>.

And there's a lot more you could *learn* from these references—especially if you read the entire connected *prophecies*, and watch the transitions and layering, and be careful to account for God's transcendent perspective. For example, in Isaiah 35 we get another picture of how God restores *the wilderness* around Israel by making *waters break out, and streams in the desert* <u>Verse 6</u>. Of course you could say the Israelites have started this already. But there must be even more of this to come by God's hand alone. I expect God alone will all of a sudden make the *thirsty land* that will sequester the Jews become a *pool* with *springs of water* <u>Verse 7</u>. And I assume that this will be part of their protection as well as their sustenance. And I assume that the bulk of this irrigation work will be done by God when the Jews flee Israel, and later in The Final Great Earthquake, and finished by Jesus when He comes to Earth again.

We also get a picture in this chapter of how Jesus will lead the Jews home. And in an earlier *prophecy* of Isaiah he says,

...the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away <u>lsa 35:10</u>.

And some of you should remember the popular Church hymn found in <a href="Isaiah">Isaiah</a>
<a href="Isaiah">51:11</a>
that is very similar to this. But sorry, this doesn't directly apply to the Church. But we should be in Jerusalem to receive them when they arrive with songs and everlasting joy at a time when joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away from everyone left in Israel. Of course again, we might have to be taught the words to these Jewish songs—not to mention learn Hebrew. But one way or another we will all speak God's pure language as the Prophet Zephaniah's single prophecy reveals in <a href="Zephaniah">Zephaniah</a>
3:9.

Back in Revelation 19, in <u>Verse 13</u>, is another place that showcases Jesus as *dipped in blood* like in Isaiah 63. And in <u>Verse 15</u> we see that the enemy under attack by Jesus is *the nations*. And in this verse we naturally find the same metaphor from Isaiah 63 showing how overwhelming His attack will be. John says,

...out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

Then Verse 17-18 tells us of an angel who calls...

...all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven...[to]...Come...eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

This must be the general description of the carnage left behind from this **battle of that great day of God Almighty**.

But since we have also been told that Jesus will ultimately *rule all nations with a rod of iron*, this implies that His *fury, fierce anger* and *the fierceness of his wrath* will *'sever between'* certain groups within all these *nations*. Some will be separated to be destroyed and others will survive to live in The Eternal Kingdom of God and of Christ in one of Earth's remaining *nations*. Who will be separated and destroyed? Again, Chapter 16 tells us how God dries up the Euphrates to lure *the kings of the east* to attack the Antichrist Kingdom, and also releases *out of the mouth* or 'at the command' of Satan, the Antichrist and the False Prophet the *spirits of devils* to do their 'pied piper' routine to gather the Antichrist's armies to defend his kingdom. And these *'hooks'* lure vast armies of willing participants to *Armageddon*. And surely these armies of the Antichrist and China are a part of the bloodbath described in Chapter 14. I haven't done the math. Maybe someone should. Or maybe someone has. But I'm sure it's <u>not</u> reasonable to believe that such an incredible quantity of blood could be

centralized by human endeavor alone. I mean people will have to be piled into this valley like *grapes* in a *winepress*. After all, this is *that great day of Almighty God*. And in *that day*, I expect He will show Himself as such. So in addition to those who can be 'deluded' by God to come 'voluntarily', there must be many more 'supernaturally shanghaied' by Him. And this portion of involuntarily transported participants I call The Rapture of Wrath to Armageddon. These would be the rest of the people on the planet that have taken *the mark of the beast*.

But I don't necessarily expect that Esau's descendants will be transported there or even to *Bozrah* in this Rapture of Wrath because they will already be in the neighborhood. And it's clear that Jesus also has plans to annihilate all of *Idumea* on His way around The Lord's Triangle anyway. And all the mark-takers from around the World plus all the armed forces of both the *white* and *red* revolutions—all piled in one *winepress* known as the Jezreel Valley—should be the perfect supernatural concentration of humanity to produce the 200-mile long, waist deep river of blood running from there to the Gulf of Aqaba. But this will require various topographical renovations that will make the Jezreel Valley the high ground in the Great Rift running along the eastern border of Israel. It requires that this rift becomes a well-plumbed draining basin from north to south. And this is really not that hard to imagine. Take another look at the map on p. 435.

However before all this—as the Jews *flee* to the *wilderness* at the midpoint—I'm guessing Satan will inadvertently flood the Arabah adjacent to Petra. And the deliverance of the lews must be partly due to the **flood** Satan commands and partly due to the Earth's 'help' to 'swallows it up'. This 'adjustment' by the Earth to contain this **flood** I could call the first stage of topographical renovation in the Great Rift adjoining Israel—unless the first two Great Earthquakes do some renovation there too. Now the closest source of a lot of water that Satan could command is from the Dead Sea, except that it's presently drying up. In fact it's not even one sea anymore but two smaller ones because so much water is being diverted from it. But Israel and Jordan have plans to do something about that. It's officially called the "Two Seas Canal" where they will pump water up from the Gulf of Agaba nearly 400 feet and then drop it by canal nearly 1800 feet into The Dead Sea, producing some electricity and desalinating some water in the process. There have been some stalls in this plan, and there is another plan to instead move the water from the Mediterranean Sea—which would not benefit Jordan so much. But one way or another and sooner or later I expect a new source of water will flow into the Dead Sea because even if Israel is presently too distracted to get the job done, the time is coming when nothing will be able to distract her. And then the Dead Sea should at least stop receding so Satan can be provoked to use this water should he want to.

However you should have noticed here just how far below sea level the Dead Sea is—at the moment approaching 1400 feet below sea level. So though the Gulf of Aqaba is further away, it's about the same distance from Petra, so it may be easier for Satan to push water up the Arabah instead. Maybe. Whatever the case, I expect The Final Great Earthquake will level things out considerably. And we can certainly see that this would have to be a lift of 'Great Tribulation' proportions. But we will see in the next section that such a leveling out of the land will eventually occur. And again, we will see that such replumbing will be required for other purposes besides the 200-

mile blood drainage system.

But you probably have never heard of this Rapture of Wrath by any name. This oversight is not just because most are lost in the Book of Revelation. It's also because most Protestants have been led to believe that lesus' description of this rapture in His Discourse on the Mount of Olives is instead of The Rapture of the Church. But this cannot be. First of all and again, the holy apostles and prophets made clear that Jesus could say nothing about The Rapture of the Church—not directly anyway. So his entire **teaching** on the Mount of Olives is about the Jews' fate, not The Church's. And the rapture He describes in these passages cannot be of the Church. Another clue is that it plainly takes place at the second *coming of the Son of man* or 'immediately' *after the tribulation*—at *Armageddon*. This timestamp disqualifies it as The Rapture of the Church for anyone using as much **scripture** as is used in this **study**. Still, those paying closer attention to the order of events in The Discourse on the Mount of Olives more naturally place The Rapture of the Church at the end of The Great Tribulation because this is plainly when this rapture lesus describes occurs. And this observation makes this rapture fit one of the tribulation-ending raptures in Revelation 14. However we have further incontrovertible **proof** that it can't be the good one. Jesus subtly provides part of this proof by telling us how the rapture works. He says,

Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left...

And this of course raises the questions of who are **taken** and where, and who are **left** behind and why. It's popularly mistaken that the ones that are **taken** are the Church in their rapture and that everyone else is **left**. Oops.

So about here we need **teachers...who by reason of use have their** senses exercised to discern both good and evil. And such strong meat eaters would tell you something like this. Beware of confidence in selfcentered interpretations. And the problem is that I haven't really found this perspective anywhere. Instead I find everywhere this kind of self-centered confidence due to the pervasive Biblical immaturity in today's Church. But God has shown me—I mean me personally—that it's time for a major course correction. And this would be for everyone who continues to believe that the group taken here is the Church. But such a correction will unavoidably show us those who refuse to receive it. And all these need to be recognized as unfit to speak for God—at least about His **more sure word of prophecy**. And you can take that as a slap in the face if it applies to you, especially if it will get your attention. And *understand* me, I'm guessing that the Prophet **Nehemiah** would not hesitate to slap anyone for **teaching** such embarrassing error. In his day he not only **smote** ("struck" or "beat") those involved in serious misdirection, he also cursed them and plucked off their hair Neh 13:25. And one reason you may be in need of such a jolt is because you are used to being let sleep. And I mean as an ignorant babe I had a problem with this misinterpretation when I first heard it decades ago. I immediately saw that I was expected to believe that this was a pretribulation rapture happening immediately after the tribulation. Hello? Anyone awake? And I knew that if I could see this at first glance that anyone

responsible for **teaching** the Church should too. In fact this overwhelmingly obvious observation has led many to believe that The Rapture of the Church takes place at the end of The Great Tribulation. What a mess.

But worse than this, many also believe that the rest of us stupid enough to fall for a pretribulation rapture and vigorously defend it must be apostate. Yeah, this is serious. Indeed, pretribulationalists who *teach* that this rapture from Jesus' Discourse on the Mount of Olives is The Rapture of the Church do immeasurable damage to the Church by making Protestants look like fools, and they provoke posttribulationists to think that they have the superior position when they simply have a different brand of *foolishness* also based on insufficient consultation of The Word of God! By-the-way, I may not have been shouting when I wrote that last line but my fingers typed it that way. Brothers and sisters, the *reward* and *shame* will be real to all no matter where you end up. And if you can't take the *preaching* along with the *revelations* you are likely to end up with more *shame* than *reward*. And if you can't receive this you have no need of me. You need to go back to *teachers* not 'pressing' so hard for the 'higher mark'. Really. However now we're ready for probably the biggest and least known *revelations* of this *study*.

To absolutely **prove** who **shall be taken** we need to find out for sure where they **shall be taken**. And this will also indicate who will be **left** behind and why. And the best way to get to the bottom of this is to ask the same question Jesus' disciples asked Him on the subject. The problem is that neither Matthew, Mark nor Luke record the asking of this key question on the Mount of Olives. However Matthew does record Jesus' mysterious answer to the question there. And evidently God purposefully chose to report the asking of this critical question in only one of the four similar accounts. But the account that includes the question is not one that takes place on the Mount of Olives, nor is it recorded by a disciple who is originally there to hear it. But by now you should **know** some of the reasons why God has built tests into His Word that provoke our continuing diligence and integrity and show the **foolishness** of those handling it without these 'skills'—or at least their weaknesses in them. And only those who embrace His Word with diligence and *integrity* can expect to solve its puzzling presentation to *reveal* the meatier truth that will make them naturally and properly grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The critical question is recorded sometime before Jesus' Discourse on the Mount of Olives. It is born out of an exchange between Jesus and the Pharisees about **when the kingdom of God should come** in <u>Luke 17:20-37</u>. Of course the one who records the question who is not there to hear it is Luke. In this passage Jesus also gives the description of this Great Tribulation-ending rapture, saying,

I tell you, in that night [Immediately after the tribulation of those days—see also Mat 24:27-44] there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left Luke 17:34-36.

The big difference here is that Luke records the question the disciples ask as well as Jesus' answer. They ask, **Where, Lord?**—or 'where are they taken?' The answer is astonishing and apparently not what most people would ever expect. It first hit me like a ton of bricks when the **revelation** came to me about two decades ago. Jesus answers,

Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together <u>Luke 17:37</u>.

And Jesus' restatement of this answer on the Mount of Olives is really identical. He says,

For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together <u>Mat 24:28</u>.

However on the Mount of Olives this 'answer' is placed in context with **the coming of the Son of man** like **lightning** Mat 24:27-28, obviously at **Armageddon**. And the details of how the rapture works are again connected to **the coming of the Son of man** several verses later (Mat 24:39-42). So as usual, the scattering and layering of **precepts** hide this **revelation**.

And what is the **revelation**? It's the **understanding** that the ones that will be taken end up as blood-drained corpses that the eagles will be gathered together to eat. And we know where these meat-eating birds are **gathered**. It's to **the supper of the great God** Rev 19:17-18. These fowls that fly in the midst of heaven...gather where God has lured and supernaturally transported the *men* and *women* He has *taken* to be trodden under foot at Armageddon—certainly not to Heaven as most imagine. And this is in fact how there will be enough **blood** for a 200-milelong, horse's bridle-deep river of it. But evidently gravity and the birds will help God clean up the worst of the mess. And this would involve that bigger 'bird buffet bonanza' I told you about. This must be the demise of all those who take **the mark of the beast**. So I expect that God will not strongly target mark-takers for death during The Days of Vengeance simply because He would not want too many of them to miss all the excitement He has planned for them in the Jezreel Valley. And this further implies that The Plague Judgments are more about teeth-gnashing torment than death.

By-the-way, in case you're still compartmentalizing, it doesn't make much sense to expect birds to fly into a nuclear blast zone looking for food, nor for Israel to try use this region for anything productive after such an explosion. But this blowout does in some ways appear to be described like a nuclear blast, especially by the Prophet Zechariah. He says,

And this shall be the plague wherewith the LORD will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth Zec 14:12.

So this **plague** of **the LORD** is another connected **precept** we can add that shows us how all the armies of the World—plus about **one** out of every **two** 

of the remaining 'civilians'—will be squeezed by **God Almighty** into the Jezreel Valley to be supernaturally trodden under foot by Jesus. And combining the metaphors of the 'sword out of His mouth' and 'the winepress' with Zechariah's literal description above, I picture these unfortunate souls being exploded like squeezed grapes on Jesus' command—maybe something like in that movie, **Raiders of the Lost Ark**. And I **understand** that all that spilled **blood** will be good for the soil. And that what's left of their 'carcases' will be eaten by birds—except for their bones, and there is no mention of these bones as far as I **know**. Maybe Jesus disintegrates all their bones this time simply because it would be too many to gather, and this would be even better for the soil. But 'the meat on the bones' must not disintegrate or the birds would get nothing to eat. And the spirits of these 'cruelly' departed will be dispatched to **hell** to await their final transition to being eternally poached in **the lake of fire**. And all the other 'civilians' who evidently have not *received the mark of the beast* and are not *taken* to this figurative *winepress* must be *left* to live on Earth in Jesus' Millennial Kingdom—these being the ones who will repopulate the Earth during The Millennium. And we'll talk more about these that are 'left behind in a good way' in the remaining sections.

This glaring oversight that these people are really *taken* in a 'rapture of wrath', coupled with the shameful misinterpretation that the pretribulation Rapture of the Church occurs 'immediately after' The Great Tribulation, have been responsible for foundational errors in pretribulational and posttribulational versions of end times *prophecy* for a long time. And it will surely be a while before even the choking from newly dislodged feet subsides. Assuming I can even get any healthy gagging reflexes going anytime soon. I was spared this particular indignity when the Lord showed me this chain of precepts near the beginning of my *study*. Why have I waited so long to share these *revelations*? I didn't really. But being so divergent from 'the party line', very few ever cared what I thought. And I gave up on those who knew me a long time ago mostly because I was perceived as naive and immature back then—in my late twenties. And I doubt any 'higher Church leaders' who were already publicly gagging on their own feet got even a hint of what God was showing me.

So I was clearly 'despised for my youth' (1 Tim 4:12). But I had much less maturity in The Word of God back then. And even now I still doubt my power in it. See 1 Corinthians 2:4-5; 4:18; 1 Thessalonians 1:5 for what I mean by that. Even still, over the years I have considered informing 'higher Church leaders'—I mean beyond the local ones that I originally gave up on trying to persuade. But not being sure I had the go-ahead from God, and for lack of any other support, along with the ongoing pervasive and chronic condition of feet-impaired throats everywhere I looked, I did not believe I alone could enlightenment very many others, until now. I mean I had to wait for God's timing since I pretty much could only count on His help alone. And some of you must be able to relate to this. There are surely some of you out there that already knew some of these things or at least had serious guestions and have just as understandably kept such things to yourself too. And I mean that we who strive to **know** Him have all been His fools. Some have simply been more painfully exposed in this process than I have until now. And surely God offers tests and trials to everyone. Mine have brought me to a confidence that God will overlook my future mistakes and misrepresentations

because I have so far faithfully *continued* to find and acknowledge so many of them in the past. In this way you can see Calvinism in hindsight. You can see how God has molded your *vessel*. But you can see Arminianism in hindsight too. You can see how He has let you hinder Him from doing this *work* as well as He might have otherwise.

At present the still-living **teachers** of **prophecy** I respect the most still continue to support some horrendous messes of prophetic misinterpretation. And I have recently attempted to contact and illicit a response from some of them—none of whom know me at this point. They above all deserve this opportunity and respect because without them I would not have had any shoulders worth climbing on, and they are the ones who can be of the most help in finally establishing the irrefutable pretribulational, postmillennial, dispensational and stational **understanding** of God's now even **more sure word of prophecy**.

But what about you? Will you now knowingly resist coming out against the crowd when these mistakes potentially lead many to **shame** or even to abandon their faith. I am especially referring to those that have been misled to believe that most the whole Church is apostate for preaching a pretribulational rapture. I can only hope that the Church as a whole will come to a better **understanding** of what God has in store for us all <u>before</u> it's too late for that **knowledge** to be of any help.

And while we're on the subject, there is one more disaster of modern prophecy in Jesus' Discourse on The Mount of Olives I will take this opportunity to clear up. The reasons for my holding back on this one until now are the same as for The Rapture of Wrath. And this mess must also one day prove to be an equally shameful oversight. I am referring to the **parable** of the fig tree found in Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21 that's commonly supposed to represent 'the birth and growth of the nation of Israel'. But this cannot be the case either because the *fig tree* in this passage is stated to represent something else. And it's all the more embarrassing because in this case we do not really have to jump from *here a little* to *there a little* to realize this error. Jesus tells us that **the fig tree** is **a parable** of **all these** things that He relates to us right there on the Mount of Olives. So there is no reason to guess what **the fig tree** represents. We simply need to acknowledge all these things that Jesus tells us about and understand that they will begin to occur in a manner that is not unlike how a *fig tree* blossoms.

And the problem is that Jesus is not really talking about the formation of the nation of Israel in this passage. Neither have His disciples really asked Him anything about it. They ask Him about **the sign...of the end of the world**, and that's exactly what Jesus tells them about in the form of summaries of The Beginning of Sorrows, The Abomination of Desolation and The Days of Vengeance. In this account Jesus gives His disciples the summaries of these two halves of The Great Tribulation as well as the major transition event that separates them because these are the best 'signs' **of the end of the world** He can give. And it's after this accounting that He offers the **parable of the fig tree**. He says,

Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things [The Beginning of Sorrow, The Abomination of Desolation and The Days of Vengeance], know that it [the coming of the Son of man at the end of the world] is near, even at the doors Matthew 24:32-33.

And the context here has not changed. Jesus is still answering the same question—what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? Matthew 24:3 And it's still plain that all these things don't really have anything to do with the formation and growth of the nation of Israel. Jesus clearly identifies the 'signs' that **the fig tree** specifically represents to be, 1) the rise of 'false christs', 2) the persecution of lews by lews, 3) wars and rumors of war, 4) famines, 5) pestilences, 6) earthquakes, 7) the abomination of desolation, 8) fearful sights and great signs...from heaven and judgments of God where the powers of heaven shall be shaken, and where immediate after the tribulation in those days ...then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. These are the 'signs' described in this passage that lead to **the coming of the Son of Man**. And they are specifically represented by the blossoming of this figurative *fig tree*. They are The Beginning of Sorrows, The Abomination of Desolation and The Days of Vengeance—not the formation and growth of the nation of Israel. And yes I **know**, a **fig tree** is used several times in *scripture* to represent the nation of Israel. But so are olive trees, harlots, and a brood of baby chicks, etc., and none of these really apply here either.

And by-the-way, did you know this idea of the 'fig tree' representing Israel in the Discourse on the Mount of Olives comes from The Apocalypse of **Peter?** This is an apocryphal work likely written in the first part of the second century. The form we have received it in today was pieced together from various and divergent sources. In it 'Peter' adds to the information from Jesus' Discourse on the Mount of Olives. And though the account is frequently unintelligible and otherwise problematic, 'Peter' does clearly ask 'Jesus' what the 'fig tree' represents, and 'Jesus' plainly tells him that it represents Israel. Later on in this account 'Jesus' also finally admits because 'Peter' persistently presses the point—that all sinners will eventually be recovered from The Lake of Fire and saved. Talk about a dead giveaway. This is one of the many reasons why this 'account' remained uncanonized by the early Church fathers—because it doesn't belong in The Word of God. And it's still popularly considered 'apocryphal'—meaning untrue or false. Still, embarrassingly enough, it's the basis for the misunderstanding that the *fig* tree represents the nation of Israel in The Discourse on the Mount of Olives. And this counterfeit of **the truth** is as bad as the lie disseminated by that third century anti-Semite, Mr. Pompous-ass, who started the slander that Daniel 11 was a fabrication by Maccabean Jews gloating over their victory over Mr. Grease-ball, except that **The Apocalypse of Peter** is a fabrication that tries to substantiate itself by stealing *scripture* to mix with

And in the case of the *parable of the fig tree*, we can stick with our *more sure word of prophecy* and the clear *instruction* from Jesus that in order to *learn the parable* we need only recognize *all these things* that He tells us about that related to it. And *all these things* produce this 'blossoming effect' that show us that *the end of the world...is near*. And

of course we **know** that the formation of the nation of Israel must come first. But look and see! Jesus is not speaking of signs that will <u>eventually</u> lead to the end of the World. He is telling us about the ones <u>at</u> the very end—in the last seven years—which lead directly to His second coming.

But unfortunately the misinterpretation doesn't stop here. Building on the error that **the fig tree** is a sign of the formation and growth of the nation of Israel, some popular Protestant **teachers** of **prophecy** have naturally gone a step further and tried to connect the verse following this parable to a kind of formula. In Matthew 24:34 Jesus adds,

### Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.

Now since **all these things** are the signs of The Great Tribulation, there isn't really any problem here. We know they will all occur in seven years, well within the limit of any definition of a 'generation'. But if you presume that Jesus is talking about the formation of the nation of Israel here, you've got big problems—the kind that will drive Christians from Christianity. The problem is that for 'generations' now we have been told that our 'generation' can't pass away, till all these things be fulfilled. This was originally declared to have started when England, in 1919, established Palestine as a British protectorate or colony. And it used to be believed that before a new born lew would turn 30, in 1949, it would all be over. But when that didn't happen it became necessary to reconsider this 'interpretation'. So the 'blossoming' of this **prophecy** was next placed at the point when Israel became a sovereign nation in 1948. But by the late 70's it became necessary to reexamine the 'interpretation' again. This time it was necessary to change the definition of a 'generation'. A longer period of time was needed to force the fit. And unfortunately someone found an excuse for this reasoning in Psalms. So the definition of a 'generation' in the 'interpretation' changed from the period of time from offspring to offspring to the period of a normal lifetime of 70 to 80 years. Another Psalm pushed it to possibly 90 years. But further burdening this equation are the 7 years of The Great Tribulation that haven't started yet that also must fit into this period of 'less than a **generation**. This reasoning sets the outside dates for the beginning of The Great Tribulation at 1948 + 63 or 73 or 83 = 2011 or 2021 or 2031. And time's running out for a 2011 start. And you must understand that because of the popularity of this 'interpretation', its impending failure will be harmful to the Church.

So one of the reasons I could not wait any longer to try to release this **study** is because I am hoping that God will stem the tide of this potentially disastrous disappointment. And I think it's very likely that Jesus will not come until after 2031 for some good reasons we have already covered. Israel is certainly long from **safely...dwelling without walls**. And Egypt is far from the **great riches** and **very great and mighty army** she is supposed to have. And there are some **young lions** hanging out in Iraq and Afghanistan right now that probably should not still be there if The Great Tribulation was ready to start real soon. The Iraqi Defense Minister recently said that U.S. troops would be needed in Iraq until 2018 (**Time**, January 28, 2008, p.17), though 'redeployment' out of Iraq is already started under President Obama. However some of this redeployment includes increasing the number of troops

in Afghanistan because of this regions presently increasing instability, thanks to the continued help from Iran. And I'm sure the same 'hopes' were expressed for our troops withdrawal from Okinawa, South Korea and The Philippines. But such encampments have always gone on for at least several decades. And whatever the case, not just one but likely all of these things and more must occur before it's time.

And besides, a more reasonable *generation* is more likely the period from offspring to offspring because this best fits with Jesus' approximation of the duration of the end-times period He describes—the 7-year Great Tribulation. And the shortest possible *'generation'* in this sense still easily fits around the 7-year Great Tribulation. Kick and scream if you want to. But many in the Church of Jesus Christ must ultimately swallow their pride, and no longer their foot, and hopefully in time to help save the Church from this coming trainwreck. But some will surely be lost over such prophetic confusion. But hopefully I will be a little more than just a 'voice in the wilderness' against these errors and schemes of the Devil before it's too late. Because The Word of God tells me <u>not</u> to go into last-minute panic mode just yet, but that we still have some time to get our act together and at least rescue the perishing within our own ranks.

Finally, there are a couple of major characteristics of the events that lead to **Armageddon** I want to review. They provide **proof** that God is the only cause of these redemptions as well as of the judgments of The Great Tribulation. His hand can be seen in the descriptions of what is plainly the greatest earthquake and rock storm in history. This cataclysm apparently precedes the **darkness** that the Antichrist's and China's armies find themselves caught in before The Battle of Armageddon. And it's described in Revelation 16:18-20. John says it's a...

...great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great...

And he describes it as part of The Seventh Plague Judgment when...

#### ...every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

Try to image how the Earth itself could generate an earthquake that could shake all islands underwater and all mountains flat. Isn't it actually easier to imagine that the Earth has some 'outside help'? And the same outside help that generates this 'greatest earthquake' must also provide *a great hail* of 75-100 lbs 'stones'. And this isn't overkill. It's God's controlled judgment on Earth as with all the previous judgments from Heaven also involving *blood*, *pestilence* and other *destruction*. And it's all accomplished as Luke records by *fearful sights and great signs...from heaven* including...

...signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear,

## and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.

Again, this ain't no fireworks show. It's more like interplanetary billiards where gravity, magnetic charge, momentum and surface gasses and debris are all factors in the game. And it's surely not the result of any contributions by man. And man's impotence in these matters can be seen in that his best efforts, even coupled with Satan's assistance, are restricted to assaults by *horsemen* with handmade *swords*, *spears* and *shields*. I mean I'm guessing most all ammunition will be expended or destroyed in the opening wars of The Beginning of Sorrows and that this is also about when the ability to mass produce ammunition and weaponry will end too. Surely some guns will be available, but we have repeatedly seen that they must become unavailable for wide-scale warfare not long into The Great Tribulation. And we'll see the real usefulness of all these *swords* and *spears* when we talk about The Millennium in the next section.

And we can count on Isaiah for an unusually good supernaturally derived picture of things when it comes to The Great Tribulation. Remember his view from outer space in <a href="Chapter 24">Chapter 24</a>? Let's consider this bird's eye view of The Great Tribulation again because it focuses on the final results. And this time let's consider the whole chapter. You should now be ready to *understand* every *line* of it.

Behold, the LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof. And it shall be, as with the people [or "laypeople" or parishioners], so with the priest; as with the servant, so with his master; as with the maid, so with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the lender, so with the borrower; as with the taker of usury [or "the banker" or "the creditor"], so with the giver of usury to him ["the debtor"]. The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: for the LORD hath spoken this word. The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left. The new wine mourneth, the vine languisheth, all the merryhearted do sigh. The mirth of tabrets ceaseth, the noise of them that rejoice endeth, the joy of the harp ceaseth. They shall not drink wine with a song; strong drink shall be bitter to them that drink it. The city of confusion is broken down: every house is shut up, that no man may come in. There is a crying for wine in the streets; all joy is darkened, the mirth of the land is gone. In the city is left desolation, and the gate is smitten with destruction. When thus it shall be in the midst of the land among the people, there shall be as the shaking of an olive tree, and as the gleaning grapes when the vintage is

done. ["But"] They shall lift up their voice, they shall sing for the majesty of the LORD, they shall cry aloud from the sea [or "from the west" of Isreal]. Wherefore glorify ye the LORD in the fires [or "the dawning light" or "in the east" of Isreal], even the name of the LORD God of Israel in the isles [or "coastlands"] of the sea. From the uttermost part of the earth have we heard songs. even glory to the righteous. But I said. My leanness. my leanness, woe unto me! the treacherous dealers have dealt treacherously; yea, the treacherous dealers have dealt very treacherously. Fear, and the pit, and the snare, are upon thee, O inhabitant of the earth. And it shall come to pass, that he who fleeth from the noise of the fear shall fall into the pit; and he that cometh up out of the midst of the pit shall be taken in the snare: for the windows from on high are open, and the foundations of the earth do shake. The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage [or "a hut" or "a tent"]; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth. And they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited. Then [at the time they are imprisoned the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously.

Did you notice again that *the windows from on high are open*, and that *the foundations of the earth do shake* so that it *is utterly broken down*, and *moved exceedingly*? We can see here *the earth...reel to and fro like a drunkard* and become *removed like a cottage*, shaken flat, *and not rise again*—it will be Jesus' eternal kingdom that will rise instead. The *stone* hits the *feet*, right? (Dan 2:34). And the worst of all this 'shaking' undeniably occurs in The Seventh Plague Judgment, the final set up for *Armageddon*.

We also *learn* in this general overview that *the world languisheth* and *the haughty people of the earth do languish* and that even *the vine languisheth*. And evidently the World will deserve it. This can be seen in a reiteration when Isaiah says, ...the treacherous dealers have dealt treacherously; yea, the treacherous dealers have dealt very treacherously. I guess this is worth repeating because people in The Great Tribulation, generally speaking, must behave very treacherously. And surely these include the lowlife types that will be lured to *Armageddon* to *languish*. Certainly these particular *haughty people...languish* there most of all.

And you should have also noticed this time the story of the fate of Satan, his princes and his angels, and of certain of the Earth's disobedient kings and peoples which are to be held as **prisoners are gathered in the pit** after **Armageddon** and until the end of The Millennium. The **host of** angels will

evidently be with Satan in **the bottomless pit** and will finally be let out for one last hoorah, then judged. And **the kings of the earth** and everyone else will wait **in hell** and **after many days shall they be visited** too, but in their case only to be judged. However **the beast** and **the false prophet** will be **cast into the lake of fire** immediately after **Armageddon**, never to be **'visited'** again, all of which we'll talk about more next section.

Still there is mention of people all over the World who shall lift up their voice, they shall sing for the majesty of the LORD, they shall cry **aloud from the sea** [or "from the west" of Israel]...[and those who] *glorify...the LORD in the fires* [or "the dawning light" or "in the east" of Israel], [and those who will glorify] even the name of the LORD God of Israel in the isles [or "coastlands"] of the sea. I see here some of the few who are awestruck in The Great Tribulation by the majesty of the LORD and cannot help but *alorify...the LORD* as they *sing* and *cry* amidst the destruction. And surely these are not the ones who dwell carelessly in the isles Ezek 39:6, but instead they are the ones who will survive The Great Tribulation to *qlorify...the name of the LORD God of Israel in the isles* of the sea, so that, From the uttermost part of the earth there will be heard songs, even glory to the righteous God of Heaven, because of these **wonders** which are to come from Heaven upon the Earth. And from the beginning of The Millennium, the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously.

And there is one more spectacular perspective we should consider. It's that somehow when Jesus...

...cometh with clouds... every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him Rev 1:7.

Do you still think this could be TV? Not a chance. You should instead reconsider how people **afar off** will see the smoke 'rising' from the destruction of Babylon. It will likely be because the smoke will rise as high as the planet caught by the Earth. And with a little rotation over just a little time this planet should be seen quite **afar off** as the visible cause of Babylon's destruction. And it occurs to me that Jesus will be equally visible when He comes. Certainly His universal visibility will be greatly enhanced by His brilliant, arching, deep-space approach.

And you should remember that by the time *they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory* that the Pacific Ocean will be completely dead—there will be virtually no more sea life or islands left in it. And it should be much larger due at least partially to the melted icecaps from The 4<sup>th</sup> Plague Judgment, not to mention because of the coastlands that are shaken underwater in The 7<sup>th</sup> Plague Judgment, and otherwise because of *the sea and the waves roaring* Luke 21:25. And no one should be on Antarctica. So at the time of Jesus' Second Coming there will only be a limited portion of the Earth still supporting life. Examine a globe considering all these things and see what I mean. I mean Jesus could take a slanted or arching incoming trajectory slightly more over the northern hemisphere and most *every eye* that is looking should be able to *see him* coming in *as lightning*. And I mean it's something more like that than a television broadcast 'live from Armageddon'.

You should also be ready to *understand* about every *line* in Zechariah's *prophecy* about *Israel* in Chapters 12-14. We've covered a lot of this *prophecy* already so you should now also easily see that those who find a nuclear holocaust in <u>Zechariah 14:12</u> do not fully *understand* this *prophecy*. Surely this *plague* administered by Jesus comes *out of his mouth* like *a sharp sword* Rev 19:15 against all those who fight *against Jerusalem* all around The Lord's Triangle—from *Jerusalem* to *Armageddon* to *Bozrah* and back. Evidently all The Lord will have to do is speak and His enemies will be excruciatingly destroyed. And do you really think The One who spoke the World into existence will need a nuclear weapon to finish off his enemies (Psa 33:8-9; Col 1:12-17; Eph 3:9)?

Another *revelation* that will alleviate some confusion concerning Jesus' Discourse on the Mount of Olives is that His *coming* and the rapture of His *elect* are given out of order. It appears from these accounts alone that *Armageddon* comes before The Final Harvest Rapture. But by now it should be no surprise that there is some layering in these passages. And we can now *understand* that these events (e.g. Mat 24:30-31) are recounted out of order because elsewhere—in Revelelation 14 and 19—they are more clearly given chronologically. Of course Jesus may be talking about 'when' He will *gather together his elect* at The Final Harvest before Armageddon as well as hinting at 'when' He later resurrects them at The First Resurrection after Armageddon too. Either way the *'then'*—in Matthew 24:31 for example—must not mean 'next' but 'around that time'. Check it out and get the *revelation*.

Next, abruptly and unapologetically, some information we left behind is about to change our perspective once again. Remember that starting at The Abomination of Desolation there are 42 months—about 1240 days—given to the Antichrist (Rev 13:5). And from this same starting point there are 1260 days of safe haven for the sequestered lews (Rev 12:6). And also from this midpoint there are 1290 days to **the end of these wonders** (Dan 12:6-7) not to mention the 'Blessed' who make it to the end of 1335 days (Dan 12:12). See the problem here? You should see that this does not line up with our earlier conclusions. Remember I lead you to think that the sequestered Jew would be 'broken out' of their rock fortress by Jesus after Armageddon, but apparently on the same 1290<sup>th</sup> day. But we **know** that God will only sequester them 1260 days. So Jesus must break them out on the 1260<sup>th</sup> day. And doesn't this mean that 'Armageddon'—or Jesus' buttress-kicking trip around The Lord's Triangle—must also happen on the 1260th day? If so, this implies that God will only need around 20 days to sufficiently lay low the lowlifes at Armageddon before Jesus comes to finish them off for good. Apparently 50 days would be too long for these lowlifes to fully appreciate the finale. But I still expect that the finale begins with The Rapture of Wrath.

And suck it up. These are the kind of transitions—'transformations by the renewing of your mind'—that you must *learn* to *endure* if you are to *eat* what Paul calls *strong meat* and not choke like a *babe*. And congratulations to any of you who were not fooled by this wild goose chase. You are indeed *approved unto God* on this subject. But those of you who are still somewhat confused at this point should—yes—start over. And yes, this creates another loose end. Besides the promenade home of the Jews, what else could be going on between the 1260<sup>th</sup> and the 1290<sup>th</sup> day? We'll get to my best guess on that in the next section.

And this brings us to some information we haven't gotten to yet that will make us adjust our picture yet again. In <u>Revelation 19:19</u> we confirm that John...

...saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

This is where we seem to see that the *armies* of the Antichrist and China do indeed intend to **make war against** lesus and **his army**. However I still **believe** that the armies of the Antichrist and China are lured to the Jezreel Valley by their misquided assumptions—and that the soldiers on the ground do not originally expect to attack Jesus. The **red** forces will come because they believe they can finally overrun the white forces, and the white forces will come to defend themselves. And I still **believe** that all these forces will become pinned down for nearly 3 weeks in darkness until lesus arrives to cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and...lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. And evidently God will restrain Himself in order to bring the kingdoms of nations to this unimaginable finale of His power and cruelty, and somehow do it in a way so as to not take all their **strength** in these **darkened** days. This must be the case because Jesus and his army will evidently face off with these representatives of the worst of humanity and—for a moment—make them at least hope that they have a chance to *make war against* Him.

But this seems to be a contradiction with Isaiah 63 where Jesus says,

I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come. And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me. And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth. <a href="Isa 63:3-6">Isa 63:3-6</a>.

So, putting John's and Jesus' testimony together I can only assume that Jesus' **army** is with Him, but that they are only spectators who do not join Him in the fight. Indeed they are powerless to help. Jesus' **army** must only watch as the **armies** of the Antichrist and China scream in terror with **pangs of sorrow** and **pain** like a women giving birth.

And now you should be ready to fully *understand* a description from Isaiah of *the wrath of the LORD of hosts...in the day of his fierce anger*. Isaiah says,

The noise of a multitude in the mountains, like as of a great people; a tumultuous noise of the kingdoms of nations gathered together: the LORD of hosts mustereth the host of the battle. They [The Lord's armies] come from a far country,

from the end of heaven, even the LORD, and the weapons of his indignation, to destroy the whole land. Howl ye; for the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty. Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt: And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth [or is in labor]; they shall be amazed one at another: their faces shall be as flames. Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir. Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts. and in the day of his fierce anger Isa 13:4-13.

It's funny how a few overlooked details and one new one can make a wild goose chase out of a lot of what we thought we had already proven. Nonetheless, this wild goose chase should help you *understand* better than ever how to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. And you should see by now that there's no end to it. All conclusions unavoidably lead to more questions and corrected or improved conclusions. And naturally there are parts to this puzzle we're still missing that will further adjust the picture. And I know it's a matter of time before I find more of them. But if you're only newly examinating this picture, it will take a little longer. And you are even more vulnerable to leaving behind or overlooking some of the precepts. This **study** attempts to take you through years of revelations much too fast. So unless you are already experienced with all these topics you will forget some of the parts you've learned so far and actually mistake some of the pictures that we imagined on our wild goose chases to still be true until—if you *continue*—you stumble back across the pieces that will clear things up again. This still happens to me with newly found pieces. This is because a meaty picture takes work just to maintain, let alone **grow**. This is the natural progression of The Word of God. And you are only safe if you *continue* in it.

This is the end of our overview of The Great Tribulation. A couple of sections follow on the rest of the physical future of the Earth and the beginning of the coming **new heaven** and **new earth** so we can complete some of the main topics we've carried throughout this **study**. This includes another rapture that takes place just after The Great Tribulation at the beginning of The Millennium, one that takes place at the end of it, and some of the fates of those in their final stations that remain to be identified. OK, and probably a couple more wild goose chases too.