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## **PROPHETIC INSIGHTS**

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## **THE GENERAL INTRODUCTION**

This publication consists of 12 eschatological articles written during the months of July and August, 2002. Since the main divisions in each article were zero-numbered, I have elected to give alphabetical letters A through L to these 12 articles as arranged for this publication. Besides the General Table of Contents above, and this General Introduction, the reader will find that some of the individual articles have Tables of Contents and Introductions.

I make no apology for presenting my Second Coming views in this publication, which views differ greatly from those Pre-Tribulational-Pre-Millennial interpretations that are in such

great circulation today. However, in publishing them, I would emphasize that I consider one's views on Eschatology to be of far lesser importance than his or her views on Salvation. While I believe as I do strongly, I am at the same time content for all to disagree with me on the subject who choose so to do. -- DVM

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A. -- SHALL THESE UNBIBLICAL MIXTURES BE IN A COMING MILLENNIUM?

"... neither doth corruption inherit incorruption" (1 Corinthians 15:42).

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## INTRODUCTION

It really is too bad that often there is more HEAT than LIGHT in people's prophetic views and writings. However, as strongly as I believe as I do, it is hoped that these prophetic articles will spread Scriptural Light by which some, at least, will be enabled to see more clearly the truth concerning Second Coming prophecy. At the same time, it is my hope that the HEAT of personal emotion and prejudice will not be unduly aroused by them. Heated debate seldom does much more than solidify people in the views they already held before the debate began, but sometimes a cool, calm, and collected consideration of Biblical facts can help even the most prejudiced adherent of a false teaching to see the light on the matter, abandon his error, and embrace the truth.

With such in mind, I offer this brief article.

It is my belief that if those who have for long years felt duty-bound to place a literal interpretation on Revelation 20 could somehow be helped to see that such an interpretation of this chapter is not only unnecessary, but also unlikely -- then it is that they can also be helped to see how totally contradictory with the rest of the Bible are some of the things taught about a supposed Millennium after Christ's Return.

SOME OF THOSE CONTRADICTIONS INVOLVE UNBIBLICAL MIXTURES -- mixtures that should obviously be seen as unScriptural, but mixtures which are accepted as

necessary to the alleged, coming Millennial Kingdom of Christ for 1,000 years following His Return. In the following, let us look at several of these unBiblical mixtures that Millennialists assert shall exist in the supposed coming Millennial Reign of Christ on this earth.

\* \* \*

## 01 -- THE UNBIBLICAL MIXTURE OF CORRUPTION WITH INCORRUPTION

1 Peter 1:3-4 reads: -- "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **TO AN INHERITANCE INCORRUPTIBLE**, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved **IN HEAVEN** for you."

This verse alone should be enough to raise ominous doubts in the minds of those who espouse Millennial views. Christians are begotten again unto **AN HEAVENLY INHERITANCE**, not unto an earthly inheritance, and unto **AN INHERITANCE THAT IS INCORRUPTIBLE**, and thus **UNDEFILED**.

The supposed mixture on earth for 1,000 long years of **CORRUPT AND CORRUPTIBLE BEINGS WITH INCORRUPT AND INCORRUPTIBLE BEINGS** is one of the most striking contradictions of Biblical truth made by Millennialists!

Listen to the apostle Paul on the subject:

"So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption... Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption" (1 Cor 15:42, 50).

How much plainer need the Bible be!? -- **CORRUPTIBLE BEINGS -- FLESH AND BLOOD BEINGS** -- not only **SHALL NOT**, but **CANNOT -- CANNOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD!**

How many Kingdoms does the reader think Christ has? Apart from the misinterpretation from Revelation 20 of a supposed, coming Millennial Kingdom, **THERE IS NOT ONE SINGLE VERSE IN THE BIBLE STATING THAT THERE IS SUCH!** Furthermore, to insist that there not only shall be such a kingdom, but that it shall be populated with an incompatible, inharmonious, and impossible mixture of **CORRUPT AND CORRUPTIBLE BEINGS** among **INCORRUPT AND INCORRUPTIBLE BEINGS** is to contradict the plain statements of God's Word! Why, oh why? are holiness people, who are exceedingly strict about the separation of God's people from the world, so slow, so reluctant, to see this truth!?

Friends, when Jesus comes back, He is **NOT** going to set up that kind of Kingdom -- anywhere -- period! -- not for 1 second, let alone for 1,000 years!

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## 02 -- THE UNBIBLICAL MIXTURE OF DARKNESS WITH LIGHT

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and **WHAT COMMUNION HATH LIGHT WITH DARKNESS?** And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you" (2 Cor. 6:14-17).

According to the teachings of Millennialists, Christ is going to set up an earthly kingdom which for 1,000 long years shall be composed of the fleshly servants of **DARKNESS** mingled in with and among the glorified **SAINTS OF LIGHT!**

When St. Paul exultantly declared to the saints in Colossians 1:12 -- "Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath **MADE US MEET TO BE PARTAKERS OF THE INHERITANCE OF THE SAINTS IN LIGHT,**" who dares to suppose that he was speaking of an "inheritance of the saints in **LIGHT**" that was to be occupied for 1,000 years by Satan's servants of **DARKNESS!** The very idea is so palpably contradictory to the true picture of Christ's Coming Kingdom painted in the Bible that it should make believers shudder to even think of believing such a thing!

Yet, because many Christians are **LITERALLY BOUND** in their interpretation of Revelation 20 -- they feel that they **MUST SWALLOW SUCH CONTRADICTIONS** -- even though many professed Millennialists themselves are shaking their heads, wondering how such mixtures could ever be. Unable, either by Scripture or Logic, to explain these things, they just **SWALLOW THEM WHOLE AS SOMETHING THEY FEEL THEY MOST DO** -- while relegating these inconsistencies to the "bone-pile" of things they consider to be inexplicable, Divine mysteries!

As I see it, **THESE UNBIBLICAL AND CONTRADICTIONARY MIXTURES IN A SUPPOSED MILLENNIAL KINGDOM SHOULD BE DEALT WITH -- HEAD ON!** -- and if the honest Biblical interpreter cannot reconcile them by comparing Scripture with Scripture, then they should be discarded as untrue, -- and the honest student of prophecy should seek to interpret Revelation 20 differently, for it is this being **LITERALLY BOUND** in the interpretation of Rev. 20 that gives birth to all of these palpable contradictions!

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## 03 -- THE UNBIBLICAL MIXTURE OF THE UNCHANGED WITH THE CHANGED

"Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall **ALL be CHANGED,** 1 Cor 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be **CHANGED**" (1 Cor 15:51-52).

"If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

When a person is saved there is a great CHANGE; when a person is sanctified wholly there is a greater, inward CHANGE; and when the saints are glorified completely -- there shall come the greatest CHANGE EVER SEEN -- WORLD WITHOUT END!

Those who are not "changed" into New, Holy, and Glorified Creatures by God's Spirit shall never inhabit any part of Christ's Messianic Kingdom -- ANYTIME, ANYWHERE! Mark it down!

Jesus made it exceedingly clear that "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3), and yet Pre-Millennial interpreters insist that spiritually "unchanged" individuals -- those not born again, those not sanctified wholly, and those not glorified completely shall not only occupy places in a supposed Millennial Kingdom, but shall rise up and rebel against Christ, seeking to destroy Him, His People, and His Kingdom at its close! THERE IS NOT ONE VERSE OF SCRIPTURE TO SUPPORT THESE ASSERTIONS!

Repeatedly, the New Testament portrays the Second Coming as that eternally climactic event which shall FOREVER "SEVER THE WICKED FROM AMONG THE JUST" (Matt. 13:49) -- not an event that will usher in their mingling together for even one second!

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#### 04 -- THE UNBIBLICAL MIXTURE OF THE EARTHY WITH THE HEAVENLY

"As is THE EARTHY, such are they also that are earthy: and as is THE HEAVENLY, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of THE EARTHY, we shall also bear the image of THE HEAVENLY" (1 Cor. 15:48-49).

Nowhere, apart from the interpretations of Millennialists, do we find even one hint that Christ's Coming Messianic Kingdom is "EARTHY" in its make-up or location!

Paul confidently said in 2 Timothy 4:18 -- "And THE LORD SHALL deliver me from every evil work, and will PRESERVE ME UNTO HIS HEAVENLY KINGDOM: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

Paul did not say that the Lord would preserve him unto "His Millennial Kingdom On Earth"! Rightly so, Paul anticipated his entry next into Christ's "HEAVENLY KINGDOM"!

And, it should be clear to any and every honest interpreter of prophecy that the true essence of Christ's Coming Kingdom is "HEAVENLY" not "EARTHY"! The dominion of the First Adam, at its beginning, was a Paradise, or "Heavenly" and then became "Earthy" after the Fall. Shall we believe that the dominion of the Unfallen, Second Adam shall be first "Earthy" and then "Heavenly"?

I trow not. All those in Christ's Coming Messianic Kingdom will "bear the image of the Heavenly," and there will be none in it, and nothing in it, that does not totally bear that "Heavenly Image" -- forever!

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## 05 -- THE UNBIBLICAL MIXTURE OF THE MORTAL WITH THE IMMORTAL

"For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this MORTAL MUST PUT ON IMMORTALITY. 1 Cor 15:54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this MORTAL shall have put on IMMORTALITY, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory" (1 Cor. 15:53-54).

Speaking of the saints' entry into Heaven, the Hymn, "When They Ring Those Golden Bells" has words something as follows:

"One by one we pass the Portals,  
There to dwell with the Immortals..."

I declare that THE ONLY PORTALS one can ever enter so as "THERE TO DWELL WITH GOD'S IMMORTALS" -- ARE THE PORTALS OF THE NEW JERUSALEM!

Friends, after the Return of Christ, ALL SOULS shall pass through ETERNAL PORTALS -- THERE TO DWELL FOREVER -- EITHER WITH SATAN'S "IMMORALS" OR GOD'S "IMMORTALS". As this writer sees it, the supposed mingling together of two such antipodes -- two such diametrically opposed opposites -- for 1,000 years would be a contradiction of both the Bible and the Holy Nature and Purpose of God. Selah.

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## B. -- TO WHOM, AND WHERE, THIS SCRIPTURE SHALL BE FULFILLED

"Also I WILL ORDAIN A PLACE FOR MY PEOPLE ISRAEL, and will plant them, and THEY SHALL DWELL IN THEIR PLACE, AND SHALL BE MOVED NO MORE; neither shall the children of wickedness waste them any more, as at the beginning" (1 Chron. 17:9).

\* \* \*

Unsatisfied that God's Presence and Ark dwelt "under curtains" while he, as Israel's King, dwelt in an house of cedar, David purposed to build a fitting place -- a stately temple appropriate for the habitation of Jehovah -- and, the prophet Nathan gave him leave so to do -- (1 Chron. 17:1-2).

But, the Lord overruled Nathan's well-intentioned, but wrongly-given permission with a message directly from heaven, part of which conveyed the fact that GOD WAS GOING TO BUILD DAVID AN HOUSE INSTEAD -- and "stablish" the throne of David's son "forever" (1 Chron. 17:11-12).

The fulfillment of this part of God's message to David through Nathan was NOT fulfilled under Solomon. Informed Bible students know that King David's House and Throne are now established forever in the Divine Person of the Greater Son of David, Jesus Christ.

But a second part of God's message to David through Nathan is found in our text above, 1 Chron. 17:9 stating that God would "ORDAIN A PLACE" FOR HIS PEOPLE ISRAEL -- A PLACE WHEREIN THEY WOULD BE ETERNALLY PLANTED AND THERE DWELL FOREVERMORE. Further, this fixed and eternal place of Israel's abode would be one where "the children of wickedness" would never again harm nor "waste them any more" (1 Chron. 17:9).

Now, let us consider below, both the People to whom this promise was made, and the Place in which it shall be fulfilled:

\* \* \*

#### 01 -- THE PEOPLE TO WHOM THE PROMISE WAS MADE

At first blush, God's promises to King David appeared to be only to himself and to his son, Solomon. But, time and inspired Scripture has revealed that the primary Person to Whom the promise was made was Jesus Christ, the Greater David and the Greater Than Solomon.

At first blush likewise, the promise seems to be to flesh and blood Israel -- to the subjects of David, Solomon, and to the subjects of their successors on the earthly throne. But, once again, time and inspired Scriptures have revealed that the primary People to whom the promise of a planted, secure, and eternal abode was made are -- not flesh and blood Israel, but -- the Spiritual Israel of God, the subjects of the Greater David and Greater Than Solomon, Jesus Christ.

MANY THINGS in the unfulfilled prophecies to Israel shall have their fulfillment -- not to earthly Israel -- but to "the Israel of God," (Gal. 6:16) -- to those who" in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy" (1 Pet. 2:10).

Promises which many insist shall have a fulfillment to Earthly Israel in the realm of TIME and involving things MATERIAL during a supposed future Millennium, shall, in fact, have their fulfillment to Spiritual Israel in the realm of ETERNITY and involving things SPIRITUAL, AND THINGS MADE OF THAT "BETTER AND ENDURING SUBSTANCE" of the New Heavens, New Earth, and New Jerusalem.

It is a mistake, therefore, to insist upon earthly fulfillments to flesh and blood Israel of many Messianic prophecies. Is God through with the Jews? No! But, the final remnant of earthly Israel shall be saved, sanctified, and incorporated into the Spiritual "Israel of God" in order to receive the fulfillment of the promise in our text as well as the fulfillment of various other Messianic promises.

In Galatians 3:28 and Col. 3:11, St. Paul makes it clear that in the Spiritual Israel of God, there is neither male nor female, Greek nor Jew, Scythian, slave (bond) nor free -- all being

Divinely amalgamated and homogenized by the new-birth into "one nation, under God" and in Christ Jesus -- "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God" (Gal. 6:15-16). God's Israel consists of those who "were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:13). Paul declared: "If ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Gal. 3:29).

It should be clear to any discerning student of prophecy, then, that it is the Church to whom shall be fulfilled the promise of our text as well as the fulfillment of many other Messianic promises. "For he is not a Jew [a part of God's Israel], which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God" (Rom. 2:28-29).

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## 02 -- THE PLACE IN WHICH THE PROMISE SHALL BE FULFILLED

The truth here is so obvious that little, or no, comment should be necessary. God has "ordained" HEAVEN as THE PLACE where his people shall dwell forever, never to move again -- and never again to be threatened by "the children of wickedness."

Now comes the question: Shall God ever locate His People ANYWHERE other than in THE PLACE WHICH HE HAS ORDAINED?

Obviously, in this present world, following the Great Commission Jesus has sent His People throughout the globe -- ergo, the PLACE ordained for His people, mentioned in my text, has not yet had its fulfillment -- but shall it EVER have its fulfillment in any way ON THIS EARTH?

No! It shall not. After their rejection of Christ, the Jews were scattered throughout the globe, but, no doubt when many of the orthodox Jews returned to Palestine when the nation of earthly Israel was reconstituted in 1948, some of those Jews still hoped that God would fulfill to them 1 Chronicles 17:9 -- in that land.

IT SHALL NOT BE! Israel has returned to Palestine, but they have not (as a people) returned to God. Are they now secure? Are they now in that ORDAINED PLACE from whence they shall never again move, and wherein they are secure and safe from all attacks from "the children of wickedness"?

Your daily newspaper in August, 2002 will give you part of that answer: THEY CERTAINLY ARE NOT SECURE AND FREE FROM ATTACK in Palestine -- and, I confidently declare that the promise of 1 Chron. 17:9 shall neither have its fulfillment to the nation of Israel as now constituted, nor shall it ever have its fulfillment in earthly Palestine -- not for so much as 1 day, let alone for 1,000 years!



Has God "given" Palestine to the Jews? Yes, but not as His Ordained, Eternal Place for His true Israel. And, concerning Palestine as a Divine gift to the Jews, the following Scripture definitely applies: "..the things that I have given them shall pass away from them" (Jer. 8:13).

1 Chronicles 17:9 shall have its true and eternal fulfillment in conjunction with Jesus' promise in John 14:2-3 -- "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU. And IF I GO AND PREPARE A PLACE for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

THE PLACE to which Jesus shall take, and then PLANT, HIS PEOPLE FOREVER -- the place from whence they shall never move -- is none other than THE HOLY CITY, NEW JERUSALEM -- that eternally secure abode where there shall be no more threat from "the children of wickedness," nor from their father, the devil -- for, shut forever "without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie," and within "there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and His servants shall serve Him" (Rev. 22:15, 3) -- world without end!

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#### C. -- BECAUSE CHRIST IS GREATER THAN...

"But I say unto you, That in this place is ONE GREATER THAN..." (Matt. 12:6).

\* \* \*

#### INTRODUCTION

In addition to declaring Christ's Omnipotence, the New Testament also repeatedly says that He is GREATER than this and that particular thing. In this article, I shall present some verses of Scripture wherein Christ is said to be Greater than a thing, and I will focus upon some specific results of Christ being greater than the thing mentioned, using the introductory clause, "Because Christ Is Greater Than..." in each case.

Only some of this article touches upon prophecy. It is my hope that some who have no interest in my prophetic views will at least read those parts that do no pertain to eschatology.

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07 -- Because Christ is Greater Than The Strong Man...

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01 -- BECAUSE CHRIST IS GREATER THAN THE TEMPLE, -- THERE SHALL BE NO TEMPLE IN HIS MESSIANIC KINGDOM.

"But I say unto you, That in this place is one GREATER THAN THE TEMPLE." (Matt. 12:6).

It was a great honor for Jewish priests to enter into the tabernacle and temple of Solomon. They could only do so through the shed blood of animal sacrifices. It is a much greater honor to enter into Christ, even into the very Holy of Holies in Christ. This too, can only be done only through shed blood -- not the shed blood of animals, but the shed blood of Christ Himself, the Lamb of God. Through the blood of Jesus, the saved can enter into the sanctifying, Holy of Holies in Christ, "By a new and living way... through the veil, that is to say, His flesh" (Heb. 10:20).

Why shall there be no temple in the Holy City? BECAUSE CHRIST HIMSELF IS THE TEMPLE THERE, GREATER THAN ANY TEMPLE MAN CAN BUILD: Rev. 21:22 -- "And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it."

Friends, only God can put a Greater into a Lesser: Thus, He Who is the Greater Temple CAN dwell in the temple of man's body, but even THIS lesser temple is one that Christ made. However, He Who is Greater than any earthly temple shall not occupy any lesser, earthly temple made by man. The Greater Temple, Christ Himself, does not fit nor belong in any temple made by man. Herein, we see vividly illustrated one of the mistakes of Millennialism: i. e. that Christ shall come and occupy a Jewish, man-made temple in the earthly Jerusalem for 1,000 years after His return.

In Acts 7:48-49 tells us: -- "Howbeit THE MOST HIGH DWELLETH NOT IN TEMPLES MADE WITH HANDS; as saith the prophet, Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: WHAT HOUSE WILL YE BUILD ME? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?"

This same truth is reiterated in Acts 17:24:-- "GOD THAT MADE THE WORLD and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, DWELLETH NOT IN TEMPLES MADE WITH HANDS."

How much plainer need the Bible be on this matter? Of Christ, John writes: "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made" (John 1:3). CHRIST IS "GOD THAT MADE THE WORLD," and He shall never dwell in a temple made with hands, nor shall he reign while sitting on "earth" His "foostool" -- rather, He shall reign sitting in "Heaven" His "Throne"!

There shall be no disappointed Millennialists in Christ's Messianic Kingdom, even when they see "no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it" (Rev. 21:22), and I am sure that they will be very happy with the arrangement, just as Christ made it.

What need will there be for a temple in Christ's Messianic Kingdom when all who dwell therein will be IN CHRIST HIMSELF, THE GREATER TEMPLE? -- NONE, ABSOLUTELY NONE!

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02 -- BECAUSE CHRIST IS GREATER THAN JONAH, -- THE RESULTS OF IGNORING OR OBEYING HIS MESSAGE ARE IMMEASURABLY GREATER.

"Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, A GREATER THAN JONAS IS HERE" (Matt. 12:38-41).

Without having seen any miraculous sign, the Ninevites repented at the preaching of Jonah. Contrary to this, the Jews of Jesus' earthly days wanted some miraculous sign that would prove to their satisfaction that He was one to whom they should give heed. Jesus alluded to the facts: (a) that there was a "miraculous sign" connected with Jonah's preaching which the Ninevites did not see, and did not demand:-- viz., Jonah's miraculous resurrection from the belly of the whale -- and, (b) that there would be another great and miraculous sign in connection with His own preaching which THEY would not believe, even though it occurred in their midst:-- i. e., His miraculous resurrection from death. However, Christ's inference seems to be this: If the Ninevites believed Jonah, having seen no sign, then how much more must they believe His preaching, without seeing signs and wonders -- and if they did not, they would not escape destruction, as did the Ninevites, and they would be condemned at the Judgment. Unlike Jonah, Jesus' warnings were neither believed nor heeded, and in 70 A.D. destruction fell on Jerusalem.

But the import and impact of Christ's statements in Matt. 12:38-41 do not end with the destruction of Jerusalem. Every succeeding generation of every nation on earth that disbelieves and ignores the message of Christ shall receive a much greater punishment from Christ than the threatened destruction of Nineveh -- for a Greater than Jonah has been crying out for nearly 2,000 years: "O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the Lord! ... "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel" (Jer. 22:29; Mark 1:15).

On the other hand, He Who is Greater than Jonah offers a much greater mercy than that of escaping the first death, and a much greater salvation than that of escaping the negative consequences of the second death:-- the greater salvation of the Greater than Jonah provides the penitent believer with deliverance from all sin and delight in the glories of Heaven, forever!

\* \* \*

03 -- BECAUSE CHRIST IS GREATER THAN SOLOMON, -- A GREATER COMING TO HIM IS REQUIRED AND A GREATER PERSUASION AWAITS THE COMER.

"The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, A GREATER THAN SOLOMON IS HERE" (Matt. 12:42).

In 1 Kings 10:7, the queen of Sheba said to Solomon: "Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard."

The journey of the queen of Sheba, or "queen of the south," was a long one for her day, and, compared with our modes of travel today, it was probably quite arduous, time-consuming, and difficult -- but, in spite of the obstacles and difficulties, "SHE CAME" to hear Solomon's wisdom.

In Matt. 12:42, Jesus apparently alludes to the fact that none can really KNOW HIM who do not make a definite effort to COME TO HIM. The queen of Sheba could only KNOW THE REALITY OF SOLOMON'S GLORY BY COMING TO HIM, -- and those who settle for an easy, "take it by faith" acceptance of Christ NEVER REALLY KNOW HIS GLORY! They may be professedly convinced about Christ, but they KNOW NOTHING OF HIS GLORIOUS SALVATION, for it is revealed only to those who have taken the spiritual journey of repentance, restitution, and humbling necessary in coming to Christ -- a spiritual trek which most consider to be too arduous, and too costly. It is easy to profess faith in Christ -- it is quite another thing to travel down the rugged road of Biblical repentance to the very end of that trail, and there discover and receive the glorious knowledge of full salvation. Christ will give the "knowledge of salvation" (Luke 1:77) only to those who make this trip.

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04 -- BECAUSE CHRIST IS GREATER THAN JACOB, -- HIS OFFSPRING ARE THE TRUE ISRAEL, AND HIS WELL IS MORE SATISFYING.

"Art thou GREATER THAN our father JACOB, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?" (John 4:12).

Jacob begat 12 sons from whom sprang earthly Israel. Jesus begat 12 spiritual sons (excluding Judas and including Paul) from whom sprang spiritual Israel. Jacob's offspring drank from his earthly well and thirsted again. Jesus' spiritual offspring drink from His spiritual well, and thirst no more: "Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life" (John 4:13-14).

In John 7:37, we read that "Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink." Those in the Spiritual Israel who have come to Him and who have quaffed their spiritual thirst from Him, drinking in His water of Life, can truly sing with the songwriter:

"Lo, I have found it, the Crystal Fountain,  
Where all my soul's deep needs have been supplied--  
So freely flowing, from Calvary's Mountain,  
And now my soul is fully satisfied."

\* \* \*

05 -- BECAUSE CHRIST IS GREATER THAN ABRAHAM, -- HE EVER LIVETH!

"Art thou GREATER THAN our father ABRAHAM, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself?" (John 8:53).

Now here is SHOUTING GROUND! Abraham died and "is dead" still physically (although, he liveth unto God) -- but Christ died, and NOW LIVES AGAIN, proclaiming to three worlds in Revelation 1:18 -- "I AM HE THAT LIVETH, AND WAS DEAD; AND, BEHOLD, I AM ALIVE FOR EVERMORE, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."

YES, IN THAT HE LIVETH, CHRIST IS GREATER THAN ABRAHAM, AND to His faithful people He also says in John 14:19 -- "Because I live, ye shall live also." No wonder then, that the saints are singing:

"Because He lives, I can face tomorrow;  
Because He lives, all fear is gone;  
Because I know Who holds the future,  
My life is worth the living,  
Just BECAUSE HE LIVES!"

\* \* \*

06 -- BECAUSE CHRIST IS GREATER THAN OUR HEARTS, -- HE KNOWS THEM PERFECTLY AND CAN CLEANSE THEM ENTIRELY.

"For if our heart condemn us, GOD IS GREATER THAN OUR HEART, and knoweth all things" (1 John 3:20).

John 2:25 tells us that Jesus "knew what was in man." He knew what was in Nathanael, and without ever having met him in the flesh, when "Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him" He could say knowingly, "Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" (John 1:47). Conversely, before ever it occurred, Jesus knew what was in Peter and foretold him: "Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice" (Matthew 26:34).

But of what use to fallen men would be such Divine knowledge about their hearts, if Christ was unable to purge and cleanse the human heart from all sin?

If Christ KNEW what is in man's heart and WOULD NOT CLEANSE THEM, then we might have grounds for doubting His Love. But if Christ KNEW the awful state of man's fallen heart and WOULD CLEANSE THEM, BUT COULD NOT DO SO, then He would not be God!

The glorious truth is: Christ is Greater than Man's Heart in every way. There is nothing hidden in the human heart that He does not KNOW, and there is nothing therein that He cannot and will not purge! -- TODAY -- IN THIS PRESENT LIFE. Christ is Greater than our hearts: "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him" (Heb. 7:25).

\* \* \*

07 -- BECAUSE CHRIST IS GREATER THAN THE STRONG MAN, -- SATAN IS BOUND, AND GLORIOUS FREEDOM IS AVAILABLE!

"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because GREATER IS HE THAT IS IN YOU, THAN HE THAT IS IN THE WORLD" (1 John 4:4).

There was a time when Satan, The Strong Man of Hell, kept his goods securely, unspoiled by any liberator, because there was none on earth stronger than he. Speaking of this state of things, Jesus said in Luke 11:21 -- "When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace."

Before Christ came, there was none on earth able to dispossess and spoil Satan's goods, but JESUS CAME -- HE WHO IS GREATER THAN HE WHO IS IN THE WORLD -- and JESUS OVERCAME THE STRONG MAN AND BEGAN SPOILING HIS GOODS! Luke 11:22 -- "But when A STRONGER THAN HE SHALL COME upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils." DO I HEAR SOMEONE SHOUT, "HALLELUJAH!"?

But -- JESUS DID NOT SIMPLY OVERCOME THE DEVIL -- HE BOUND HIM!!

"Or else HOW CAN ONE enter into a strong man's house, and SPOIL HIS GOODS, EXCEPT HE FIRST BIND THE STRONG MAN? and then he will spoil his house" (Matt. 12:29).

"NO MAN CAN enter into a strong man's house, and SPOIL HIS GOODS, EXCEPT HE WILL FIRST BIND THE STRONG MAN; and then he will spoil his house" (Mark 3:27).

Reader -- student of both Salvation and Prophecy -- do you get the picture?

Christ is GREATER THAN HE THAT IS IN THE WORLD, and, He that is in the world, Satan, the Strong Man, has been bound by Christ -- and this was done at Calvary!

Of Jesus' sacrificial death and glorious resurrection, the Word tells us that "having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it" (Col. 2:15).

For nearly 2,000 years, Jesus has been spoiling Satan's house! He is Greater than he that is in the world -- he has triumphed over him, bound him, and has been liberating Satan's captives around the globe wherever, and whenever, they cry out in repentance and faith for deliverance.

When Jesus "ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men" (Eph. 4:8) -- gifts of deliverance and freedom -- BECAUSE HE BOUND THE STRONG MAN!

Thus it is, that the sanctified can sing from the heart:

"Once I was bound by sin's galling fetters,  
Chained like a slave, I struggled in vain,  
But I received a glorious freedom,  
When Jesus broke my fetters in twain!

"Glorious freedom! Wonderful freedom!  
No more in chains of sin I repine;  
Jesus, the Glorious Emancipator,  
Now and forever, He shall be mine!"

Why, then, is it that so many Holiness folks declare that Satan is not bound? If Satan was not bound, then every man on earth WOULD BE BOUND! -- in the galling chains of sin. But, One Greater than Satan came upon him, overcame him at Calvary, bound him, and has been emancipating Satan's goods -- his stolen slaves -- for nearly 2,000 years! I say HALLELUJAH!

Concerning "the angels that sinned," 1 Peter 2:4 tells us that "GOD... DELIVERED THEM INTO CHAINS of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment." Now please don't tell me that fallen Lucifer was not among those sinning angels that were "delivered into chains," for Lucifer was the first angel who sinned!

Furthermore, Jude 1:6 tells us that "the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, He [GOD] HATH RESERVED IN EVERLASTING CHAINS under darkness unto the judgment of the great day."

Again -- it was Jesus (God Incarnate) who bound Lucifer and all of his imps, and He did it at Calvary!

Those Holiness folks who insist that Satan's binding shall only occur AFTER CHRIST'S SECOND COMING, too frequently overlook the glorious fact that CHRIST BOUND SATAN AT HIS FIRST COMING, NEARLY 2,000 YEARS AGO -- and -- THAT IS WHY CHRIST'S SANCTIFIED SAINTS HAVE GLORIOUS FREEDOM NOW!

\* \* \* \* \*

D. -- THE LAST GENTILE AND JEW -- SAVED BEFORE THE REVELATION

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\* \* \*

## 01 -- MY TEXT

For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that **BLINDNESS IN PART IS HAPPENED TO ISRAEL, UNTIL THE FULNESS OF THE GENTILES BE COME IN. AND SO ALL ISRAEL SHALL BE SAVED:** as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob" (Rom. 11:25-26).

\* \* \*

## 02 -- THE PURPOSE AND LOGIC OF THE ARTICLE

It is the purpose of this brief article to persuade the reader that "the last Gentile and Jew shall be saved before the Revelation of Christ" -- and that therefore, none will be saved thereafter. And, in presenting this thesis, I beg the reader's close attention to the following Scriptural Logic:

(1) This writer, along with Pre-Tribulationists and Pre-Millennialists, believes that a final remnant of flesh and blood Israel shall be converted on the Day of the Lord -- the Day of Christ's Revelation-Return -- no disagreement here.

(2) However, Pre-Millennialists say that **AFTER** Christ's Return, Gentiles shall be saved during a 1,000-year extended period of time. I declare that **ROMANS 11:25-26 SHOWS THAT THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE.**

(3) Romans 11:25-26 says that **THE REMNANT FROM EARTHLY ISRAEL SHALL BE SAVED ONLY AFTER THE LAST GENTILE IS SAVED -- AFTER "THE FULNESS OF THE GENTILES BE COME IN."** The logic here is very simple: (a) Before Christ's Return, the Last Gentile will be saved; (b) Then, shall come the glorious conversion and sanctification of the final Remnant; (c) **AFTER WHICH NO MORE GENTILES SHALL BE SAVED -- MEANING: NO GENTILES COULD POSSIBLY BE SAVED IN A SUPPOSED, MILLENNIUM AFTER CHRIST'S RETURN.**

\* \* \*

## 03 -- THE ORDER I PERCEIVE FOR COMING EVENTS



This writer perceives the unfolding of future eschatological events as follows:

(1) The Church will pass through, not be raptured away from, the 7-year Tribulation. Many Scriptures verify this fact, among them: 1 Peter 1:13 -- "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for THE GRACE THAT IS TO BE BROUGHT UNTO YOU AT THE REVELATION of Jesus Christ." It should be clear to all, Peter says here that the grace of glorification shall be brought unto the saints "AT THE REVELATION" of Christ -- the Greek word here for "revelation" being "apokalupsis," which word Pre-Tribulationists say refers to Christ's Revelation AFTER the Tribulation. I agree, it DOES, but Peter says here that it is THEN that the grace of glorification shall be brought unto the saints, and NOT at a supposed, secret Rapture 7 years earlier.

(2) Near the close of the final three and one-half years of the Great Tribulation, out of great anguish, a final Remnant of Flesh and Blood Israel will repent, believe on Christ and be both gloriously saved and sanctified: Isaiah 66:8 -- "Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children." Zechariah 13:1 -- "In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness." Out of their great travail shall come this miraculous conversion and cleansing of the final Remnant of earthly Israel -- wherewith, they shall become a part of the Spiritual "Israel of God" (Gal. 6:16).

(3) Shortly after this dramatic conversion and cleansing of the Final Remnant of earthly Israel, Jesus will split the Eastern Sky -- His Glorious Revelation shall occur.

(4) While still on earth, Jesus told earthly Israel in Luke 13:35:-- "Behold, your house is left unto you desolate: and verily I say unto you, YE SHALL NOT SEE ME, UNTIL the time come when YE SHALL SAY, BLESSED IS HE THAT COMETH IN THE NAME OF THE LORD."

(5) With the Last Gentile saved, and the Last Jew converted, Jesus will appear in all of His Splendor and Great Glory! The Entire Church (including the Last Gentile saved and the last Jew saved) will look up and SEE JESUS COMING -- AND SHOUT: "BLESSED IS HE THAT COMETH IN THE NAME OF THE LORD"!!! -- Hallelujah! Is not this something you should shout about!

(6) Then, The Last Trump shall sound and Jesus "shall.. send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven" (Mark 13:27). The dead in Christ shall be raised, those which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord (including that final, converted Remnant), "shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air," thenceforth and forever to "be with the Lord" (1 Thess 4:17). Even "SO ALL ISRAEL SHALL BE SAVED: as it is written" (Rom. 11:25). THE ENTIRE ISRAEL OF GOD THAT EVER SHALL BE SAVED WILL THEN BE SAVED -- NO MORE TO BE ADDED TO IT, the time having then been fulfilled when the Church has "come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).

(7) Whereupon, with His Raptured Church, Christ shall destroy the wicked "in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; when he shall come to be glorified in his saints" (2 Thess. 2:8-10).

Then, echoing the same, shall come the fulfillment of Mal 4:1-3 -- "For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts."\*

[\*The "ruling" of the saints and Christ at His Second Coming will NOT be a "ruling" that lasts 1,000 more earthly years, over a kow-towing, boot-licking, but inwardly unregenerate and hostile world. It will, rather, be that which is pictured in Psalm 2:9:-- "Thou shalt BREAK THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON; thou shalt DASH THEM IN PIECES like a potter's vessel." THIS, is how Christ and His saints shall rule over the wicked nations with a "rod of iron" at his Return -- BREAKING THEM, DASHING THEM TO PIECES -- and, as Malachi put it -- TREADING DOWN THE WICKED TO ASHES UNDER THE SOLES OF THEIR FEET! I It is a "ruling" that metes out sudden and total destruction upon a wicked world -- not a subduing and suppression of evil for 10 Centuries!! I could elaborate much more on this, but now I forbear -- perhaps more on this at another time.]

(8) The Last Gentile that ever shall be saved will have already been saved; the last Jew that ever shall be saved will have already been saved; then Christ and the raptured Israel of God will utterly destroy anti-Christ and all of the wicked, leaving them "neither root nor branch" on earth. Whereupon, all of the wicked dead shall be resurrected, and see Christ coming with His saints in the clouds.\* [See Point 04 Below] Then, as Christ's feet have stand upon the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14:4), the earth and the universe, as they now exist, will be burned up: "the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up" (2 Pet. 3:10). Then -- all shall be gathered to the Great White Throne Judgment.

\* \* \*

#### 04 -- THE TWO REAPINGS = THE TWO RESURRECTIONS IN RAPID SUCCESSION

The fact that the resurrection of the wicked follows fast on the heels of the resurrection of the righteous can be seen in the two reapings of Revelation 14:12-20:

FIRST REAPING -- RESURRECTION-RAPTURE OF THE RIGHTEOUS PICTURED IN REV. 14:12-16 -- "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their

labours; and their works do follow them. 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**. [Here has been pictured the resurrection-rapture of those saints who have "died in the Lord" and those are alive and remain unto Christ's Second Coming] -- Then, fast on the heels of that Reaping-Resurrection and Rapture of the Righteous we read:

**SECOND REAPING -- RESURRECTION-GATHERING OF THE WICKED PICTURED IN REV. 14:17-20** -- "And 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** [Here is the reaping and resurrection of wicked], 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."

The unity of this passage cannot be divided:-- it speaks of two dramatic events, the one following rapidly on the heels of the other: -- (a) the Resurrection and Rapture of the saints, and (b) the Resurrection, Gathering together to judgment and eternal destruction of the wicked -- both also pictured as occurring, if you please, at the time the Great Harvester, The Son of Man, is seen in the clouds -- which time will be at His Revelation. Again, we see both the resurrection of the righteous and that of the wicked occurring at the time Christ Returns in the clouds -- not the former occurring then, and the latter 1,000 years later. Thus it is, that the wicked Caiaphas will see Christ "coming in the clouds of heaven" (Matt. 26:64).

\* \* \*

## 05 -- WHAT I HOPE THE READER CAN CLEARLY SEE

It is hoped through the preceding that the reader can clearly see:

- (1) The Last Gentile will be saved before Christ's Return.
- (2) The Last Jew will be saved before Christ's Return.

(3) The united, "Perfect Man" in Christ, when seeing the Glorious Revelation of Christ coming in the clouds will shout in exultation: "Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord," and then be caught up together to meet the Lord in the air.

(4) Then shall come the slaughter of the wicked, their resurrection, so that with wicked Caiaphas they shall see Christ coming in the clouds of heaven, bringing with Him bring both **HIS SAINTS** and **THEIR ETERNAL DOOM**.

(5) With the touch down of Christ and His saints on the earth "all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll [including the earth]: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree." (The slaughter of all the wicked, their resurrection, and the dissolution of the earth and the universe as they now exist are repeatedly shown in the scriptures as taking place at the same climactic time -- at Christ's Return. Thus, the precise sequence of the resurrection of the wicked, and the dissolution of the universe matters little -- they shall occur very close together if not exactly together.)

(6) Then, in short order all shall be ushered to the General Judgment, being the Judgment described both in Matthew 25-31-46 and also in Revelation 20:11-15 -- "And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

(7) It should be clear to all that **WHEN CHRIST RETURNS -- EVERYTHING RELATED TO TIME ENDS -- THE JUDGMENT OF ALL OCCURS -- ETERNITY BEGINS, WITH EACH BEING BROUGHT OR SENT TO HIS "LONG HOME" (Eccl. 12:5) FOREVER!**

Friends, when the Church is Raptured at the Revelation, A-DOUBLE-L -- "ALL Israel shall be saved" -- none to ever be added or diminished from that "Perfect Man" from henceforth, even forevermore!

\* \* \*

## 06 -- WHAT I BELIEVE TO BE BOTH ERRONEOUS AND SAD

As I read and believe the Bible, the idea that people will be saved during extended periods of 7+1,000 years following the Rapture of Christ is both erroneous -- and sad! -- erroneous, in that men shall not have TIME in which to be saved after "the fulness of the Gentiles" has "come in" just before the Revelation-Rapture; and sad because some are even now duped into thinking that even if they miss the Rapture, somehow they might just possibly live years and years longer, and be saved either during the 7 year Tribulation or some time on into another 1,000 years after that!

I believe that enough prophetic scripture may already be historically and otherwise fulfilled, so that Christ could split the Eastern Sky today! Further, I believe that ANY teaching that asserts "beyond all doubt" that (a) there shall **MUST BE 7 MORE YEARS BEFORE THE RAPTURE**, or (b) that there **SHALL BE 1,000 OR 1,007 YEARS AFTER THE RAPTURE**, during which times men shall be saved -- ANY SUCH TEACHING, I SAY, IS OFFERING WHAT NO HUMAN BEING CAN GUARANTEE.

The fact is, in effect, Post-Trib-Pre-Millennialists say that THERE SHALL BE 1,000 YEARS AFTER THE RAPTURE IN WHICH PEOPLE WILL BE SAVED! -- and, in effect Pre-Trib-Pre-Millennialists teach that THERE SHALL BE 1,007 YEARS AFTER THE RAPTURE DURING WHICH PEOPLE WILL BE SAVED! [The years after the Rapture during which a Mid-Trib-Pre-Millennialist believes folks will be saved would number one thousand three and one-half.]

Such teachings, I believe, are erroneous, sad, and even dangerous! Though not intended, they could "strengthen.. the hands of the wicked, that he should not return from his wicked way, by promising him life" (Ezekiel 13:22) during a future time of grace that shall never come. If a Pre-Millennialist (being a Pre- Mid- or Post-Tribulationists) had no other reason for studying his doctrine open-minded and thoroughly, in the effort to "preach the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth," THIS IS REASON ENOUGH.

\* \* \*

07 -- IN CONCLUSION -- SELAH

I assert, with what I believe is the uniform authority of the Bible behind me, that Jesus gave climactic warnings relative to His Revelation and Return BECAUSE THERE SHALL BE NO TIME, AND NO CHANCE FOR SALVATION AFTER THAT OCCURS!

Are you still a Pre-Trib, Mid-Trib, or Post-Trib Pre-Millennialist? A sanctified saint of God can go to heaven believing any of these teachings. However, if I am right, and you are wrong -- some people to whom you teach one of these doctrines may be emboldened to presume the possibility of salvation 1,000 to 1,007 years beyond the time when the last chance to be saved is forever gone, and in so presuming be eternally lost. Selah.

\* \* \* \* \*

E. -- WHERE ON EARTH WILL YOU LIVE FOR 1,000 YEARS?  
Or, THE SAINTS' NEXT ABODE

"For we know that if our EARTHLY HOUSE of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an HOUSE NOT MADE WITH HANDS, ETERNAL IN THE HEAVENS" (2 Cor. 5:1).

"When I stand in my mansion for the first time,  
With the loved ones I'm longing to see.  
Then, to know its all real -- I'm in heaven,  
Oh, what glory that moment will be."

--Robert M. Batton

\* \* \*

"Tho often tempted tormented and tested  
And like the prophet, my pillow a stone;  
And tho' I find here, no permanent dwelling,  
I know He'll give me a mansion my own.

"I've got a mansion just over the hilltop  
In that bright land where we'll never grow old  
And some day yonder we will never more wander  
But walk on streets that are purest gold

"Don't think me poor or deserted or lonely,  
I'm not discouraged, I'm heaven bound;  
I'm just a pilgrim in search of a city,  
I want a mansion, a harp and a crown.

"I've got a mansion just over the hilltop  
In that bright land where we'll never grow old  
And some day yonder we will never more wander  
But walk on streets that are purest gold."

--Stuart Hamblin

\* \* \*

When a devout Christian dies and we say: "He made it in," or "She made it in," what do we mean?:-- he or she "made it into the Millennium"? or he or she "made it into their 1,000-year abode, somewhere on earth during the Millennium"?

NO! -- not at all -- we always mean: he or she "made it into HEAVEN" -- "made it into THE HOLY CITY"! -- that's what we mean. Why do we say that? Why do we mean that? Yet another query:

Saint of God, WHERE ON EARTH WILL YOU LIVE FOR 1,000 YEARS? Do you say?  
"Nowhere! I am going to my "house eternal in the heavens!"

Wait a minute! If you believe in a millennium following Christ's Return, would it not be more appropriate to consider where on earth you will next live?

After all, do not Millennialists teach that Christ Himself is going to live and reign on earth for 1,000 years after His return? And, according to Millennialists there will be a "camp of the saints" (Rev. 20:9) on this earth during the Millennium after the Second Coming.

Do you say, "Well, that is only going to be the "CAMP of the saints" -- the place where they lodge when they visit the earth occasionally during the Millennium -- their HOME being in the New Jerusalem."

I say that all such constructions and interpretations placed upon Revelation 20 are not only preposterous, but sadly and greatly unScriptural! Expressing the true, Scriptural anticipation of the saints of God, Paul wrote in 2 Cor. 5:2 "For in this [earthly house] we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven."

Saint of God, your prayers, your hopes, your longings, your heart-cries, your inward groans, and your Spirit-induced anticipations are:-- that your next house shall be only and eternally IN HEAVEN! -- for that is precisely the true case!

I firmly assert that the reason why, in their heart of hearts, the saints of God always FORGET ALL ABOUT THE MILLENNIUM when considering their next home IS BECAUSE HEAVEN, -- AND NO "CAMP" OR PLACE ON EARTH -- SHALL BE THEIR NEXT ADDRESS!

Over, and over, and over again in the Bible, in both the Old and the New Testaments -- WE SEE ETERNITY, HEAVEN AND HELL, FOLLOWING CHRIST'S RETURN -- NOT A SUPPOSED 1,000-YEAR EXTENSION OF TIME ON THIS PLANET.

Over against the saints' "EARTHLY HOUSE" Paul juxta positioned their "HOUSE NOT MADE WITH HANDS, ETERNAL IN THE HEAVENS" (2 Cor. 5:1). He made no mention whatsoever of their dwelling ever again -- even part-time or temporarily -- in any "camp of the saints" on this planet -- as it now is, or supposedly shall be for 1,000 years:-- partly patched-up!

Is this not passing strange? If there really IS going to be such an earthly abode and address for the saints following Christ's Return, then WHY IS IT ENTIRELY PASSED OVER in all other New Testament passages besides its supposed mention in Revelation 20?

IF -- AS I BELIEVE -- THERE IS NO COMING MILLENNIUM ON EARTH FOR THE SAINTS -- WHO WILL MISS IT? Quite apparently, none of the saints would miss it, for they have not set their affection upon this earth nor upon a return to some "camp" on this planet after they die. They know that St. Paul has admonished them to "Set [their] affection on things above, not on things on the earth" (Col. 3:2). Paul says that when their earthly "tent" has been folded, they shall NEXT have "an HOUSE NOT MADE WITH HANDS, ETERNAL IN THE HEAVENS" (2 Cor. 5:1) -- and -- deep, deep down inside -- this is what they really believe -- even while professing to believe, and paying homage to, what they feel they must:-- a literal and futuristic interpretation of Revelation 20.

People give no serious consideration to what they doubt or to what they know is untrue or mythical. Genuine Christians especially, compare realities with fictions and then believe, act, and react, accordingly. For example: when comparing the Resurrected Christ vis-a-vis the mythical Easter Bunny; when considering Christ the Great Giver vis-a-vis the mythical Santa Claus; when thinking of the Omnipotent Christ vis-a-vis the fictional Superman; when reading of Christ the Miracle Worker vis-a-vis clever fake magicians like "Harry Houdini" and his ilk; when comparing God the Father vis-a-vis the so-called "Father Divine" and his ilk; when anticipating the real and Holy Heaven vis-a-vis a Heaven for almost anyone -- when making all such comparisons, true

Christians always accept the former and utterly reject the latter as worthy of no more serious consideration than they would give to "The Big-Rock Candy Mountain."

They know there "Ain't no Big Rock Candy Mountain" and that the other things mentioned are false and thus unworthy of being trumpeted as facts. Across the board, when true Christians are convinced in their heart of hearts that a thing is true, often they trumpet it far and wide, and when they doubt a thing or know it to be false, they are noticeably mum on the subject, except perhaps to confess their doubt about the matter or to reveal its falsehood.

Thus, I say: the very fact that the saints of God are so mum about another earthly address -- the fact that they never give any serious consideration to another earthly address is indicative:-- **THEY SHALL HAVE NONE.** When considering their next HOME as HEAVEN vis-a-vis ANOTHER EARTHLY ABODE for 1,000 years after their resurrection and rapture -- in their heart of hearts, the saints accept the former and quite completely dismiss the latter from their consideration and mention.

I assert that all of this business about glorified saints flying back and forth between the Holy City and their "camp" on this planet, or their dwelling in a "camp of the saints" on this partially patch-up earth for 1,000 years, has no more substance in fact than do many of the other "incredible" teachings of Pre-Millennialists. This, I say, is why the saints of God say little or nothing about their supposed, coming earthly abode -- an abode in which they would live hundreds of years longer than they have lived anywhere else on this planet in this life! They say nothing about it, because in their heart of hearts they are not convinced of its reality -- and their heart doubts are well-founded! -- they shall have no such abode.

Friends, I say this carefully, but seriously:-- As I see it, there is scarcely to be found anywhere, any more mixed-up, jumbled-together, mistakenly-contrived hodge-podge of Scriptural contradictions and misinterpretations than we find in the teachings of Pre-Millennialists. It is their insistence upon a literal and future fulfillment of Revelation 20, instead of accepting its spiritual and present fulfillment, that opens that Pandora's Box of "literally incredible" teachings -- and the irony of it is:-- **WHILE THEY TEACH THESE THINGS, THEIR HEARTS, THEIR RAPTURES SONGS AND SHOUTS, AND THEIR DYING TESTIMONIES -- ALL COMPLETELY PASS OVER ANY THOUGHT OR MENTION OF LIVING ON EARTH FOR 1,000 MORE YEARS -- AND FOCUS QUITE ENTIRELY UPON HEAVEN AS THEIR NEXT AND ETERNAL PLACE OF ABODE.** -- Again I say: **THIS IS INDICATIVE!**

McCartney told of an old Southern doctor who had his office over a drugstore. In front of the drugstore was a sign reading: "Dr. Riley is upstairs." When the old doctor died, after a long life of day and night service for mankind, he left no money even for his burial, and across account after account on his books they found the entry "Paid off". When he was buried, his friends wanted to put up some memorial or stone on his grave. They had no money for an expensive stone or marker, so they set up over his grave the sign that was in front of the drugstore, and that was his beautiful epitaph: "Dr. Riley is upstairs."

Whether Dr. Riley went "upstairs" or not is beside my point, which is:-- (the so-called Jehovah's Witnesses and their ilk not taken into account), there has been for centuries, and still is,



a widespread and deeply ingrained concept in the minds of Bible-believing people that "upstairs" in Heaven shall be the next abode of those whom God eternally accepts as His -- and there is virtually no thought or mention among the same of any future abode for the righteous "downstairs" on this earth -- partially patched-up, or otherwise. Why? Again I assert:-- because the saints' next home IS, and IS ONLY, "upstairs" in heaven.

In his song, "This Old House," Stuart Hamblin seems to have been thinking of the saints' "earthly house" vis-a-vis their "house eternal in the heavens":

"Ain't gonna need this house no longer  
Ain't gonna need this house no more.  
Ain't got time to fix the shingles  
Ain't got time to fix the floor.  
Ain't got time to oil the hinges  
Or to mend the window pane  
Ain't gonna need this house no longer,  
I'm gettin' ready to meet the saints."

Also, in verse 3 and the chorus of his beautiful song, "When I Pass Through The Gates," Robert M. Batton has expressed the true anticipation and expectation of the sanctified saints of God:

"When I stand in my mansion for the first time,  
With the loved ones I'm longing to see.  
Then, to know its all real -- I'm in heaven,  
Oh, what glory that moment will be.

"All the things of this world will just fade away,  
And my burdens will never be known--  
The tears will all dry, and we'll never more die.  
Oh, what glory that moment will be."

Like so many, many others, Robert Batton anticipates and expects HEAVEN -- not another dwelling on this earth -- to be his next, his eternal home. Regardless of his prophetic beliefs, it is easy to see that this is true.

Echoing similar sentiments years earlier, Arthur F. Ingler wrote in his hymn "The Pearly White City":

"There's a holy and beautiful city  
Whose Builder and Ruler is God;  
John saw it descending from heaven,  
When Patmos in exile he trod.  
Its high, massive wall is of jasper;  
The City itself is pure gold,  
AND WHEN MY FRAIL TENT HERE IS FOLDED,

MINE EYES SHALL ITS GLORY BEHOLD."

The songs are so numerous, the poems are so multitudinous, the writings are so voluminous, -- which express the saints' anticipation of Heaven as their next and eternal abode that, were I able so to do, I could make this brief article countless thousands of pages long by quoting them all. But, here, I forbear, except to ask and answer:-- WHY ALL THIS ANTICIPATION OF HEAVEN, WITH AN ALMOST UNIVERSAL AND TOTAL OVERLOOKING OF ANOTHER ABODE FOR THE SAINTS "DOWNSTAIRS" ON THIS EARTH? I say again:-- The reason for this is explained by the fact of the matter -- at the Return of Christ, HEAVEN SHALL BE the next, the only, and the eternal, abode of the saints. Selah.

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F. -- NO SUCH THING AS A VISIBLE, HOPELESS SALVATION

Ephesians 2:8 -- "For by grace are ye SAVED THROUGH FAITH; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God."

Romans 8:24-25 -- "For we are SAVED BY HOPE: BUT HOPE THAT IS SEEN IS NOT HOPE: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? 25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it."

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The muddled views of Pre-Millennialism involve so many scriptural contradictions that it seem rather incredible to me that more sincere students of prophecy have not already seen it to be what I sincerely believe that it is: an ancient error -- one that insists upon a futuristic, literal interpretation or Rev. 20:5, but which in so doing runs amok with all of the rest of the Bible.

However, the Biblical contradictions of Pre-Millennialism are not the most amiss when they contradict prophetic scriptures -- the most egregious and flagrant inconsistencies of Pre-Millennialism are seen relative to the doctrines of salvation -- among which is the PRE-MILLENNIALIST CONTRADICTION OF THE DOCTRINE OF SALVATION BY FAITH AND HOPE.

According to the muddled views of Pre-Millennialism, during the supposed, coming millennium on this earth (patched up for 1,000 years) following Christ's Return, PEOPLE WILL BE SAVED!!! -- AND SAVED (AT LEAST IN PART) BY SIGHT -- AND NOT ENTIRELY BY FAITH AND BY HOPE!!

The New Testament teaches ONLY ONE, TRUE SALVATION, and that salvation is BY FAITH in Christ -- apart from sight. Paul said to the Corinthians in 2 Corinthians 5:7 -- "(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)." Furthermore, he wrote to the Galatians in Galatians 3:11 -- "The just shall live by faith." And, to one Whom He had healed, Jesus said in Luke 18:42 "Receive thy SIGHT: thy FAITH hath SAVED THEE."

In THIS world all Christians are saved by faith, and must walk and live by faith. Nothing is said in the Bible about anyone ever being saved in this world BY SIGHT! As with the man Jesus healed, IN THIS WORLD, A MAN MIGHT RECEIVE HIS SIGHT BY FAITH, BUT HE SHALL NEVER RECEIVE HIS FAITH BY SIGHT!!! But, in effect, if there is a future 1,000 years in this world when people will SEE JESUS, then they would be saved, at least in part, by BY SIGHT.

If one should argue, well, the disciples SAW Jesus and they were saved by faith, I answer: When Jesus was on earth during His first coming, He appeared in the lowly form of a servant, very much as a common, everyday, ordinary man, and thus faith in Him was still necessary, but when He comes again, ALL SHALL SEE HIM IN HIS BLAZING, AUGUST GLORY! -- and SO OVERWHELMING SHALL BE HIS VISIBLE PRESENCE THAT IT WILL LITERALLY "CONVINCE ALL THAT ARE UNGODLY among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him" (Jude 1:15)! Were people to be allowed an opportunity to then be saved, after such a CONVINCING SIGHT, it would contradict the fact that salvation must, and always shall in this world, come BY FAITH, AND NOT BY SIGHT.

Furthermore, the Bible teaches that people are "SAVED BY HOPE: BUT HOPE THAT IS SEEN IS NOT HOPE" (Romans 8:24-25). Do you not see the great contradiction between this statement and the teaching of Pre-Millennialism???

IF A MAN SEES CHRIST IN HIS GLORIFIED SPLENDOR; IF A MAN SEES THE GLORIFIED SAINTS IN ALL OF THEIR BRILLIANCE -- THEN IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO BE SAVED BY HOPE -- FOR HOPE THAT IS SEEN IS NOT HOPE!!!

But -- this is what would be involved if the error of Pre-Millennialism was true -- 1,000 long years, in which people could SEE all of this, and then supposedly be saved, just as the Bible teaches that people must be saved -- by faith and by hope!

Friends, THIS SHALL NOT BE! -- it is both unscriptural and impossible. Hope that is seen is not hope, and the Bible teaches that one is saved by hope.

When Jesus comes the Second Time, for the saints, faith will turn to sight -- and for the unsaved and ungodly, SIGHT WILL TURN TO FRIGHT, and AND YES, THEY WILL BE "CONVINCED... of their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed," BUT THEY WILL NOT BE CONVERTED!!!

Away with this unscriptural notion that somehow, people will be saved AFTER JESUS' REVELATION! Only the saved and sanctified saints of God, thus become BEFORE His August Return, shall be "partaker(s) of the glory that shall be REVEALED" then (1 Pet. 5:1). But, forever -- for all of the unsaved -- "when the Lord Jesus shall be REVEALED from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God" (2 Thess. 1:7-8) -- yea, forever, for all such, Christ's Revelation shall be a "REVELATION OF THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT OF GOD" (Romans 2:5)!!! -- BRINGING THEM ETERNAL DAMNATION, NOT THE POSSIBILITY OF SALVATION FOR 1,000 MORE YEARS!!

Friends, uniformly, the New Testament portrays the Second Coming as CLIMACTIC -- NOT ANTI-CLIMACTIC! IT SPELLS THE END OF TIME -- NOT THE BEGINNING OF 1,000 MORE YEARS OF TIME. I firmly aver that when Jesus splits the Eastern Sky, ALL POSSIBILITY OF BEING LOST SHALL THEN COME TO THE SAINTS, AND ALL POSSIBILITY OF BEING SAVED SHALL THEN COME TO ALL OTHER UNSAVED MANKIND -- WORLD WITHOUT END! -- and this is exactly how the New Testament always paints the picture. Selah.

If the uniform teaching of the New Testament regarding when and how one must be saved is true (and, it IS!), then there shall be NO SUCH THING AS A VISIBLE, HOPELESS SALVATION during a supposed, coming 1,000 years on this planet after Christ's Revelation-Return.

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#### G. -- THE CHURCH-AGE BINDING AND LOOSING OF SATAN

"And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he LAID HOLD ON THE DRAGON, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, AND BOUND HIM A THOUSAND YEARS... and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: AND AFTER THAT HE MUST BE LOOSED A LITTLE SEASON" (Rev. 20:1-3).

"COME, MY PEOPLE, ENTER THOU INTO THY CHAMBERS, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were FOR A LITTLE MOMENT, UNTIL THE INDIGNATION BE OVERPAST. For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain" (Isaiah 26:20-21).

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#### 01 -- THE FIGURATIVE NUMBER DENOTING THE TIME OF SATAN'S BINDING

Everything in Revelation 20, when interpreted correctly, corresponds exactly with what took place at Calvary, is now transpiring, and which shall be culminated with the loosing of Satan near the end of the Church Age for 7 years. I invite the reader to study carefully, Chapter 8 of my

book, "His Appearing and His Kingdom," for a detailed exposition of Revelation 20, verse by verse.

None can deny that the book of Revelation is an highly symbolic and figurative book, and to insist that everything in it must be interpreted both chronologically in the order in which its events are related, and to insist that Revelation must be interpreted literally is to misinterpret the book in ways that not only contradict the rest of the Bible, -- it is also to misinterpret it in such a way as to MISS SEEING SOME OF ITS SOBERING AND GLORIOUS TRUTHS RELATIVE TO SALVATION!

Indeed, the entire Bible is replete with figurative and symbolic truth, and those figures, symbols, and similitudes must be understood as such, or some gross misinterpretations can result. For example: Rom. 5:14 states that Adam "is the figure of Him that was to come." It would be ridiculous to insist that everything in this figure must be literally duplicated in Christ, the Second Adam -- and every sensible interpreter knows that. Again, Hebrews 9:9 tells us that the earthly tabernacle "was a figure for the time then present" of the heavenly tabernacle. It would be foolish to say that the dimensions of the heavenly Tabernacle must be precisely the same as those of the type!? "Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us, (Heb. 9:24) -- and the dimensions, grandeur, and substance of the heavenly far surpass the figures! Biblical types, such as the number 1,000 in Revelation 20, need not, and often should not, be taken literally.

God declares in Hosea 12:10 -- "I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions, and used similitudes, by the ministry of the prophets." And, one of those prophets through whom God spoke in "visions" and "similitudes" was John the Revelator. Therefore, to be "HUNG-UP" on the interpretation of Revelation BY THE MISGUIDED NOTION THAT IN ORDER TO LET THE BOOK MEAN WHAT IT SAYS, WE MUST INTERPRET REVELATION, AND ESPECIALLY REVELATION 20, AND THE "THOUSAND YEARS" LITERALLY, is to BIND one's method of interpreting this highly symbolic book with truth-shading shackles that I say need not, and should not, handcuff the interpreter.

Sadly, IN INTERPRETING THE BINDING OF SATAN FOR 1,000 YEARS -- IT IS THE PRE-MILLENNIAL INTERPRETERS THEMSELVES WHO ARE BOUND -- duty-bound, they feel, to interpret the number 1,000 to be exactly 1,000! Contrary to this "duty-bound" method of literally interpreting the 1,000 in Revelation 20, I interpret that number figuratively.

In addition to the number's use in Revelation 20, the term "a thousand" or "thousand" elsewhere in the Bible has been used to denote a large, but indefinite, amount of a thing: Deut. 1:11 -- "The Lord God of your fathers make you A THOUSAND times so many more as ye are." Deut. 7:9 -- "God... keepeth covenant.. with them that love Him and keep His commandments to A THOUSAND generations." Deut. 32:30 -- "How should one of you chase A THOUSAND." Ps. 84:10 -- "A day in Thy courts is better than A THOUSAND." Ps. 90:4 -- "For A THOUSAND years in Thy sight are but as yesterday." 2 Pet. 3:8 -- "One day is with the Lord as A THOUSAND years, and A THOUSAND years as one day." Ps. 91:7 -- "A THOUSAND shall fall at thy side, and TEN THOUSAND at thy right hand." Isa. 60:22 -- "A little one shall become A THOUSAND, and a small one a strong nation." 1 Cor. 14:19 -- "I had rather speak five words with my

understanding.. than TEN THOUSAND words in an unknown tongue." Ecc. 6:3, 6 -- "If a man beget an hundred children, and live many years.. Yea, though he live A THOUSAND years twice told, yet he hath seen no good."

From the above, it should be clear that while the term "a thousand" is never used loosely in the Bible, it is often used figuratively, instead of literally, to denote "many" or a large, but indefinite, amount of a thing. Therefore, with the support of the above evidence, I interpret the "thousand years" of Rev. 20 to be the long period of time from Calvary to 7 years before the close of the church age during which Satan is bound by Christ, and which shall be followed at the close of the Church Age by the "little season" when Satan will be "loosed" and the great tribulation shall take place. I shall elaborate upon the fact of Satan's binding in the next point.

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## 02 -- THE FACT THAT SATAN IS NOW BOUND

Pre-Millennial interpreters insist that the binding of Satan is yet to come. I assert that this binding has already taken place -- nearly 2,000 years ago -- the binding having taken place at Calvary, and the long period of time denoted by the 1,000 years equating with the Church Age up to the "little season" -- a long, long time of indefinite length, so far as human knowledge is concerned.

But, immediately responds the Pre-Millennialist, Peter said, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour"! How could Satan be bound and still be walking about seeking whom he could devour?!

I see no problem here whatsoever:-- Did you ever see a ferocious beast on a chain walking about, lunging to the full length of his chain so vigorously and viciously that you feared he might snap the chain and get you! -- or that he might break his neck trying?

SATAN IS BOUND -- AND SHORTLY I SHALL PROVE THAT -- meantime, my answer to the above query is: SATAN CAN DEVOUR NOW -- BUT HE IS BOUND TO A CERTAIN PERIMETER IN SO DOING: viz., he can devour only those who willingly choose to live in sin, and even then he can slay only those whom God permits him finally to have.

But remember -- Satan is a spirit, and the "chain" is a "spiritual chain" somewhat like the "chain" that bound the lions from devouring Daniel. At any given moment, anytime, anywhere, Satan may, or may not, be allowed to devour a sinner -- depending entirely on the will of the Omnipotent Christ Who BOUND HIM AT CALVARY.

The length of Satan's "chain" never extends so far as to reach those who are walking in the pathway of holiness: "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness... No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there" (Isa. 35:8-9).

**BUT TO THE PROOF THAT SATAN IS NOW BOUND:** -- Let me prove this to you by next appending a portion of my verse by verse interpretation of Revelation 20 with proof texts. In doing this I shall make a few helpful alterations and additions to the verse by verse text as given in Chapter 8 of hdm0124, my book, "His Appearing and His Kingdom":

A. "And he laid hold on the dragon.. the Devil," Christ, none of His angels, is stronger than the Devil: "When a strong man (Satan) armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace: but when a stronger than he (Christ) shall come upon him he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils" (Lu. 11:21-22). Isaiah 53 brings out that because Christ "poured out His soul unto death," therefore "He shall divide the spoil.." It was at Calvary, and as the result of Calvary, that Jesus bound the devil so as to be able to begin spoiling Satan's goods -- something Christ has been doing for nearly 2,000 years now, as of August, 2,002.

B. "and bound him" It was necessary that Christ first bind Satan by His death at Calvary before He began the centuries long process of spoiling Satan's house: "How can one (Christ) enter into a strong man's house (Satan's house) and spoil his goods, except he (Christ) first bind (Satan) the strong man? And then he will spoil his house" (Matt. 12:29).

Reader, do you not see the logic here? **IT WAS NECESSARY FOR CHRIST TO FIRST BIND SATAN, THE STRONG MAN, BEFORE THE SPOILING OF HIS GOODS BEGAN.** Has the spoiling begun? Yes indeed it has! Christ began the spoiling of Satan's house immediately following His death and resurrection, for the Bible says so: "And having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it." Col. 2:15 How much plainer need it to be? None. Therefore, since the spoiling began immediately after Christ's death and resurrection, the conclusion should be obvious: Christ bound Satan at Calvary!

C. "and shut him up, and set a seal upon him" Satan is presently bound, along with all of the other angels that sinned: "GOD SPARED NOT THE ANGELS THAT SINNED, but cast them down to hell, and DELIVERED THEM INTO CHAINS OF DARKNESS, to be reserved unto judgment" (2 Pet. 2:4). "And THE ANGELS WHICH KEPT NOT THEIR FIRST ESTATE.. HE HATH RESERVED IN EVERLASTING CHAINS under darkness unto the judgment of the great day" (Jude 6). Among the bound "angels that sinned," of necessity is THE ANGEL WHO FIRST SINNED, FALLEN LUCIFER, THE DEVIL.

When Christ "came down from heaven, having.. a great chain in His hand," He bound Satan through His death on the cross. Satan's power to destroy is limited to the perimeter within the length of his chain. Thus, he walketh about, to the full length of his restraint, like a chained, but ferocious, lion, "seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pet. 5:8). Whom may Satan devour? Only those who sin willfully so as to place themselves, by their own choice and actions, within the perimeter of his chain -- and even then, he may only devour those whom Christ gives him leave have.

Reader, **IF YOU DENY THAT SATAN IS NOW BOUND, YOU DENY THE IRREFUTABLE TRUTH OF THE BIBLE.**

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### 03 -- THE LOOSING OF SATAN FOR 7 YEARS

I assert that the striking similarity between the events of the Church Age and the events depicted in Revelation 20 are more than a coincidence -- the events of Rev. 20 symbolically typify what HAS OCCURRED during the Church Age -- the binding of Satan and the lengthy time in which his goods have been spoiled; and they typify what SHALL OCCUR at the very close of the Church Age -- Satan's loosing for "a little season" -- more precisely, for 7 years. In expounding this truth, let me continue to present portions from "His Appearing and His Kingdom," Chapter 8, with such alterations and additions as I think may help:

D. "that he should deceive the nations no more" Satan's power to deceive is removed by Jesus' sacrificial death: "And He will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the vail that is spread over all nations" (Isa. 25:7). Only unbelievers are blindly deceived by Satan: "the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ.. should shine unto them" (2 Cor. 4:4). "Nevertheless when it (unbelieving Israel, or any unbeliever) shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away" (2 Cor. 3:16).

E. "till the thousand years should be fulfilled" -- the time from when Satan was first bound at Calvary until the "little season" of final tribulation near the close of the church age: "For these be the days.. that all things which are written may be fulfilled" (Lu. 21:22). I say here that the "fulfillment" of the 1,000 years involves more than the expiration of an exact length of time. It has to do with the "fulfillment" of all things that are ordained to take place during the Church Age up to 7 Years before its close.

F. "and after that he must be loosed for a little season" -- 7 years before the close of the Church Age, Satan's deceptive power will be "loosed" and the anti-Christ will use that power to deceive an unbelieving world as never before: "And ye know what withholdeth (presently binds Satan's deceptive power) that he (anti-Christ) may be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only He who now letteth (bindeth Satan's power to deceive) will let (continue to restrain that power) until He be taken out of the way."

THE LOOSING OF SATAN mentioned in Rev. 20:3, and the TAKING OUT OF THE WAY of the restraining power of the Holy Spirit on earth mentioned in 2 Thess. 2:7 ARE NO COINCIDENCE -- THEY SPEAK OF THE VERY SAME THING -- that awful time, seven years prior to the close of the Church Age, during which the restraining power of the Holy Spirit on Satan's deceptive power will be removed on earth to such an extent that only those in whom the Spirit dwells -- The Elect -- will escape the devil's delusions! This leads me to my next point.

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### 04 -- THE ELECT IN THE TRIBULATION -- THEIR IDENTITY AND PERCEPTION

The fact that Jesus Himself said that those days would be shortened for "the elect's sake," (Matt. 24:22) proves irrefutably that "THE ELECT" WILL BE IN THE GREAT TRIBULATION.



WHO ARE THE ELECT? -- Jesus and Peter identify them.

In His parable of Matthew 14:2-14, Jesus tells us that THE ELECT ARE THOSE WHO HAVE ON THE WEDDING GARMENT:

"The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, Mat 22:3 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding... And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which HAD NOT ON A WEDDING GARMENT: And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are CHOSEN. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are CHOSEN."

The Greek word for CHOSEN here is EKLEKTOS -- and thus we can see that those who will be at the Wedding Supper are the CHOSEN -- THE ELECT.

Strange! is in not? -- that Pre-Tribulationists teach us that the Wedding Supper will be taking place during The Great Tribulation -- when JESUS SAID "THE ELECT" -- THOSE HAVING ON THE WEDDING GARMENT -- WOULD BE IN THE GREAT TRIBULATION! The fact is: the RAPTURE AND WEDDING SUPPER CANNOT OCCUR BEFORE THE 7 YEAR TRIBULATION PERIOD ENDS -- BECAUSE THE ELECT (THOSE HAVING ON THE WEDDING GARMENT) ARE SEEN IN THE GREAT TRIBULATION!

FURTHER, PETER TELLS US THAT THE ELECT ARE THE SANCTIFIED: -- 1 Peter 1:2 -- "ELECT [eklektos] according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, THROUGH SANCTIFICATION OF THE SPIRIT..."

Those who have no prophetic "ax to grind" should be able to see clearly: (1) The Elect will be in the Great Tribulation; (2) The Elect in the Tribulation are Those Wearing The Wedding Garment, and therefore the Rapture and Wedding Supper shall not take place until AFTER the Great Tribulation; (3) The Elect are ALL of the Sanctified of the Church -- not alone that saved and sanctified remnant of Jews brought into the Church near the close of the Great Tribulation.

Further, it is the inward possession of the Sanctifying Guide Into All Truth -- The Holy Ghost -- Who shall preserve the Elect from deception during the "Little Season" during which restraint against Satanic delusions in an unbelieving world has been removed.

"THEN shall that Wicked be revealed.. even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish... But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren.. because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the Truth" (2 Thess. 2:6-13).

During the "little season" of great deception under anti-Christ, "them that perish" will be deceived, while the elect, who have on the wedding garment of "sanctification of the Spirit," will

"believe the truth" unto their final salvation. However, so strong will be the deceptions of those days that "if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect" (Matt. 24:24).

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## 05 -- THE RAPTURE OF THE SAINTS JUST BEFORE THE INDIGNATION

"COME, MY PEOPLE, ENTER THOU INTO THY CHAMBERS, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were FOR A LITTLE MOMENT, UNTIL THE INDIGNATION BE OVERPAST. For, behold, the Lord cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain" (Isaiah 26:20-21).

Friends, as I see it, THE CHURCH SHALL GO THROUGH -- NOT ESCAPE FROM -- THE GREAT TRIBULATION -- and it is going to take a holy heart, entire sanctification, to escape the awful delusions and deceptions of that time!

But you say, I thought Jesus said in Luke 21:36, "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to ESCAPE all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."?

That HE DID, but the word for ESCAPE here is EKPHEUGO and the phrase could just as easily have been translated "ESCAPE OUT FROM AMONG THESE THINGS."

Ekpheugo is the same word translated "fled" in Acts 16:27 relative to the imprisonment of Paul and Silas. When the jailor feared that they had "fled" -- had "escaped" -- he did not fear that they had NEVER BEEN IN the prison; he feared rather that they had "FLED OUT FROM THE MIDST OF the prison" -- quite a difference. The Sanctified Elect shall not escape from being IN the Great Tribulation any more than Paul and Silas escaped from being IN the prison for a season. The Church on earth shall be IN the Tribulation, however, the Church shall "escape out from the midst of it" just before its dramatic end!

I maintain, and explain in my book, "His Appearing and His Kingdom," that it is the INDIGNATION, not the TRIBULATION, that the Church shall escape -- and THE INDIGNATION SHALL BE Poured OUT AT THE TIME OF THE 7TH VIAL. Directly before that outpouring, the Elect will ESCAPE OUT FROM THE MIDST OF THOSE upon whom the 7th Vial shall be poured, and rise to meet the Lord in the air!

Further, I would point out that in Isaiah 26:20-21, the People of God are shown as being hidden but for "A LITTLE MOMENT" -- not for 7 years. I admit that it could be argued that "a little moment" here should not be taken any more literally than the "thousand years," but in this case, I believe that the outpouring of THE INDIGNATION literally will take a very brief time. Just as Christ resurrected and raptured His Church "in the twinkling of an eye," even so He will make short work of destroying a wicked world and then resurrecting the wicked also, in their damnation bodies, to face Him at the Judgment -- "because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth" (Rom. 9:28).

Jesus has not promised the Laodicean Church deliverance from the fire: rather, He has said to the Last Day Church in Revelation 3:18 -- "I counsel thee to buy of me gold TRIED IN THE FIRE, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see."

It is not surprising that the majority of the Calvinistic, World-Loving, Ease-Loving, portion of the Laodicean Church has almost entirely bought into the idea of total ESCAPE FROM THE FIERY TRIALS OF THE COMING GREAT TRIBULATION. That sort of philosophy, from that sort of crowd, is to be expected.

What is sad is that EVEN HOLINESS FOLKS HAVE LARGELY BOUGHT INTO THE IDEA that GOD IS GOING TO PAMPER THE LAODICEAN CHURCH WITH AN EXEMPTION NOT GIVEN TO HIS SUFFERING SAINTS IN ANY OTHER AGE!!!

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were saved OUT FROM THE MIDST OF THE FURNACE -- NOT FROM EVER GOING INTO IT! Daniel was saved out from the midst of the den of lions, not from ever going into it!

And, writing to the Jewish portion of the Church, the writer to the Hebrews said: "others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us..." (Heb. 11:36-40).

I can imagine some frothy, easy-believe-ism professor in the Laodicean Church reading, "God having provided some BETTER THING FOR US," and thinking "Yes, and part of that BETTER THING PROVIDED FOR US is going to be escape from the awful tribulations that fell upon those in past ages, and that shall fall upon those who miss the Rapture! They won't strike ME! -- 'When the Tribulation enters, I'LL BE GONE!' Great, world-wide persecutions coming? No problem! 'When the Tribulation enters, I'LL BE GONE! -- and -- ONLY 'WHEN THE TRIBULATION'S OVER, I'LL BE BACK!'"

This seems to be the inward attitude of many in the professed Church today. Such anticipations all sound so convenient, so sweet and cozy! -- AND EASY! -- ALMOST TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE. And, if I read my Bible right -- THEY ARE TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE! -- actually too bad to be true -- a bad prescription for the ease-loving, Laodicean Church that is quite the opposite from what Christ has actually written!

Friends, my Bible says that the Church "must THROUGH MUCH TRIBULATION enter into the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22), and that has held true for the Church of EVERY AGE. In the first centuries, Christians entered into the eternal kingdom of God THROUGH MARTYRDOMS so gory, so grisly, so bloody and painful, that their recitation or reading alone is enough to send chills down one's spine and nauseate the stomach.

You know WHAT I THINK WILL MORE LIKELY PROVE TO BE ONE OF THOSE "BETTER THINGS" FOR THE LAODICEAN CHURCH -- better than it now knows or experiences:-- THE BUYING (AT A HIGH PRICE OF SUFFERING) SPIRITUAL "GOLD" FROM CHRIST, "TRIED IN THE FIRE" OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION -- for THIS, I SAY, IS WHAT HE HAS PRESCRIBED!

The spiritual character of a professed Church often determines its particular beliefs. Therefore, it is not surprising that the doctrine of escape from coming suffering is popular today -- in the pain-avoiding, pleasure-loving, Laodicean Church! Is it not time for every member of the Laodicean Church to ask himself, or herself:

"Must I be carried to the skies,  
On flowery beds of ease?  
When others fought to win the prize,  
And sailed through bloody seas?"

Saints of God -- instead of anticipating a flowery, "magic carpet ride" away from the coming "Little Season" of "Great Tribulation" you had best prepare to go through it -- therein, escaping its delusions by the inward, sanctifying guidance of the Holy Ghost, and therefrom, escaping out from its midst just before the 7th Vial is poured out at the close of that awful time that is even now hastening upon the world.

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## H. -- THE THINGS PREPARED FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

### INTRODUCTION

In this little 3-page treatise, I shall refer to 6 verses in the Bible that speak of those things that are "prepared" for the people of God. In the following I shall present each of these verses, along with other scriptures and my observations and comments.

\* \* \*

The things prepared for God's people are...

### 01 -- THINGS IMPERCEPTIBLE TO THE PHYSICAL SENSES

In Isaiah 64:4 we read: -- "For since the beginning of the world MEN HAVE NOT HEARD, NOR PERCEIVED by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, WHAT HE HATH PREPARED for him that waiteth for him."

St. Paul, quotes the above verse thus in 1 Cor. 2:9:-- "But as it is written, EYE HATH NOT SEEN, NOR EAR HEARD, neither have entered into the heart of man, THE THINGS WHICH GOD HATH PREPARED for them that love him."

We can see, then, from these verses that **THE THINGS WHICH GOD HAS PREPARED FOR HIS PEOPLE ARE SPIRITUAL THINGS, THINGS WHICH DO NOT, AND CANNOT PERTAIN TO THIS WORLD AND UNIVERSE.** In this world and universe everything pertaining to it can be seen, heard, touched, and known by the physical senses. Therefore, the things which God has prepared for His people could not belong to this world -- and do not.

Paul goes on to say that God has revealed these prepared things to Christians "by His Spirit" (1 Cor. 2:10) -- and obviously he meant, in part at least, the **SPIRITUAL SALVATION** of which Isaiah had long before prophesied.

During O. T. times, everything was physically known -- salvation consisting of political deliverance and salvation from outward enemies -- sacrifices and offerings that were seen, heard, and touched -- witnesses from God that were also seen, heard, and felt by the physical senses -- an exodus from a physical Egyptian bondage and material Egypt into a political freedom and inheritance in a material land of Canaan.

Through the prophet Isaiah, then, in Isaiah 64:4, God spoke of a time when His Salvation would be **OF A DIFFERENT SORT** -- a salvation consisting of spiritual deliverance from spiritual and inward foes -- a Sacrifice presented in an unseen Tabernacle in Heaven -- deliverance from a Spiritual Egyptian bondage into a Spiritual Canaan -- a Spiritual Salvation, the witness of which would not be seen, heard, touched, nor known by the physical senses, but rather a salvation the witness of which is "revealed" to the inner man "by the Spirit."

Therefore, the true Witness to both regeneration and entire sanctification has nothing whatsoever to do with that which can be known by what one sees (such as cloven tongues of fire), what one hears (such as the sound of a rushing, mighty wind or audibled tongues), nor what one touches or feels physically. During the Transitional Times of Jesus' earthly ministry and even at Pentecost and shortly thereafter, there were physically perceptible signs, but these were given only temporarily -- and that, to help the faith of those who had been accustomed to the outward signs of the O. T. times.

The **ONLY** true witness to salvation and entire sanctification is that which is "revealed by the Spirit" to the inner, spiritual senses -- completely apart from all other physically known things: 1 John 5:10 "He that believeth on the Son of God hath **THE WITNESS IN HIMSELF**: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son."

Jesus declared that it was "An evil and adulterous generation" that "seeketh after a sign" (Matt. 12:39), and He declared that His true ministers were not to "say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:21).

But let's go further, I believe that the things which God has prepared for His people at the time of Christ's Return are:

\* \* \*

## 02 -- THINGS IN THE NEW WORLD TO COME, NOT THINGS IN THIS WORLD!

One of the greatest "things that God hath prepared for them that love Him" is the "PLACE" he has prepared for them to dwell.

It has been frequently said, "HEAVEN is a prepared place for a prepared people" -- the emphasis being placed on the fact that only those prepared to meet the Lord are going there. Less often will you here it emphasized that HEAVEN, and not this earth after Christ's Return, is the place that God has prepared for His people.

In John 14:2-3, Jesus said:-- "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU. And if I go and PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; THAT WHERE I AM, THERE YE MAY BE ALSO."

Just WHERE IS THAT PREPARED PLACE?? -- according to the teaching of Pre-Millennialists, the first place that Jesus is going to prepare for His people is a place on this earth for 1,000 years of extended time on this planet after His Return. This, I assert is utterly wrong! Jesus spoke of going to prepare "a place" for His people, not "places" for them -- one being somewhere on this earth during 1,000 more earthly years, and another being in heaven!

The obvious meaning of John 14:2-3 is: Jesus said He was going away to dwell with His Father in Heaven, then come again to receive and take His people back to heaven to occupy one of the "many mansions" in Heaven! He was not saying that when He returned He was going to take His people to some spot on this earth for 1,000 years -- not even to some spot on this earth temporarily patched up! Rather, He obviously meant that He would take them to the "many mansions" of Heaven. The meaning here, it seems to me, is so simple that an eight-year-old could understand it.

Also, Hebrews 11:16 CLEARLY REVEALS THAT THE PLACE GOD HAS PREPARED FOR HIS PEOPLE IS IN HEAVEN:-- "But now they desire a better country, that is, an HEAVENLY: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath PREPARED FOR THEM A CITY."

Furthermore, we should be able to easily see from John the Revelator's prophecy in Revelation 21:2 that it is "THE HOLY CITY" THAT CHRIST HAS PREPARED FOR THEM THAT LOVE HIM: "And I John saw THE HOLY CITY, NEW JERUSALEM, coming down from God out of heaven, PREPARED as a bride adorned for her husband."

"The things that God hath prepared for them that love Him" are both OF A DIFFERENT SORT than can be known by the physical senses of this world, and TO A DIFFERENT PLACE THAN IS LOCATED IN THIS WORLD!

Therefore, AT THE TIME OF HIS RETURN -- not after locating them temporarily on this planet for 1,000 more years -- "THEN shall the King say unto them on his right hand, COME, YE

BLESSED OF MY FATHER, INHERIT THE KINGDOM PREPARED FOR YOU from the foundation of the world" (Matt. 25:34).

"Heaven IS the prepared place for a prepared people." Thus, directly after the Judgment, following Christ's Return -- HEAVEN shall be the first, last, and eternal place of abode for God's people -- world without end -- and no other world in between!

\* \* \* \* \*

#### I. -- SHALL THE SHADOWS SUPPLANT THE SUBSTANCE?

"But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? YE OBSERVE DAYS, AND MONTHS, AND TIMES, AND YEARS. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain" (Gal. 4:9-11).

"Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: WHICH ARE A SHADOW OF THINGS TO COME; but the body is of Christ" (Col 2:16-17).

\* \* \*

Another error into which the hyperliteral interpretation of Second Coming prophecy leads is that which says that various SHADOWS of the Law shall overshadow and supplant the SUBSTANCE found in Christ.

The New Testament clearly teaches that all of the Offerings and Feasts of the Jewish Levitical System were THE SHADOW, which shadow was done away with the arrival of the great SPIRITUAL SUBSTANCE OF SALVATION IN CHRIST.

Yet, according to Pre-Millennial interpreters, during the supposed Millennial Reign of Christ, various Jewish and Levitical practices will be restored. They interpret literally the following passage as taking place during the supposed Millennium:

"And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even GO UP FROM YEAR TO YEAR TO WORSHIP THE KING, THE LORD OF HOSTS, AND TO KEEP THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES. And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the Lord will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles" (Zech 14:16-19).

In their hyperliteral interpretation of this prophecy, they envision some sort of mass pilgrimage to Jerusalem each year -- not by individuals, but by entire "nations" -- in order to "worship" Christ the King.

Question:-- Since when did Christ ever accept OUTWARD HOMAGE from NATIONS, many of the individuals among which would be only kow-towing outwardly, with no real inward affection for him!?

Dear heart, Paul said of true Christians: "For we are the circumcision, which WORSHIP GOD IN THE SPIRIT, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh" (Philippians 3:3 )!!

Furthermore, JESUS HIMSELF SAID in John 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and THEY THAT WORSHIP HIM -- MUST -- WORSHIP HIM IN SPIRIT and in TRUTH."

Do you mean to tell me that Christ, Who is God Incarnate, is going to sit on an earthly throne in the earthly Jerusalem and ALLOW AN OUTWARD KOWTOWING TO HIM OF UNREGENERATE, UNHOLY PEOPLE TO PASS OFF AS "WORSHIP"?! God Forbid! Away with such a dangerous notion!

If the Pre-Millennial teaching is true, then unregenerate and carnal individuals who are hostile to Christ will rise up at the close of the supposed millennium and start the greatest anti-Christian war that the world has ever known. Furthermore, if this is true, then there are bound to be such individuals among the nations supposedly going up to Jerusalem the LAST year before the battle of Gog and Magog occurs -- and doubtless the same sort of individuals would be going up EVERY year during the supposed millennium to pay what would be only an hypocritical and outward homage to Christ -- SOMETHING FAR FROM WHAT THE NEW TESTAMENT SAYS CONSTITUTES THE ONLY WORSHIP ACCEPTED BY GOD!!!

Friends, THIS SHALL NEVER BE! Christ would never accept such false worship, nor would He ever force anyone to bow to His rule with a rod of iron. Look at the Scriptural context of the "rod of iron" passages in the Bible and you will see that the "rod of iron" rulership of Christ is one that "dashes in pieces" -- and forces obeisance only once: at the General Judgment of all. The idea of a prolonged, forced subjection to Christ is foreign the entire message of the New Testament and such a method smacks more of Islam than of true Christianity. Virtually every Second Coming passage in the New Testament points to a rapid and climactic closure of Christ's work when He returns: "For he will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth" (Romans 9:28) -- not to a prolonged, forced subjection of inwardly hostile people for 1,000 years!

But some Pre-Millennial interpreter may quote the following N. T. Passage, asserting that Jesus' Time to show himself at a Jewish Feast of Tabernacles had not yet come, BUT WILL COME DURING THE MILLENNIUM:

"Now the Jews' FEAST OF TABERNACLES was at hand. His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judaea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest. For there is no man that doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, SHOW THYSELF TO THE WORLD. For neither did his brethren



believe in him. Then Jesus said unto them, MY TIME IS NOT YET COME: but your time is always ready" (John 7:2-6).

My reply would be that such interpretation of that passage does not hold water, for in John 7:8 Jesus made it clear that HE MEANT HE WAS GOING UP TO THE FEAST LATER: "Go ye up unto this feast: I go not up yet unto this feast: for my time is not yet full come."

Furthermore, the only times that Jesus is going to "show himself to the world" is when He appears at His awesome Revelation and at the Great White Throne Judgment -- and that will indeed be to "convince" the wicked of who He is, but not to "convert" them. Those appearances will be to mete out Divine Judgment.

On the last day of the above "feast of tabernacles," Jesus "stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)" (John 7:37-39).

Here we see what is now, and what always shall be, Christ's method of converting people: BY INVITATION AND BY GIVING THEM HIS SPIRIT when they respond from the heart. Furthermore, the N. T. is replete with verses that show clearly that only those who are born again shall see His Kingdom! In His true Messianic Kingdom (which is both spiritual and eternal) there shall not be one hypocrite -- not one soul who would even WANT to rebel against Him, ever -- nor even kow-tow to him out of servile fear.

Zechariah 14:21, and every such passage shall, therefore, have a spiritual and eternal fulfillment: "Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holiness unto the Lord of hosts: and all they that sacrifice shall come and take of them, and seethe therein: and in that day there shall be no more the Canaanite in the house of the Lord of hosts."

"No more Canaanite in the house of the Lord of House" equates with what is said regarding the inhabitants of the New Jerusalem: "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life" (Rev. 21:27).

Is it not sad that many Pre-Millennial speakers interpret "the voices of the prophets" (Acts 13:27) spiritually in much of their preaching on salvation and holiness, but FAIL TO SEE THE SPIRITUAL "VOICES OF THE PROPHETS" RELATIVE TO 2ND COMING PROPHECY.

St. Paul was "afraid" of those who went back to the observation of "DAYS, AND MONTHS, AND TIMES, AND YEARS" -- things which pertain to THE SHADOW and not THE SUBSTANCE of real salvation. And, as I see it, Pre-Millennial interpretations are to be both feared and rejected wherein they suggest a future supplanting or overshadowing of the great spiritual substance of Christ's Salvation by the earthly shadows of those things.

"For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can NEVER [NOT EVEN IN A THOUSAND YEARS].. make the comers thereunto perfect" (Heb. 10:1).

"For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry" (Heb. 10:37). Once the climactic events of Christ's Return begin unfolding they will occur in rapid succession, "For he will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth" (Rom. 9:28).

Christ can both save and sanctify "in the twinkling of an eye" and that is how He shall Return, rapture His saints, rupture the balloon of a wicked world's pride, destroy and resurrect the wicked and bring all into Judgment. Then, in short order, the Eternal, Perfect Day shall dawn for the righteous wherein ALL "SHADOWS FLEE AWAY" (S.S. 2:17; 4:6) -- including all of the Shadows of the Glorious and Shining, Spiritual-Substance of Eternal Salvation in the New Heavens, New Earth, and New Jerusalem!

SHALL THE SHADOWS SUPPLANT THE SUBSTANCE? -- not at all, not even for one second, let alone for one thousand years!

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#### J. -- NOT TWO EARTHLY SOJOURNS -- JUST ONE

1 Peter 1:17 "And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass THE TIME OF YOUR SOJOURNING HERE in fear."

Over and over again, the homing instinct of the saints of God who believe in a coming earthly millennium belies their professed belief in such. Prophetically, they claim to believe in a second earthly sojourn for the saints -- one in this present world, followed by another sojourn of 1,000 years on this planet, partially patched-up -- but their hearts always get the better of them, and they talk about, sing about, envision, and on their death-beds testify to, going to HEAVEN -- not to another sojourn on this planet. Why? Because their hearts are right, and their heads are mixed up -- because their spirits instinctively know THERE IS ONLY ONE EARTHLY SOJOURN FOR THE SAINTS -- NOT TWO!

The following words reveal what they truly believe, deep down in their heart of hearts:

"This world is NOT my home,  
I'm just a-passing through;  
My treasures are laid up,  
Somewhere beyond the blue;  
The angels beckon me,  
From HEAVEN'S open door,  
AND I CAN'T FEEL AT HOME,  
IN THIS WORLD ANY MORE!"

In Hebrews 11:8-10, we read:

By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith HE SOJOURNED IN THE LAND OF PROMISE, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For HE LOOKED FOR A CITY which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God."

Shall Abraham sojourn twice in the earthly Canaan? I tell you, NAY, even though this is the professed, but muddled, earthly belief of some saints. Abraham finally came to understand that his dwelling in earthly Canaan was NOT the real fulfillment of God's promise. Indeed, God "GAVE HIM NONE INHERITANCE IN IT, no, not so much as to set his foot on: yet he promised that he would give it to him for a possession" (Acts 7:5).

Abraham came to understand that GOD'S PROMISE THAT HE WOULD INHERIT CANAAN WAS TO HAVE AN HEAVENLY, NOT AN EARTHLY FULFILLMENT, and thus it was that "He looked for a City.. whose builder and maker is God." He stopped looking for a city in this earth -- one that is built by man, and, though God did not give him one foot of Palestine, Abraham knew that He HAD INHERITED A FAR BETTER LAND!

And, in Abraham's track, other O. T. saints realized the same, glorious truth: HEAVEN, NOT AN INHERITANCE IN THIS WORLD, WAS THEIR IN REAL INHERITANCE:

"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were STRANGERS AND PILGRIMS ON THE EARTH. For they that say such things declare plainly that THEY SEEK A COUNTRY. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now THEY DESIRE A BETTER COUNTRY, THAT IS, AN HEAVENLY: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for HE HATH PREPARED FOR THEM A CITY" (Heb. 11:13-15).

Dear mixed up, but heaven-ready saint -- GOD IS NOT GOING TO DRAG ABRAHAM AND ALL OF THE REST OF HIS SAINTS, INCLUDING YOU, BACK TO A SECOND SOJOURN ON THIS PLANET! Peter spoke of "THE TIME of your sojourning here," NOT "the TIMES of your sojourning here"!

The City and Land promised to God's saints ARE HEAVENLY, not earthly, even for 1,000 future years of time -- and in their heart of hearts, all of God's people know that this is so. THAT IS WHY THE SAINTS PRAY, SING, TESTIFY, AND SHOUT -- ABOUT GOING TO HEAVEN.

How many of the heaven-blessed saints in a campmeeting do you ever hear rapturously shouting: "Hallelujah! I'm headed for my second home on earth!"??

NONE! -- EVER! -- and this is significant! -- because it reveals what the real fact is:-- the saints are not headed for a second sojourn on this earth, but for their eternal dwellingplace in Heaven!

"THEY DESIRE A BETTER COUNTRY, THAT IS, AN HEAVENLY: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for HE HATH PREPARED FOR THEM A CITY" (Heb. 11:13-15) -- The New Jerusalem.

In 1 Chronicles 29:15, the inspired writer said of God's people: "For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers: our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding."

The time of the saints' present sojourn on earth, "ARE AS A SHADOW" -- fleeing away -- ARE AS "A SHADOW OF THE GOOD THINGS TO COME" (Heb. 10:1) -- good things to come to them in the New Heavens and New Earth, not during a second sojourn on this planet!

Saint of God, LISTEN TO YOUR HEART. Then, Selah (which means: "Pause"), and think about it. Why is it, that you "can't feel at home in this world ANY MORE"? It is because after you depart, you shall never dwell on this earth ANY MORE. Selah. Frankly, I doubt if there is even one professed Pre-Millennialist saint who hopes for another earthly home and sojourn, or who shall regret not having the "opportunity to return" (Heb. 11:15).

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#### K. -- WHEN THAT WHICH IS PERFECT IS COME

Please just delete this little 4-page article if you do not care to read my prophetic views. NEVERTHELESS, SOME WHO HAVE NO INTEREST IN MY PROPHETIC VIEWS MAY BE INTERESTED IN:-- my theory of the "Inverted Pyramid, or Pecking Order, of Suffering in Hell" that is found in the last three paragraphs of Part 03.

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#### 01 -- SCRIPTURES

1 Corinthians 13:10 "But WHEN THAT WHICH IS PERFECT IS COME, then that which is in part shall be done away."

Proverbs 4:18 "But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto THE PERFECT DAY."

Ephesians 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."

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## 02 -- THE DAY OF TOTAL PERFECTION IS COMING FOR THE SAINTS

"The Perfect Day" is approaching. It shall be a day of perfect light. Now, the saints of God, at best, "see through a glass darkly," perceiving only part of what they shall see clearly on "the perfect day." Now, the saints experience perfect hearts, but their minds and bodies are far from perfect. But, the day approaches when God's people shall be in every way perfect. Now, their race is not totally perfect. While he was still on his journey, Paul wrote: "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:12). His heart was perfect, but his race was imperfect in that it was not complete. Nevertheless, Paul perfected his race, and the day fast approaches when every saint shall have perfected his journey -- on "the perfect day."

The Body of Christ is still imperfect, in that it has not been totally completed, but on "the perfect day" all who ever shall be saved will be saved, and the Body of Christ shall have "come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." Yes, that "Perfect Day" of Total Perfection hastens, and shall soon be here. WHAT A DAY, GLORIOUS DAY, THAT SHALL BE FOR THE SAINTS!

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## 03 -- THE DAY OF TOTAL PERFECTION IS COMING UPON THE WICKED

As I see it, "the perfect day" shall be the day of Eternal Polarization:-- the day when ALL THAT IS EVIL SHALL BE FOREVER REMOVED FROM THAT WHICH IS GOOD. Thus, on "the perfect day" not only will all evil beings be removed from among all holy beings into their respective abodes in Hell and Heaven -- ALL GOOD WILL BE EXTRACTED FROM THE BEING OF THOSE WHO ARE EVIL!

1 Kings 14:13 tells us of the wicked Jeroboam and his house, "And all Israel shall mourn for him, and bury him: for he only of Jeroboam shall come to the grave, because IN HIM THERE IS FOUND SOME GOOD THING toward the Lord God of Israel in the house of Jeroboam." In this world, there is a mixture of "some good" and evil, in even the most wicked sinners. The vilest sinner has some good characteristics; the most heinous criminal and tyrant has at least a smidgen of that which is good in his person -- he may be heartless and cruel to nearly all others, and still be tender and kind to his mother, or his wife, or his children. When Gotti, the notorious mobster died

of cancer recently, certain good things about him were mentioned, and I believe at least one or two good things could be said about the worst person who ever occupied this globe.

BUT... when "the perfect day" comes -- I suspect that ALL GOOD WILL BE FOREVER EXTRACTED FROM ALL BEINGS WHO ARE THEN UNSAVED, and the fate of all such shall be eternal punishment in the Lake of Fire. Further, in that place of unimaginable and unmitigated horrors, EVERY BEING WILL BE THE ENEMY OF ALL OTHER BEINGS THERE.

I have heard of wicked people saying, "I want to go to hell, because that is where all my friends will be." If I am not mistaken, NOBODY IN HELL WILL BE A FRIEND TO ANYONE ELSE THERE. All will be gnashing, cursing, and inflicting more pain on every other being there -- all compassion, all sympathy, and all good having been extracted from every inhabitant of that awful and eternal place of suffering.

Related to this is another of my thoughts: In 2 Cor. 12:9, we read of how God's "strength is made perfect" in the saint. On "the perfect day" the strength of the saints will be increased and perfected eternally. They shall have an empowerment that is perhaps greater than the might of the mightiest angels in glory. However, conversely, I suspect that while the strength of the saints shall be perfected on "the perfect day," THE WEAKNESS OF THE WICKED SHALL BE MADE PERFECT ON THE PERFECT DAY. And, perhaps He who was the strongest in evil, shall be the weakest in hell.

If that is the case, in hell there shall be an inverted pyramid -- Satan being the weakest of all and on the bottom of that pyramid -- or pecking order of suffering. Those "beaten with few stripes" will be on the broader top of the inverted pyramid, stronger, and able to inflict more pain on all others beneath them, and so forth from inverted top to the bottom occupied by Satan -- who will be kicked around and abused by all others above him, as the weakest "whipping boy" in hell. In other words, the stronger the evil being was in Time, the weaker he shall be in the Lake of Fire -- he who had the most power on earth being the weakest in the Lake of Fire. If I am right, Satan will thus suffer the most, and suffer the most from all others, in the Lake of Fire. Sometimes preachers picture the damned as being the continued victims of a ferocious and powerful Satan in hell, but if I am right, it is HE who will be the greatest victim of suffering and abuse from all others in the regions of the damned.

"The Perfect Day" -- For the wicked, and especially for Satan, what a day, horrible day, shall be! Think of it! The Hitlers, the Stalins, the Saddam Husseins, the heartless and murderous rulers and oppressors of earth -- being only slightly above Satan and his imps in that awful, inverted pyramid of suffering, being gnashed upon, beaten, and bullied there by all others above them! From the bottom to the top of such an inverted pyramid of suffering, the total perfection of evil in the inhabitants of outer darkness shall amount to an endless experience more painful and horrible than the human mind can now comprehend.

\* \* \*

04 -- WHEN IT IS THAT THE PERFECT DAY SHALL COME

I believe the following verses pinpoint the time WHEN "the perfect day" shall come:

"But WHEN THAT WHICH IS PERFECT IS COME, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but THEN FACE TO FACE: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known" (1 Cor. 13:10-12).

Quite obviously, St. Paul spoke of "THAT WHICH IS PERFECT" coming at the time WHEN THE CHRISTIANS SHALL SEE JESUS "FACE TO FACE." That being the case, "THE PERFECT DAY" SHALL ARRIVE WHEN JESUS ARRIVES -- i. e., on the Day of the Lord, at the time of His glorious Revelation. "When the Lord Jesus Christ shall be revealed from heaven" (2 Thess. 1:7), then it is that the wicked will with fear see His face, crying out for the mountains and rocks to hide His face from them; and -- then it is that Christians shall, face to face, "see the King in his Beauty" (Isaiah 33:17) and "rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory" (1 Pet. 1:8). So, "THE PERFECT DAY" IS THE DAY OF CHRIST'S RETURN. But this leads me to the final, and PARTICULAR POINT OF THIS BRIEF ARTICLE:

\* \* \*

#### 05 -- ALL IMPERFECTION SHALL BE DONE AWAY WHEN CHRIST RETURNS

"But WHEN THAT WHICH IS PERFECT IS COME, then THAT WHICH IS IN PART SHALL BE DONE AWAY" (1 Cor. 13:10).

Now -- to apply this truth:

After Christ is seen "face to face" on "The Perfect Day," the day of His Revelation, THERE WILL BE NO PARTIAL RESTORATION OF THE EARTH, LASTING ONLY 1,000 YEARS. Why? Because TOTAL PERFECTION SHALL ARRIVE WHEN CHRIST ARRIVES. All of the human imperfections of the saints will be removed -- "that which is in part" relative to their salvation "shall be done away" and their salvation shall be made perfect in every way:-- to their perfect hearts shall be added perfection of body and mind, and they shall be removed from a very imperfect world into the total perfection of Heaven.

When the saints see Jesus, "face to face," God is not going to sit them down for 1,000 more years in a world that is, in part, purged and glorified. No! not at all -- He will take his totally perfected people to a totally and eternally perfect home -- Heaven!

Further, with "that which is in part done away," Christ is not going to rule over a people who are partly saved and partly-lost -- who are partly holy and partly unholy -- who are partly glorified and partly in the flesh -- who are partly His own, and partly children of the devil!

I once read a story something like this:-- A man who was not a Christian was dying, but refused to believe that hell must be his lot and the proud, unconverted man said to the one who was endeavoring to help him get saved: "There must be some better place for a man of my

respectability." I used this story in an article titled: "Ya Can't Get To Hellven From Here," emphasizing that there is no place called "Hellven," -- half-way, or somewhere, between Hell and Heaven -- for those who think themselves too good to go to hell, but who are not qualified for heaven.

There is no Purgatory and no Hellven. Christ has no such "Half-way House" and no Kingdom somewhere in between this earth and Heaven. However, in effect, Millennialists say that Christ has 3 Kingdoms -- the second of which is sort of a mixture between the earthly and the heavenly: (a) His Spiritual Kingdom now, consisting of only those who are born again and sanctified wholly; (b) Second, an Interim Kingdom for 1,000 Years on earth which shall be partially inhabited by unregenerate people "of respectability" who do not belong in heaven, but who outwardly kow-tow to His rule; and (c) an Eternal Kingdom in Heaven, inhabited once again by only the saved and the holy.

I firmly aver that CHRIST HAS NOT NOW, NOR EVER SHALL HAVE, A KINGDOM WHICH SHALL BE INHABITED PARTLY BY SAINTS AND PARTLY BY SINNERS -- "RESPECTABLE" OR OTHERWISE!

Friends, WHEN HE WHICH IS PERFECT IS COME, THEN THAT WHICH IS IN PART SHALL BE FOREVER DONE AWAY! In this world, the professed Church is now partly genuine, partly false and hypocritical, but when Jesus Returns -- not 1,000 years later -- "The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity" (Matthew 13:41). THAT MEANS, IN PLAIN ENGLISH: NOBODY WHO IS NOT RIGHT WITH GOD, BOTH IN HEART AND LIFE, WILL EVER OCCUPY A PLACE IN THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST -- ANY TIME, ANYWHERE! -- WORLD WITHOUT END.

Dear Holiness Preacher and Saint, what kind of a teaching is it that would even insinuate that Christ shall allow unholy people to dwell in His Kingdom????????? THIS SHALL NEVER BE, and frankly, I think it reflects on the integrity of Christ to suggest that He will ever allow such! Yet, this is the very thing that Pre-Millennialism teaches. How a Holiness person, preacher, or group could teach such a thing without seeing the glaring inconsistency in that teaching with everything in the doctrine of heart holiness is beyond me! Selah.

No, dear friends, at Christ's Return, that which is partly perfected in holiness shall become totally and eternally perfected therein and go to dwell in the total perfection of the Holy City, world without end! And conversely, that which is partly perfected in evil will become totally and eternally perfected therein, and be sent to dwell in the total perfection of all evil, suffering forever the undiluted perfection of suffering in the Lake of Fire -- world without end.

This, I believe, is what shall happen WHEN THAT WHICH IS PERFECT IS COME IN THE PERSON OF CHRIST AT THE TIME OF HIS SECOND COMING -- not 1,000 partially perfected years later. And THIS, I believe, is also in perfect harmony with the Perfect Word of God from cover to cover.

\* \* \* \* \*



## L. -- THE TRIBULATION SAINTS ARE -- THE CHURCH

"And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of SAINTS" (Rev. 19:8 ).

"And it was given unto him to MAKE WAR WITH THE SAINTS, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations" (Rev. 13:7).

"But THE SAINTS of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever... I beheld, and the same horn MADE WAR WITH THE SAINTS, and prevailed against them; Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that THE SAINTS possessed the kingdom... And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall WEAR OUT THE SAINTS of the most High... And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of THE SAINTS of the most High, Whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom.." (Dan. 7:18, 21-22, 25, 27).

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## INTRODUCTION

"And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of SAINTS" (Rev. 19:8 ).

Probably millions of times, Christian preachers (and particularly Holiness Preachers) have been blessed and anointed in preaching on the above text -- and quite invariably the term "saints" in the text is taken correctly to mean those who are "the Church, Christ's Bride."

The term "saint" or "saints" (Greek = Hagios) is found 62 times in the New Testament, and I assert that IN ALL INSTANCES "THE SAINTS" MENTIONED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT ARE NONE OTHER THAN "THE CHURCH, THE BRIDE OF CHRIST. Furthermore, as related to end-time prophecy, the term "saints" throughout the entire Bible applies to the blood-washed members of the Body of Christ.

It is true that in the Old Testament the term "saints" is used in reference to the holy ones under the Law, but the whole concept of there being Raptured Saints vs. Tribulation Saints prior to the Second Coming of Christ is without Scriptural support. Both context and consistency in our interpretation demands that we uniformly interpret the term "saint" or "saints" in the New Testament to mean the Church.

THIRTEEN (13) of the REFERENCES TO "SAINTS" in the New Testament ARE FOUND IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION -- and I assert that ALL THIRTEEN APPLY TO THE SAINTS OF CHRIST'S CHURCH -- and none apply to a supposed group of "Tribulation Saints" who shall not go up in the Rapture. ALL of God's "saints," both of the Old and New Testament, shall be raised in one "Perfect Man" to meet Christ in the air -- at His Revelation, for that is when the Rapture shall occur -- AFTER the Great Tribulation.

In the following point, I shall take up what one threw my way day before yesterday (with what struck me as an attitude of "smug cleverness") as what he supposed was a proof that the Church could not possibly be in the Tribulation just prior to Christ's Revelation. His reasoning, however, was sophistic, and without the support of the Bible, or the original Greek text.

\* \* \*

#### 01 -- CHRIST'S COMING BOTH FOR -- AND WITH -- HIS SAINTS

"And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh WITH ten thousands of his saints" (Jude 1:14).

The argument thrown at me by my detractor is one that is frequently put forth by Pre-Tribulationists:-- i. e., that Christ could not possibly come WITH his saints at the time of His Revelation unless he had previously come FOR them -- and, they assert that this coming FOR His saints shall have occurred 7 years before he comes WITH them. I could have refuted this sophistic reasoning of my detractor by sending him the following, but, I did not, and shall not. "A man convinced against his will, is of the same opinion still."

Pre-Tribulationist interpreters insist that the Greek word "Parousia" is used in reference to Christ's coming FOR his people, and they frequently quote 1 Thess. 4:15-17 as the time when Christ comes FOR his people at a Pre-Tribulation Rapture -- 7 years BEFORE the Revelation:

"For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the COMING [Parousia] of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

They are absolutely correct in saying that this passage describes the Rapture of the saints, but they are absolutely wrong in saying that it occurs 7 years BEFORE the Revelation. There are 3 Greek words used in the N.T. to describe the Second Coming: "Parousia" -- "Epiphany" -- and

"Apokalupsis" -- and Pre-Trib interpreters insist that "Parousia" applies to the Rapture BEFORE the Tribulation and "Apokalupsis" applies to the Revelation AFTER the Tribulation.

THIS ASSERTION IS WITHOUT ONE IOTA OF SCRIPTURAL BASIS! -- BEYOND QUESTION, ALL THREE WORDS ARE USED REPEATEDLY AND INTERCHANGEABLY IN REFERENCE TO THE SAME COMING OF CHRIST -- AFTER THE TRIBULATION! For further elucidation and confirmation of this, see Chapter 5 of hdm0124, "His Appearing and His Kingdom," entitled: "What The Greek Words Indicate."

Regarding how Christ shall come both FOR and WITH his saints at the same time, I shall append below several portions from my book, "His Appearing and His Kingdom," hdm0124. These excerpts will show both from the original Greek, as well as from sound logic, how Christ's coming FOR and WITH His saints at His Post-Tribulational Revelation can, and shall, occur:

\* \* \*

#### How Christ Shall Come Both For and With His People

From 1 Thess. 4:16, "The Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout," concerning the word "descend," Gundry states: "Other things being equal, the word 'descend' (katabaino) indicates a complete, uninterrupted descent." In other words, when Christ descends from heaven at the rapture, the saints will rise to meet Him in the air, but after that meeting Christ will continue His descent with them to the earth.

In support of this idea being conveyed generally in the word katabaino, Gundry gave the following references: Matt. 3:16; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:22; and John 1:32, 33; 3:13; 6:33, 38, 41, 42, 50, 51, 58. He said further: "Where a reversal from downward to upward motion comes into view, a specific statement to that effect appears, as in Acts 10:11, 16... In absence of a statement indicating a halt or sudden reversal of direction, we naturally infer a complete descent to the earth, such as will take place only at the Post-Tribulational advent."

The Greek word for "shout" in this verse [1 Thess. 4:16] is a form of "keleusma" which is interpreted as "a call, a summons, a shout of command, a signal shout." Alford says, "the word primarily signifies not only 'the shout of battle,'... but it is used of any signal given by the voice.." From this, then, it appears that the word "shout" used in this verse could have the significance of a "cry of command, a war-cry, commander-in-chief's order" as Arthur D. Katterjohn interprets it.

If this is the significance of the word "shout" in 1 Thess. 4:16, it would seem to indicate that this "shout" will be that of our Commander-In-Chief as He raises, raptures, and rallies His troops with Him to the battle of Armageddon [the same as the battle of Gog and Magog].

\* \* \*

#### How A Commander Came Both For And With His People

In support of the interpretation that Christ will both come for and with His people on the same day, in his book, "The Approaching Advent Of Christ," Alexander Reese wrote:

"During the Balkan War of 1912 an incident took place that illustrates, in a measure what will take place at the return of Christ.

"When the Serbian commander and his troops were approaching an ancient Serbian town in the hands of the enemy, they could be seen wending their way down the hill overlooking the city below; the inhabitants of the town were electrified by the sight: the Serbian descendants with joy, the Turks with fear and trembling. As the Commander and his troops came nearer, the officials and loyal citizens went forth to meet the man whom they were hailing as their deliverer.

"A scene of delirious enthusiasm and exultation followed, and then the assembled multitude, having met him, turned and accompanied the commander and his troops on the way back to the city. The Turkish flag was hauled down and the Serbian one hoisted in its place. He had come FOR and WITH his rescued people on the same day.

"Now, at the parousia in triumph of our Lord Jesus Christ, His faithful people, as they see Him coming, will be caught up to meet Him in the air: they go forth to meet Him, and then return with Him to earth to share His triumph in the kingdom... Christ has come FOR His saints, and With them at the same crisis.."

\* \* \*

1 Thess. 4:17 says: "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to MEET the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." The Greek word for "to meet" here is a form of APANTESIS.

Concerning this word W. E. Vine says: "It is used in the papyri of a newly arriving magistrate." Moulton Greek Test. Gram. says: "It seems that the special idea of the word was the official welcome of a newly arrived dignitary." Alford says concerning this word: "To meet occurs twice more in the New Test. and each time implies meeting one who was approaching, not merely 'meeting with' a person."

F. F. Bruce said: "When a dignitary paid an official visit or parousia to a city in Hellenistic times, the action of the leading citizens in going out to meet him and escorting him on the final stage of his journey was called the apantesis." Such an apantesis, or meeting of the Lord in the air to accompany Him back to earth in triumph, could only occur at His Post-Tribulational revelation.

The same Greek word for "to meet" (apantesis, exact form apantesin) is used in Matt. 25:6 and Acts 28:15. The reader is invited to study the word in these verses. Acts 28:15 tells of a group of brethren at Rome who went out from Rome "to meet" the apostle Paul and his entourage, and who then accompanied Paul as he continued his journey to Rome.

\* \* \*

Any reasonable man with no prophetic "ax to grind" should be able to see that Christ's coming both FOR and WITH his saints at His Revelation is not only possible, but scriptural. But, I have no desire to argue the point with any who will not listen to reason and who wish only to debate. Paul said in 1 Cor. 14:38 -- "But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant." One can go to heaven being mistaken on this point, but it might be tragic for some, who, through sophistic reasoning, have been led into the false hope of escape from coming blood-baths in a Pre-Tribulational Rapture that shall not occur. Selah.

\* \* \*

## 02 -- ALL SAINTS IN THE APOCALYPSE ARE THE CHURCH

As earlier stated, the term "saint" or "saints" is found 62 times in the New Testament, and 13 times in the book of Revelation. Pre-Tribulationists are wont to apply the term "saints" in Rev. 19:8 to "the Church," while applying the term elsewhere in the book to a group which they call "Tribulation Saints" -- saints that did not go up in the Rapture. Again, I say: such an assertion is without Scriptural support. Please consider the following excerpt from my book, "His Appearing and His Kingdom," hdm0124:

\* \* \*

### The Saints Of Revelation Are Christians

The writer has already endeavored to demonstrate... that "the elect" who shall pass through the great tribulation are the sanctified of the church, those having on the wedding garment. But what about the "saints" mentioned repeatedly in the Book of Revelation by the apostle John? As a Christian, did John think of people as being "saints" apart from being washed in the blood of the Lamb? Or, did John think of "saints" as being those who constitute the Church, the Bride of Christ?

From Rev. 19:7-8 we can see that quite obviously the apostle John thought of the "saints" in this latter sense: "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints."

John thought of the "saints" as the "wife," or bride of Christ. None, then, should presume to interpret that when the "saints" are mentioned elsewhere in Revelation they are not part of the Church, Christ's Bride. And, since John shows in Revelation that the "saints" will suffer during the reign of anti-Christ, it should be obvious to those who read this prophecy that the Church will pass through the Great Tribulation.

I maintain that indeed all of the references to the "saints" in Revelation speak of those who comprise the Church, including the following reference:

Rev. 13:4-10 -- "And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?"

(5) And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. (6) And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. (7) And it was given unto him to MAKE WAR WITH THE SAINTS, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. (8) And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. (9) IF ANY MAN HAVE AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR. (10) He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. HERE IS THE PATIENCE and THE FAITH OF THE SAINTS."

In Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13 and 3:22, the statement "HE THAT HATH AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR" always concerns "WHAT THE SPIRIT SAITH unto THE CHURCHES." When, therefore, Christ makes a strikingly similar statement in Rev. 13:9-10 (see above) to "THE SAINTS," is it not inconsistently presumptuous to interpret that His statement there is not also directed to "the churches"? I suggest that it is. Furthermore, who can show that the following references to the "SAINTS" in Revelation do not apply to "THE CHURCH"?:

Rev. 14:11-12 -- "And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. (12) Here is the patience of THE SAINTS: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

Rev. 16:6 -- "For they have shed the blood of SAINTS and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy. Rev. 17:5-6 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. (6) And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of THE SAINTS, and with the blood of THE MARTYRS OF JESUS: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration."

Rev. 18:24 "And in her was found THE BLOOD of prophets, and OF SAINTS, and of all that were slain upon the earth."

Both John's concept of "saints" and the contexts in which the term appears, make it probable that every reference to the "saints" in Revelation applies to none other than to the Church of Jesus Christ, His blood-washed Bride. That probability being so, the Book of Revelation provides overwhelming proof that Christians will pass through, rather than be raptured out of, the Great Tribulation. (see also Rev. 5:8; 8:3-4; 11:18; 15:3; and 20:9)

\* \* \*

### 03 -- SAINTS IN THE BOOK OF DANIEL ARE CHRISTIANS

The following is also excerpted from hdm0124, "His Appearing And His Kingdom":

The prophetic statements about the "saints" in the book of Daniel, then, should also be interpreted in the light of the book of Revelation. For, while perhaps the prophet Daniel himself did not envision "saints" as those comprising "the church" of Christ, the Spirit Who inspired his

prophecy did. Therefore, the following statements from Daniel are seen by this writer as applying to the Church:

Dan 7:18-27 -- "But THE SAINTS of the most High (Christians) shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.. (21) I beheld, and THE SAME HORN MADE WAR WITH (CHRISTIANS) THE SAINTS, and prevailed against them; (22) Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to THE SAINTS of the most High; and the time came that THE SAINTS POSSESSED THE KINGDOM.. (25) And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall WEAR OUT (CHRISTIANS) THE SAINTS of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time. (26) But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end. (27) And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be GIVEN TO THE PEOPLE OF THE SAINTS OF THE MOST HIGH, (THE PEOPLE OF CHRIST) Whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him."

The "saints" and "holy people" in the book of Daniel are seen to be identical to the sanctified church of Christ. This taken to be so, consider also the following quotations from Daniel:

Dan. 8:23-25 -- "And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. (24) And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: (by Satan's power) and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practice, and SHALL DESTROY (THE SAINTS OF THE CHURCH) THE MIGHTY AND THE HOLY PEOPLE. (25) And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; (Christ) but he shall be broken without hand."

Dan. 12:4-7 -- "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased. (5) Then I Daniel looked, and, behold, there stood other two, the one on this side of the bank of the river, and the other on that side of the bank of the river. (6) And one said to the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, How long shall it be to the end of these wonders? (7) And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and sware by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; (3 1/2 lunar years) and when he shall have accomplished to SCATTER THE POWER OF (THE CHURCH) THE HOLY PEOPLE, all these things shall be finished."

\* \* \*

04 -- THE COMPLACENT, LAODICEAN CHURCH SHALL BE SHOCKED!

A rude awakening -- an overwhelming shock -- shall strike the complacent, Laodicean Church when it awakens to find itself IN -- not rapturously wafted away from -- THE GREAT TRIBULATION!

The Book of Daniel, in correlation with both the Olivet Discourse and the Book of Revelation, is seen to demonstrate the fact that THE "SAINTS" OF CHRIST'S CHURCH WILL PASS THROUGH "THE LITTLE SEASON" OF TRIBULATION at the end of the age, including the final 3 1/2 years of the Great Tribulation.

Quoting Jeremiah 30:7, Pre-Tribulationist interpreters declare that the suffering of the coming Great Tribulation shall be exclusively "the time of Jacob's (Israel's) trouble" -- a time when they only suffer who have been left behind AFTER the Rapture. I declare that this is a misinterpretation that is unsupported by the Bible, which shows quite the contrary:-- that the Great Tribulation shall be a time of world-wide trouble, affecting and afflicting ALL, including the SAINTS OF GOD, who shall NOT ESCAPE FROM BEING IN IT, BUT WHO SHALL, RATHER, ESCAPE OUT FROM THE MIDST OF IT JUST BEFORE THE INDIGNATION OCCURS WITH THE OUTPOURING OF THE SEVENTH VIAL.

Thus, while I agree with the words of the song below that "There's a time of awful anguish coming on" -- I DO NOT AGREE WITH THOSE WORDS OF THE SONG THAT DECLARE FOR THE SAINT: "WHEN THE TRIBULATION ENTERS, I'LL BE GONE" -- nor do I agree with any part of the song that suggests a Pre-Tribulational Escape for the SAINTS OF GOD, who are repeatedly seen in the Bible as sufferers IN that coming time of anguish!

This old world begins to rock,  
Infidels and skeptics mock,  
There's a time of awful anguish coming on;  
O what groans of bitter pain,  
When the Anti-Christ shall reign!  
When the Tribulation enters I'll be gone.

In the twinkling of an eye,  
You will hear the midnight cry,  
All the dead who sleep in Jesus then shall rise;  
We who live and here remain,  
Shall be caught up just the same,  
Christ and all the loved ones, meet up in the sky.

Then the Anti-Christ shall reign.  
All must have his mark or name,  
For without it you can neither sell nor buy;  
Signs and wonders he shall do,  
Call down fire from heaven too;  
It is either worship him or you shall die.

I'll be gone, I'll be gone,  
When the Tribulation enters I'll be gone,  
Soon the trumpet loud shall sound,  
With a shout I'll leave the ground,



When the tribulation enters I'll be gone."

-- From An Article by Spencer Johnson (Song-Author not Given)

Although he was a quite avid teacher of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture, I shall next quote a saying of William Moses Tidwell regarding the theory set forth in the above song: "MAKES GOOD PREACHING -- JUST ISN'T SO!"

Phil Ledger, Missionary to the Orient emailed me today, telling me of the surprise of Chinese Christians, after recent martyrdoms and persecution have struck them. **THEY HAD BEEN INDOCTRINATED TO BELIEVE THAT THEY WOULD BE RAPTURED AWAY FROM SUCH!**

How long shall it be till the laid-back, ease-loving, pain-shunning, Laodicean Church awakens to its impending peril! I say that a Church that thinks it has "need of nothing" -- a Church that thinks it is "sitting pretty" and just waiting for its sweet ascension into the skies before the Great Tribulation -- yet a Church for whom Christ has prescribed the "buying (at the high price of suffering) gold TRIED IN THE FIRE" -- **SUCH A CHURCH SHALL EXPERIENCE A SHOCK TEN MILLION TIMES GREATER THAN THAT WHICH STRUCK AMERICA ON BLACK-TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 -- WHEN IT WAKES UP "IN" -- NOT DELIVERED FROM -- THE GREAT TRIBULATION!**

Professed, and genuine, Christians today who have been brainwashed and "conditioned" into thinking "When the Tribulation enters, I'll be gone," are not going to be in any "condition" to withstand such a shock -- unless some drastic changes take place before the Laodicean Church finds itself in the midst of that "TIME OF AWFUL ANGUISH COMING ON." Selah.

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THE END