

Events After Pentecost I

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Let's look at some things that cover the Pentecost story, some of those things that take place *after* Pentecost.

God is doing a phenomenal thing with His people and His Church. God never works like men work. He works entirely differently, and He has called us whom the world does not even consider worthy of counting of existing.

It is like I told one Protestant, I said that's always the way it's been with the Church of God. Every Sabbath there are millions of Christians who believe in Jesus Christ and His grace and salvation by faith, who keep the Sabbath, and you don't even have a clue as to where they are; you don't even recognize who they are. So calloused are they in their beliefs that they are right, the Protestants, even in the face of reading Rome's Challenge to the Protestants (from the Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version Appendix N; also found at truthofgod.org), **INSIST ON** keeping Sunday.

Now that's an aside, but it does prove a point. The point is that God has called us because, to the world, we are insignificant and foolish.

1 Corinthians 1:25: "Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men."

Of course God doesn't have any foolishness. Even if God had foolishness, and even if God had weakness then it would be greater than men or the best efforts of men.

Verse 26: "For you see your calling, brethren, that *there are* not many who are wise according to the flesh, not many who are powerful, not many who are highborn *among you*. Rather, **God has chosen the foolish things of the world, so that He might put to shame those who are wise...** [the confounding of the wise will not be completed until after the resurrection] ...and **God has chosen the weak things of the world so that He might put to shame the strong things**" (vs 26-27).

That's why we have so many problems and difficulties that we go through, but God is with us. God is with us in all of it.

Verse 28: "And the lowborn of the world, and the despised has God chosen—*even* the things that are counted as nothing—..."

How many people in the world know that we're keeping the Sabbath here? *or* that we even exist? *Hardly any!* He has done this to bring to nothing the things that are. So, all of the rich, all of

the powerful, all of the governments, all the great things of the world *are going to come to nothing through us*. That's why I said on Pentecost, we've been called to the greatest thing that there is! That's why God does not want you to look at what you are, but God wants you to focus on what will be! That is the spiritual reality that is going to take place..

Here is the reason, v 29: "So that no flesh might glory in His presence."

God told the children of Israel the same thing. Deut. 5 shows that God works His mysterious way opposite according to the way that men think. He is doing something greater because it is *His* work that He is working in us. Not what we can do for God, what we can do for God we need to do. Whatever He says that we need to do, or sets before us to do, we need to do it.

- What can God do for us?
- What can you do without God? *Nothing!*

Not any man in the world can do anything without God, though man rejects Him! God created him and gave him everything that he has. In His mercy God sends the rain on the just and on the unjust, and the sunshine, and the food, and everything like this God gives to all human beings, and they only exist because of the will of God. Which means then, whatever they do, even though they sin contrary to the will of God, the only reason that they are not snuffed out instantly is because of God. So hence, they can do nothing without God.

I think it is interesting, but I heard a man talking about the solar system and the universe and the videos that they put out on that, who is an astronomer, and he said he didn't know a single astronomer who did not believe in God. It is amazing! It doesn't mean that they obey Him, but they can understand this didn't all spontaneously happen from nothing. You know like God told the environmentalist. He said, 'Go create your own dirt before you start. Don't use Mine.'

Here is what God said to the children of Israel, Deuteronomy 5:22: "The LORD spoke these words to all your assembly in the mountain out of the midst of the fire of the cloud and of the thick darkness with a great voice. And He added no more...."—ceased to talk.

A lot of people say that God didn't add any more. He ceased to talk at that point, but as we will see He added a considerably lot more. But the Ten Commandments, which He spoke, were the basis of everything that He gave them later on.

“...And He wrote them on two tablets of stone and delivered them to me. And it came to pass when you heard the voice out of the midst of the darkness, for the mountain burned with fire, you came near me, all the heads of your tribes and your elders, and you said, ‘Behold, the LORD our God has revealed His glory and His greatness, and we have heard His voice out of the midst of the fire. We have seen today that God talks with man, yet, he *still* lives. Now, therefore, why should we die? **For this great fire will consume us. If we hear the voice of the LORD our God anymore, then we shall die**” (vs 22-25).

That’s the way people are today. This same kind of spirit is what is behind removing God from government, from public education, from media, and yes, from the new versions of the Bible also by perverting, twisting and destroying it.

Verse 26: “‘For who of all flesh has heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as we *have*, and lived? You go near and hear all that the LORD our God shall say. And you speak to us all that the LORD our God shall speak to you, and we will hear *it*, and do *it*.’ And the LORD heard the voice of your words when you spoke to me. And the LORD said to me, ‘I have heard the voice of the words of this people, which they have spoken to you. They have well *said* all that they have spoken” (vs 26-28). They mean well.

Here is the key, 29: **“Oh, that there were such a heart in them that they would fear Me and keep all My commandments always so that it might be well with them and with their children forever!”**

Why did God do this? Why did God call us? *We have already seen it, so He explained it to them!*

Deuteronomy 7:6: “For you *are* a Holy people to the LORD your God. **The LORD your God has chosen you to be a special people to Himself above all people** that are upon the face of the earth.”

You need to realize that God the Father Himself has personally chosen you, and personally selected everyone one that He gives the Holy Spirit to. We are special!

Verse 7: “The LORD did not set His love upon you nor choose you because you were more in number than any people, for you *were* the fewest of all people. But because the LORD loved you, and because He would keep the oath, which He had sworn to your fathers... [Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob] ...the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you out of the house of bondage from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Therefore, know that the LORD your God, He *is* God, the

faithful God Who keeps covenant and mercy with them that love Him and keep His commandments, to a thousand generations. And he repays those who hate Him to their face, to destroy them. He will not be slow to repay him who hates Him. He will repay him to his face. You shall, therefore, keep the commandments and the statutes and the judgments which I command you today to do them” (vs 7-11).

Then He shows the blessings and cursings that would follow.

Let’s tie this in with Pentecost, and let’s see what happened after God called Moses up on the mountain again.

{note sermon: *From the Red Sea to Sinai* showing when the law was given on the Day of Pentecost.}

Then these events took place after Pentecost, part of them, from the last part of Deut. 20 thru 23, God gave all this information to Moses, and then he came back down. Since they assembled before the mount in the morning, they heard the voice of God through the cloud, through the trumpet, through the whirlwind, through all of the things that were going on and the mountain was literally burning and smoking. That’s why they were afraid. Then Moses went back up and he got this information.

Beginning in Exo. 24 we see that another day takes place *after* Pentecost where He *seals* the covenant.

Exodus 24:1: “And He said to Moses, ‘Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship afar off. And Moses alone shall come near the LORD, but they shall not come near. Neither shall the people go up with him.’ And Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD...” (vs 1-3).

I want you to pay attention to what happened on this part of Pentecost, and then let’s see what happened the next day because that will be significant when we come to the New Testament.

“...and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one voice and said, ‘All the words which the LORD has said, we will do.’ And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD, and rose up early in the morning... [now we are in the next day, the day after Pentecost] ...and built an altar at the base of the mountain and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel. And he sent young men of the children of Israel who offered burnt offerings, and sacrificed peace offerings of bullocks to the LORD. And Moses took half of the blood, and put *it* in basins, and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. And he took the Book of the Covenant, and read in the ears of the people. And they said, ‘All

that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient.’ (vs 3-7).

When God makes a covenant there are words of the covenant. That’s why when we take the Passover we entitle the words: The Words of the New Covenant, because the covenant is an irrevocable contract that God makes, and when there is a contract it is to be *written* so that there should not be any dispute. That’s what He did.

They said again, “...‘All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient.’ And Moses took the blood and sprinkled *it* on the people, and said, ‘Behold the blood of the covenant...’” (vs 7-8).

That ties right in with the New Covenant Passover. When they had the Passover sacrifice in Egypt, that was the setting aside of them at the beginning of their calling to be set aside for God. God did not enter into covenant with them on Passover. God entered into covenant with them *after* Pentecost. We’ll see there is a parallel between this and what will happen with us.

I’ll just telegraph a little bit of it here: Before we get about the business of running the world under Christ, *we are going to enter into a special covenant with Christ!* Because the New Covenant that we renew every Passover is for *forgiveness of sin and the promise of eternal life*. Now when you are resurrected and you receive eternal life, then there has to be a *new* covenant made, because now you are in a different category, and this is a foretype of it here in Exo. 24. We’ll see that’s one of the things that have to take place.

Verse 9: “And Moses went up, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel. And **they saw the God of Israel...**” (vs 9-10).

Not talked to face-to-face, but they saw Him. The reason God did this was so that they would know that it was God. They would come down and they would be the witnesses to the people that, yes, it *was* God. Remember that a little later on they forgot that it was God when they made the golden calf. So, they had no excuse.

“...And *there was* under His feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the heavens in clearness” (v 10). What is this? *This is the thing that separated God and Aaron, Nadab, Abihu and the 70 elders that went up to see God!* They could look up through this and they could see God. What is this describing other than a Sea of Glass?

Verse 11: “And upon the nobles of the children of Israel He did not lay his hands. Also, they saw God, and ate and drank.”

When they said, ‘I do’ at this particular point, what kind of covenant was this? *It was a marriage covenant!*

“...and ate and drank.” It doesn’t say what kind of food they had. It doesn’t say how they got it. It doesn’t tell us that they brought it up there. It doesn’t say they didn’t bring it up there. It doesn’t say that God provided it, and it doesn’t say that He didn’t provide it. I’ll let you figure out what it is. It is very possible they took it up there.

Verse 12: “And the LORD said to Moses, ‘Come up to Me in the mountain, and be there. And I will give you tablets of stone, and the law, and commandments which I have written, so that you may teach them.’ And Moses rose up, and his attendant Joshua. And Moses went up into the mountain of God. And he said to the elders, ‘You wait here for us until we come again to you....’” (vs 12-14).

Apparently Joshua went up so far, and then Moses went up beyond that. That’s the only thing we could figure out, because Joshua did not talk to God face-to-face.

“...And behold, Aaron and Hur *are* with you. If any man has a cause, let him come to them.’ And Moses went up into the mountain, and a cloud covered the mountain. And the glory of the LORD abode upon Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud” (vs 14-16). After they had eaten, apparently, they went on down, that is the elders and so forth.

Verse 17: “And the sight of the glory of the LORD *was* like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain to the eyes of the children of Israel. And Moses went into the midst of the cloud, and went up into the mountain. And Moses was in the mountain forty days and forty nights” (vs 17-18). There are a lot of things that went on those 40 days and 40 nights. We are not going to go through that.

Let’s come and see the parallel that the Apostle Paul writes about in Heb. 12. There is a New Testament fulfillment of this.

Hebrews 12:18: “For you have not come to *the* mount that could be touched and that burned with fire, nor to gloominess, and fearful darkness, and *the* whirlwind; and to *the* sound of *the* trumpet, and to *the* voice of *the* words, which those who heard, *begged* that *the* word not be spoken *directly* to them. (For they could not endure what was being commanded: ‘And if even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned, or shot through with an arrow’; and so terrifying was the sight *that* Moses said, ‘I am greatly afraid and trembling’)” (vs 18-21).

Here is what you need to understand how great that God is dealing with us, v 22: “But **you have come to Mount Zion, and to the city of the living God**, heavenly Jerusalem; and to an innumerable company of angels; *to the joyous festival gathering*; and to *the Church of the Firstborn*, registered in *the Book of Life* in heaven; and to God, *the Judge* of all; and to *the spirits of the just* who have been perfected; and to Jesus, *the Mediator of the New Covenant*; and to sprinkling of *the blood of ratification*, proclaiming superior things than *that of Abel*” (vs 22-24). So, there is a spiritual parallel. That is quite a thing!

Now let’s talk about some things concerning this Mount Zion, and we’ll talk about some things concerning the Sea of Glass. The Bible shows there are three heavens:

1. the atmosphere around the earth
2. the universe that you can look out and see
3. the third heaven where God’s throne is

No one can see the third heaven unless God makes it possible. Paul said that he was taken up into the third heaven whether in body or whether in spirit he didn’t know, and he heard things that it is not lawful for a man to speak. And we’re going to see that John also had that privilege.

When I fly and go some place, I come from heaven. The plane I fly on goes either in the clouds or above the clouds, and when it lands I have just descended from heaven. As a matter of fact when they fly at 33,000 to 37,000 feet, I think the highest I have flown on a plane was a cross-continental flight, non-stop, and they went at 37,000 feet. That is higher than the birds fly, but it is still part of the first heaven, which is part of the earth.

Do people today travel in heaven? Yes, on airplanes and some few in rockets, because we’re going to see a place here a little bit later on that talks about the sound of much people in heaven.

- Which one?
- Where?
- How did they get there?

Peter said on Pentecost, ‘David has not ascended into heaven.’ John wrote that **only Jesus** has ascended into heaven. No man has ascended into heaven, but Jesus. So, we need to get some of these things a little clearer and defined.

Now then, you can go back and study about the cherubim in Ezek. 1 & 10. You can talk about the vision of Isaiah and seeing the throne of God in heaven above and so forth; it is there. Now let’s see if we can put this all together. We come to the point where we see that these events begin; this is going to take place.

Revelation 12:7: “And there was war in heaven... [that’s going to happen again] ...Michael and his angels warred against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels warred.” The angels of Satan are fallen angels who are called *demons*.

Verse 9: “And the great dragon was cast out, the ancient serpent who is called the Devil and Satan, who is deceiving the whole world... [he is actively doing it] ...he was cast down to the earth, and his angels were cast down with him.”

We don’t know how much time there is left. We’ve built a pretty humongous space station, and the Chinese are starting to get into the act. Could it be that in this space station that Satan possesses *the beast*? He gets in a rocket and he goes up there and all the demons of Satan are there, and there is war right around that space station? And *the beast*, possessed of Satan, escapes and comes back to the earth? That is a little speculation. But nevertheless, one way or the other, Satan is going to be cast to the earth.

Verse 10: “And I heard a great voice in heaven say, ‘Now has come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of His Christ because the accuser of our brethren has been cast down, who accuses them day and night before our God. But they overcame him through the blood of the Lamb, and through the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto death’” (vs 10-11).

They knew; and we need to know and understand that God has called us to become part of the greatest thing that is ever going to happen to this earth since it was created! God hasn’t called you to ‘save your neck’ from burning in ever-burning hell. God has called you for a great and fantastic purpose as His sons and His daughters! The first resurrection is going to be the greatest thing that will happen, and you and I, and all those who have the Spirit of God, will be part of that! It is not going to be some ‘secret rapture’! **When Christ returns, the world is going to know**, and all of these people that think they are going to escape in a secret rapture before the Tribulation, are deceived, and they are going to pay the price by going through it!

Verse 12: “Therefore, rejoice you heavens and those who dwell in them. Woe to those who inhabit the earth and the sea! For the Devil has come down to you, having great wrath *because* he knows that he has *only* a short time.’ And when the dragon saw that he was cast down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who had brought forth the man-*Child*. And two wings of a great eagle were given to the woman, so that she might fly to her place in the wilderness, where she is nourished *for* a time, and times, and half a time, from *the* face of the

serpent” (vs 12-14).

There are going to be some who are going to be taken to a place of safety. But I do believe that many of those who thought they would save their necks because they read the article years ago, *There is a Way of Escape*, probably are no longer in fellowship with the Church of God.

Why are there going to be some in a place of safety? *Those who go to a place of safety, will be taken there by the angels (Luke 17)!* That is not a rapture, because you’re not going to heaven. You may fly through the first heaven as the angels take whoever is going to go to a place of safety and will be there, but **God** is going to choose and select the ones to go. No man or woman is going to appoint himself or herself, saying, ‘I deserve to go.’

The minute you say that, you are unworthy, because you are judging yourself rather than God. **God** is going to see who is going to be worthy or not. He’s going to make the decision. That’s another reason why the Church had to be destroyed, because there were too many people there with their Petra boxes thinking that they were going to save their physical necks. The ultimate reason why there are some who go to the place of safety, comes down to a very simple thing, which we will cover in just a minute.

Verse 15: “And the serpent cast water out of his mouth as a river, so that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth, and swallowed up the river that the dragon had cast out of his mouth” (vs 15-16).

Can God protect you if He wants to? *Yes, indeed!* What can He even do? *Well, He’ll even open up the earth and consume all the water!*

Verse 17: “Then the dragon was furious with the woman and went to make war with **the rest of her seed...**” These are the ones who **do not** go to a place of safety, not meaning just a small few left behind.

“...who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” (v17). These people have been *chosen* to be martyrs. God is the One Who makes the decision, but He will strengthen you with whatever strength you need if you are chosen to be a martyr! If you love God with all of your heart, mind, soul and being, and you have already forsaken your own life and your own way and buried it in Christ, then when it comes time that you—whoever you may be—that you must be a martyr; then God will give you the strength. He will give you a mouth to speak. You will say the Words of God, and you will not be afraid of anything that anyone can do to you, **because they can’t take away**

eternal life! Even killing the body is not going to stop the plan of God.

Let’s come here to the fifth seal of Rev. 6. {note sermon *The Mark of the Beast is Here*} I said it’s going to become so natural and such a regular thing that when it comes time to receive it, people are going to say, ‘Yea, give it to me’; except those who have the Spirit of God. Those who don’t will be martyred. You can tie that in with Rev. 13. If you don’t bow down to *the image of the beast* and you don’t receive *the mark of the beast*, you’re history as far as the world is concerned, but you are preserved in Christ. Remember He said if you lose your life, you are going to preserve it.

Revelation 6:9: “And when He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the Word of God, and for the testimony that they held.” Tie that in with Rev. 12:11, how they got there. They didn’t love their lives unto death.

Verse 10: “And they cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘How long, O Lord, Holy and true, do You not judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?’ And white robes were given to each of them; and they were told that they should rest a short time, yet...” (vs 10-11)—showing that they are in the grave, though this is symbolically speaking here:

“...until *it* be fulfilled *that* both their fellow servants and their brethren also would be killed, just as they had been” (v 11). When this takes place, remember that Satan makes war against the remnant of her seed, so this takes place just right after the second seal, the third seal, the fourth seal, the fifth seal comes real quickly! So, the martyrdom goes on for just a little less than two years. I am sure, I’m convinced, that God will allow Satan to think that he has destroyed the Church by killing all of those who are the saints of God. This ends the Church harvest, martyrdom of the saints.

How does that tie in with the place of safety? *That’s so Jesus can keep His Word!* What is another reason why they go to a place of safety? *Because Jesus made a promise—not just a place of safety—He made another promise that also applies to those who go to a place of safety!*

Matthew 16:15: “He said to them, ‘But you, whom do you declare Me to be?’ Then Simon Peter answered *and* said, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ And Jesus answered *and* said to him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jona, for flesh and blood did not reveal *it* to you, but My Father, Who is in heaven” (vs 15-17).

A very key, important thing, anything you understand out of the Bible, **God reveals it to you.**

Verse 18: “And I say also to you that you are Peter... [Petros] ...and upon this Rock... [Petra] ...I will build My Church... [here is the promise]: ...**and the gates of the grave shall not prevail against it.**”

To fulfill that promise, there are those who go to a place of safety, because all of the rest that Satan makes war against are going to be killed. If God didn't put some in a place of safety to preserve their physical life, the Church would have died out! That's another reason why there is a place of safety.

(go to the next track)

There have to be some remnant alive in the flesh, not counting the 144,000 and the great innumerable multitude, but Christ made the promise here that ‘the gates of hell would never prevail against it,’ therefore, *it would never die out!* That is the whole premise of the Mormon Church: it died out, therefore, it had to be revealed to Joseph Smith.

Let's understand that if we put the Scriptures properly together concerning the timeframe, we know that in Rev. 12 we have ‘time, times, and a half a time,’ which we understand to be three and a half years. We know that the time at the end is three and a half years. That's referred to as ***the*** Great Tribulation. The whole period is referred to as ***the*** Day of the Lord. We also know that if we have put Hosea 5:21 and 6:1-3 together, that out of the Great Tribulation there is the Tribulation against Israel, which ends in two years. It says that He'll raise them up in the third year. So, this means that as we are looking at the three and a half year period if there are two years that are gone, there is roughly a year and a half left.

Rev. 6:12 takes place right at the end of two years into the Tribulation, and this is going to be the great event that is going to take place. It is going to be an awesome thing indeed! The whole world is going to know it! The return of Jesus Christ is going to be a spectacular event, which will be witnessed, the coming of it, for a year and a half! Every eye is going to see Him. Everyone is going to know that something spectacular is happening.

Revelation 6:12: “And when He opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as *the* hair of sackcloth, and the moon became as blood; and the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its untimely figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind” (vs 12-13).

Here is the event that is going to startle the world, v 14: “Then *the* heaven departed like a scroll that is being rolled up...” That is going to absolutely shock the world! We just might understand what a fantastic thing this is; it affects the whole earth!

“...and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the powerful men, and every bondman, and every free *man* hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains; and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, ‘Fall on us, and hide us from *the* face of Him Who sits on the throne... [God the Father] ...and from the wrath of the Lamb, because the great day of His wrath has come, and who has the power to stand?’” (vs 14-17). That's the ultimate end result of it!

But what's going to happen when the heavens depart as a scroll? Wouldn't you say that the heavens departing as a scroll is a new thing in the heavens as people observe it? *Have to be! Yes, a brand new thing!*

Remember that in the book of Haggai God says He is going to shake the heavens. He is going to shake the earth. He is going to shake the sea. We find in the book of Isaiah that the earth is going to ‘reel like a drunken man.’ Here is what is going to be, when they say, ‘Here is Christ, there is Christ,’ ***don't believe it!*** Here is how He is going to come.

Matthew 24:27: “For as the light of day, which comes forth from *the* east and shines as far as *the* west, so also shall the coming of the Son of man be.”

When the heavens depart as a scroll, something brand new is going to happen! The whole sky, the whole universe, and everything is going to be instantly changed, and once they recover from the shock of it, they're going to look up there and they are going to see, here is a brand new sun we never knew existed out there. The reason that it looks like it shines from east to west is because the earth is still turning on its axis, and however far out this sign is—the sign of the Son of man like a new sun—it's going to be out there.

Remember, this takes place at the end of two years in the Tribulation. What is the world going to be convinced that this is? They won't know at first. They'll look at it, they'll watch it, they'll observe it, but what will they conclude? *This is the invasion from outer space that we have been expecting!* That's what they will conclude! And the aliens are coming to invade the earth. That will be their ultimate conclusion of it. That's going to be a spectacular event.

Rev. 7—we already covered about the 144,000 and great innumerable multitude. What happens when that sign of the Son of man appears, the heavens depart as a scroll, then God intervenes to do His 50th-day work, as we have seen in the 144,000 of the children of Israel; which we have already seen are different than the 144,000 of Rev.

14, and the great innumerable multitude. Which means that not everyone is going to start fighting Christ or think that it is an invasion from outer space; they're going to repent! No one receives salvation without repentance, so, the 144,000 repent, God sends the Holy Spirit to them, the great innumerable multitude repent, God sends the Holy Spirit to them, because it is His independent work in saving all of these people.

These will be the harvest of Pentecost, from one Pentecost to the next Pentecost within that 18-month period. This fulfills the prophecy of the laborers that went to work in the vineyard: some started at the first hour in the morning and some came the eleventh hour of the day and worked just a little bit and when they got paid, they all received the same amount, *which is symbolic of eternal life.* 'The first shall be last and the last shall be first.'

We need to plug in here that also during this timeframe there are two witnesses in Jerusalem having a very powerful witness, and just before the resurrection, they are martyred. So, God is going to give Himself a fantastic witness! God is not going to have anyone say, 'Oh! You came to the earth? When did You come to the earth?' *The whole world is going to know it!*

Let's show that they meet Christ on the Sea of Glass. Now we need to talk about the Sea of Glass. *After* Pentecost Moses, Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and 70 of the elders went up and they had that meal in the presence of God (Exo. 24). They saw God standing on a little portable Sea of Glass so they could look up and see God. Some people think the Sea of Glass is just kind of a symbolic thing! Well, that shows that they neither understand what God is doing, nor do they understand the magnitude of what God is going to perform!

- Why do we come to Sabbath services?
- Why do we study the Bible?
- *Because we are preparing for eternal life!*
 - ✓ God has His Work in it
 - ✓ Christ has His Work in it
 - ✓ we have our work in it

But it is something for a preparation!

What we will do, we will show the silliness, what we used to believe, that the resurrection would be on the Feast of Trumpets: we'd all be resurrected, meet Christ in the air and come right back to the earth. If you are resurrected, we're going to see that a lot of things need to happen before you're ready to come back to the earth. That's why the resurrection is on Pentecost, because it pictures the firstfruits, and it's called the Church of the Firstborn, and there are a lot of things that have to be done before we come back with Christ to the earth! Since you have never experienced being a spirit being, you're going

to have to learn how you operate. Let's look at the resurrection.

- If we did not go to the Sea of Glass, why take us up into the air at the resurrection?
- What would be the purpose of that?
- Why not just stay on earth and let Christ come all the way to the earth?

No one has ever asked that question before.

Matthew 24:29: "But immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken. And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven... [He gets closer and closer to the earth] ...and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming upon the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" (vs 29-30).

They are going to see this. Notice that first of all v 27 starts out like a new sun appearing in the heavens, by the time it comes time for the resurrection:

- Where does this sign come to? *The clouds!*
- Where are the clouds?

The clouds are not in the second heaven; there aren't any out in the universe! The clouds are not in the third heaven, necessarily.

- Where are the clouds? *The first heaven!*

So, it comes down into the clouds.

What happens when you have something coming from outer space that comes to the earth? What does the magnetic force do when it comes just so far to the earth? *It locks it into a stationary orbit!* We have many satellites that they lock into stationary orbit. It's going around the earth one way while the earth is turning the opposite way. They have satellites that are designed to go the exact speed of the rotation of the earth so it sits in the same spot all the time.

Now then, I believe that when it comes down into the clouds—it doesn't tell us how high that is—they range anywhere from earth level as fog up to 50,000 feet, so you pick your altitude if you want to put it that way. But they are going to see this, so it comes down and stations itself right over Jerusalem.

What's the first thing to happen when it stations itself right over Jerusalem? *The two witnesses are the first resurrected (Rev. 11)! 'The last shall be first.'* Where did they die? *They died in Jerusalem.* 'A voice came and said, *Come here* and they stood on their feet and lived' (Rev. 11)! Apparently some angels, which the people didn't

see, got them and carried them up to the Sea of Glass. If you ascend into the clouds to meet Christ, you've got to meet Him someplace.

Now after the two witnesses are raised, v 31: "And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet..." When you read Rev. 11, the two witnesses are raised first, and then the trumpet sounds, the seventh trump sounds. They are the first two raised.

"...and they... [the angels] ...shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to *the* other."

This is telling us the prospective of looking down on the earth, that the angels are going around the whole earth and gathering up those that are resurrected from the dead.

- Where are they going to take them?
- How many are going to be there?

This is going to be a great thing!

- Will the people of the earth see the resurrection take place?
- Will the people of the earth see these people being raised out of the grave and the angels taking them up to meet Christ?

That's possible!

- Did they see the two witnesses go up?

Yes! They stood and watched them go up! (Rev. 11)

- Wouldn't that be a phenomenal thing to see all the saints resurrected? *What a witness to this whole world!*

This is not going to be some 'secret rapture' done in a corner someplace; this is an earthshaking event!

Will they know that this is God doing it? *Satan is still on the earth and he is going to say it's the antichrist who is doing it!*

What is happening, what you are seeing is the aliens from outer space have come and they are taking all of the aliens that were living among us. Have you seen a movie to that effect? It's like my wife has said many times, Satan telegraphs what he is going to do in the movies that he produces for people to watch today. Since this is an invasion from outer space, look at how many aliens were among us.

We are called 'strangers and sojourners' in the earth. Amazing stuff! We can use our imagination this way and ask God to lead us with His Spirit. If this isn't correct, we'll change. But it's got to happen some way. It's got to happen somehow, and if we can discern from the Scriptures from what we are told how it's going to happen, then that's fine.

Now let's understand something concerning this. This information is interesting. Hopefully, it's

inspiring. Hopefully, it is true to the Word of God. However, understand that *it is not salvational!* In other words, if we understand this today because we live in the time we live in, and know that these things can happen, and we have all of the Word of God and we can put it together, does that mean that those who came before us who knew nothing of it will not be saved? *No!* That's why it's not salvational. Do you understand the difference there?

1-Thess. 4 talks about the resurrection again. I think if we can put it together and really understand it, brethren, this will inspire us so much more, and give us:

- strength of faith
- conviction of heart
- trust in God

to know that what He is going to do with us is going to be a great, a marvelous, and a fantastic thing. When we are resurrected and our bodies are changed 'in a moment in the twinkling of an eye,' all the things and aches and pains and sickness and disease and death and all of the wretchedness of human life is over.

1-Thessalonians 4:13: "But I do not wish you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep... [they died in Christ] ...that you be not grieved, even as others, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, in exactly the same way also, those who have fallen asleep in Jesus will God bring with Him" (vs 13-14).

Since they are buried and in the ground and must be resurrected, how is He going to bring them with Him unless they go to meet Him? *It won't happen, because no man has ascended to heaven!*

Verse 15: "For this we say to you by *the* Word of *the* Lord, that we who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord..."—which now we understand are going to be those in the place of safety, and we also understand it will be the 144,000 and great innumerable multitude.

"...shall in no wise precede those who have fallen asleep, because the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with *a* shout of command, with *the* voice of an archangel and with *the* trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first" (vs 15-16). Of course, the two witnesses will be the first of the first.

Verse 17: "Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in *the* clouds... [Where is Christ coming to? *The clouds!*] ...for *the* meeting with the Lord in *the* air; and so shall we always be with *the* Lord. Therefore, encourage one another with these words." (vs 17-18).

Now let's look and see how this is going to happen. Let's first of all look at the Sea of Glass in Rev. 4 and 5. Let's understand that just because there is the first heaven, which is the atmosphere around the earth, and the second heaven, which includes all of the universe, all the stars and galaxies and everything out there; and we know about the third heaven, but it does not mean that the third heaven is further removed than the second heaven. Just in a numerical way of doing things, we would think that. So, Christ does not have to come from the outer reaches of the universe. How close is the throne of God, which sits on the Sea of Glass, to the earth? Can anybody tell us? *No, we don't know!*

We have an indication that it may be a whole lot closer than we have imagined, but we just can't see it, yet! Acts 7 is the stoning of Stephen, right toward the end of the chapter.

Acts 7:54: "When they heard these things... [the Sanhedrin, all the Jewish leaders] ...they were cut to their hearts, and they gnashed their teeth at him."

Not that they bit him. I thought at one time that they went out and bit him, but it doesn't mean that. It means they gnashed their teeth at him, sat there and ground their teeth at him, they were so angry. Have you ever seen someone so angry that their jaws were biting. That's what it means.

Verse 55: "But he, being filled with *the* Holy Spirit, looked intently into heaven *and* saw *the* glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God." That did it!

Does this tell us that the throne of God is closer to the earth than we have imagined? Let's look at it this way: *Jesus sits in the throne of God!*

Revelation 3:21: "...even as I also overcame, and sat down with My Father in His throne." He's at the right hand of God (Heb. 4). He's or High Priest to make intercession for us.

Acts 7:56: "And he said, 'Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right *hand* of God.'"

He is not sitting; He is standing. What is Jesus doing? *He is looking down to see what's going on!* How far away do you suppose that it is? *Close enough that He can stand and look down and see what's going on!* He wanted to see what the Jews would do. He wanted to see what Stephen was going to do. Stephen had the same attitude that Christ had.

Verse 59: "And they stoned Stephen, who called upon *God*, saying, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' And he fell to his knees *and* cried with a loud voice, 'Lord, do not lay this sin to their charge.' And after he had said this, he died" (vs 59-60).

Just by the way that this is written and what was seen and how it was done, does this tell us that the throne of God is closer to the earth than we have imagined? *I do not know!* Stephen did not see God; he saw the glory of God. He saw the Son of man standing at His right hand.

Let's see some things concerning the Sea of Glass, Revelation 4:1: "After these things I looked, and behold, a door opened in heaven; and the first voice that I heard *was* as if a trumpet were speaking with me, saying, 'Come up here, and I will show you *the* things that must take place after these things.' And immediately I was in *the* Spirit; and behold, a throne was set in heaven, and *One was* sitting on the throne. And He Who *was* sitting was in appearance like a jasper stone and a sardius stone; and a rainbow *was* around the throne, like an emerald in its appearance. And around the throne *were* twenty-four thrones; and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments..." (vs 1-4).

Who are the twenty-four elders? *We don't know!* We do know that God has twenty-four elders, because He tells us that. Apparently they are special created beings that help assist God in running the universe. I said, apparently, that's the best we can do with that. Other than that we don't know, but one of these days we are going to find out, and we'll know of sure.

They were "...clothed in white garments; and they had on their heads golden crowns. And proceeding from the throne were lightnings and thunders and voices..." (vs 4-5). This is the center of the power of the universe, if we can put it this way. Amazing thing!

"...and seven lamps of fire, which are the seven Spirits of God, *were* burning before the throne" (v 5). Now we will see what the seven Spirits of God do a little bit later here.

Verse 6: "And before the throne *was* a Sea of Glass, like crystal. And around the throne and over the throne *were* four living creatures, full of eyes before and behind; and the first living creature *was* like a lion, and the second living creature *was* like a bull, and the third living creature had the face of a man, and the fourth living creature *was* like a flying eagle. And each of *the* four living creatures had six wings respectively; *and* around and within *they were* full of eyes; and day and night they cease not saying, 'Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was, and Who is, and Who *is* to come'" (vs 6-8). Now this is quite a scene. Who have we identified on the Sea of Glass?

- God the Father
- Jesus Christ
- twenty-four elders
- the four living creatures

That's it! When John saw this, no one was resurrected. We haven't come to the time of the resurrection. Here we have the Sea of Glass with the throne of God, and we'll see a little later there are a great innumerable multitude of angels that are with it, but no saints, yet. Why? *The resurrection of the dead hasn't taken place!* So, this is going to be a phenomenal thing.

Verse 9: "And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanksgiving to Him Who sits on the throne, Who lives into the ages of eternity, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him Who sits on the throne; and they worship Him Who lives into the ages of eternity, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 'Worthy are You, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power because You did create all things, and for Your will they were created and exist'" (vs 9-11). God is going to fulfill His purpose.

The only thing we can conclude is that the throne of God and the Sea of Glass are probably closer to the earth than we have imagined. If it's out there a little further at the present time; it's going to come closer. We'll see that next time, and maybe we can answer the question of the mystery of the Sea of Glass.

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*

Scriptural References:

- 1) 1 Corinthians 1:25-29
- 2) Deuteronomy 5:22-29
- 3) Deuteronomy 7:6-11
- 4) Exodus 24:1-18
- 5) Hebrews 12:18-24
- 6) Revelation 12:7, 9-17
- 7) Revelation 6:9-11
- 8) Matthew 16:16-18
- 9) Revelation 6:12-17
- 10) Matthew 24:27, 29-31
- 11) 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- 12) Acts 7:54-55
- 13) Revelation 3:21
- 14) Acts 7:56, 59-60
- 15) Revelation 4:1-11

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Deuteronomy 20-23
- Ezekiel 1; 10
- Luke 17
- Revelation 13; 12:11
- Hosea 5:21; 6:1-3
- Revelation 7; 14; 11
- Hebrews 4

Also referenced:

Article: Rome's Challenge to the Protestants (from the Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version Appendix N; also found at truthofgod.org)

Sermons:

- *From the Red Sea to Sinai*
- *The Mark of the Beast is Here*

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