

Pentecost—2008

Fred R. Coulter—June 8, 2008

Greetings, brethren! This is the Feast of Pentecost, 2008. And we look back at all the time that we've been in the Church and all of this, and we find that a lot of us thought we'd already be in the Kingdom of God by now. But as it turns out, that is a fulfilling of the prophecy that Jesus said, "And of that day and hour knows no man!" However, we can clearly see that we are in the last days and we're marching closer and closer and closer to the return of Jesus Christ, and also the setting up of the Kingdom of God on earth.

Now let's first of all begin in Leviticus 23 and we'll fill a few things that we need to fill in here. And I know this year perhaps we have read this part of Leviticus 23, and have gone over it, more than other years. And that's simply because for the first time we have it properly translated in the new Bible, and it leaves no doubt about the fact that Pentecost is always on the first day of the week.

So let's come here to Leviticus 23:10: "Speak to the children of Israel and say to them, 'When you have come into the land which I give to you, and shall reap the harvest of it, then you shall bring *the premier sheaf* of the firstfruits...'" Now we need to understand—and I'm going to emphasize this—that ***Pentecost is a harvest feast***. Though I have emphasized it in the sermons coming up to it, but I also want to emphasize again there is not one single Scripture—Old Testament or New Testament—that substantiates Trumpets as a harvest feast. Because of the blowing of the trumpets and rams horns all day long, this pictures a ***war*** feast. And does fit in with the final return of Christ and the saints to the earth in the battle that's going to finish all wars—because it says that "in righteousness and in judgment does He make war." And that is Christ returning to destroy the armies of the Beast and the False Prophet.

However, the Wave Sheaf Offering Day is a ***harvest*** feast—though it's not a Holy Day. And it is the day in which the premier sheaf of the firstfruits is waved. And we know that is a portent of Christ. Then he continues on here: "And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD to be accepted for you. On the next day after the Sabbath... [which then has to be the *weekly* Sabbath] ...the priest shall wave it. And you shall offer that day..." (vs 11-12). And then it shows what they shall offer.

Let's come down here on v 15: "And you shall count to you beginning with the next day after the Sabbath, beginning with the day that you brought

the sheaf of the wave offering; seven Sabbaths shall be complete.... [Now, like we showed yesterday, seven complete weeks, each ending in a Sabbath.] ...Even unto the day after the seventh Sabbath you shall number fifty days.... [And that's always got to be first day of the week. And it says the offerings that they were to offer.] ...And you shall offer a new grain offering to the LORD.... [And then it shows the other offerings that they were to do. We'll come back to this in just a minute.] ...You shall bring out of your homes two wave loaves of two tenth parts. They shall be of fine flour" (vs 15-17).

Now, there have been some, even within the Church of God, as we have seen, who say: 'Well, the only thing we wave is the Wave Sheaf Offering.' Well, here are two loaves that are waved. We'll get back and find out what is the meaning of these two loaves. "They shall be of fine flour. They shall be **baked with leaven**... [Whoa, the opposite of what we're told during Unleavened Bread. And what does that picture? We'll find out in a little bit.] ... **They are the firstfruits to the LORD**.... [Harvest, firstfruits.] (Then it says): ...And you shall offer with the bread seven lambs without blemish of the first year, and one young bull, and two rams. They shall be *for* a burnt offering to the LORD with their grain offering, and their drink offerings, *even* an offering made by fire, of sweet savor to the LORD. Then you shall sacrifice one male goat for a sin offering, and two lambs of the first year for a sacrifice of peace offerings. And the priest **shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits**, a wave offering before the LORD... [Exactly the same as waving the premier sheaf of the firstfruits.] ...with the two lambs. They shall be holy to the LORD for the priest. And you shall proclaim on the same day that it may be a holy convocation to you. You shall do no servile work *therein*. *It shall be* a statute forever in all your dwellings throughout your generations" (vs 17-21).

Now instead of offering the offerings, that are offered by sacrifice, we are to bring an offering in addition to it, as we find here in Deuteronomy 16—we are to bring an offering according as to the way that God will bless us. We read here in Deuteronomy 16:16: "Three times in a year shall all your males appear before the LORD your God in the place which He shall choose: in the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and in the Feast of Weeks... [Which we saw means the Feast of Pentecost] ...and in the Feast of Tabernacles. And they shall not appear before the LORD empty, Every man *shall*

give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God, which He has given you” (vs 16-17). And we have other Scriptures which show that God will give us sufficiency, He will bless us in it, and if we believe God and believe His Word and are thankful for what He has done in our lives, by giving offerings on the Holy Days—in addition to our other tithes and offerings—this is expressing our gratitude and love for God in a substantial and meaningful way—beyond just the feeling and the emotion that we may have. So at this time we will pause and take up an offering for the Lord.

(pause)

Now let’s continue on with the theme we had from yesterday, from Sinai to Mt. Zion. And let’s understand that it was Mt. Zion where the temple was placed—that’s the spot that God showed David where they would put the temple—and it’s not in the area where the Mosque of Omar is today. It’s south of that area. But let’s also understand, since God chose to place His name there, any profound and official act had to begin at the temple. And this is why we find the very first Feast of Pentecost in the New Testament, the disciples were gathered there. They actually had a side room in the temple that they used on a regular basis, apparently. And it was in that side room that they cast lots and chose Mathis to replace Judas. And Jesus had told them to stay in Jerusalem ’til they were “imbued with power from on high”—that is the Holy Spirit. Now, make the comparison between what we have when God gave the Ten Commandments on Pentecost in Exodus 20 and all the power and things that were going on there. And think about what was going on at the temple in Jerusalem. So let’s come here to Acts, the second chapter, and let’s see the account—and it’s quite a long account, which means that this is very important for us to understand, because there were a lot of things that took place on this day of Pentecost, the 50th day.

Now, with the temple service working, the priests were there; they blew the trumpet on the Feast of Pentecost [transcriber’s correction]; they had the offerings that they were to give; many of the people were there with their wave sheaf offering loaves—baked with leaven; and as we will see, there were thousands and thousands and thousands who were also there, who were Jews, who had come out of all the countries in the Diaspora. And we also need to understand something else—let’s put a little bit of realism into this so we understand what was happening. How many of the Jews were there, or their friends were there during Passover and Unleavened Bread, when they crucified Jesus? And then later heard, a little past the middle of the Feast, that the One that they crucified and buried wasn’t in the tomb? And they couldn’t find the body. And all the officials were looking everywhere for the body.

And the disciples were afraid that they would be arrested for stealing away the body. There was no body! And they found out that the disciples had told them that the burial cloths in which Jesus was wrapped in was still in the tomb, when they went in there! And it still had the form of His body, just sort of with the body out of it, it just sort of fell down a little bit and the napkin, which covered His face, was folded up and put in another place. Now that shows that He was raised from the dead.

And these stories went back to all the synagogues in the Diaspora. And think about how many people said, “Oh really, God is moving. There are strange things happening in Jerusalem. I’m going to go and be there for the Feast of Pentecost.” And so God moved a lot of the Jews, in spirit and mind, to make that pilgrimage journey to Jerusalem. And Jerusalem was the place where He placed His name, so this is where He had to begin the Church. The Church which would become the new *spiritual temple* of God was begun right there at the Temple of God. That’s why this day is so important!

Now let’s begin, Acts 2:1: “And when the day of Pentecost, **the fiftieth day**, was being fulfilled... [Now, all of those who believe in the lie of a Monday Pentecost, forget it! It’s not the day after Pentecost that they were there.] ...**was being fulfilled**, they were all with one accord in the same place. And suddenly *there* came from heaven... [So this had to come from God, just like at Mt. Sinai, **suddenly**, the clouds appeared and the wind was blowing and the lightning was flashing—and it looked like the mountain was all on fire.] (Now here): ...*there* came from heaven a sound like *the* rushing of a powerful wind, and filled the whole house where they were sitting” (vs 1-2). Isn’t that just akin to the cloud of the presence of the Lord filling the temple? *Yes!* So here are the 120 disciples, and now they are filled with the Holy Spirit, and especially the apostles.

“And there appeared to them divided tongues as of fire... [So you’ve got wind and fire on Pentecost, right? *Yes, indeed!*] ...and sat upon each one of them.... [One time. Has not happened again, will never happen again this way, because this is when God began His Church and empowered the apostles.] ...And they were all filled with *the* Holy Spirit; and they began to speak with other languages, as the Spirit gave them *the words* to proclaim. Now *there* were *many* Jews who were sojourning in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven.... [Now, we’ll see what nations...obviously some of them could speak Hebrew; some of them could speak Aramaic; some of them spoke Latin; some of them spoke Greek; some of them spoke in the language of the other countries in which they were.] ...And when word of this went out, the multitude came together and were confounded,

because each one heard them speaking in his own language” (vs 3-6). Two miracles: the miracle of speaking, and the miracle of hearing. And we could just add to that a third miracle: because the apostles were, in their minds, speaking words probably in Greek that they knew, maybe some in Aramaic, but they were thinking their own thoughts, but out of their mouths came multiple languages. So there was that miracle in the speaking and the miracle in the hearing. And this was done because the Jews always demand a sign, don’t they? Didn’t Jesus say, He said that, didn’t He? *They always demand a sign!* So here’s the sign.

Now, let’s see how many it convinced. Let’s see what they spoke. Let’s see some of the prophecies that are brought in here that have to do with the Day of the Lord; and we’re also going to see that Pentecost also has to do with the Day of the Lord. Let’s go on—v 7: “And they were all amazed, and marveled, saying to one another, ‘Behold, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it *that* we hear each one in our own language in which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and those who inhabit Mesopotamia, and Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Both Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya which *are* near Cyrene, and the Romans who are sojourning *here*, both Jews and proselytes, Cretes and Arabians; **we hear them speaking in our own languages the great things of God**” (vs 7-11).

Now, quite a demonstration. That’s why this is recorded. This is a **key change in history!** A key change in the way that God is dealing with people. And though He began it at the temple, He is actually demonstrating to them that they will no longer need the temple because they now have the Spirit of God and the teachings of the apostles, which show them that ***they are a temple of God***, with the Spirit of God abiding in them.

“And they were all amazed and greatly perplexed, saying to one another, ‘What does this mean?’.... [They were at the temple of God, and this is the Feast day of God: Pentecost. And here this is going on. ‘What does this mean?’] ...But others were mocking *and* saying, ‘They are full of new wine.’ Then Peter, standing up with the eleven... [So they were all speaking] ...lifted up his voice and spoke out to them: ‘Men, Jews, and all those of you who inhabit Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and pay attention to my words. For these are not drunken as you suppose, for it is *only the* third hour of the day’” (vs 12-15).

Now notice what he says because there is a link between Pentecost and the Day of the Lord, which cannot be overlooked. “But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel ^[transcriber correction]: “And it shall come to pass in the last days,” says God,

“*that* I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams... [Now this was a partial fulfillment of that. This was the beginning fulfillment of it. And when we come to, say perhaps, the 144,000 and great innumerable multitude then that may perhaps be repeated again there at that particular place.] ... And even upon My servants and upon My handmaids will I pour out My Spirit in those days, and they shall prophesy; And I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and vapors of smoke.... [Now, we’re going to see that all has to do with the return of Christ.] ...The sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before *the* coming of the great and awesome day of *the* Lord”” (vs 16-20).

Now, let’s understand something concerning the Day of the Lord. There is the literal Day of the Lord in which Jesus and the saints put their feet on the Mt. of Olives—that’s the Feast of Trumpets. There is the Day of the Lord referring to the last year from Trumpets to Trumpets. There is the Day of the Lord referring to all three and one-half years of the Tribulation period. And even as Jesus said in Luke 17: ‘days’ of the Lord. So that phrase must be understood by the context in each place where the Scriptures are used in order to understand which [of the] three that it’s referring to.

Notice v 21: ““And it shall come to pass *that* everyone who calls upon the name of *the* Lord shall be saved.”” Now, that’s a direct prophecy for the great innumerable multitude (Rev. 7) which was given in the book of Joel. So there’s a first fulfillment—there’s a second fulfillment. There’s a type—there is anti-type. And the Scriptures are not just restricted to one, small, little incident. But can be applied in several different ways, as God fulfills His will.

So he says, v 22: ““Men, Israelites, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarean, a man sent forth to you by God, as demonstrated by works of power and wonders and signs, which God performed by Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know... [How many of those out there, on Pentecost, were some of those that Jesus healed? Healed from leprosy, healed from blindness. And there were three that He raised from the dead. And probably among the 120 that were with the disciples was Lazarus, who had been raised from the dead; and he could verify that, yes, he was dead. And his sisters could verify that, yes, he was in the grave four days. So they knew!] ... as you yourselves also know; Him, having been delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God... [And that plan was before the foundation of the world] ...you have seized by lawless hands *and* have crucified and killed. *But* God has raised Him up, having loosed the throes of death, because it was not

possible *for* Him to be held by it...” (vs 22-24). So that’s quite an important and profound thing to understand.

“For David speaks concerning Him... [Another prophecy] ...“I foresaw the Lord before Me continually; for He is at My right hand, so that I may not be moved. Therefore, My heart rejoiced and My tongue was glad; moreover, My flesh also shall rest in hope; For You will not leave My soul in *the* grave, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.... [Now, he’s quoting Psa. 16, here.] ...You did make Me to know *the* ways of life; You will fill Me with joy with Your countenance.”.... [Then, after quoting that Psalm, Peter said]: ...Men *and* brethren, let *me* speak to you freely concerning the patriarch David, that **he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day**” (vs 25-29). Now, where was his tomb? Well, you have the Roman Fort, where the Mosque of Omar is today; then you have the temple area, just south of that; and then you have the tombs of the kings right in the city of David, which was just down from the south-side of the temple. And his tomb was there. Anyone who wanted to see it could go down there and see, yes, there’s David’s tomb. Hasn’t been disturbed, nothing has been opened. David is in the grave! So he’s showing that this prophecy is concerning Christ.

“...he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn to him in an oath *that* from *the* fruit of his loins, as concerning *the* flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit upon his throne; He foresaw *this and* spoke concerning the resurrection of Christ... [So he’s saying David interpreted Psa. 16 as the resurrection of Christ] ...that His soul was not left in *the* grave, nor did His flesh see corruption. This Jesus has God raised up, whereof **we all are witnesses**... [We saw Him 40 days, and there were over 500 at once that saw that He had been raised from the dead. We handled Him. We touched Him. He spoke to us. And we saw Him ascend into heaven in a cloud. *That’s something!*] ...Therefore, having been exalted by the right hand of God, and having received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father, He has poured out this that you are now seeing and hearing.... [Amazing! Isn’t it? Then he goes on to explain]: ...For David has not ascended into the heavens... [So much for the immortality of the soul. Everyone’s waiting the resurrection, there are no souls in heaven; there are no souls in hell.] ...but he himself said, “The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand (Psa. 110)... [Notice, he’s using Scripture to establish the fulfilled prophecies of Jesus Christ.] ...Until I have made Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.” Therefore, let all *the* house of Israel know with full assurance that God has made this *same* Jesus, Whom you crucified, both Lord and

Christ” (vs 29-36).

So in that group that were there hearing Peter speak were those who had said, ‘Crucify Him! Crucify Him! Crucify Him!’ And now is extended to them what Jesus said before He died on the cross: ‘Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.’ Which is the great example of forgiveness for every single one of us. Not only of our sins, but the sins of others, and the sins between each of us—we need to forgive with the same kind of attitude and heart.

“Now after hearing *this*, they were cut to the heart; and they said to Peter and the other apostles, ‘Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?’.... [Now here’s a verse you all have memorized! But understand how absolutely awesome this was on the Day of Pentecost, this having taken place.] ...Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized each one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for *the* remission of sins, and you yourselves shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.... [They just witnessed that the Holy Spirit had come to them, the apostles who were preaching. And now the apostles say that if you repent and are baptized, you’ll receive the Holy Spirit yourselves! So that was an amazing thing to take place.] (now notice): ...For **the promise is to you and to your children**, and to all those who are afar off, as many as *the* Lord our God may call” (vs 37-39).

Now we don’t know how many thousands of Jews were there, but there were thousands. Out of that, how many did He call? Well, we’ll see here in just the next verse: “And with many other words he earnestly testified and exhorted, saying, ‘Be saved from this perverse generation” (v 40). And that’s sure is true what we need today: be saved from this perverse generation. That’s why John said, **‘Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world; for the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pretentious pride of life are all of the world and not of the Father.’** What God has, to give us, as we’ll see pictured by this Feast of Pentecost, is so great and so awesome.

- This gives us the goal!
- This gives us the focus!
- This gives us the reason and purpose for our living and being!

And we need to understand that, brethren. “Then those who joyfully received his message were baptized; and about three thousand souls were added that day” (v 41). What a tremendous, tremendous thing!

Now, let’s look at some more things concerning Pentecost. Let’s come to our day today. And let’s look forward to the fulfilling of the prophecies and the return of Jesus Christ. And we are going to see that the return of Jesus Christ is one

continuous event that begins sometime before Pentecost. Then the resurrection takes place at Pentecost and then continues until the next Trumpets when Jesus and the saints return to the earth. Now that's a summary of what's going to happen. ***It is not*** all of a sudden the day before Trumpets, BAM! there's the sign of the Son of man in heaven, BOOM! the resurrection takes place, everyone meets Christ in the air, they're hurriedly given their horses and they sing some songs and then all of a sudden they come down in an army to the earth.

NO! It's not way! It's like we have seen in the sermons leading up to Pentecost that God makes manifest His power, just like He did in Egypt, in stages. So that ***the people will have warning and know that this is from God.*** So let's see how that is going to be. Let's see what happens. Let's come here to Revelation, the fifth chapter, because this tells us about a time that is yet to occur. And to fulfill the prophecy that Jesus said, that "no man knows the hour or the day—only My Father Who is in heaven." Now, Jesus knew of that time, after He was resurrected. Obviously, He would.

But now here is the continued scene, that we left off yesterday, with the Apostle John seeing the throne of God. And he sees the events take place in heaven that are going to unleash the things that take place on earth. And we will see the progression of these prophecies being fulfilled in the book of Revelation.

Now, let's pick it up here, Revelation 5:1: "And in the right hand of Him Who sits on the throne I saw a book, written within and on *the* back, which had been sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the book and to loose its seals?' But no one in heaven, or on the earth, or under the earth was able to open the book, or to look inside it" (vs 1-3).

Lesson: ***No man on earth knows the day when Christ is going to be revealed to the world!*** NO MAN! And I say this to all who follow men that have set themselves up as apostles and witnesses—claiming to be the two witnesses—and right while I am doing this video, there is a man in Jerusalem, Ron Weinland, who says he's one of the two witnesses—and over there he's going to reveal who the second one is. They're presumptuous and they're arrogant and they have no understanding because it says 'NO ONE in heaven, on earth or under the earth was able to open the book and to look inside'—and that means to set the time when the events in Revelation would occur.

Now all the arrogantly and presumptuously set themselves up that way, they better start repenting, because ***you're going to fall into the hands of the Living God.*** And God is going to say

to you, 'Who do you think you are? In all your arrogance, trying to usurp the power of Jesus Christ and God the Father!' We better think long and hard on those kinds of things. And yet there are brethren who are out there just like lemmings, follow them and go right over the cliff.

Now let's go on. Let's see what Christ is going to do—the revelation that is here for us: "And I was weeping greatly because no one was found worthy to open and to read the book, or to look into it. Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. Behold, the Lion Who is of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome to open the book, and to loose its seven seals.' Then I saw, and behold, before the throne and the four living creatures, and before the elders, *was* standing a Lamb as having been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes... [The *seven horns* are the seven churches—Christ is the Head and out of His head come the seven churches (Rev. 2 & 3). The *seven eyes* are the seven spirits of God.] ...which are the seven Spirits of God that are sent into all the earth..." (vs 4-6). So if you don't have the sermon on *The Spirit of God—The Seven Spirits of God*, write in for it.

"And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him Who sits on the throne.... [So it does not occur until the time that God the Father calls Jesus and hands Him the scroll.] ...And when He took the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having harps and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying, 'Worthy are You to take the book, and to open its seals because You were slain, and did redeem us to God by Your own blood, out of every tribe and language and people and nation, And did make us unto our God kings and priests; and we shall reign on the earth'" (vs 7-10). Now, they were singing the song that we're going to sing—not that the 24 elders are going to reign as kings and priests. No! We are going to!

"And I saw and I heard *the* voices of many angels around the throne, and *the voices* of the living creatures and the elders, and thousands of thousands, Saying with a loud voice, 'Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory and blessing'" (vs 11-12). Only He knows! And He got that from God the Father. And it's going to be given to Him at the time that God the Father wants to give it to Him.

"And every creature that is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and those that are on the sea, and all the things in them, I heard saying, 'To Him Who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, *be* blessing, and honor, and glory, and sovereignty into the ages of eternity.' And the four living creatures said, 'Amen.' And the twenty-four elders fell down

and worshiped *Him Who* lives into the ages of eternity” (vs 13-14). Now, that’s a powerful section of Scripture.

Then we come to Revelation 6, the opening of the seals, which only Jesus Christ can open. And the six seals—actually the seven seals—have nothing to do with the ‘seven thunders’ of Revelation 10. The *seals* are the seals and the *thunders* are the thunders, and God told John: ‘Do not write anything that the seven thunders have uttered.’

Now let’s go through the first six seals, and we will see a parallel of that in the book of Matthew 24. Revelation 6:1: “And I looked when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures say, like the sound of thunder, ‘Come and see.’ And I looked, and behold, *there was* a white horse; and the one who was sitting on it had a bow, and a crown was given to him; and he went out conquering, and to conquer.... [This is the coming great, false religion in the world—which started out right after Jesus’ ministry—as false prophets. And it’s building, building, building, building, building, building to the end of it today.] ...And when He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, ‘Come and see.’ And another horse went out *that was* red; and *power* was given to the one sitting on it to take peace from the earth... [And these are all the forces of Satan the devil that God has allowed to be unleashed, to bring about the activities of men. So we have men against men in all of these instances until we come to the sixth seal.] ... take peace from the earth, and *to cause* them to kill one another; and a great sword was given to him” (vs 1-4).

Now there are many other prophecies that we can add to it, but that’s for another time. “And when He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, ‘Come and see.’ And I looked, and behold, *there was* a black horse; and the one sitting on it had a balance in his hand. And I heard a voice in *the* midst of the four living creatures say, ‘A measure of wheat for a silver coin, and three measures of barley for a silver coin: and *see that* you do not damage the oil and the wine” (vs 5-6). Because immediately after war there’s a shortage of food, which then is quickly followed by famine and death.

Verse 7: “And when He opened the fourth seal, I heard *the* voice of the fourth living creature say, ‘Come and see.’ And I looked, and behold, *there was* a pale horse; and the name of the one sitting on it *was* Death... [that was his name] ...and the grave followed him; and authority was given to them over *one* fourth of the earth... [So here is going to break out a great conflagrational war, which will encompass one-fourth of the earth!] “...to kill with

the sword and with famine and with death, and by the beasts of the earth” (vs 7-8).

Now, as we’ll see, as it ties in with Matthew 24—we’ll go there in just a minute. Christians are going to be hated and blamed. Christians who are prophesying that these things would come and take place, they’re going to say, ‘Go get them, they’re responsible for this.’ So there’s going to be a martyrdom of saints. And we know from Rev. 12, that before the second seal is opened, that there are going to be some taken to a place of safety in the wilderness. That’s going to be the smaller number. The rest who are left behind will be the greater number. But they are going to know where the true Christians are, and they are going to martyr them. And the only Christians who will be living after this martyrdom will be those who are in a place of safety—to fulfill the prophecy that Jesus said that ‘the gates of the grave would never overcome His Church’—that He was building.

So let’s read it: “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... [This was in vision to tell John what to write so we get the message of the fact that martyrdom is going to take place.] ...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, until *it* be fulfilled *that* both their fellow servants and their brethren also would be killed, just as they had been” (vs 9-11). So these were the ones who had already been martyred. Now then, the martyrdom comes on those of us who are still alive today. God accounts for all of us. And it’s going to come.

Now, let’s come to the book of Matthew, chapter 24, and see the parallel of these and then we’ll come back to the book of Revelation.

(go to the next track)

Now let’s come to Matthew 24 and we’re going to see some parallels that follow right along with what we just read in Revelation 6. And we’re also going to see that those things started out here during Jesus’ time, continued on until we reach a certain point. We’re going to see that *certain point* has to do with the sixth seal that is open.

Now let’s begin, Matthew 24:1: “And after going out... [that is out of the temple] ...Jesus departed from the temple; and His disciples came to *Him* to point out the buildings of the temple. But Jesus said to them, ‘Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, there shall not be left here even a stone upon a stone that shall not be thrown down” (vs 1-2). Now that’s why with the Mosque of Omar,

[where it] is sitting, cannot be where the temple was, because there are stones upon stones—aren't there? *Yes!* Just a little aside in understanding prophecy. And you need to understand this: Because the Jews don't have the New Testament, they know very little concerning prophecy.

Now, let's continue on: "And as He was sitting on the Mount of Olives... [and He could look across the valley where the Brook Kidron was and look right into the temple area.] ...His disciples came to Him alone, saying, "Tell us, when shall these things be? And what *shall be* the sign of Your coming, and of the completion of the age?" (v 3). Now, let's understand something here, very important, because it says down here, v 30: "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven..." So there's going to be a *sign* that's going to appear. This is what they were asking. "...the sign of Your coming, and of the completion of the age?"

Then Jesus answered *and* said to them, "Be on guard, so that no one deceives you.... [And let me tell you, brethren, that is more true than ever before. Christians need to always be on guard because there are a lot of *false prophets within the Churches of God!* So you need to test them. Just like it says in the Church of the Ephesians: you test them and 'have found them liars.'] ...For many shall come in My name, saying, "I am the Christ"; and they shall deceive many. And you shall hear of wars and rumors of wars. See *that* you do not let *these things* disturb you. For it is necessary *that* all *these things* take place, but the end is not yet.... [So Jesus is showing that these things are continuing clear out until the sign of the Son of man that appears in the heaven.] ...For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be famines and pestilences and earthquakes in *different places*" (vs 4-7). We've always had those. We have them now. They will continue to be. And it is the sign of the Son of man in heaven that distinguishes the time that it is the time of the end.

"Now all these *things are* the beginning of sorrows. Then shall they deliver you up to affliction, and shall kill you; and you shall be hated by all nations for My name's sake.... [Beginning then and spreading out to all the world in our day.] ...And then shall many be led into sin... [And if that doesn't describe our generation I don't know what does.] ...and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another; And many false prophets shall arise, and shall deceive many..." (vs 11). Majority of the world. And if you don't think how easy it's going to be, just take this latest trip of Pope Benedict XVI to the United States, throw in some miracles and throw in some demonic signs, and everyone would go 'OOOOOOOOhhhhhh.' Just like one woman said when she saw the Pope-mobile go by with the Pope in it: 'It's just like God going past us.' And like

Rush Limbaugh said, 'God visited America today.' Well, not quite! But you add in there healings; you add in calling fire down from heaven; and people will just flock. And the False Prophet who does those things is going to say of the Beast, 'Here is the Messiah. Here is God in the flesh.' Now, that's for another whole sermon, but that's going to be the pinnacle fulfillment of it, you see.

Verse 12: "And because lawlessness shall be multiplied..." Now you think about that! There is lawlessness on every side! And it's reaching down to younger and younger and younger and younger and younger people, to where even ten, twelve year-old boys and girls have their cell phones and take pictures of their sex organs and put them online for their friends to see. And they have this special text-code where they have an understanding of meaning by having abbreviated words into letters. So they're sending, over their phones, to one another. Filthy-minded little kids who have been led into sin and sex at a very early age. Then you have lying, cheating, stealing, murder, rape, shootings, killings, wars—all those things. "...lawlessness shall be multiplied... [And become the law of the land] ... **the love of many shall grow cold.**" And we've seen that.

"But the one who endures to the end, that one shall be saved" (v 13). So, to have the promise of salvation:

1. We have to endure to the end of our life
2. or, if we're still living during the times leading up to the return of Christ:
3. Until we are changed from flesh to spirit at the resurrection.

One of the two.

Verse 14: "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be proclaimed in all the world for a witness to all nations; and then shall the end come." And it's going to be a great proclamation of the Truth! And as I've mentioned before, there are going to be 800-million Bibles printed per year by the United Bible Society in eastern China—and in all languages. And those Bibles are going to flood the world. And God is doing that to raise up His Word and to make sure that the Gospel, which is contained in the Bible, will be to all nations. And there will be no one on earth who is going to have an excuse: 'Lord, I didn't know.'

Then He gives a warning: "Therefore, when you see the abomination of desolation, which was spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place..." [There's got to be a temple. There's got to be a Holy Place. And here's a parenthetical statement put in here by John when he canonized the New Testament]: "...the one who reads, let him understand)" (v 15). Why did he put that in there? Because when he canonized the New Testament, around 98-99 AD, they could look back and see that

with the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem there was no man who came into the temple proclaiming himself to be God—as the Apostle Paul wrote of in 2-Thess. 2. And so they didn't understand, except that they knew that there has to be understanding at the end-time, because that's what Daniel promised. So you see, the Bible is a fantastic book. There's no book like it in the world. It tells you about things *before* the foundation of the world and the ages of eternity past. And brings you out into the ages of eternity into the future with a New heaven, new earth and New Jerusalem. And it tells you all about man's history and story and his nature, and who he is, and what he is, and why God made him. And there's no other book in the world that does that. And that's why there's so many people out there that hate it! That condemn it! That ridicule it! And they're all agents of Satan the devil, and the devil doesn't want you to know.

All right, let's go on. “Then let those who are in Judea flee into the mountains. Let the one *who is* on the housetop not come down to take anything out of his house... [Now, that's a tall order! Isn't it? If you're going to flea and you think, 'Oh, I'm going to the mountains. Oh, what am I going to do? I need my toothbrush. I better get my toothbrush.' NO! Don't get your toothbrush. 'Oooo, I got to walk barefooted. I better get my shoes.' NO! Don't get your shoes. Don't take anything. That's what He says.] ...And let the one *who is* in the field not go back to take his garments.... [GO! That's how suddenly this is going to come on Jerusalem.] ...But woe to those *women* who are expecting a child, and to those who are nursing infants in those days! And pray that your flight be not in *the* winter, nor on *the* Sabbath...” (vs 16-20). Does that not prove that God holds binding the Sabbath Day today? *Yes, indeed!*

“For then shall there be great tribulation... [Now, it's not going to start until the man of sin—the son of perdition—stands in the Holy place and says, 'I am God.' When that happens, then the Tribulation is going to start—which is the second seal in Rev. 6.] ...such as has not been from *the* beginning of *the* world until this time, nor ever shall be *again*.... [You can read of it in Dan. 12; Jer. 25; Rev.; Joel; Isa.—all of them point toward the end-times.] ...And if those days were not limited... [God set it for 3-1/2 years, a limit.] ...there would no flesh be saved; but for the elect's sake those days shall be limited. Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here *is* the Christ,' or, '*He is* there,' **do not believe it**. For there shall arise false Christs and false prophets, and they shall present great signs and wonders, in order to deceive, if possible, **even the elect**. Behold, I have foretold *it* to you. Therefore, if they say to you, '*Come and see! He is* in the wilderness'; do not go forth. '*Come and see! He is* in the secret chambers”;

do not believe *it*” (vs 21-26).

Now, we're going to stop right there, because we need to go back to Revelation 6—so hold your place here, because we're going to come back to Matthew 24. Revelation 6—because here's where the sixth seal and the sign of the sign of the Son of man and the beginning of the return of Christ appears. And we're going to do a little analyzing and put it together so we understand the flow of events and the sequence of things as they take place.

Revelation 6:12: “And when He opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake... [God says He's going to shake the heavens; He's going to shake the earth; He's going to shake the sea; He's going to shake the dry ground. And through the book of Revelation there are many earthquakes.] ...and the sun became black as *the* hair of sackcloth, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its untimely figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then *the* heaven departed like a scroll...” (vs 12-14).

That's the beginning, so they can see the sign of the Son of man. The heavens are going to open! And it's going to be an awesome event! And God wants the world to know: **Christ is returning!** He wants them to know: **This is of God!** And He wants to give them plenty of warnings—as we will see. And from that time, from that sign of the Son of man appears, it's going to be in the heavens for a protracted period of time. It's not going to be all of a sudden on Trumpets: Woops! The heavens open up, everything takes place and it's all done in one day. Not going to happen that way. We've gone through some these in some of the sermons leading up to it.

Let's continue on here: “...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... [This is a worldwide, earth-shaking event! It says back here in Rev. 1: 'Every eye will see Him!' And He's coming in the clouds. Clouds are within the atmosphere of the earth. That's the first heaven—keep that in mind.] ...And they said to the mountains and to the rocks, 'Fall on us, and hide us from *the* face of Him Who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb Because the great day of His wrath has come, and who has the power to stand?'” (vs 14-17). And that great day—if you have the series on Revelation—is going to be a little more than one year; about one year and four-six months, exactly.

Now, let's come back to Matthew ^[transcriber correction] 24 and let's see the parallel here. 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.” Now, some people did not like that translation. Let me read you the Greek—it comes from ‘astrap’ from which we also get *asteroid* or *astron*. Lightning, illuminating the whole sky. BAM! It’s going to light up the whole sky, pulling the heavens, rolling back like a scroll. That’s the start of it. Then will appear the sign of the Son of man. Then we have ‘astrap’—which then is *light flashing*. And we have ‘astron’—which is constellation, single star or constellation of stars. So that is a correct translation that I did back here in Matt. 24.

Now notice: which ‘shines’—and that comes from the Greek word, ‘phain’—which means *to shine as sun or the moon or the stars*. So there you have it. That’s the correct translation. So it’s going to be a phenomena. As I said before, it’s just exactly like all of a sudden there’s a new star that they never saw before. It wasn’t revealed until the heavens rolled back as a scroll.

And He says: “...shines as far as *the* west... [So it’s going to remain up there and it’s going to look like it’s rising and falling as the earth turns.] ...**so also shall the coming of the Son of man be.**” Then He gives enigmatic statement here, which is: “For wherever the carcass may be, there will the eagles be gathered together” (v 28). Now that must have some reference to the resurrection and meetin g Christ in the air.

But, let’s go on—we can’t say that exactly for sure, so we can’t say dogmatically, but nevertheless, there’s that statement there. But notice, v 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.... [That’s what we just read back there in Revelation 6:12] ...And **then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven.**... [and it’s going to be there for a while.] ...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.... [Then He talks about the resurrection] ...And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet... [Which we know is the *last* trumpet, which has to be then the seventh trumpet of the book of Revelation of the trumpet plagues.] ...and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to *the* other” (vs 29-31). That is, the angels are going to gather them and we’re going to see what’s going to happen then. But there are some other events that have to take place—I’m a little ahead of myself.

So, let’s come back here to Revelation, the seventh chapter—and let’s continue on because Revelation 7 flows right after Revelation 6. Let’s

continue on in Revelation 7, and here we have the sealing of the 144,000 from the tribes of Israel—and the great, innumerable multitude. And we’re going to see that also fits in with the prophecy of Joel that Peter gave on Pentecost, which is “and all who call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” Now, we’re down into the Tribulation, as we’ll see here in just a little bit, approximately two full years—which means there’s a year and half left for the rest of the events to take place.

Now, let’s see what we have here with the 144,000, because we need to understand something of God that is always true. God is always interested in repentance. So when the children of Israel are in captivity and they see all of these awesome signs going on in heaven, there are going to be the children of Israel falling down on their knees and repenting knowing that they have been in captivity because of their sins. And so God always honors repentance. Likewise, there will be the great innumerable multitude—those who will repent. And God will honor that repentance, as well.

Now, let’s read it—Revelation 7:1: “And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that the wind might not blow on the earth, or on the sea, or on any tree. Then I saw another angel ascending from *the* rising of *the* sun, having *the* seal of *the* living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to damage the earth and the sea, Saying, ‘Do not damage the earth, or the sea, or the trees until we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads’” (vs 1-3). Let’s understand something, too. ‘Servants means’ *anyone who has been given the Spirit of God*. We’re all servants of God. This has nothing to do with ministers.

“And I heard the number of those who were sealed: one hundred forty-four thousand, sealed out of every tribe of *the* children of Israel. From *the* tribe of Judah, twelve thousand *were* sealed; from *the* tribe of Reuben, twelve thousand *were* sealed; from *the* tribe of Gad, twelve thousand *were* sealed; From *the* tribe of Asher, twelve thousand *were* sealed; from *the* tribe of Naphtali, twelve thousand *were* sealed; from *the* tribe of Manasseh, twelve thousand *were* sealed; From *the* tribe of Simeon, twelve thousand *were* sealed; from *the* tribe of Levi, twelve thousand *were* sealed; from *the* tribe of Issachar, twelve thousand *were* sealed” (vs 4-8). They were all sealed. The angel seals them. And when God has them sealed He gives them the Holy Spirit at that time. Now why? *There aren’t any ministers around to baptize them, that’s why*. God is practical. Can God do that if He chooses so, though He requires us to be baptized? *Yes, He can!* God is the one Who’s doing it, right? *Yes!* Are we going to argue with God? *No!*

Now let's come back to the book of Hosea—we'll come here to Revelation 7 again here in just a minute. And let's read it here where we see a prophecy of this very thing concerning Israel, and all the tribes of Israel. Let's come here to Hosea 5:14—this shows the tribulation against Ephraim and the house of Judah. In other words, Israel and the house of Judah. "For I *will be* to Ephraim as a lion, and as a strong lion to the house of Judah. I, *even* I, will tear and go away.... [He's going to turn His back on them for a while.] ...I will take away, and none shall rescue him. I will go; I will return to My place until they confess their guilt and seek My face... [repentance] ...in their affliction **they will seek Me earnestly**" (vs 14-15).

Now, Hosea 6:1—and here's what it says; here's their repentance: "Come and let us return to the LORD, for He has torn, and He will heal us; He has smitten, and He will bind us up. After two days... [How long is day in prophecy? *A day is equal to a year.* So after two years. How far after two years? *We don't know.* But shortly after.] ...He will revive us; in the third day He will raise us up, and we shall live in His sight" (vs 1-2). Now, that's what Israel's going to do when they're in captivity. This is how the repentance of the 144,000 is going to take place. They will repent! God grants them that repentance; He grants them His Holy Spirit; they are sealed with the angels sealing them and they are the servants of God. Now likewise, there are going to be a lot of other people in the world who are going to repent. But you see, to the Jew first—and isn't it interesting, it starts out with the children of Israel, house of Judah. Then to the Gentiles, after Judah and the house of Israel.

So let's come back here to Revelation 7:9 and let's see what takes place here. Now, could it be—and I've asked this question many times, and I see every reason to see that the sequence of the Holy Days makes this true. Just like on the Day of Pentecost, in Acts 2, there were 3,000 who were converted that day—that's the beginning of the harvest. Now we have here, that this is probably what took place in Revelation 7, is probably the next to the last Pentecost. So the sign of the Son of man appears before the next to the last Pentecost, and becomes like a second sun that no one has seen before. All of a sudden it is out there. Great things take place. Those of the tribes of Israel, the 144,000, repent; and the great innumerable multitude. Let's see that they're going to get salvation. Now they won't precede anyone to eternal life until the two witness are first lifted up. We'll see that in a little bit.

Revelation 7:9: "After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude, which no one was able to number, out of every nation and tribe and

people and language, was standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes and *holding* palms in their hands... [Very interesting, isn't it? *Yes!* This shows that they're going to receive salvation. Not at that instant, but that's where they're going to be. So it's showing their ultimate place in God's Kingdom.] ...And they were calling out with a loud voice to Him Who sits on the throne and to the Lamb, saying, 'The salvation of our God *has come*' (vs 9-10).

"Then all the angels stood around the throne, and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, Saying, 'Amen. Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power and strength *be* to our God into the ages of eternity. Amen.' And one of the elders answered *and* said to me, 'These who are clothed with white robes, who are they, and where did they come from?' Then I said to him, 'Sir, you know.' And he said to me, They are the ones who have come out of the great tribulation; and they have washed their robes, and have made their robes white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason, they are before the throne of God... [that's their reward] ...and serve Him day and night in His temple; and the one Who sits on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall not hunger any more, nor shall they thirst any more; neither shall the sun nor the heat fall upon them, Because the Lamb Who *is* in *the* midst of the throne will shepherd them, and will lead them to fountains of living waters; and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes'" (vs 11-17).

Now, a lot of this you find again repeated in Revelation 21 & 22. So this shows the ultimate reward. This does not mean that as soon as they're sealed, immediately they are then up in heaven at God's throne.

We're going to see a little later on, sure enough, God's throne—in the person of Christ, and maybe even the Father—is going to come down to the Sea of Glass. Now that upsets some people because they think, in saying that, that we're preaching some kind of secret rapture. Hey, have I read anything here that's secret? Or is this going to be known openly? I haven't preached anything that's in secret—NO! Now, let's come all the way over to Revelation 14. Now, this becomes important. We have a sermon on it, and I don't know if we can get it on this CD, but we'll get it to you: the difference between the 144,000 of Revelation 7 and Revelation 14. Suffice it to say, at this point for the sake of time, that the 144,000 of Revelation 7 are from the children of Israel. The ones in Revelation 14—so there is apparently two sets of 144,000—these are the ones who were 'redeemed from the earth.' These were the ones who remained virgins. In other words, once they were converted, they never backslid. Now, I'll give a sermon on it, to explain it a little bit more.

Let's come here to Revelation 14:6: "And I saw another angel flying in *the* midst of heaven, having *the* everlasting gospel to proclaim *to* those who dwell on the earth, and *to* every nation and tribe and language and people... [So God is going to have angels saying with a loud voice...See, God is desirous of repentance. Now, this is probably at the beginning, somewhere close to the beginning of the Tribulation—here in this particular setting.] ...Saying with a loud voice, 'Fear God, and give glory to Him, because the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him Who made the heaven, and the earth, and *the* sea, and *the* fountains of waters.' Then another angel followed, saying, 'The great city Babylon is fallen... [Now, that's a prophecy. Hasn't fallen yet, but it's going to.] ...is fallen, because of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, *which* she has given all nations to drink.' And a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, 'If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives *the* mark in his forehead or in his hand, He shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed undiluted in the cup of His wrath; and he shall be tormented in fire and brimstone in the sight of the holy angels, and of the Lamb'" (vs 6-10).

Now, why do I say that these have to take place toward the beginning of the Tribulation? Because that's when the mark of the Beast is given—just before the Tribulation begins. Why give a warning after they already have it? Because it says, 'if anyone *receives* the mark of the Beast.' So this has to be before.

Now, here is another verse that we need to pay attention to—v 12: "Here is *the* patience of the saints; here *are* the ones who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.... [So this part of the prophecy is toward the beginning of the Tribulation.] ... And I heard a voice from heaven say to me, 'Write: Blessed *are* the dead who die in *the* Lord from this time forward. Yes, says the Spirit, so that they may rest from their labors; and their works follow them'.... [That's the martyrdom, back in Rev. 6. So you see, we have points of reference to give us where we need to understand that these things take place.

Now then, since we have already seen that the firstfruits *are a harvest*, notice v 14: "And I looked, and behold, a white cloud and *one* like *the* Son of man sitting on the cloud... [Jesus comes in the clouds, right? *Yes!*] ...having a golden crown on His head; and in His hand *was* a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him Who was sitting on the cloud, 'Thrust in your sickle and reap, because the time has come for You to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe'.... [Now that's the harvest of the resurrection. Again, there is not one Scripture in the entire Bible

which shows that Trumpets is a harvest feast. Only the Wave Sheaf Offering Day and the Feast of Pentecost.

Sorry, I missed giving you the understanding of those two loaves. Those two loaves represents those who have been changed. And there's leaven in those loaves and they are baked. And when you bake bread, it is permanently changed. While it is in the dough you can beat it down again. But when it's baked, it's permanently changed. That's why they are waved before God, because that first of the grain harvest is finished and this is the finished product of it, which are those who are in the first resurrection. One loaf pictures those from the Old Testament, the other loaf pictures those from the New Testament. Sorry that I took so long to get to that, but that's the answer as to what they are.

Now, let's come here and see what happens. "...for the harvest of the earth is ripe And He Who was sitting on the cloud thrust forth His sickle upon the earth, and the earth was reaped" (vs 15-16) That's the resurrection. Now there's another harvest that takes place shortly after that. And that is the harvest of the wicked. And we find here, v 18: "And out from the altar came another angel, who had authority over fire; and he called with a loud cry to the one who had the sharp sickle, saying, 'Thrust in your sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the earth, because her grapes are fully ripe'.... [These are the grapes for the wrath of God—the seven last plagues.] ...And the angel thrust his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast *its fruit* into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood spewed out from the winepress as high as the horses' bridles, to the distance of a thousand six hundred furlongs" (vs 18-20).

Now, that part is fulfilled in Revelation 16—the resurrection of the righteous is fulfilled in chapter 15. Where is Christ coming to? *He's coming in the clouds*. Now let's go back and let's read here in 1-Thessalonians, the fourth chapter; let's read this again. Though I've read it in the past, let's read it again because this becomes very important for us to understand. Now, I'll fill in some other things with the sermons that will lead up to Pentecost, so we'll have full, clear picture of it.

1-Thessalonians 4:14: "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. 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 shall in no wise precede those who have fallen asleep... [Now, this has to refer to those who are in the place of safety and to the 144,000 and the great, innumerable multitude.] ...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... [Because at the last trump we're going to be changed 'in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye'] ...and the dead in Christ shall rise first; Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them **in the clouds** for *the meeting with the Lord in the air*... [Now what are we going to do in the clouds — that's in the first heaven. ***That is not a secret rapture!*** That is the first resurrection.] ...and so shall we always be with *the* Lord" (vs 14-17). And as we read, yesterday, the festival gathering of the saints.

All right, now let's come back to Revelation 15:1: "Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and awesome: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is filled up. And I saw a **sea of glass mingled with fire** ... [Now this is literal, this is not symbolic. When we're resurrected and meet Christ in the air, there's going to be a sea of glass; and that sea of glass has got to be big enough and broad enough and long enough that it's going to be able to hold all the saints. Because God has promised that all the saints will see the vengeance of God. ***They will see it!***] (notice): ...and those who had gotten the victory over the beast... [That goes all the way back to the days of Abel, because Satan was that beast.] ...and over his image... [Those are all the idols of Nimrod down through time.] ...and over his mark... [which is toward the end-time, mark of the Beast.] ...*and* over the number of his name, ***standing on the sea of glass***, having *the* lyres of God" (vs 1-2). Special musical instruments.

"And they were singing the song of Moses... [the *loaf* that was from the Old Testament] ...*the* servant of God, and the song of the Lamb... [the *loaf* for the New Testament] saying, 'Great and awesome *are* Your works, Lord God Almighty; righteous and true *are* Your ways, King of the saints. Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name?... [Yes, because after all that the whole world is going to come to glorify God's name. Now sure, there are other things to take place ***after*** the saints and Christ come back to the earth, but we'll see when that will happen.] ...For *You* only *are* holy; and all the nations shall come and worship before You... [That's during the Millennium.] ...for Your judgments have been revealed'" (vs 3-4).

"And after these things I looked, and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened.... [Not too far from the Sea of Glass, right? *Yes!*] ...And the seven angels who had the seven *last* plagues..." (vs 5-6) that are going to be poured out on the earth on the wicked, which then is going to be the wrath of God.

So next week, I'm going to give a sermon on

Revelation 16 & 19 and we'll take care of some of the loose ends of the things that take place after Pentecost. But Pentecost has to be the harvest of the firstfruits. That's what we are. That's when it takes place. That's what Pentecost pictures—*not Trumpets*. Now granted, there are a lot of things that need to fill in the different aspects of it, but we'll try and have all of that done before Pentecost.

Scripture References:

- 1) Leviticus 23:10-12, 15-21
- 2) Deuteronomy 16:16-17
- 3) Acts 2:1-41
- 4) Revelation 5:1-14
- 5) Revelation 6:1-11
- 6) Matthew 24:1-3, 30, 4-26
- 7) Revelation 6:12-17
- 8) Matthew 24:27-31
- 9) Revelation 7:1-8
- 10) Hosea 5:14-15
- 11) Hosea 6:1-2
- 12) Revelation 7:9-17
- 13) Revelation 14:6-10, 12-16, 18-20
- 14) 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17
- 15) Revelation 15:1-6

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Luke 17
- Revelation 2, 3, 10, 12, 16, 20, 21
- Psalm 16, 110
- 2 Thessalonians 2
- Daniel 12
- Jeremiah 25
- Joel

Also referenced:

- Sermon: *The Spirit of God—The Seven Spirits of God*
- Sermon Series: *Revelation*

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