



SEED FOR THE SOWER



“The Lord God has given Me the tongue of disciples, that I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to listen as a disciple.” Isaiah 50:4

OUR GLORIOUS HOPE

The Second Coming of Jesus



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Jesus is Coming Back!



The promise of His coming

“In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also” John 14:2-3.



The purpose of His coming

To take us to be with Him... *“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.” 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.*

To judge the world... *“For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you...when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.” 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9.*



The glory of His coming

“...when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed—for our testimony to you was believed” 2 Thessalonians 1:10.

“And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. They also said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.’” Acts 1:9-11.



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Signs of the Saviour’s Return

Jesus told of events that will happen on the earth just prior to His return to the earth:



Geographical Events

“There will be great earthquakes, and in various places plagues and famines...nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves....” Luke 21:11,25.



Astronomical Events

“...there will be terrors and great signs from heaven...signs in sun and moon and stars...on the earth dismay among nations...men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.” Luke 21:11,25-26 (Matthew 24:29-32).



Catastrophical Events

“...Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom...” Luke 21:10-11.

“...at that time there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world...nor ever will be...” Matthew 24:21.



Deceiving Events

“... ‘See to it that no one misleads you...For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.’ Matthew 24:4;24 (2 Thess.2:8-12)



The Gospel reaches the whole world

“This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.” Matt.24:14.

“And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory.” Matthew 24:30.



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Living Victoriously in the Last Days

“And just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man...the same as happened in the days of Lot...It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed” Luke 17:26-30 (Genesis 6:5-8; 19:1-28; Acts 2:40).



Noah’s day - evil and violence filled the earth

“Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. The Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart....the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with violence” Gen.6:5-6,11



Lot’s day - sexual immorality and perversion

“...Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them...indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.” Jude 7 (Genesis 19:12-29).



Noah in a lawless world - walked with God

“But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord...Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God.” Genesis 6:8-9. Noah - preached righteousness (2 Peter 2:5).



Abraham in Lot’s day - walked with God

*“...Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, ‘I am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless’” Genesis 17:1.
“... ‘Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness’, and he was called the friend of God” James 2:23.
Abraham - our father of faith (Galatians 3:29).*

“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus” Titus 2:11-13.



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Be Ready for the Return of Jesus

Jesus gave specific instructions for believers who would be living in the day when the signs of His return *begin*:

“But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near...Be on guard, so that your hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day will not come on you suddenly like a trap...But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man” Luke 21:28, 34-36.



Straighten up

A change from a relaxed attitude to one of readiness -- “...*the hour for you to awaken from sleep...*” Romans 13:11 (1 Peter 1:13).



Lift up your heads

A change of focus from the world to our eternal future with the Lord -- “...*Set your mind on the things above...*” Colossians 3:1-4 (2 Corinthians 4:17-18)



Be on your guard

A change of attitudes and life-style -- “*Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness...*” 2 Peter 3:10-14.



Keep on the alert

Constant awareness of events -- “*Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming*” Matthew 24:42-44.



Pray

A heart of humility and total dependence on the Lord (Philippians 4:6-7)

“Then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory” Mark 13:26 (read through verses 33-37).



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Straighten Up!



Against spiritual powers...

Our stand is not against natural earthly powers and authorities. It is against the forces of darkness.

“Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.” Ephesians 6:11-13.



...with righteousness in our hearts

The reality in our hearts and lives of the finished work of Christ on the Cross and Resurrection, cannot be overcome by the enemy.

“Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness” Ephesians 6:14.



...with spiritual weapons

Our weapons are the revelation of all that Jesus accomplished on the Cross, the power of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.” 2 Cor.10:1-4.

“...If God is for us, who is against us?... Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?...in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:31-39.



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Lift Up Your Heads!



Having a total change of focus

The Scripture reveals that Satan is extremely active in the days prior to the Second Coming of the Lord.

“the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time” Revelation 12:12.

Preparing us for this reality, the Lord Jesus emphasises the importance of our focus. We must keep our eyes firmly fixed on the Lord, His promises, His Coming and the glory awaiting us. He says...

“...straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near” Luke 21:28.



Seeing the world view from God’s perspective

The Word of God reveals the Lord’s perspective of all that is happening. He is on the Throne. He knows the end from the beginning. By the Holy Spirit within us, we can share His focus.

“We are asking God that you may see things, as it were, from his point of view by being given spiritual insight and understanding” Colossians 1:9 (Phillips).



Knowing what God’s says in His Word

It is so important to know what is written in the Word of God about what will happen at the time of His Coming. Seek the Lord and study His Word! Follow the guide lines. Your hearts will be lifted up!

Jesus said; *“...when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door. Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away” Matthew 24:33-35.*



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Be On Your Guard!

In the light of the last days, The Lord Jesus warns us to be careful of three escape hatches. In Luke 21:34, He says, “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with...”

➔ Dissipation

Dictionary definition - “overindulgence in sensual pleasures”.

“For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh..I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh....If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.” Galatians 5:13-16,25.

➔ Drunkenness

Drunkenness is the dulling of the mind and soothing of the senses by chemical means. The Lord’s answer is...

“And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit” Ephesians 5:18.

➔ Anxieties of life

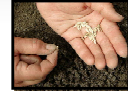
Worry is faith in reverse. It is believing in the worst happening in place of putting our faith in God and His promises. Jesus said...

“...do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on...Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?...your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” Matt. 6:25-34.

“...so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.” 1 Thessalonians 3:13.



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Keep on the Alert!

The Lord gives the reason we need to be always on the alert...

“But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone” Mark 13:32.

No-one can put a time or date on the coming of the Lord, but Jesus has given us the clear signs that will indicate the “season” of His coming. We are to watch out for these. They will indicate when His coming is near and He does not want us to be taken by surprise on that Day.

“Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night...But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness...so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.” 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6.

In very strong words He repeats his warning -- be on the **ALERT!** He has given us a parable to emphasise the importance of keeping alert:



The warning

“Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time will come. It is like a man away on a journey, who upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, assigning to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert. Therefore, be on the alert—for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—in case he should come suddenly and find you asleep. What I say to you I say to all, ‘Be on the alert!’” Mark 13:33-37.



The assigned task

As well as fulfilling our individual allotted tasks as servants of the Lord, we are all assigned to be a “doorkeeper” watching out for the return of the Lord!



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Watch!

Concerning His Second Coming, the Lord Jesus gave His disciples clear and strong instructions to *keep watch!* The enemy, Satan, will be at work to bring the world under his control. As we watch this unfolding it is important, however, that he and what he is doing does not become the focus of our attention. This only results in fear and confusion. These are the “beginning of birth pains” (Matthew 24:8). Our emphasis is not to be on what Satan is doing but on the coming of the Lord. We are instructed to *watch for Him!* In Matthew 24:42-47, the Lord says...

“Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. For this reason you must be ready as well; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will”.

How to watch

➔ Be aware of the signs

The Lord has given us, in His Word, the signs that indicate the closeness of His coming (e.g. Luke 21:5-36).

“But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near” Luke 21:28.

➔ Believe His Word

Although we do not know the exact time of His coming, the Lord emphasises the importance of *knowing* that He is coming. He is faithful to His promise:

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will take you to Myself, so that where I am, there you also will be” John 14:3

➔ Be sensitive to His Spirit

“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come” John 16:13.



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Pray!

The Lord enables us to pray through the last days by the ministry of His Holy Spirit interceding for us and through us:

“First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority...” 1 Timothy 2:1-2

“...In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.” Romans 8:26-27 (v.34; Hebrews 7:25).

Four anointings of the Spirit in prayer



Bearing the burden of the Lord

“Then He said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me” Matthew 26:38 (Luke 19:41-42).



Identifying with others

“Bear one another’s burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2.



Spiritually labouring to bring to birth

“Oh, my dear children, I feel the pangs of childbirth all over again till Christ be formed in you” Galatians 4:19 (Phillips).



Warring against the enemy

“Put on the full armour of God...For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but...against the world forces of this darkness... the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.” Eph. 6:11-12

“With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints” Ephesians 6:18.



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Living in the Light of His Coming

“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God...Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless” 2 Peter 3:10-14.



Holy and Godly Lives

“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus” Titus 2:11-12.



Spotless

“But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness... I charge you...that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ” 1 Tim.6:11-14



Blameless

“Do all things without grumbling or disputing...prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation...” Phil.2:14-15 (Jude 24-25)



At Peace with God

“And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” Philippians 4:7.

“Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance” 1 Peter 1:13-14



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World’s Condition in the Last Day



Looking for Peace, Safety and Unity

The world leaders will attempt to find world peace and safety by coming together as “one”. They will ultimately hand over their authority to the Antichrist. Daniel’s visions in Daniel 7:7-27 picture these events.

“While they are saying, “Peace and safety!” then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.” 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3.



Believers Call in This Time

It is not for us to fear or fight these developments, but to recognise they are a sign of His soon coming. As believers in Christ, it is for us to share the love of God, the Gospel and the glory of eternity that is available for all who receive Jesus as Saviour and Lord. In His enabling power, we will stand strong in the face of persecution.

“...we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure. This is a plain indication of God’s righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering.” 2 Thessalonians 1:4-5 (Revelation 7:9-14).



Deception and Delusion

“...the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.” 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12.

“...with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him...it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed...whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming” 2 Thess.2:1-8.



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Overcomers!

Revelation chapter 17 pictures a world system involving three areas:

- * Idolatry and false religion
- * Wealth and excessive luxuries through trade and commerce
- * Power and glory.

These are at war with the Lord and his followers.

“These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful.” Revelation 17:14.



Called

Our call, as a believer in Christ, is to **follow Him**.

“... “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.” Matthew 16:24-25 (Matthew 4:19; 9:9; 19:21).



Chosen

As a follower of Jesus, we are then chosen for **a purpose**.

“You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain...” John 15:16 (Mark 16:15).



Faithful

Faithfulness, the very character of God within us as His new creation child, is the key to **a victorious life** in Christ.

“For I was greatly pleased when [some of the] brothers came [from time to time] and testified to your [faithfulness to the] truth [of the gospel message], that is, how you are walking in truth.” 3 John 1:3 (AMP) (Galatians 5:22).

“These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world!” John 16:33.



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Listen for the Midnight Cry!

“Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and began to sleep. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’” Matthew 25:6 (read verses 1 to 13).



Like a thief in the night

To the world: *“But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them...”* 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3 (NKJV).

But not like a thief to believers: *“But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.”* 1 Thessalonians 5:4-6.



Keep watch!

“...keep watch...Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.” Matthew 24:36; 25:13.



Keep your lamps burning!

“Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready...Luke 12:35-39 (Matthew 25:1-13).

“...You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him” Luke 12:35-40.



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Israel Receives the Messiah

During the Last Day, there will be a great turning to Christ by Israel.



Paul's Prophecy

In his letter to the Romans, the apostle Paul prophesied concerning his people, Israel, who had rejected Jesus as their expected and longed-for Messiah. There will be a great ingathering of Jews with personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and all He came to do.

"...a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, 'The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob.' 'This is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.'" Romans 11:25-27 (Isaiah 59:20-21; Jeremiah 31:31-34).



The Two Witnesses

The Lord sends to earth two witnesses to whom Israel will listen. Both had appeared with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-8). The description of their ministry in Revelation 11 is identical to their prior ministry on earth.

***Moses - representing the Law**

***Elijah - representing the prophets**

They minister in Israel for three and a half years. They are killed by the “beast from the Abyss” - Satan (Rev.9:1-11) and for three days the world celebrates and gloats over them. They are raised to life and the world is terrified. They are then taken back to Heaven (Rev.11:7-12).

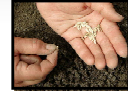


The 144,000

“ And I saw another angel...having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying, 'Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads.' And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel” Revelation 7:1-8 (14:1-5).



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The Reign of the Satanic Trinity

Read Revelation chapter 13. Satan sets about a last desperate attempt to overthrow God and get what he has desired all along - ultimate authority, power and worship (read Isaiah 14:13-14; Daniel 7).



Satan - Counterfeit of God the Father

Satan gives “his power, his throne and great authority” to the Antichrist (Revelation 13:2). This is outworked in political power.



The Antichrist - Counterfeit of the Son

- * **Jesus** was the full expression of the Father on earth (Colossians 2:9; John 14:8-9)
- * **Antichrist** is Satan in full expression in a man.
- * **Jesus** suffered a fatal wound (the Cross) and was raised from the dead (Luke 24:7).
- * **Antichrist** has a fatal wound which is healed (Revelation 13:3)



The False Prophet - Counterfeit of the Holy Spirit

- * **The Holy Spirit** gives supernatural gifts to the believers in Christ (1 Corinthians 12:7-11; Romans 12:6-8).
- * **The False Prophet** receives power from Satan to perform “great and miraculous signs”(Revelation 13:13).
- * **The Holy Spirit** inspires believers to worship God (1 Corinthians 12:7-11; Romans 12:6-8).
- * **The False Prophet** forces everyone to worship the Antichrist (Revelation 13:8,14-15).
- * **The Holy Spirit** “seals” the followers of the Lord - the mark of ownership by the Lord! (Revelation 7:3-4; 14:1-3).
- * **The False Prophet** imitates the sealing of the servants of God (Revelation 7:3), by giving those who have rejected Christ the “mark of the Beast” the number of the Antichrist - 666 (fullness of man) (Revelation 13:16-18).

“In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory” Ephesians 1:13-14



SEED FOR THE SOWER



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The Day of the Lord



Everything shaken that can be shaken

“Yet once more I will shake not only the earth, but also the heaven.” This expression, ‘Yet once more,’ denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire” Hebrews 12:26-29 (Haggai 2:6-7; 2 Peter 3:10-11).



Enoch - the pre-picture

“Enoch lived sixty-five years, and became the father of Methuselah. Then Enoch walked with God three hundred years after he became the father of Methuselah, and he had other sons and daughters. So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.” Gen.5:21-24.

Enoch named his son “Methusaleh” (meaning “his death sends”). He had received a revelation that when his son died judgment would come upon the wicked world (Jude 14-15). The year Methusaleh died, the flood was sent. Because of this, at the birth of his son, he began to walk with God (Hebrews 11:5) and God “took him”.



Fulfilled in the last Day

Like Enoch, the believers of the last Day have the Word of God, revealing what will take place prior to the return of Jesus when we will be taken to be with Him. We, too, are called to walk with Him.

“On that day, anyone on the housetop who has belongings in the house must not come down to take them away; and likewise anyone in the field must not turn back. Remember Lot’s wife. Those who try to make their life secure will lose it, but those who lose their life will keep it. I tell you, on that night there will be two in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. There will be two women grinding meal together; one will be taken and the other left.’ Then they asked him, ‘Where, Lord?’ He said to them, ‘Where the corpse is, there the vultures will gather” Luke 17:30-33 (NRSV) (Matthew 24:40-42).



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The Bride of Christ

Jesus’ prayer to the Father in John 17:20-23 that **“all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you”**, will be answered! He is coming back for His Church - a beautiful “Bride” who is filled with His glory, totally at one with Him, in heart, mind and Spirit. The Bride **“has made herself ready”** Rev.19:7-8.

➔ The Plan & Purpose of the Father.

“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren” Romans 8:28-29.

➔ Accomplished by Jesus the Son

“Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless” Ephesians 5:25-27 (John 17:22-23).

➔ Outworked by the Holy Spirit

“ But we all, with unveiled faces, looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit” 2 Corinthians 3:18.

➔ Imparted by the Body of Christ

“And He gave some as apostles, some as prophets, some as evangelists, some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ...speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, that is, Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love” Eph.4:11-16.



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Ready for the Bridegroom

“Let us rejoice and shout for joy! Let us give Him glory and honor, for the marriage of the Lamb has come [at last] and His bride (the redeemed) has prepared herself. She has been permitted to dress in fine linen, dazzling white and clean—for the fine linen signifies the righteous acts of the saints [the ethical conduct, personal integrity, moral courage, and godly character of believers]” Revelation 19:7-8 (AMP).



The Bridegroom - A radiant Lord Jesus

“He is the radiance of His glory...” Hebrews 1:3.



The Bride - A radiant Church

“...Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.” Ephesians 5:25-27.



Ready to meet the Bridegroom

Cleansed by the Word: “The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life” John 6:63. “You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.” John 15:3.

Robed in righteousness: “...the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.’ It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.” Revelation 19:7-8.

Filled with His glory: “Now to Him who is able to protect you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory, blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority before all time and now and forever. Amen.” Jude 24,25.

“And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband” Rev. 21:2.



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The Glory of the Coming King

➔ Powerful conqueror

“These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them...in righteousness He judges and wages war. His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems...From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations” Revelation 17:14; 19:11-15.

➔ Fearful judge

“Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones, to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him” Jude 14-15 (2 Thessalonians 1:6-10; Isaiah 11:4; Rev.20:11-15).

➔ Glorious Bridegroom

“Then I heard something like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready”...And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True...” Revelation 19:6-8,11.

➔ King of Kings and Lord of Lords

“And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, ‘KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS’” Revelation 19:16.

“I turned around to see...someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand he held seven stars.... His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance” Revelation 1:12-16.



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Our Glorious Hope

“Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen. ‘I am the Alpha and the Omega,’ says the Lord God, ‘who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty’. Revelation 1:7-8 (Matthew 24:30; Mark 13:26; Acts 1:9-11).



The Climax of Salvation

“Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality...then will come about the saying that is written, ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’” 1 Corinthians 15:51-54 (v.26; 1 Peter 1:3-5; Titus 2:11-13).



The Crown of Righteousness

“...in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing” 2 Timothy 4:8.



Ever with the Lord

“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words” 1 Thess. 4:16-18.

“Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.” John 14:1-3.



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The Judgment Seat of Christ

“Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad” 2 Corinthians 5:10 (Rom.14:10-12; 1 Cor.3:11-15; Rev.3:11-12; 14:13).

The Judgment Seat of Christ is not the same as the Great White Throne judgment where those who have rejected Christ, and whose names are not written in the Book of Life, are judged for their sins (Revelation 20:11-15). The believer’s name is in the Book and his/her sins were dealt with by the finished work of Christ on the Cross.

In New Testament times, the “Bema” (translated “judgment seat”) was used in athletic games where the contestants would compete for the prize (2 Timothy 2:5). The victor would come before the platform called the Bema. A laurel wreath crown was placed on his head as a symbol of victory (1 Corinthians 9:24-25). In the same way, so will the Christian appear before Christ’s Bema to receive his/her imperishable award. It is the judgment of *rewards* and *responsibilities* given.

➔ Rewards

“His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord’” Matthew 25:21 (NKJV) (Matthew 6:19-21; Revelation 22:12).

In Christ, we have all received gifts to fulfill the call of God on our lives (1 Cor.12:1-11; 27-31; Rom.12:3-8; Eph.4:11-16). According to the level of our response and the use of these gifts in our lifetime will determine the level of the reward.

➔ Responsibilities

Seated together with Christ upon His Throne (Eph.2:6-7) we each will be expressing the different aspects of the call and responsibility the Lord has given us in His plans and purposes for all eternity.

**What joy it will be to hear those longed-for words from our Saviour,
“Well done”!**



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Total Victory Fulfilled

“But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left” Matthew 25:31-33 (read to verse 46).



Justice Served - 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10

Antichrist and False Prophet ...thrown in the Lake of Fire, never to be released (Revelation 19:20; 20:14-15).

All who followed them...killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the white horse (Rev.19:21; 2 Thess.1:8-9)

Satan...chained and thrown into the Abyss which is then sealed. He remains there for 1000 years (Revelation 20:1-3).



The Thousand Years

This is a glorious time for all the believers, reigning with Christ on earth and enjoying His presence (Revelation 20:4-6).



The Second Resurrection

At the end of the thousand years the second resurrection takes place (Revelation 20:5).

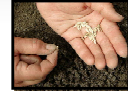
All unbelievers...raised to come before the Great White Throne for final judgment.

Satan...released for a short time and will gather the newly resurrected host - all his followers - in a last attempt to overthrow God's people. Fire from Heaven “devours them” and Satan joins the Beast and the False Prophet in the eternal torment of the “lake of fire and brimstone” (Revelation 20:7-10).

“...Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world...’” Matthew 25:34.



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God’s Magnificent Plan Fulfilled

People were created with a glorious purpose in mind -- to be one in heart, in nature and in glory with the God of Heaven. Jesus’ work on the Cross restored what had been lost by sin and reaches its full outworking at His Second Coming.

➔ **Conformed to the image Jesus**

“For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren” Rom.8:29 (1 Cor.15:48-49; 1 John 3:1-3).

➔ **Sons of the Most High**

“For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings. For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren...” Hebrews 2:10-12.

➔ **Filled with His glory**

“...God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory...When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory” Colossians 1:27; 3:4 (Rom.8:18)

➔ **Sharers of His Throne**

“He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne” Revelation 3:21.

“Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.”

Jude 24-25 (Revelation 7:9-10).



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“He who testifies to these things says,
‘Yes, I am coming quickly’
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.”

Revelation 22:20