

# The Lamb and the Seven Sealed Scroll

Revelation 4-5; Ephesians 1:13-14

Part One of Six

*“After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said,*

***Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. And immediately I was in the spirit:and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne**” (Rev. 4: 1-2).*

In *Chapter four*, The Trumpet of God has called the righteous saints (the Church<sup>1</sup>) to rise and meet Christ in the air; and we the Church (now elders<sup>2</sup>) are **sitting in our thrones** (seats), **wearing our white robes of linen**, and **our Crowns**. The raptured Church is found standing before His Throne at the *Judgment Seat of Christ*, receiving our rewards! *Only Jesus and the risen Church* will be found **sitting in thrones, wearing white linen robes**, and **Crowns of gold**; Chapter four also shows the *four creatures of Ezekiel*<sup>3</sup> joining in with the Church in praise and worship! (See vs. 6-11)...*But that's not all!*

Since John the Revelator saw the twenty-four Elders *sitting in their thrones, clothed in white raiment*, and *having on their heads crowns of gold*, it would surely be strong evidence that these elders stood before the Judgment Seat of Christ previous to the casting of their Crowns before the feet of Jesus.

*The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.* (Revelation 4:10-11).

*Chapter five* reminds us to remember that Jesus alone was found worthy to open the 7-sealed Scroll. We see Christ preparing to open the Seven Sealed Scroll. When Jesus took the scroll, the four creatures and the elders “fell down before the Lamb, having harps, and golden vials full of odors, which are the prayers of the saints (Elders), singing a new song...all joined together! John wept, but another elder said, “Weep not. For the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof (vs. 5-7). Soon after, the Lord Jesus took the book from Him that sat on the Throne. At that time, we heard mighty worship shared by both the creatures of Daniel and the elders (church)...and they sang a brand new song saying:

Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for **thou wast slain**, and **hast redeemed us to God** by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; <sup>10</sup>And **hast made us unto our God kings and priests**: and **we shall reign on the earth**. <sup>11</sup>And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; <sup>12</sup>Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. (Rev. 5: 9-12).

## What are we seeing in verses 9-12)?

1. Jesus was slain once for all!
2. He has redeemed us by His blood... That is *every* person who would come to Him—worldwide!
3. He has made us (all of us) to be Kings and Priests!
4. And we shall reign with Him on earth!

**What!!!** Are we imagining things? Could anyone ever turn around and then walk away from this? Why would any person, after having tasted the peace and joy of living for The King of all kings, and The Lord of all lords, ever turn around and walk his in own pathway?

## The Truth Given is For Our Peace:

<sup>1</sup> **Church.** Christians during the Church Age. These, if remaining “in Christ”, will become Elders from rapture through the end of the Tribulation Period.

<sup>2</sup> **Elders.** “Saints” on earth who have been included in the rapture of the Church (see Chapters 4-5).

<sup>3</sup> **The 4 Creatures of Ezekiel.** please see Ezekiel 1:5-14.

The scroll is the title deed to earth, and man should have possessed it (Genesis 1:26-28). But man sinned and forfeited possession after God delivered earth to the authority of Adam. When God drove Adam and Eve out of Eden because of their sin, Satan usurped authority over earth. That's the reason Satan is now called, "*the god of this world*"; but Jesus Christ has paid the ransom for all of mankind—if only all mankind will come to Him.

God reveals some of the 7-year tribulation to Daniel, but in "*Go thy way Daniel; for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end*" (See Daniel 12: 1-4; 9). John the Revelator then received the open account of the scroll (a roll of parchment). The scroll was rolled up to a certain point and there was a wax seal placed on the edge so it couldn't be opened till that seal was broken. It was rolled a little farther and sealed again on the edge, and so on till six seals were enclosed in the scroll; then one more seal to finalize the entire roll. When the first seal was broken, only the first seal judgment was unrolled—likewise with each of the other seals. *Jesus was found to be the only One who was qualified to open the book (scroll).*

**What is this book?** (Revelation 4, 5).

**The Provision under the Law:** A kinsman might redeem a lost inheritance (Lev. 25:23-34).

**Illustrate:** Ruth 4:1-11: A kinsman must be provided! Jeremiah purchased a field (see Jeremiah 32:8). Redemption is by the blood and power. Israel was redeemed out of Egypt. Jesus shed His blood that *we* could be partakers of God's inheritance, and Ruth was bought with land redeemed—a type of Christ's purchase for *us*.

### **The Purchased Field:**

In Jeremiah 32:8, Hanameel sold land to Jeremiah his cousin by the right of inheritance.

*"Houses, fields and vineyards shall be possessed again in this land"* (Jeremiah 32:15). Someday the deed will be found, seals broken, and the land possessed by the rightful heirs. The deed was sealed, placed in a vessel; then in a cave. After 70 years, in Jeremiah's case, the heir would return and take possession, "This deed belongs to me.", is proclaimed. Adam would have responded, "*I had it in the beginning, but I lost it because of my sin. I lost it!*" What about the angels? No, the angels cannot claim this title. Only Jesus will be worthy to reclaim earth for mankind.

**The Title Deed to Earth! (Revelation 5)** *No one was able to open the Seven seals except Jesus. Jesus will say, "I am the rightful heir." But remember, Christ has made us to be joint-heirs with Himself; and we are standing before Him as witnesses to His honor and glory...He, and He alone is worthy to open the seven seals!*

**"Why did John the Revelator Weep?"**—Revelation 5:1-5:

**First**, John realized there was no one who could open the sealed book. Man had, at Adam's sin, been rejected and lost ownership. *There was none on earth, in the heavens, or under the earth who was found worthy to open the scroll!* The opening of the seven-sealed scroll depended on the work of redemption. Without the seals being broken, there was no inheritance!

**Second**, It's ok to weep in righteousness. Jesus wept (John 11:35) -- the only fact recorded concerning our Lord in this shortest verse in the Bible. Nowhere can we read, "He laughed"; but on several occasions, He wept:

*"Who in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto Him that was able to save Him from death, and was heard in that He feared:"* (Heb. 5:7). Yet, Jeremiah also wept.

**The Lamb and the Lion:** "*shall lay together in the field*" and "*I shall know Him by the nail-prints in His hands.*" Seven horns and seven eyes both symbolize the Spirit of God in His seven-fold power and insight. The horns, power and the perfect vision eyes; seven being a sign of perfection:

- The Teaching of the Trinity:
- The father as an occupant of The Throne.
- The Son: Lamb slain, risen, now taking rightful role of Judah's lion.
- Christ is still the Lamb slain from the foundations of the world, *and will not assume the "Lion" till after the rapture of the Church, and as the "Lion" he shall go forth conquering. We must see the Lamb of God as resurrected.*

## The Angels and the Elders Sing

“And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. <sup>6</sup>And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. <sup>7</sup>And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. <sup>8</sup>*And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints* (Revelation 5:5-8—The four beasts/creatures are Daniel’s four creatures in Daniel 1).

### Revelation 5:8-14:

<sup>8</sup>And when he had taken the book, the four beasts (Daniel’s 4 creatures) and *four and twenty elders* fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odors, which are the prayers of saints. <sup>9</sup>*And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;* <sup>10</sup>*And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.* <sup>11</sup>And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; <sup>12</sup>Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. <sup>13</sup>And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb forever and ever. <sup>14</sup>And the four beasts said, Amen. And the **four and twenty elders** fell down and worshipped him that liveth forever and ever. (Rev. 5:8-14; see also Rev. 8:3, 4)

The sound of the Seventh Trumpet brought an announcement in Revelation 11:15, saying: “**The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever!**”

Today, men are having their own way. Satan is running things on earth and we see the results of that in the death and destruction now, in contrast to just 30 years ago. This is a unique age in which Christians have more peace than ever before—depending on commitments made to Him who loves us more than we can imagine!

### The Elders Are The Raptured Church—Crucial Information!!

The Lamb of God *will not break* the first seal of the scroll *until* the redeemed are seen crowned in heaven (Rev. 4, 5), singing their songs of redemption. **No** redeemed will receive his crown until the Apostle Paul first receives his crown(s). And that will be *after* we face Jesus at the Judgment Seat of Christ. (Study thoroughly Rev. 4:4-11).

**Apostle said:** “*Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.* (2 Timothy 4:8)

He will put everything back as originally created, even better, but judgment will come first. After the rapture, there are no Christians left on earth. However, the greatest revival ever on earth will take place during the seven years of tribulation, when an uncountable multitude come to Christ during the harshest time ever seen on earth – no one will want to be on earth during that time.) Those who are born again during the Great Tribulation will be persecuted and martyred for the sake of Jesus. They will be prepared to die for Jesus.

**First**, prayers of the saints come up as a sweet odor unto God (Rev. 8:3-5). Every prayer of the Christian through the ages is in God’s nostrils, as a sweet odor. He stores our prayers and never forgets us. When you think God has forgotten you, forget it. He hasn’t. In this reference, our prayers are used toward the destruction of wickedness on earth. We are literally in heaven at this time, in praise and worship with all the angels.

**Second**, Prophecy students of Revelation should understand chapter one is God’s directions to John in Chapter one (see verse 19). Chapters 2-3 is the Church Age. Chapter 4 is the rapture of the Church; and Chapter 5 shows us Jesus accepting the 7 Sealed Scroll of Judgments on earth, in which will be opened one judgment at a time in chapter six. They will become the great Seven Seal Judgments of Christ; and the revealing of the Anti-Christ.

*Revelation 6 begins the Demonic 7 years of Tribulation for all those who are left on earth!*

# **The Seven Seal Judgments**

## **Showing How Bad the Tribulation Will Really Be**

### **Revelation, Chapter 6—Part 2 of Six Parts**

I wonder how many of you are really thinking about how terrible, awful, and painful the events mentioned in Revelation will really be. For starters, I would like to point out that when food supplies are really good, predatory/scavenger animal, bird, and insect populations increase. These are bears, mountain lions, wolves, foxes, rats, hornets, flies, and coyotes, to name a few. But when famine comes, they will take any prey they can.

**Let's read what the Bible says the first four seals will accomplish:**

**Revelation 6:1–2:** *“And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.”*

**Revelation 6:3–4:** *“And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.”* (emphasis added)

**Revelation 6:5–6:** *“And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.”* (emphasis added)

**Revelation 6:7–8** *“And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.”*(emphasis added)

I hope you paid close attention to the statement made about the fourth seal. One-quarter of earth's population is killed. To put that in its proper perspective, earth's population is almost 7 billion right now. Divide that by four, and you will have the answer to how many deaths have happened by the time the fourth seal is completed. That number is *1,750,000,000 deaths*, or, as that number is spoken: one billion, seven hundred fifty million deaths! There is only one way you could get that number of deaths in such a short period of time, especially within seven years, and that is by a nuclear exchange. Only certain countries possess such weapons, and right now, there is soon to be another to join the nuclear club. That country, Iran, has a leader who seeks to use them as soon as he has them. After that, many deaths will occur—and there will be no one to really clean up afterward, except for the animals, birds, and insects. In other words, things will get very smelly on planet earth. Also, after these events, we will likely have nuclear radiation worldwide, combined with disease and pestilence from all the rotting corpses!

**Revelation 6:9:** *“And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held.”* (emphasis added)

Here we have yet again more deaths, this time removing the heads from the bodies, in most cases. Will they do like in days past and make a heap of the heads of those who were beheaded to frighten people into taking the mark of the Beast? Now we have more death and more carnage...and the earth's population is ever decreasing.

**Revelation 6:12-17:** *“And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal; and lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains. And said to the mountains; and*

*rocks, fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"*

This earthquake is so powerful that islands and mountains will move! Now, you also have what seems to be a meteor shower occurring during this time. This earthquake will produce tsunamis worldwide, which will likely devastate many coastal towns and cities. Another nice fact that you should know is that 90 percent of the world's population lives in and around these areas. That doesn't mean all are going to die, but many will. This earthquake will pale in comparison to the earthquake that comes in the seventh bowl/vial.

**The seventh seal is The Prayers of The Saints:** *"And when he had opened the Seventh Seal, there was silence in heaven, about the space of half and hour. And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets. And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand." And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake."* (Rev. 8:1-5)

## **The 144,000 Sealed & The Uncountable Number**

### **An Interlude After the Seal Judgments—Chapter Seven**

#### **Part Three of Six Parts**

#### **The 144,000 Israelites:**

In 1 Kings 19:18 we find an account of 7,000 who refused to bow to Baal. In Revelation we find a considerable number (144,000) of Israelites who will not accept anti-christ as their Messiah. It would seem these Jews have eagerly received the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ, have accepted and become evangelists to their people, not only in Israel but around the world. In just three and one half years they must reach all their people.

Twelve, the number of the tribes, multiplied by twelve, the number of the church, multiplied by one thousand would suggest good results (Rev. 14:1-5 and Matt. 24:31). Many bible teachers including Duke, believe these 144,000 are the man-child pictured in chapter 12.

#### **The Uncountable Multitude (Martyred saints Of All Nations)**

Verses 9 -17 show a *different* group of redeemed through great tribulation:

<sup>9</sup>After this, I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, *stood before the throne*, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; <sup>10</sup>And cried with a loud voice, salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. <sup>11</sup>And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, <sup>12</sup>Saying Amen: Blessing, and glory and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might be unto our God forever and ever. Amen."

Now, here's what happened next. John, the revelator (who was the recorder of all Jesus gave him concerning the seven years of Tribulation), was in Heaven with this huge innumerable (which no man could number) multitude, of all nations and kindreds, and people, and tongues, as they stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with robes, and palms in their hands, this huge group that no one could ever, ever count because of the number of them, were wearing white robes.

What does it mean? John was alert and in the Spirit of God. He answered a question from another "elder", like himself. The question?

"What (who) are these which are dressed in pure white linen robes? And where did they come from?"

“And I (John) said to him, Sir, you already know, don’t you?”

“Yes, I do. These are they which came out of the great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.” (Revelation 7:9-17).

John and the other elder were speaking about the only “saints” on earth at the time.

Who are “They who dwelt on the earth”, in contrast to “those who dwell in heaven”? Both, the dwellers of heaven and the dwellers of earth are addressed:

“<sup>11</sup>And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives to the death. <sup>12</sup>**Therefore rejoice ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea!** For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.” (Revelation 12:11-12).

Here’s the difference in those who dwell on earth and those who dwell in heaven: Since there are numerous scriptures stating who Christians are, I will give only four at this time.

*In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, (Eph. 1:13).*

*From our date of salvation we are “espoused to Jesus”. We are His bride. (2 Cor. 11:2).*

*He has raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places” now! (Eph.1:3; 2:6).*

*But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light; (1 Pet. 2:9).*

We are the group of folks washed in His precious blood who have committed ourselves to follow Jesus to the end. Those who are not saved at the time of the seven-year tribulation period will not be included in the glorious rapture of His Church (His body of believers); and if there is no repentance by this group during the tribulation, they will be judged at the Great White Throne Judgment, according to their works.

## ***The Last Trump & the Trump of God!***

### **Part Four of Six Parts**

**The Last Trump:** *The last Trumpet sound we will hear just prior to the Rapture of His Church: “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed” (1 Corinthians 15:52).*

**The Trump of God:** *“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:” (1 Thessalonians 4:16)*

The last trump and the trump of God, neither of which can be the blowing of the seventh angel (the third woe) as given in Revelation 11:15, carry the signature of our Lord. Why is this? It’s because this seventh angel blows his **trumpet of judgments** on the earth along with the announcements that the world has become the Kingdoms of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, over which He shall reign forever and ever (Christians everywhere should realize our Lord has always reigned over all things/events from the beginning—He conquers and takes possession—at His own timing). The final events of this *Seventh Trumpet Judgment* continue through chapter 15.

The blowing of the seventh trumpet (third woe judgment) does not initiate anything on earth, but is similar to the breaking of the seventh seal of Revelation 8:1. *It simply introduces the Bowl Judgments, and that the world has become The Kingdom of Christ; and He will rule forever (Rev. 20:1; Ezek 21:26-27; Dan. 2:44; 4:3; 6:26; Zech 14:9).*

In other words, the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet involves events extending to Christ's return, including the judgments of the seven bowls beginning in chapter 16; and brings us approximately to mid-tribulation. The sound of the seventh trumpet is followed by a parenthetical passage related to this tribulation period (Revelation 12:1-15-4).

These events include the persecution of God's children (chapter 12), the antichrist, or the "beast coming out of the sea," and the false prophet (chapter 13), a heavenly vision (chapter 14), and the events that will come on the earth under the final seven bowl judgments and the second half of the Tribulation (chapter 15). This is an awesome and terrible time, even beyond description, called the Great Tribulation because it reveals the greatest turmoil earth has ever witnessed.

The First Trumpet judgment as well as the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, which is the First Woe Judgment, and the Sixth Trumpet Judgment, which is the *Second Woe Judgment*, are called the *wrath of God*, which is poured out on all those who are *dwellers of the whole earth. Who are the dwellers, or inhabitants of earth as taught in the Word of God is covered in part 4.*

The Seventh Trumpet Judgment is never called the last trump, and is associated with the judgment of Earth, and not the Rapture of the Church. It is not the Trumpet Call of God referred to in 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

There are other trumpets mentioned in Scripture and in Jewish tradition. For instance the trumpet which closes the Feast of Trumpets is called the *Last Trump*. Does mean the Rapture must take place on the Feast of Trumpets? Not necessarily, but there is an interesting connection between 1 Thessalonians 4:16 and Exodus 19:13, and both involve the Trumpet Call of God. In these two cases, it's the sound of the trumpet that's important, and not the trumpet itself, and in both cases the sound is said to be coming from God.

"Some theologians say these two trumpets of God recall the two horns of the ram caught in the thicket when Abraham sacrificed Isaac. They call the Exodus Trumpet "the First Trump, and say that God will call the Israelites back to the Land in the End Times by blowing the right one, or the Last Trump. If this is the case then the Last Trump could be blown at the close of the Battle of Ezekiel 38-39, placing the Rapture at the same time as Ezekiel's soon coming battle.

Basically speaking, the best view is that Paul's use of the phrase "Last Trumpet" in 1 Corinthians 15:52 is simply to identify the trumpet call that accompanies the Rapture as *the last one the Church will ever hear on this earth*. Only two passages provide that the Rapture of the Church be removed at the sound of a Trump. One passage calls it the "Trump of God."; the other passage calls it "the Last Trump". The two passages are as follows:

#### **First, Paul wrote to the Church at Thessalonica:**

<sup>13</sup>But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. <sup>15</sup>For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the **trump of God:** and the dead in Christ shall rise first: <sup>17</sup>Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup>Wherefore comfort one another with these words." (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

#### **Second, Paul wrote to the Church at Corinth:**

"Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at **the Last Trump:** for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality" (1 Cor.15:51-53).

Though Paul was a citizen of Rome, he understood the Old Covenant much better than most Christians understand the New Testament. He was taught by one of the greatest scholars of the Old Testament Scriptures who ever lived, Gamaliel. Having so great an understanding of the Scriptures, Paul also understood the "feasts of the Lord".

During the feasts, shofars (Trumpets) were blown at certain times. The understanding of these feasts include the timing and the specific patterns of the tones and the lengths of these tones with certain suggestions or commands. For instance, let's use the pattern in use for the Fall Feast of Trumpets: (Please understand that the pattern will include each of four sounds of the shofar).

—This sound is called *Tekiah*—a blast of the trumpet—meaning to “wake up!”, or “be alert!”

—This sound is called *Sh'varim*—“short lasts” to be broken, humbled, ordered to repentance.

—This sound is called *T'ruah*—“Repeated short blasts”; and alarm; Get prepared!”

—This sound is called *Tekiah Hagadolah*—“long tone”, It's the Last Trump; *It always denotes Resurrection!*

*The Last Trump* is none of the seven trumpet judgments of Revelation; and during the times of the Feasts of The Lord, The Last Trump *is not* the first sound of the shofar; it is not the second sound, not the third. The Last Trump is the fourth sound—the last sound of a pattern of shofar sounds—which is the Resurrection and Rapture.

**The Last Trump** always calls for the resurrection of the Saints of Jesus Christ unto the eternal Glory of the Lord. I believe Apostle Paul had in mind that all who fully trust the Lord and walk in His Spirit should realize the Revelations received from the Holy Spirit in the studies of *The Word Of God—Who Is Jesus!*

## **The Seven Trumpet Judgments**

**Revelation 8:9-9:21; 11:15-19**

**Part Five of Six Parts**

**The seven Trumpet Judgments, in full** - (Rev. 8:6-9:21; 11:15-19)

*“And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets (Shofars) prepared themselves to sound”.*

**Hail, Fire, and Blood** - *“The First angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the 3<sup>rd</sup> part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up”* (Rev. 8:7).

**The first 4 Trumpets begin** **1)** One-third of the earth's vegetation is destroyed by fire and hail; One-third of the sea and rivers are polluted; the heavens, sun moon and stars are darkened for a third part of both day and night (vss. 7-13). **2)** The Judgment affects humans also, for many are killed (vs.11). The judgment is limited to 1/3 of the world, because the purpose is partially to warn people and bring them to repentance (9:20-21). **3)** The third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.

**The Sea Turned Into Blood** - *“And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood. And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed”* (Rev. 8:8-9)

**A great mountain burning:** This may be a great burning meteor, which falls into the sea and kills 1/3 of the sea creatures and destroys many ships in the sea.

**The pollution of Waters** - *“And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.* (Rev. 8:10-11)

*Wormwood* is a bitter plant, representing God's judgment and human sorrow (see Deut. 29:18; Prov.5:4; Jer. 9:15; and Amos 5:7)

**Sun, moon, and Stars Darkened** – *“And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise. And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the*

midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, **Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth** by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!” (Rev. 8:12-13)

**The last three angel’s cry of WOE judgments.** . . . is to warn that the next three trumpet judgments will be much more intense and devastating than those that preceded. The 5th and 6th judgments will involve horrible **DEMONIC FORCES** (Ch. 9).

### **The last three trumpets are “WOE!” Judgments!**

**The Opening of the Bottomless Pit – Demonic Curses On Men:** *“**And the fifth Angel sounded**, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of **the bottomless pit**. And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. And there came out of the smoke **locusts** upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the **scorpions** of the earth have power. And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads. And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a **scorpion**, when he striketh a man. And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them. And the shapes of the **locusts** were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men. And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions. And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months. And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is **Abaddon**, but in the Greek tongue hath his name **Apollyon**. One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.”* (Rev. 9:1-12)

**The bottomless pit.** The star falling from heaven is an angel who blows God’s judgment, referred to him as “he”.

**In verse 2.** **The bottomless pit is the abyss**, i.e., the place of imprisonment for **demons** (cf. vv. 1-2; 11:7; 17:8; 20:1,3; 2 Pet. 2:4; and Jude 6). The beast, who is the antichrist, comes out of the abyss (11:7), and Satan will be imprisoned there for one-thousand years (20:3). Came out. . . **Locusts**. These locusts represent an increased number of **demons and demonic** activity released upon the earth toward the end of history (Matt. 25:41-fallen angels). They have power of scorpions to cause pain and misery (v. 10). Their assault is directed against the wicked upon the earth for a time period of 5 months (vv. 5:10, though they are not permitted to torment believers (vs. 4). Pain inflicted by the **demonic** locusts is so severe that people desire to die, but will not be able to (vs. 5, 6). This Judgment reveals **1**) that evil and impenitence will most certainly receive diving retribution. And **2**) that when people oppose God and His truth and seek evil, they become the prey of the **demons**. Evil forces possess their very nature, soul, and life (vs.6). The appearance and sound of the demons will be terrifying (verses 7-9). Their breastplates (vs.9) may indicate that man-made weapons cannot destroy these **demonic** figures.

**Four Demonic Angels Released on the Earth** – *“**And the sixth Angel sounded**, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, saying to the sixth Angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four **demonic angels** which are bound in the great river Euphrates (**evil, demonic angels**). And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand (That’s two hundred million!); and I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone. By these three was the third part of men killed by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone which issued out of their mouths. For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and the heads, and with them they do hurt. **And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of their works or their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, not hear, not walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts**”* (Revelation 9:13-21).

**Loosing the Four Angels:** The sixth angel released four angels from the great Euphrates **River**. (These **demonic angels** were locked within the borders of the Euphrates about the time Adam and Eve were kicked out of Eden.) These are **evil angels** (demonic), since holy angels are not bound. They are let loose to kill one-third of the world's population (Vs.15). They are released from the river Euphrates, because in O.T. history, the Euphrates area symbolized a military invasion by which God brings judgment (cf. Isa.8:5-8; 10:5-7). Bible interpreters differ as to the meaning of the two hundred million horsemen. Some say they are demon-like evil spirits from the bottomless pit under the leadership of the four angels (Vs. 14). Some see the mounted troops as representing many armies gathered for battle. Fire, Smoke, Brimstone. What John saw is a reminder of God's judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19:24, 28; Jude 7). These words are God's warning that those who indulge in the sinful ways of Sodom will experience the judgment of Sodom. (Gen. 19:14).

During this time of tribulation, **MANY WILL REFUSE TO REPENT!** Even God's judgment does not bring people to repentance. This demonstrates the depth of human depravity and love for sinful pleasure (Jer. 17:9). The most prominent sins of the last days and the tribulation period are (verses 20-21): **1)** The worship of demons and participating in **spiritism**, the **occult**, and **magic** (Deut. 32:17; 1 Cor. 10:20). **2)** Murder and violence; **3)** **Sorcery**, which involves drugs, occult worship, and witchcraft (18:23; 21:8; 22:15; Gal. 5:20); **4)** immorality, sexual lust, and power; **5)** thefts and lawlessness. (Rom. 1:24, 28-31). (Revelation 11:15-19). Sorcery will be greatly revived in the final days before and during the tribulation period. (18:13; 21:8; 22:15; 1 Tim4:1). Sorcery is connected with the occult, which includes contact with the dead, super-natural powers, **paranormal energies**, or **demonic forces** in order to acquire power to manipulate things or people.

**The Seventh Trumpet** – ***“And the seventh angel sounded,*** “and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever. And the **four and twenty elders**, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth. And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.”

Remember what we learned from The Sixth Angel (the Sixth Trumpet sound) in Revelation 9: 20-21, that there will be a time when Jesus will give up on all who resist committing to Him?

“And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of their works or their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, not hear, not walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, not of their thefts.” (Rev.9: 20-21).

“And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death” (Revelation 21: 6-8).

Then, finally, The Lord has one more thing to say to all who have failed to overcome to the end: *“And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand. He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.”* (Revelation 22:10-11)

The kingdoms of the world **are** become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and he **shall** reign forever and ever! The proof of Christ's rulership is spoken of in the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter of Revelation, specifically vss. 9-14:

“And they sung a new song, saying, **Thou art worthy to take the book**, and to open the seals (7 Sealed book) thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; <sup>10</sup>And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. <sup>11</sup>And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; <sup>12</sup>Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. <sup>13</sup>And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. <sup>14</sup>And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth forever and ever” (Revelation 5:9-14).

“And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables; And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise”.

**Then, in 1 John 15-16, he stated:** “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”

Speaking of Jesus, Ezekiel received this prophecy from the Father: “Thus saith the Lord God; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: this shall not be the same: exalt Him that is low, and abase him that is high. I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it Him.” (Ezekiel 21:26-27)

Jesus is everything the Father says He is. He is the Mighty God, the Resurrection and the Life. He is the Lord of all lords; the Alpha and the Omega, beginning and the end. Jesus is the Author and the Finisher of our faith, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah...the King of all kings, The Beginning and the End. He is the desire of all who love and adore Him! Let us, His people continue in faith and righteousness!

He was in control then, and He remains in full control today, and tomorrow. Is it any wonder that He is Who He is? The kingdoms of this world belong to the Savior. The problem is with our belief system. The world has already become the kingdom of Christ Jesus, and no man can deny Him His sanctioned power to judge mankind.

The Tribulation will be a time when planet earth will smell horrible—so much so that it will make one vomit, quite possibly. Bugs and wasps, as well as any predatory animals, will be in large numbers, feeding on dead carcasses and harassing/killing the ones still alive. The earth's temp will be so hot that men will gnaw their tongues from the pain. Water will be undrinkable and stink from the dead fish in it. Darkness will be prevalent. Gangs will be rampant on murder sprees. Battles will likely happen over any food source/supply. Riots will be norm. Hatred from your fellow man will abound. During this time, the —me crowd will only be interested in what they can get for themselves, and they will let you die so they can have more for themselves.

The only thing man will care about during this time is food and water! Man will not think twice about killing another for the food he has. Earthquakes, demonic locusts, frequent and deadly plagues, horrific odors, people acting baser than ever imagined, scalding heat, rocks falling from the sky, darkness, predators and pests, barren landscapes, dead bodies and carcasses everywhere...and this is only part of this terrible time.

Why would anyone want to be here during such a time? I do not see the Rapture as an escape, but for those who are in this generation right now, it will be. Even God Himself describes this as a time on earth of such terrors that have never been, nor ever will be again.

Salvation is a free gift from God. But a gift is not a gift until a person receives and accepts it. If you haven't accepted Jesus Christ into your heart, now is the time to be saved. God makes it clear there is no promise of tomorrow, and that He may take your life from you today. So to think you still have time to make a decision for Christ is treading on dangerous waters. God gives us all the second chances to accept Him during our lifetime.

## **There is no second chance at heaven after you die!**

From Revelation 7:9-17, we find that there is an uncountable multitude gathered together before the Throne of God. It seems that, for whatever reasons, this group did not submit their wills to the Savior, Jesus Christ, prior to the Church Age; and because they saw the works of evil in such proportions that they submitted to Christ (by His invitation) and to serve Him for the remainder of their lives. This huge body of newly born Christians were called in the book of Revelation, “*Saints*”. The reasoning? The Saints were saved by Jesus’ blood *after entering* the seven years of Tribulation (Rev. 7:9-17); and the Raptured Church became the “*Elders*” solidly secured heaven.

By now most of us realize that the first trumpet judgments begin with Revelation 9:7, and finally, we come to the seventh Trumpet Judgment, which begins at Revelation 11:15, and ends at 11:19. In this area and even through the remainder of the Revelation you will see more judgments! It’s not quite over yet! We are just about halfway into the Seven Years of Tribulation; and though we will see much **demonic** activity on planet earth from chapter 9 and on till the Lord Jesus says. Yet, allow me to add this: The next set of judgments are the extreme worst of all the previous judgments; and we will not go that far in this paper. Beginning with the three Woe Judgments which began with the Fourth Trumpet Judgment, God’s Word will take you through the absolute worse judgments you can ever imagine; so if you think it will be Great to be in the Great Tribulation, I seriously recommend you do not continue on this line of thought.

## **Who Are The Dwellers of Earth?**

**With Other Helps  
Part Six of Six Parts**

### **Who Are The Earth Dwellers?**

Earth dwellers (inhabitants) are mentioned all through the Word of God. In every case, dwellers of earth, inhabitants of earth, and such like, are those who have no intention of ever serving the Lord Jesus. They will never repent no matter what the circumstances, even when facing death and eternal destruction! These will *never* repent. I have listed those only from the book of Revelation. Note I have taken only appropriate scriptures that are included in the books of Luke, Acts, and Revelation.

Jesus said: “For as a snare shall it come on ***all them that dwell on the face of the earth.*** 36) Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.” (Luke 21: 35, 36).

And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to ***dwell on the face of the earth,*** and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation. (Acts 17:26)

Jesus said, Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I will also keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, ***to try them that dwell upon the earth.*** (Rev. 3:10)

And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on ***them that dwell on the earth?*** (Rev. 6:10)

And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented ***them that dwell on the earth.*** (Rev. 11 :10)

11) And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony, and they loved not their lives unto the death. 12) Therefore rejoice, [ye] heavens, and ye that dwell on them. ***Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and for the sea!*** For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. (Rev. 12: 11, 12)

And ***all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him,*** whose names *are not written* in the book of life of the lamb slain from the foundation of the world. (Rev. 13:8)

And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the *earth and them that dwell therein* to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. (Rev. 13:12)

And deceiveth *them that dwell on the earth* by [the means of] those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to *them that dwell on the earth*, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by the sword, and did live. (Rev. 13:14)

And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto *them that dwell on the earth*, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people. (Rev. 14:6)

The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: *and they that dwell on the earth* shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. (Rev. 17:8)

With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and *the inhabitants of the earth* have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. (Rev. 17:2)

Without doubt, when John mentions in Revelation, *the inhabitants of the earth, dwellers of the earth*, or any related statement, we know he is *always* speaking of those who have no deed to eternal life.

*And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: 21) Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts. (Revelation 9:20, 21)*

*And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory. And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain. And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds (Revelation 16:9-11).*

*He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. 12) And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be (Revelation 22:11,12).*

### **So, Who Are The Elders? All Christians are called “Elders” in heaven after the Rapture of the Church**

**! Elders<sup>4</sup>** are mentioned no less than 116 times in the Old Testament, and 60 times in the New Testament, including 12 times in the Book of Revelation. **Elders** are always people; they are never angels, other creatures or beasts, as many believe. Keep in mind in *every case*, the Word of God teaches the Elder is a person—most often a male—and his duties in the Old Testament are generally related to the Priesthood, and in the Temple areas. In the New Testament Gospels and Acts (in part), they are a part of the Priesthood until the development of the Church. After the church is established, the **Christian elder** becomes ordained into the Church by laying on of hands (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5).

You may be surprised, even as I was, to find the **elder** in a position of strong leadership within the Church of Jesus Christ in the *Epistles* to the churches. I believe the **elders** in Revelation *represent the bride of Christ*—the Church, and all those Old Testament saints who were washed in the precious blood of Christ (Rom. 10:7 Eph. 4:9,10).

That is the reason for the “four and twenty” seats as written in Revelation 4:1-4; twelve seats for the twelve tribes of Israel, and twelve seats for the twelve apostles in the church. In these twenty-four seats around the throne, the elders were seated—in their thrones—all clothed in white raiment and crowns of gold on their head (vs. 4).

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<sup>4</sup>**Elders.** Blue indicates the **elders in heaven** represent God’s Church on earth. Therefore those yet on earth, having been saved during the seven years of Tribulation, are now called, “saints”.

By God's Spirit, John saw the Father sitting on His throne in heaven. I believe the **24 Elders** are representative of the raptured church in heaven. Their **seats** show a reward of authority in the coming millennial kingdom (Rev. 4:1-4; 20:4). Their **crowns** are rewards from **Christ's judgment seat** (Revelation 4:4; Romans 14:10; 1 Corinthians 3:12-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10). The **white raiment** shows their righteousness, which has now been judged and purified. The four and twenty seats represent the church as priests before God on His throne (Revelation 4:1-4).

*Now here's an alternate interpretation to the one given above concerning the 24 seats (thrones):* David divided the Levitical priesthood into 24 sections (1 Chron. 24:7-19), believers seen as a kingdom of priests (Rev. 1:6); old testament saints will not be rewarded here because they will not be resurrected and rewarded until after the Tribulation period\*(Daniel 12:1-3).

If you examine the many passages of scripture, all dealing in specific ways with the **elder**, you will find evidence that the **Elder** is a part of the church leadership during the Church Age (grace); and when shown in heaven before the throne of God are obviously representatives of The Church of Jesus Christ. I have singled out a few of them which I list below. The total list can be found by accessing any Bible search program.

#### **Elders in the New Testament Church: (Not a complete list)**

- **Acts 14:23:** And when they had ordained them **elders in every church**, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.
- **Acts 15:2:** When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and **elders** about this question.
- **Acts 15:4:** And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and [of] the apostles and **elders**, and they declared all things that God had done with them.
- **Acts 15:22:** Then pleased it the apostles and **elders**, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; [namely], Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren:
- **James 5:14:** Is any sick among you? let him call for the **elders** of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:
- **1 Peter 5:1,2:** 1)The **elders** which are among you I exhort, *who am also an elder*, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: 2) Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;... (My Italics).

**Comment:** Peter here, by unction of the Holy Spirit, exhorts those who are among the believers to feed the flock of God, willingly and not by constraint; not of worldly lusts, but of an alert mind in Christ Jesus.

Remember when Jesus told Peter to "*Feed My sheep*", Jesus gave him the same authority and power over the wiles of the enemy that His Father had given to Him; and Jesus left this power and authority to the Church! Now Peter, in a special anointing by the Spirit, **identifies himself as an elder**, exhorting the body of Christ to minister the Word of God to the hurting and oppressed, just as Christ exhorted him (Peter) after His resurrection.

#### **Importance of the Elders' Ministries**

**Note:** You may be realizing for the first time just how important the **elders** were to the early church. Stringent requirements were laid out by the Holy Spirit for all her ministries, with no waivers for these elders. Seems they were involved in every area of Church business and growth. Note what Peter said in his first epistle, 5:1, "*The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder...*" Peter was boldly fulfilling God's command for Peter to feed His lambs when he encountered Jesus shortly after the resurrection.

## The Elders In The Book Of Revelation

**But now**, as we enter the book of Revelation, we are about to learn who these elders *really* are; and I would like to take you there. It's amazing to me—now that I have personally studied this matter in the scriptures—and have never before heard what I am now teaching—how students of the Word and modern day Bible scholars struggle with the so-called enigma of “who the elders are”, especially when anyone with a computer can find information such as this on virtually any subject written in His Word. I do not lie about this. If and when you become desperate enough to find answers in the Word for the difficult questions, ask the Holy Spirit for guidance and He will take you where you want to be.

### Chapter 1:19: Things that must be hereafter begins:

John, representing the Church of Jesus Christ *is in heaven* (called *saints* on earth prior to the rapture, now called *elders* because ***there will soon be another group on earth called saints*** (see chapter 7).

### Proofs of Pre-tribulation Rapture: Chapter Four, Verses 1 & 2

- A door was opened in Heaven (Verse 1; also see Rev. 1:19).
- A Trumpet sounded (*not the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet Judgment*—in Rev. 11:15)
- This Trumpet spoke to John and said, “*Come up hither*” (the rapture of the Church), and..
- “*I will show you things which must be hereafter*”. (Refers back to Revelation 1:19).
- John found himself (the Church) to be in the spirit, before God's Throne! (vs. 2)
- The Church must be Raptured prior to Revelation 5 where Jesus is found worthy to open the 7 seals.
- The Rapture therefore must take place early in Revelation 4. WHY?
- Because the Church, now Elders in heaven, cast their crowns at Jesus' feet (Revelation 4).

Here we find an invitation to look into the future from a heavenly viewpoint. God on His throne was such a brilliant sight that earthly words are not adequate to describe. Neither is the mind of man able to comprehend the greatness, power and majesty of Almighty GOD. John simply said it was as the brilliance of a giant blue-white diamond with a translucent green halo. There are no earthly words for such a sight. John praises God and His Throne!

Twenty-four elders (combined church) surround the throne, while lightnings and thunderings from the throne suggest that those who fail to heed the voices of The Written Word and The Living Word (The Bible and Jesus Christ) will suffer God's judgments. The sea of glass shows how calm and perfectly controlled all things are in the presence of God. The four (of the world) beasts show earthly creation under domination of man (six wings), Gen.1:26.

Note the end of the chapter: “***The four and twenty elders*** fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth forever and ever, **and cast their crowns before the throne, saying**, ‘Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things and for thy pleasure they are and were created.’” All created things give honor and praise to God.

We who are born anew by the precious blood of the Lamb at the foot of the Cross are filled with unfathomable joy – and the glory of our Savior permeates throughout the heavens as worship and praise is freely given to our Master!

### More Proofs of the Pre-tribulation Rapture. (Revelation 4:4-11):

- The 24 Elders sit in 24 thrones around King of all kings (Jesus')—We soon become His Bride.
- These same Elders were clothed in white raiment , pure white linen robes.
- These Elders had on their heads Crowns of gold, which was soon to be cast at Jesus' feet.

The three proofs not only prove the elders are the Church, they also show us the “***Judgment Seat Of Christ***” has been completed. No heavenly creature of any sort will ever ***sit on a throne wearing pure white linen robes***, and ***wearing crowns of gold on their heads***. No, none not outside our Savior and His bride!

The four and twenty *elders* fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth forever and ever, and *cast their crowns before the throne*, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. (Revelation 4:10, 11).

### **More Proof the Elders are the Risen Church and cast their crowns at the feet of Jesus: (Rev. 4:10-11)**

They (*elders*) cast their crowns before the throne. (4:10-11).

### **According to Revelation, What Are The Ministries During The Tribulation?**

Jesus has never before, and never will forsake those who are truly washed in His blood. We need only to study the prophetic books concerning the tribulation period to realize that this period—still in the future—was designed to complete God's dealings with Israel—in bringing them into His Kingdom; for between every *set of seven* plagues mentioned in Bible prophecy/Revelation, our Lord will continue to use several methods in His strong attempt to bring into this Kingdom every person possible. The ministries on earth during the Tribulation are as follows:

#### **The only Ministries On Earth During The Tribulation:**

- Those saved *during* the Tribulation: Gentile witness by Personal testimony: (Revelation 12:11-12).
- The two witnesses—Israeli ministry to remain in Jerusalem till killed and raptured. (Revelation 11:3-11)
- The seventh Trumpet—angels preaching God's victory over the earth (Revelation 11: 15-19).
- The 144,000 Israelites. God sends these around the earth, preaching the gospel (Rev. 14: 1-5).
- Angels soaring through the air preaching the Gospel world-wide. (Revelation 14:6-13).
- The final angelic message to the fowl of the air (Revelation 19:17).

*You will not find other ministries on earth during the tribulation.  
If any present Church age ministry believes it will continue as is,  
in the Tribulation, he should reassess his thinking, For it cannot happen.*

From this survey we can easily see why God is going to have an hour of testing for this group (earth dwellers). It is to so demonstrate the hard, evil hearts of *"those who dwell upon the earth"* that God's judgment of them will be shown as totally just; and because it is totally just, it will encourage many in the Great Tribulation to make decisions for Christ. There is also a very important contrast in Revelation between *"those who dwell upon the earth"* and another special group called *"those who dwell in heaven."*

Let us consider who *"those who dwell in heaven"* (the elders) are. **First**, they cannot be angels because of a statement made in Revelation 12:12 about this same group of *"heaven dwellers."* It says, *"For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them, woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that his time is short."* God's angels would not be exhorted to rejoice, as they are not dwelling on earth during the devil's unrestrained wrath. Satan couldn't hurt them.

**Second**, this is not a reference to the departed souls of those massacred during the Tribulation. Though a non-resurrected believer's soul does go to be consciously with the Lord after he dies, he is **never** said "to dwell in heaven" until after he receives a resurrection body. It would make no sense for the devil to blaspheme the souls of those whose bodies he has just murdered.

**Third**, there is a direct contrast made between *"those who dwell on earth,"* who are the unbelievers, and *"those who dwell in heaven."* The "heaven dwellers" *are* the believers. So the question is: If they are not angels, and they are not the souls of departed believers, *who are they?*

#### **What Does John Say In Revelation About Those Who Dwell On (Inhabit) The Earth?**

- They slay each other with a great sword (Rev. 6:3,4).
- They are those who murder the Tribulation Saints. (Rev. 6:10).
- The Wrath of God's **"Three Woe Judgments"** specifically falls on them. (Rev. 8:13).
  - The first **Woe:** Revelation 9:1-12
  - The second **Woe:** Revelation 11:1-14

- The third **Woe**: Revelation 12:7-12
- They murder, and rejoice over the deaths of the two Jewish witnesses. (Rev. 11:10).
- The message given by these two prophets will torment them. (Rev. 11:10).
- Woe to the inhibitors of the earth and of the sea! for the devil has come down...(Rev. 12:12).
- They worship antichrist, and their names aren't in the Book of Life. (13:8).
- They worship the first beast, who's deadly wound was healed. (Rev. 13:12)
- They will be deceived by the miracles of the false prophet. (Rev. 13:14).
- Will be intoxicated & blinded by a false one-world religious system (17:2).
- They will worship the beast (antichrist) and they will accept his mark. (20:4).

I believe the answer is that they are the translated (Raptured) saints (elders) of the Church who are now dwelling in heaven in glorified bodies. This explanation gives an intelligent reason for why the devil would take the time to blaspheme them. After all, he couldn't very well hide or sweep into a corner the news of millions of Christians vanishing. So Satan must give an explanation to his followers lest they slip into the other camp.

I believe the Holy Spirit has given us here a clear clue as to the whereabouts of the missing Church.

When Jesus prayed for His disciples, —"I do not ask Thee to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one", He wants the believer to be protected from falling under the authority of the evil one (satan) (John 17:15). That's the reason for the ministries of the Holy Spirit to the Church. We have the authority and the power to finish what Christ began—to destroy the works of the devil.

***Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you."* (Luke 10:19).**

Then, in Revelation 3:10, John again expresses the same idea, saying God will protect the believer *from the time* of testing, not just from the testing. The hour of world-wide tribulation (testing) must be understood in light of the main focus of the book of Revelation. Revelation specifically details the judgments, events and personalities of the seven years of Daniel's 70th week. It begins with the worldwide deception and takeover by the Antichrist. **It ends with the worst holocaust of all time!** (Selah). Its purpose is to bring the sons of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to faith in the true Messiah and to judge the unbelievers from all nations called—those who dwell upon the earth. So—the hour must apply to the whole seven year Tribulation when all these things fall upon the world.

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