

(Note: The following e-mail study-commentary by C J McKnight on the subject of **SIGNS** covers the time it was begun about the first part of March 30, 2010 to July 3, 2010.)

THERE SHALL BE SIGNS 1

Jesus listed three evidences of His return which are most generally out of the control of mankind. They are famines and pestilences and earthquakes. Of the three, earthquakes are to be considered in this article. Mt. 24:7 Earthquakes in divers place emphasized by the use of the plural. Many in different areas of the world. Some are happening in places which are not supposed to have earthquakes, also other areas where they are ordinarily less frequent. In this same chapter Jesus spoke of the shortening of the days in the end of the age. Mt. 24:22 While there may be many ways in which this will be accomplished, one of which is overlooked, yet of significance is the effect of an earthquake, not only in one locality but world wide.

[The following is a news release by NASA:](#) Chile's massive earthquake has likely altered the distribution of the Earth's over all mass. As a result the length of a day is now a little shorter." "The length of the day should have gotten shorter by 1.26 microseconds [millionths of a second] (a microsecond is about the duration of a flashbulb). The axis about which the Earth's mass is balanced should have moved by 2.7 Millarcseconds [about 8 centimeters or 3 inches]." The earthquake of 2004 off of Sumatra "shortened the day by 6.8 microseconds." Also, David Knowles reporting for AOL said that the city of Concepcion moved 10 feet to the west." While these figures are meaningless to most and the change which has taken place insignificant to them, there is do be the most powerful of all earthquakes at the coming of our Lord Jesus. At that time every island will flee away and the mountains will be found no more. Rev. 16:20 All the Lord has to do is look upon the earth and it trembles. Ps. 104:32 Certainly just prior to, and at His return, that kind of warning which causes such an upheaval, will increase more and more.

Checking, on line, with the USGS They show one hundred eighty one earthquakes, world wide, in the last seven days. Just for March 29 the list is already thirteen. That is a staggering number. Whatever happened to terra

firma (solid earth)? Because most of these are not major earthquakes we do not hear of them but they are happening daily and create fear in the hearts of those who are in the area effected by them. Prophetically, the opening of the sixth seal is accompanied by a great earthquake. Rev. 6:12 The opening of a seal does not demand immediate fulfillment. What they introduce will be completed over a period of time. This particular seal culminates in the second coming of the Lord Jesus. It is accompanied by signs which are awe inspiring. Jesus prophesied of great earthquakes, fearful sights and great signs from heaven. Luke 21:11 All of this prior to His return or what is called the rapture. In no way have all the signs of His return been fulfilled.

SIGNS 2

The Indian ocean and the Pacific have in recent years produced some very disastrous and fateful tsunami's triggered by earthquakes under the floor of the ocean. This too is in accordance with the prophecy of the Lord Jesus concerning the signs which would precede His return. His statement was; "The sea and the waves roaring." Luke 21:25 For those who become disturbed at the disastrous events, which will take place more and more as we approach the time of His return, we present the words found in Psalms 46:1 "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." It is of utmost importance that we know His promises as we face the future.

It is also well that we remember that "there is no fear in love but perfect love casts out fear." 1 John 4:18 Love which is true love is His love revealed in our hearts. It brings confidence whereby we may have peace under all circumstances. Continuing on in that Psalm we see why the opening verse is for encouragement. It is indeed a prophecy of the end of the age when the mountains will be effected and be moved and the earth altered. The mountains carried into the midst of the sea. Ps. 46:2 Such a happening, an earth slide, is one of the causes of a tsunami. Both earthquakes and tsunamis are predicted in Ps. 46:3 The mountains shaking and the troubling and roar of the waters of the earth, are direct declarations of those things which lead up to the return of the Lord. John on Patmos saw the islands fleeing away and the mountains were so altered that they could not be found. Rev. 16:20 Jeremiah when the Lord showed

him this vision described the condition as being like the earth before the Lord started His work of creation, without form and void. Jer. 4:23

Another lethal source of creating the roaring of the seas are the super storms such as hurricanes and typhoons which stir up the seas and make them to be very dangerous. Fishermen in Alaskan waters will some times face what is termed "rouge waves" which measure up to eighty feet high. All of these are in the hand of the Lord. "For He spoke and raised up a stormy wind, which lifted up the waves of the sea." Ps. 107:25 The forces of nature are at His command, and He will use them as a warning to mankind of the impending end of all flesh.

While all of these are common to nature, periodically statistics are given which state that in this particular instance it was then greatest and the worst for a number of years. We may look for all of these to increase in numbers and in strength.

SIGNS 3

There are earthquakes and then there of earthquakes definitely created by the Lord. The latter give evidence of His might presence and displeasure because of the actions of mankind. Isaiah spoke of the manifestation of His ability to shake the earth when He was angry. Isa. 18:7 The various actions of the Father at the death of His Son, the Lord Jesus gave positive proof that Jesus was indeed the Son of God. Matthew recorded the rending of the veil of the temple from the top to the bottom, thus throwing open the Most Holy Place And proclaiming the Lord Jesus to be the only way into the Holy of Holies. That veil was significant of His body being nailed to the tree. Heb. 10:19-21

There was violent action taking place at that moment in Jerusalem, not only in the crucifixion but in the response of the Lord to their wrongful deeds. The strength of the earthquake in demonstration of the wrath of the Lord was so great that the rocks were split open. Mat. 27:51 The Roman centurion and his troops were filled with fear and consternation at the works of the Lord and acknowledged, in the light of all that went on, "Truly this was the Son of God." Mt. 27:54

At the time of His resurrection there was likewise a great earthquake. The angel of the Lord (The Lord Jesus) descended from heaven, rolled back the stone and sat on it. A masterful act of triumph but at the same time a taste of belittling, disdaining the powers of death. Mt. 28:2 Incidentally it is after this earthquake, the earthquake of resurrection, that other graves were opened and the people were seen in Jerusalem. They were a first fruits of the resurrection. Giving evidence that not only was Christ effected by the power of resurrection that day but it was so powerful that it caused them to come up out of their graves, after His resurrection. Mt. 27:52-53

The Lord has always been faithful to first visit His people with the Word or the voice of a prophet. Showing His abundant mercy and calling for repentance. Because He is the God of mercy, in His love and mercy He will announce His plans to those who will hear. "Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but He revealeth His secrets unto His servants the prophets." Amos 3:7 He does and will visit in mercy with a move of the Spirit that will exceed anything that has ever taken place in this world. A spiritual awakening is next on the calendar of the Lord. Habakkuk was stirred by the Word of the Lord and cried out for a reviving, for the Lord in the midst of His wrath to remember mercy, and He will. Hab. 3:2

SIGNS 4

Today, let us consider a sign which many would bypass or would not even want to reflect on, for we are all a part of it. As a matter of fact all of these signs of the end of the age are a definite part of daily life. Jesus spoke of a season of apostasy as a sign of the end. Although the climax with the revelation of the apostate, the antichrist, has not come we are living in the age of an apostate church. These are His words; "Because iniquity shall abound the love of many shall wax cold." Mt. 24:12 Numerically the church has increased by leaps and bounds. It will continue to do so in the immediate future. However the spiritual quality, the standard of holiness, an adherence to the Word of the Lord has steadily diminished. The attitudes of the Laodicean church are prevalent, the lukewarm are about to be spued out of His mouth. Rev. 3:15-16 Quantity rather than quality has become the theme of the times. The spirit of the world and its methods have taken over until the real Spirit of the Lord has departed and a sign with the name

Ichabod (where is the glory. 1 Sam. 4:19-22) has been placed over the door.

For the first time in all the years of sending out this study I am going to make some personal remarks and use them as an allegory. My beloved wife, my companion, confident and very best friend of almost seventy years is nearing the gates of glory. It is an adventure which we have talked over and are in full agreement that it is the Lord's will. In the past few years she has broken both hips, her back and now the latest, her left arm (she is left handed). She has faithfully followed the Lord for over eighty two years. Her years of ministry and their accomplishments are too numerous to record here. She has fought the good fight of faith and is gradually withdrawing from this life. The vibrancy, the love of life, the strength of youth have all been replaced by the ravages of old age (She is a month and a half from 95). Life has had it's good times and it's bad, but in the ultimate it has been a blessed walk through this veil of tears, for He, the Lord Jesus has been with us. Our love is as deeper than it ever has been. Life will never be the same without her but we will soon meet once again, at Jesus feet.

Now for the rest of the story. A parallel may be drawn between our current personal situation and the church, soon to be called to be the bride of Christ. For approximately two thousand the church has been in existence. Some segments are already dead, while others are in the process of dying. Substitutions of every kind have been made in an attempt to demonstrate the appearance of life but they are just that, substitutes. It is time to break up our fallow ground, to seek the Lord until the flood-gates of righteousness are broken open upon us. Hos. 10:12

SIGNS 5

Like the currents of the ocean, where adjacent to each other there may be currents going in opposite directions, the lack of the moving of the Spirit may be next to the moving in glory and power of the Spirit. We have seen that spiritual lethargy will be in evidence in the last days. Mt. 24:12 While at the same time the real moving of the Spirit will be manifest in His fullness. Even as promised in the Word. The combined rains, the former or early rain plus the latter rain, promises a complete double portion, the fullness of the Spirit resting on the church even as the Spirit was in the Lord Jesus. Joel

2:23 Consider also that this event is scheduled for the first month. The month of new beginnings. The month of the Passover and the slaying of the Passover Lamb. All true revival must be founded on the atoning blood of the Christ of God. The time of the rains has come, let's be bold in requesting of the Lord those bright clouds, clouds of light and revelation that He might give each single grass of the field its own cloud burst of the Spirit. We are living in the dispensation of the Spirit and it is time for a mighty visitation of the Lord, by His Spirit, coming upon and bringing to completion the body of Christ. Zechariah 10:1

What will it take on our part to reverse the order of the day and find our way into a mighty moving of the Spirit of the Lord? Jude furnished us with a battle cry, "earnestly contend" struggle, wrestle, do warfare for the faith which was one delivered unto the saints. Jude 3 When the promises of the Word are read, there are multitudinous, glorious and precious promises which make available to His people all that the Lord is, in the manifestation of His might and power. Take for instance the promise of the Lord Jesus when He said; "If ye shall ask ANYTHING in my name, I will do it." John 14:14 Seems simple enough, all we have to do is make our requests known and presto, the answer is there. Not so fast, it does not always work that way. Why? There is a Divine requirement. Later on He was to add that if we, the petitioner, dwelt or abode, that is, constant and continual living in Him and His Words were in us, then it shall be done. John 15:7 It works when we meet the required condition. The problem is on our part and not His.

The answer is all too simple. It shows where lethargy comes into play and becomes a hindering factor. Intense, prevailing prayer is the key to the manifestation of the power of the Lord in His church. For He has promised in the day that we seek Him with ALL of our heart we shall find Him. Jer. 29:13 Perhaps we need an old fashioned confession meeting where with great fervency personal sins are confessed. It is effective, for the man of righteousness will pray with full success. James 5:16

SIGNS 6

If there is one message for which I could easily develop an obsession it would be the second coming of the Lord Jesus, commonly called the

Rapture. The heart and core of this series of studies is that very subject. This may shock you but there is the greatest of dangers, for the church, in the message of the Rapture. The common understanding among Christians pertaining to the subject is only what they have heard someone else say. They have never studied it for themselves with an open heart and mind being subjected to the Holy Spirit who would show them the truth. He is the great teacher of truth. If we listen to Him we will never stray from the truth of the Word. John 14:26

As recorded in the discourse of Jesus, pertaining to His second coming, in Matthew twenty four, the very first sign to which He referred was that of a deception perpetrated against His very own. It is a very strong warning that preceding His second coming there will be a flood of deceptions and deceivers attacking the body of believers in Christ. Mt. 24:4 For MANY will come IN HIS NAME, saying I AM CHRIST, and MANY will be deceived. This is prior to His coming and is a great and serious problem facing the church of today. We have already seen smatterings of this around the world, some have attracted larger following than others but they are out there and will increase in number as the day of His coming draws nigh. The knowledge of the rapture is far too casual, too light and even sometimes too frivolous. Because of that, when the man of sin comes, he will imitate the true Christ with signs and wonders until many who are today serving the Lord will follow him, out of ignorance. They will say; he fits all the requirements.

Mark quoted Jesus and gave us a bit broader perspective of the coming deceiver and his co-workers who are noted to be false prophets. Their main weapons will be false signs and false wonders. Mark 13:22 These demonstrations will be very powerful and convincing. Unless one is filled with the Spirit and the Word the possibility of deception is there. Their efforts are to seduce the people of the Lord into following them and foolishly, there will be those who look at the manner of their appearing and the demonstrations put on by these false ones and be thoroughly fooled. This is not a dollar store deception but is a first class operation. Paul warned that Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 2 Cor. 11:14 Good counterfeit money often is passed and received as authentic because the receiver cannot tell the difference. The position of an angel of light is

pretty impressive. Many will believe and receive the antichrist when he comes.

SIGNS 7

Now, for the second time in this discourse found in Matthew twenty four Jesus is relating the serious condition of false prophets. Mt. 24:11 He previously had talked to them about whom these false prophets would come and how they would come. Their attempt to deceive would be against the church, “which come to you.” No need to deceive the ungodly, they are already deceived. So it is the child of the Lord who will be under attack. Therefore it is absolutely necessary that we arm ourselves with knowledge. That is a true knowledge of the Word of the Lord and to know exactly how the Lord has outlined these events. They come, clothed as sheep. Drifting in among the sheep without the sheep discerning them. They have nothing more than a form of religion. In spite of their docile attitude and sheep like outer appearance, inside they are frothing at the mouth, ready to run amok among the sheep to injure and destroy as many of them as possible. Mt. 7:15

This developing situation is by no means a small subject and must be considered very carefully for it is a case of life or death for the deceived. The voice of the Spirit concerning this deception is very distinct and clear. Lying spirits are used by Satan to come against the believer causing them to depart from the faith. 1 Tim. 4:1 Have you ever come across someone who when confronted with their experience of salvation dismissed the whole matter by considering it just an emotional moment of their life, perhaps a teenage emotional trip. Yet, you know that they had a real encounter with the Lord. They have been robbed, defeated and left by the roadside bleeding and broken but do not realize their pitiful condition. They were attracted to these false prophets by their smooth words and perverted ideas. These doctrines very distinctly are warped and twisted, outright lies but sugar coated and easy to swallow. We are urged to stick closely to the truth and as a matter of fact to buy it, not for resale but to benefit by it. Rev. 3:18

Every Christian, when confronted by a person or a spirit with which we are not familiar should do exactly as instructed by the Word. Try or put a test to

the spirits (note plural) whether or not they are of the Lord. If it is a false spirit, when questioned sufficiently it will uncover itself and manifest the nature and spirit which is within. 1 John 4:1 A wrong spirit is quickly angered while the true Spirit will bear witness of His truthfulness. There is a spirit of compromise charming the church of today. Standards of holiness and righteousness which were closely adhered to in the past have been watered down, altered or just plainly removed. The standards of purity established by the Lord do not change from generation to generation. The Lords call to the church today is to be sanctified and holy, even as He is holy. Lev. 20:7 1 Peter 1:15

SIGNS 8

The second mention of this sign fulfilled by the coming of false prophets and false Christ's is found in Mt. 24:11 The third time is to be found in Mt. 24:15 The abomination of desolation or the abomination which makes desolate. This theme is introduced to us in Daniel 12:11 and refers to the antichrist. Two very important things will take place at this future moment of time. The door of salvation as acquired through the blood of Christ will close and none will be able to be saved through repentance and a direct contact with Him such as we enjoy today. While He is not sacrificed daily, He is that once for all sacrifice which is made available every day. Heb. 10:10 He replaced and completed every sacrifice, for every need, by the sacrifice of Himself. Heb. 7:27

The appearing and the manifest presence of the person of the antichrist will result in the withdrawal of the Holy Spirit and this world will become a world of no restraint. The Holy Spirit is the one who hinders this world from becoming totally unrighteous, that is, fully dominated by unrighteousness. 2 Thess. 2:7 In great contrast, The Spirit will have led the church into a state of holiness which is only comparable to the Lord Himself. Two great forces come to an apex at basically one and the same time. The true church of that day, the bride of Christ will bear His image and likeness. She will reach the call of the Spirit to measure up to the measurements of the Lord, in every aspect. Eph. 5:22 - 27 She will manifest the power of the Word and the Spirit by being purified sanctified and delivered from all bondage's. The Holy Spirit will accompany and transport the Bride of Christ when she is moved into the wilderness. Rev. 12:6, 14 The Holy Spirit is here visualized

as a great eagle with massive wings carrying the church into the wilderness.

The antichrist is the abomination before the Lord because of whom he is, the position he will hold and the deception which he will perpetrate on this world. The message of Christ will be almost totally removed in that day. As a matter of fact there is already a strong effort to remove all things which are of a religious nature and they have been successful in some cases. The farther mankind gets away from the Lord the more they suffer. Even in that time of extreme spiritual death there will be witnesses for the Lord Jesus. They stood true to the Lord Jesus and the Word of the Lord. They did not give in to the command of the order of the day to worship the beast nor did they receive his mark. Consequently they were martyred by being beheaded. Rev. 20:4 Another great irritant to the antichrist and the people of that age will be the two witnesses, Moses and Elijah. They too will be slain in a like manner. The Lord called them; "His witnesses." Rev. 11:3

SIGNS 9

While there are many acts of mankind which are labeled by the Word of the Lord as an abomination The very greatest will be seen in the end of the age. It is the revelation of the antichrist and his actions during the great tribulation period. The position which he will assume will make him to be the greatest abomination of all time. Paul aptly placed the coming of the antichrist on the scene as being previous to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He warned them that they were not to be troubled nor confused by the flood of information which would come upon them by means of a spirit, or words or even a letter from him, that the day of Christ was at hand. He recognized that there would come many deceivers, false Christ's and false prophets. Even those who would predict the day and the hour of the coming of the true Christ. That he is speaking of the coming, the rapture, of the church is verified by his statement "our gathering together unto Him." 2 Thess 2:1-2

With that statement in mind we come upon a sign which is of prime importance to us if we are going to have a proper understanding of the end of the age. He introduced the subject by warning that we be not deceived by the multitude of false witness which will be loosed against the truth. His

words are true and powerful, may we hear what he had to say when he said: "Let no man deceive you by any means for that day shall not come, EXCEPT." The exception, becomes an anticipation of two great events which apparently are not visible to many in these days. The first is a great falling away. The apostasy of the church and the antichrist taking advantage of a lukewarm church to step into a position of leadership. 2 Thess 2:3

The second, is the revelation of the son of perdition. Consider carefully that he will take his place by way of revelation, a spectacular introduction to the world of this great leader who will bring in an utopia. There is a parallel which must be made here. The antichrist will come on the scene by revelation, that is, in a spectacular manner. The Lord Jesus will return and will be revealed from heaven. 2 Thess. 1:7 As Jannes and Jambres (2 Tim. 3:8) imitated the miracles performed by Moses, so the antichrist will imitate the coming of Christ by a very impressive appearing. A means of deception which could only happen because of the spiritual condition and the beliefs of the church people, the apostate church, in the end of the age. A true picture of that church is found in the description of the Laodicean church of the book of Revelation. Rev. 3:14-19 How blind the church is that we have slipped into the exact replica of this compromising church.

SIGNS 10

How great will the deception of the revelation of the antichrist be? In order to convince the world and the compromising church that he is the Christ he must put on an amazing and an astonishing act of the revelation of himself. Inasmuch, as Satan is able to transform himself into an angel of light, (2 Cor. 11:14) how far will this impersonation of the true Christ and His revelation be carried? Jesus spoke of the false Christ's showing great signs and wonders of such persuasive magnitude that if it were possible even the very elect would be deceived. Mt. 24:24 Perhaps to fully understand this we need to consider how and from whence Jesus will be revealed. Jesus will descend from heaven. 1 Thes. 4:16 The scripture also portrayed Him as being revealed from heaven. The casual comprehension of the coming of Christ held by many today only prepares them for deception.

The coming, the parousia, of the antichrist is in accordance with him who is the prince of the power of the air. Eph. 2:2 We actually live in Satan's territory. He is in control of the spiritual atmosphere of this world. The manner of the coming of Christ is presented today as a very casual event when Christians will be caught up and the antichrist will take control. When in all actuality the second coming of Christ is the most impressive, the most brilliant, the most extraordinary event. It is within the power of Satan to lower the antichrist from the heavens. A man appearing in such fashion would immediately amaze the whole world and cause many to believe that he is the Christ. He will come with the full authority and the ability to demonstrate all the power that has been allotted to Satan. He comes with (all) signs which are to be extremely convincing as they are displayed. As if though that was not enough, he will have the power to demonstrate (all) wonders, stunning, persuasive works, accomplishments which can only be done by someone possessing supernatural powers. 2 Thess. 2:9

Further evidence of his powers is to be found in the book of Revelation. The power which is delegated to him is the full capability of the dragon, i.e. Satan. He is so charismatic, so unusual in his ability to lead and persuade people that the question is asked, who is like him. Rev. 13:4 He is a silver tongued orator, using the exact and proper words to convince the nations that he is the appropriate leader for the whole world. His speeches are filled with blasphemous utterances against the Lord and his people. Rev. 13:14 He will blaspheme, ridicule and mock God and His name. The tabernacle of the Lord also, which is Christ's church, His Bride. And likewise those who have already entered heaven. Rev. 13:8

SIGNS 11

After the antichrist has come into his place of power and authority there are to be found two classes of people on the earth. There are those who follow him and worship him as very God. They are in total deception never having had their names recorded in the book of life, in which the Lord in His foreknowledge inscribed the names of all who would be saved in their sojourn here on earth. Then there are saints against whom he will make war and he will triumph over them, that is, he will have them killed. Rev. 13:7-8 So, we have a question. If the return of Christ is at the beginning of the tribulation and all are resurrected or transformed at that time, where did

these saints come from, who are they? Lets go back to the words of the Apostle Paul and emphasize his words concerning the coming of Christ. It is an event which will not happen until the antichrist has been revealed. Paul used emphatic language by saying; That day SHALL NOT COME, except there be a falling away first and the man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition, who is the antichrist. 2 Thess. 2:3

After the revelation of the antichrist and after he has run his course the Lord Jesus will return in what is called the rapture, according to Paul. He will at that time be consumed, destroyed by the brightness (epiphania), the shining forth of the glory of the Lord which is in Christ at his coming (parousia). There is no question but what the Apostle is speaking of the magnificent return of the Lord Jesus at the close of the tribulation period. 2 Thes. 2:8 Brightness is a direct reference to the coming or the rapture for it speaks to His appearing, the revelation of His glory and the majestic manifestation of His person which will be seen by all who have ever lived on earth. Rev. 1:7 The very manner of His coming is in accord with the destruction of the antichrist by a brightness which will exceed any ever seen in this world. Jesus is scheduled to come in flaming fire when He is revealed from heaven. 2 Thes. 1:7-8 He is coming with the dynamic and the brilliancy of lightning.

Mt. 24:27 Daniel saw Him and described Him, the appearance of His face as being like lightning, His eyes as a flame of fire and his feet like polished brass. Dan. 10:6 These manifestations of His glory are not minor but an enormous, gigantic display of fire, light and lightning such as the earth has never experienced before. Man has the knowledge to prepare devices which give off immense light and heat but they are insignificant when compared to that which will be seen when the Lord returns at the rapture. Can you imagine a conflagration which at one moment of time would engulf the whole of the heavens and the earth. 2 Pet. 3:7 This will take place when He comes to be glorified in His saints. An event which will happen at the time of the resurrection of the righteous dead and the transformation of the living. 2 Thess. 1:10

SIGNS 12

While there are a multitude of negative signs being manifest now and these signs will increase in magnitude and volume prior to the coming of Christ, the very next sign is of vital importance. That is the coming together of the true body of Christ. A moving of the Spirit in the church world that will awaken Christians to the spiritual riches which are in Christ Jesus. He will draw together the many member body of Christ and amalgamate them into one world wide body which will function in perfect agreement. There are several breeds of birds which fly through the air as a flock and suddenly change direction with others taking the leadership, they switch direction simultaneously and never crash into each other. How can many become to coordinated in flight. Obviously the Lord created them with that ability. The question then is can there be such unity in the body of Christ.

Through Ezekiel the Lord delivered a prophecy which is surely applicable to our day. It begins with a strong rebuke of the Word of the Lord, directed at the shepherds of His flock. Eze. 34:9-10 The Lord then made it very plain that He would gather and feed His flock. Eze. 34:11-15 Anyway you look at it they are a motley flock, wounded, emaciated and sickly. Eze 34:16 There will be a time of exposure where the wrong doing of these shepherds will be judged. Eze 34:17-21 Now we come to the declaration of the work that the Lord said He would accomplish. First, He would save His flock and deliver them that they would no more be a prey. Eze 34:22 That language has its counter part in the deliverance of the church as seen in Rev. 12:6, 14 They are to have one shepherd, even His servant David (Christ), the prince or the leader among them. Eze. 34:23-24 Jesus is that horn or power of salvation of whom David was a type. Luke 1:69 They will enjoy the covenant of peace, the new covenant in the blood of Christ and will be abundantly blessed of the Lord by having and following that one shepherd, the Lord Jesus. Eze. 34:25-33

One shepherd, one flock, united and blended together until their actions, their motives, their vision, their method of operation is coordinated and they fully function as one flock, one body, one mind, all teaching the same thing. Impossible, not at all if all would listen to the voice of the Spirit as He speaks to the church. 1 Cor. 1:10 Jesus, when He prayed, prayed for the unity of the believers to be united in one even as the Father was in the Son.

Likewise, He also prayed for their perfection, that they might be fully furnished, finished and completed. John 17:23 The ultimate goal of the Lord to have a Bride who is like Him in every aspect. Eph. 5:25-27 This is the high calling of God, in Christ Jesus. Phil. 3:14

SIGNS 13

What may we expect to find in a “glorious church.” Eph. 5:27 Paul anticipated a people who were sanctified, dedicated to the service of the Lord, purified, that is made holy, cleansed and totally without, sin a work accomplished by their adherence to the Word of the Lord. They live the book. Oh yes it can be done, we do not have to sin everyday in word thought or deed. Jesus was every bit as human as we are. There is not a temptation common to man but what He was tested by that sin, yet He remained without sin and became the perfect sacrifice for us. Heb. 4:15 The same power that kept Him from sin is made available to all who truly desire to live in such fashion. The rapture is not for sinning saints. Even now He will keep anyone from sin who earnestly desires to live that manner of a joyous life. Jude 24 There is no spiritual change at the time of the rapture, the change is physical. A spiritual, eternal body for the natural corruptible body. The living who are taken up at His coming will be presented faultless before His throne because they are a sanctified people.

The true church in the end of the age will be a church of absolute unity. Jesus prayed for that perfect accord, which He likened to the harmony which exists between His Father and Himself. His words were for them to be One, even as we are. John 17:11 Again, He declared that there would be one fold and one shepherd. John 10:16 Paul had the same vision and delivered that message to the church at Ephesus. The motivating force is love, a love for the Lord and a love for the body of Christ, the church. A love that is to be exercised in lowliness and meekness of heart and attitude toward each other. Learning to work together in peace and harmony. Eph. 4:2

There is but one body, not a man made organization but an organism comprised of those who are of one heart and mind. One Spirit, where the power is invested in the person of the Holy Spirit. Eph. 4:4 He is the dynamic which communicates the will and desire of the Lord to the whole of

the body. Here is the power with which the Lord can communicate simultaneously with the whole of His body on earth causing them to react as one, a perfect unit. Every believer is born of the Spirit. All should be filled with the Spirit and we most definitely should not stop there. By the same Spirit, the Lord is building a habitation for Himself composed of the lively stones, who are the church, the bride of Christ. Eph. 2:22 The church of Ephesians five may not have grand structures in which to worship but they will be the Spiritual, super natural building of the Lord. They will be known as the New Jerusalem, the city, the habitation of the Most High. Rev. 3:12, 21:2

SIGNS 14

Jesus, speaking to His disciples stated that it was expedient, vitally necessary and for their advantage that He leave them. His departure opened the way for the Holy Spirit to come to them. He, the Spirit would work in and through them to bring about the manifestation of the kingdom of God, on earth. He made it an imperative that they be led by the Spirit. John 16:7 The Bride of Christ is not limited to any one nationality, nor church affiliation. No one has a corner on what the Lord will accomplish through the church of His perfection. It is to be a church totally directed by the presence of the Spirit in each and every member. The very first act as a sign of the moving of the Spirit is that of repentance. There is no stronger rebuke against sin than the Word quickened by the Spirit. John 16:8 A purging, a cleansing, a loosening from habitual sin is accomplished by adhering to the Word. James made it plain that there is a place and a time when open confession is necessary. James 5:16 When we see this happening we will know that revival has arrived.

The foregoing will lead to the evidence of the fruit of the Spirit in the believer. Not half ripe, like we get so often in the grocery store today, but fully ripe, mature and filled with sweet nectar. A complete complement of everything which the nine fruit of the Spirit should be. Gal. 5:22-23 Fruit ripe to perfection. A people lacking no portion of the fruit of the Spirit manifesting "All goodness and righteousness and truth." Eph. 5:9 Living in an age of lawlessness, it is an amazing thing that those in authority can continue to create new laws, most of which will be broken and ignored.

However, there is no restrictions against the many benefits of the law of fruit of the Spirit.

Then we may anticipate the sign of the demonstration of the gifts of the Spirit, operating without an admixture of the spirit of the person who is being exercised by the Spirit. 1 Cor. 12:3 - 12 Is it too much to ask for the real untainted voice of the Lord? He is the Holy Spirit, or the Spirit of Holiness. A soiled vessel will contaminate whatever is placed within it. It is inconceivable that the Lord would give a gift that would have any imperfection in it. He gives good gifts. The church, having been cleansed and sanctified will demonstrate the gifts of the Spirit to their perfection. Seeing as we are children of the King, why not anticipate the very best and require the highest of standards of those who lead and guide the body of Christ. The gifts of the Spirit are educational, corrective, inspirational and greatest of all Spiritual. They are manifest to edify the church whether in direction, praise or correction they are a vital part of that which creates growth in the church. They must be administered properly.

SIGNS 15

I have been asked to give a general outline of the events and their sequence of fulfillment which are listed in the book of Revelation. It is a subject which fits well with the subject of Signs, for it is filled with the signs and happenings which climax the age in which we live. It is also necessary that we understand that the book of Revelation is not written in a chronological order. It cannot be read in the manner with which one would read a history book or a book projecting the chronology of the future.

By way of example, the result of the fullness of the Spirit being manifest in the church will result in the Marriage of the Lamb. A pre-tribulation event which will take place while the doors of salvation are yet open. "The Spirit and the Bride issue an invitation to the unsaved to come and participate in the waters of life, that is, salvation. Rev. 22:17 This is a period of time which the Scriptures call the midnight hour. The closing hour of the old order and the introduction of a new season. Jesus likened the marriage to the kingdom of heaven. Which makes it a mighty important happening to those who would be in this all important body of believers, the Bride of Christ. Mt. 25:1 Immediately our attention is drawn to an immense

difference among these ten virgins. Five were wise and five were foolish. All knew that the wedding was about to take place but not all prepared for it. All had lamps but the preparation to keep them burning was unimportant to one half of them. That is a severe number, fifty percent, for it indicates the number of totally unprepared Christians that there will be in that day.

Another vital fact in this, which is related by the Lord Jesus, is that they ALL slumbered and slept. A condition which usually would indicate a lack of spirituality. At midnight the cry of the Bridegroom is heard by all of the ten virgins. They immediately respond and the five wise trim and fill their lamps so that they may see their way to the meeting and the marriage. The lamps of the unwise had gone out, for lack of oil, or the anointing of the Spirit. Their request to borrow from the wise was refused and they had to go out to find oil for themselves. Where do you find it in the middle of the night? As scheduled the Bridegroom came, those properly prepared entered in with Him and the door was shut. The foolish came with the plea of Lord, Lord which categorized them as people excluded from the wedding. Jesus classified them as being people who were not obedient to the will of the Lord and a people whom He never had known. MT. 7:21-22 The five unwise are the remnant of the woman's (the Bride) seed. Rev. 12:17 They will enter into the great tribulation and will suffer the full anger of the dragon.

SIGNS 16

In order to place the signs and symbols of the book of Revelation in their proper prospective we must carefully evaluate the time elements given us by the book itself. It covers the condition of the seven churches, therefore states that is in relationship to "the things which are." Rev. 1:19b The things which existed contemporaneously with John's experience on Patmos, were the seven churches. Revelation Chapter 2 and 3. Everything else, all the prophecies were projected out into the future and are basically fulfilled in the end of the age. Therefore become signs the order of which we need to become well acquainted.

Secondly, we take note that John was told that these things would take place in the future, or, "the things which shall be hereafter." Rev. 1:19c The thought of the book begin the revelation of the future is further verified by

the announcement of Rev. 4:1 “things which must be hereafter.” In order to seal the futuristic element of the book it is necessary to consider its statements, such as, “things which must shortly come to pass.” Rev. 1:1 For the message given to John was that “the time is at hand,” Rev. 1:3, 22:10 and is understandable when we look at things from the prospective of the Lord with whom a thousand years is but a day. 2 Peter 3:8 Whatever the measurement of time may be it must be acknowledged that the intent, the manifestations of the signs of the book are directed toward the future.

One of the greatest signs and certainly the most beneficial to the body of Christ is probably the most misinterpreted of all the signs pertaining to the coming of the Lord Jesus. That would be the white horse and his rider mistakenly taught to be the antichrist. The teaching and language of the scriptures show us, beyond the shadow of a doubt that the horse and his rider is the Holy Spirit. White speaks of purity and who is more pure than the one who is recognized as the very Holiness of the Almighty. No where in the scripture is the word white of greater significance than on the mount of transfiguration where the garments of the Lord Jesus are described as being transfigured until they were as white as light. Mt. 17:2 For brevities sake let us consider another event which will take in the end of the age and that is the great white throne. The occupant is most definitely not Lucifer or the antichrist. Rev. 20:11 The word white in the new testament is derived from the Greek word lukos, or light, thus illustrating how brilliant white is when it is applied to the Lord or the things of the Lord. At the beginning of the last century there was a smattering of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit which led to a mighty flow of the Spirit reaching around the world and lasting even until today. There is much more yet to come.

SIGNS 17

We today enjoy the sending forth and arrival of the white horse (Rev. 6:2) which symbolizes the Pentecostal experience of being filled with the Spirit. Acts 2:4 His bow, the Word of the Lord. Hab. 3:9 The weapon which has been used to shattered the harden hearts of mankind all over the world and brought them to a realization of Christ as savior and Lord of their life. A crown belongs to the victor, to the king. Under the precious anointing of the Holy Spirit we are more than conquerors. Rom. 8:37 It is the anointed church which has gone forth throughout the world with the message of

Christ and has gone from victory unto victory and we have not yet seen the grand climax. We have received the crown of life in the Lord Jesus. James 1:12 We are blessed with the crown of righteousness. 2 Tim. 4:8 There is nothing stated in Revelation, six, four, which would give even the slightest hint or indication that the white horse represents anything but the Holy Spirit.

When we compare the previous scriptures with the view given of the second coming of Christ, the similarity is immediately evident. The rider of the white horse is named Faithful and True. He will go forth judging the wicked by His standard of righteousness. He is the Judge and He will make war against all ungodliness and all the ungodly. Rev. 19:11 His eyes of flaming fire will judge us now or then, for the judgment of sin and unrighteousness is when the Holy Spirit is present. John 16:8 The rider of the white horse bears the name, "the Word of God." Rev. 19:12-13 The armies of heaven are clothed in the very finest of linen, which is glowing with the light of the Lord. Their garments are white and absolutely pure. Rev. 19:14

In conjunction with the blessed moving of the Spirit of the Lord we are aware that the second seal is also opened. Once these seals are opened they will continue in their activity until they reach their apex. The second seal is a seal of bloodshed. Its main companion is war and war like activities as well. Since the First World War, which was to end all wars. We have had a Second World War, which was to end all wars. Then, the number of wars that have been fought to try to bring freedom to some country such as Vietnam, Korea, Iraq, Afghanistan and a number of other skirmishes which have taken place around the world. Added to that we have revolutions, ethnic purges, political purges, uprisings, holocausts, The list is endless. From that we move on to unreasonable mass murders by every conceivable means, families being murdered by other family members, strangers being killed by strangers for no reason other than to kill someone. Most assuredly, peace has been taken from the earth. Rev. 6:4 This is a way of life which will continue until the Lord Jesus comes.

SIGNS 18

Like the ash overhanging Europe these first four seals impact the everyday life of every human being on the face of the earth. The events which they symbolize are world wide in their scope and in some fashion will have a bearing on every country in the world. The third seal is one which has become very familiar to most people. It is a sign of the effect of the lack of food, due to high costs and natural disasters, such as floods, unusual weather conditions and whatever else might take place that would have an effect on the availability of food. The book of Lamentations gives reference to black as a result of famine. Lam. 5:10 With modern day trade and transportation a disaster which destroys food stuff, fruits and vegetables has a resounding consequence in many other countries. The result of crop failures and disasters are no longer local but at times world wide. Rev. 6:5

While the whole of Johns vision is serious, there are two things which he mentions that make this seal extremely critical. The balances that were in the hand of the rider indicate the weighing and the measurement of food. These things happen and many times the general public does not observe what has taken place. The excuse for prices being raised was the high cost of transportation but when the price of fuel went down other prices remained at their same level or on occasion went even higher. Another factor which is very obvious but an attempt has been made to hide what has taken place, and that is, the package contents have been lowered, while the boxes or packaging have remained the same size. Weights have changed and will continue to change under the impact of this seal.

The second thing that is outstanding about this seal is the cost factor. The price of about a quart of wheat would be equal to a days pay. Wheat was the staple of those with money, while barley was cheaper and the amount was three times that of wheat, it still required a days wage. Be certain that the price of food can only go in one direction. Rev. 6:6 What we used to pay for a large box of fruit or vegetables we now pay for just one item of a fruit or a vegetable. This seal is in its fulfillment today.

A direct and powerful command is given to make certain that the oil and the wine are not hurt in all this which takes place as we approach the time of the end. The oil is typical of the anointing of the Holy Spirit and becomes

more valuable as the days go by. The wine is a type of the joy of the Lord which is found in the anointing of the Holy Spirit. This divine protection is not limited to this one seal but He will watch over His own under all circumstances. The anointing of the Spirit is the secret place of the Most High. Ps. 91:1 May we learn to place the proper value on the baptism of the blessed Holy Spirit.

SIGNS 19

The fourth seal introduced the pale horse, in the Greek the word is chloros or green, verdant (lush green) or dun-colored (a brownish grey). The rider of this horse is named Death while close behind him is another who is named Hell. This seal will intensify the judgments seen in the other seals. The means whereby humanity will die are spelled out as being, the sword, war and malicious slaughter of every kind and nature. We are living in a blood thirsty world. The insanity of self-destruction in order to destroy others and find a better place in some kind of a heaven certainly fits here. Killings can only intensify and will resist all attempts to create peace on the earth. Hunger and famine are not strangers to this modern world. For all the good works that are being done around the world hunger in many areas prevails and increases faster than the need can be met. Death, diseases, plagues will sweep the world as we approach closer and closer to the end. Added to that the beasts of the earth which can have a twofold meaning. Due to the destruction of forest land all over the world the safe range for the wild beasts of the forest has shrunk and more frequently we hear of them attacking people and domesticated animals. They also carry diseases which are passed on to pets causing them to die. Consider also that the forces of the devil are presented as beasts in the book of Revelation and they will be responsible for the death of millions. The number projected is a fourth part of the population of the earth. Rev. 6:8

These seals are opened in sequence to one another. The first and the seventh will have reached their conclusion at the beginning of the great tribulation period for they are seals which pertain to the church of the last days. Numbers two through six will continue to be in effect for the duration of the tribulation, all the time increasing in intensity. Some will last for a long time others will be brief. The moment of the opening of the judgment seals does not call for them to reach their climax immediately. These seals are

open now and we are beginning to see the results which were prophesied concerning their enactment.

The fifth seal is the seal of martyrdom. Who is to deny that this seal is not in effect today. In recent years hundreds have been martyred for Christ. That is only the beginning. These are pre-tribulation martyrs who have held true to their testimony and the Word of the Lord. Remember, time intensifies the action given under the opening of these seals. Though they are Christians it is inherent in blood shed to cry out for vengeance, such as in the case of Able. Gen. 4:10

SIGNS 20

In regard to the fifth seal there is an element of prophecy found here which will help us understand that not all Christians escape the tribulation period. These saints are New Testament saints who have given their life as a martyr for Christ. Their cry for revenge is answered by the reception of robes of white, purity, holiness and light. They are informed that they must wait for yet "a little season" (like three and one half years), until their compatriots would be killed after the same fashion. Rev. 6:10-11 There is further evidence of some Christians not escaping the tribulation period for the harlot church called Babylon is drunken with the blood of the saints. She does not come into power until the tribulation. Rev. 17:6 All those living who enter the tribulation must make a choice either to worship and live or not worship the image of the beast and be killed. Who but those with Christian principles would not worship the image and live. Rev. 13:15

The following deserves our deepest thought and meditation. Standing before the throne there is seen a vast multitude of people, so many that they are called numberless and they too are clothed in white. Rev. 7:9 The question as to their origin is then asked and the response is that they have come out of great tribulation having washed their robes and made them to be white through the blood of the Lamb. Rev. 7:14 There is a critical point to be made here for these saints never leave the earth during the tribulation period. They are not caught up and translated into heaven at the beginning of the tribulation but remain on earth for that period of time.

In all actuality, when the tribulation breaks there are two groups of Christians on earth. One is the Bride of Christ, the five wise virgins. Rev. 12:1 The other, the foolish virgins called the remnant of the woman's seed. Rev. 12:17 The Bride is transported into a place prepared by the Lord where she will be sheltered during the duration of the tribulation. Most unfortunately, the foolish, because of their spiritual lethargy and procrastination find themselves facing the full wrath of the powers of darkness. They will face a choice, maintain their belief and faith in the Lord Jesus or be slain and die as martyrs. The situation of life at that period of time will be such that their decision to continue to follow the Lord Jesus will not be a simple one. Those who receive the testimony of the two witnesses that Jesus is the Messiah will also give their life in martyrdom. Because of the location, Jerusalem and the ministry of the two witnesses, the Law and the prophets, their converts will almost entirely be of the seed of Israel.

SIGNS 21

The effectiveness of the testimony of the two witnesses is made apparent when the sea of glass mingled with fire is shown John. These people are standing on this beautiful glass and in the midst of the fire of the Lord. What a glorious spot to be in and what a joy to feel the power of the Spirit in the fire of the Lord. They triumphed over the beast, in order to do so they would have had to face his commandments which he will issue for the whole world to obey. They are identifiable by the song they sing. A song of Moses and the Lamb. In other words they are Israelis, or even proselytes. They resist to the uttermost and overcome the order to worship his image. They did not take his mark nor the number of his name. Rev. 15:2-3 All these martyrs, including Elijah and Moses will be resurrected in the first resurrection. That too will establish the second coming as being at a time after these have died, as martyrs, during the tribulation period.

Next on the calendar of the Lord is that promise of a great move of the Spirit on the youth of the world. Joel 2:28-29 The end result of such a mighty move will be the fulfillment of the promise given of a perfect church, who is to be the Bride of Christ. Eph. 5:25-27 For all the naysayer's have declared, it to be an impossibility that any person reach such a status of perfection, Paul made it very clear that the Lord would have a people, "not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and

without blemish.” v.27 If that isn’t mature, full grown and perfect then what is? If I am still alive at the time when the Lord Jesus becomes a Bridegroom and His Church His Bride, I most definitely would not want to miss this crowning act of the church age.

“Let us be glad and rejoice , and give honor to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come and His wife has made herself ready.” Rev. 19:7 This is one of those areas where we have to remember that the Book of Revelation is not written in chronological order. The marriage of the Lamb is not an event which takes place in heaven but here on earth. Now, in order to properly understand the order of events which take place in the very end of the age, we must know that the second coming and the rapture are one and the same event. An occurrence which will not take place until all who are to be resurrected at His coming, have died. The scripture has declared to us beyond the shadow of a doubt that there will be saints who die under the persecution of the ungodly trio who will reign on earth during that period of time. The Lord has established His own time schedule and will not deviate from His plan under any circumstances. He will come when all the signs have been displayed and not before.

SIGNS 22

Of the types and symbols of the Bible the story of Boaz and Ruth stands out as a beautiful example of love and thus of Christ and His church. She was a Moabite, a people excluded from the house of the Lord. Deut. 23:3 Nevertheless she had made her consecration to the God of Israel. Ruth 1:16 The true Bride of Christ will have made just such a vow and consecration to Him, after all she is His beloved and Bride. The setting of the story is just right, for He took knowledge of her and gave orders to His workmen that they should let her glean in all of His harvests. Ruth 2:21 The church has been called upon to take the Gospel into all the world and then the end will come. Remember, that is the hour of the coming of the Bridegroom for His Bride for the wedding and it spells out for us that the wedding will take place at the midnight hour. Now at the midnight hour Boaz (strength, or to be fleet) awoke to find Ruth (friend, companion) at His feet. There is no more blessed place than at Jesus feet. Oh what joy is to be found there. Ruth 3:8 That encounter started Boaz on the road to redeem Ruth, which of course he did. Christ our redeemer.

Out of the last day revival there will come forth a people who have heard the call of the Spirit to prepare themselves for the marriage of the Lamb. They hear the call of the Lord to awaken from their sleep. We remember also, that in spite of the five wise being prepared with oil, they too slumbered and slept and had to arise and trim their lamps before they went out to meet the Bridegroom. Isaiah cried out to the people of the Lord with a double call of awake, which gives the call strength and greatly emphasizes it. Isa. 52:1 When applying an old testament scripture such as this addressed to Zion and Jerusalem I always feel it is necessary to show that these names are now applied to the church. The scripture spiritualizes these two name and shows most definitely that Sion and Jerusalem are names that are now given to the church. Heb. 12:22-24 We now come to Jesus.

It is time for her to be clothed with the garments of beauty. Isaiah was later to prophesy that these garments are salvation and the robe of righteousness. Garments fitting for a Queen. Isa. 61:10 Also being clothed, outside and inside with the continuing presence and person of the Lord Jesus Christ. Rom. 13:14 Paul called it the new man or person which is created in the likeness of very God with the application of His righteousness and true holiness. Eph. 4:24 Then to give more words of promise and to thoroughly assure the church that this is the intent and purpose of the Lord, Paul wrote to the Ephesians that the church is to be filled with all the fullness of God. Eph. 3:19 The joy, the blessing, the ecstasy of such a mighty experience is absolutely staggering.

SIGNS 23

What is about to be recorded here will be a shock to some, others will blatantly reject it, while others will see the truth and rejoice in it. The next and most important event for the church is not the second coming of Christ, but the wedding of the Lamb. I was sixteen when I was saved and now I am ninety-one, for all these years I have heard the teaching of the imminent return of Christ, but He has not come. Nor will He, until all the signs and proceedings preceding His return have taken place. He is the Bridegroom, the members of the church, which prepare themselves for the wedding, are to be the Bride. The depths of promise and total commitment

may be understood by the words of the Apostle Paul which he wrote to the church at Corinth. "I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ." 2 Cor. 11:2 Espoused, engaged, an act that in that day was binding. The object was not only to pledge them in full dedication but to see that their spiritual status was of the highest quality. One of perfect innocence and absolute purity. That requires the very epitome of excellence, purity and holiness. His bride will be without spot, wrinkle or blemish of any kind. Eph. 5:27 There is no standard that meets that requirement other than to take on the image and likeness of the Lord Jesus. Col. 3:10

Now let us hear what the Lord had to say through the prophet Hosea. He is literally proposing to His people for He is seeking to be engaged to them in an eternal manner, whereby His righteousness, judgment, loving kindness and tender mercies are manifest to her. Their engagement is in all faithfulness and she shall know the Lord. Hos. 2:19-20 What a magnitude of love there is to be found in this betrothal. Our knowledge of the Lord is compared to looking through a darkened glass, but the promise is that we shall see Him face to face and will know Him intimately, in a manner which we do not yet know Him. 1 Cor. 13:12 The earth shall know that the corn, the wheat, the word of the Lord. The wine, the joy of the Lord. The oil, the anointing of the Lord is with her. They shall hear and know Jezreel, that (God soweth). There is a purpose for the marriage. These are not formed out of any one race but are those who believe on the Son of God, the Lord Jesus. He will fully acknowledge them as His people. Hos. 2:23 They are from a people who prior to this calling had not been the people of God at all but now through the mighty cleansing of the blood of Christ and the power of the Spirit in new birth and in the filling of the Spirit they are members of His body, bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh. Eph. 5:30 They are made to be one with Christ. They are to be married. They two shall become one flesh. Eph. 5:31

SIGNS 24

This is a GREAT MYSTERY: but I speak concerning Christ and His church." Eph. 5:32 Paul had just written concerning one of the most sacred events known to mankind and that is marriage. He went far beyond that which is common among ordinary couples' and related it to the Marriage

of the Lamb and His Bride. It is a mystery because those who read the scripture fail to comprehend the purpose of the Lord in marriage. The Lord made it very evident that under the old testament order He considered His relationship with Israel to be equal to marriage. Isa. 54:5 Jer. 3:14 The result of that marriage was the Son born of the virgin Mary. The birth of the one whose name was to be Immanuel, or God with us. Isa. 7:14 Mt. 1:23 A mystery which scientists and theologians are still trying to understand. Faith accepts the Word of the Lord and understands that the presence of the Holy Spirit was the means whereby the seed of God was planted and from that encounter, the Son of God was born. Luke 1:35 With artificial insemination being so widely practiced today, why should there be anything mysterious about the Virgin birth. If man can do it, most definitely the Lord can. To those born of the Spirit is given the right to know all of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. Mt. 13:11 Nothing should remain hidden from their ability to know and fully understand all that the Lord has purposed. There are no mysteries to the initiated, only revelation and a God given insight into His mighty works.

The details may be mysterious but the intent is apparent and an open discovery to all who will see the divine purpose of a marital relationship of such tremendous and eternal magnitude. Two shall become one. Eph. 5:31 Jesus likened marriage to a cleaving together of a husband and wife thus making them to be one. Mt. 19:5 A manner of conduct which the Lord intended to be reserved for true marriage. Paul in describing a relationship outside of marriage said that one joined to a harlot had become one with her. The word joined is a strong word meaning to be welded or glued. 1 Cor. 6:16 Such a relationship is illegitimate and carries a judgment from the Lord with it. However he used the same word "joined" in speaking of a true marriage in Eph. 5:31 Paul in his letter to the Romans leaves no doubt what the affiliation of Christ and His church is to be, in the ultimate, a marriage. We are to die to the Law because of the fulfillment of the same through the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. All, Jew and Gentile are freed from its impossibilities, that we might be truly married to another, that is the Lord Jesus. All who are privileged to be alive and in Christ when that moment arises will enjoy the utmost of heavenly joy, in the Lord. It is a fruitful marriage as all marriages were intended by the Lord to be. Rom. 7:3-4 "And God said: be fruitful and multiply." Gen. 1:28

SIGNS 25

It is time to take a look at the seventh seal. The first and the seventh seals reach their climax at the beginning of the great tribulation. Seals two through six upon their opening, will begin with an introduction and gradually increase in intensity until the close of the tribulation period. All of them have a period of time when they will run their course. The seventh seal will cover a length of time leading up to the beginning of the tribulation. The key to this seal is the half hour of silence in heaven. A moment so sacred and holy that the redeemed and angelic occupants of heaven will stand in absolute awe and there will be utter silence in heaven which is now filled with praise and worship unto the Lord. Rev. 8:1

In the scriptures, silence is an indication of the mighty presence of the Lord. Habakkuk made mention of a time when the Lord would occupy His Holy Temple and this would command a time of silence, even in the earth. Hab. 2:20 The Apostle Paul identified the perfected church as the holy temple of the Lord. A people built together, unified until they operate as an absolute unit with the ultimate purpose of being the dwelling place of the Lord. Eph. 2:21-22 There will be that moment when the building is complete and the dedication and occupation will be the marriage, where two become one. We know the heart of the Lord through the writings of those whom He inspired to write the Word. For all that the Lord is and all that He has and all that He could create to satisfy His desires there is nothing that He so desires as His future Bride. The true Zion/Sion of God is the greatest, burning desire of His heart, that she might become the place, or should it be palace, of His eternal abiding presence. She is to become the everlasting joy and rest of His heart and being. Thus we see the dealings of the Lord with mankind for six thousand years reach the great summit, and longing of His heart by finding His Bride of the ages. Ps. 132:13-14

It is time to recognize the fact that the Lord's interest is not in that which is natural and of this world but that which is spiritual and eternal. Coming to the mountain of the Lord we arrive at Mount Sion, the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. She is the Bride of Christ. She is comprised of the redeemed whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. Could we see the calendar of the Lord there is a red letter day, plainly marked when the scripture will be fulfilled and the Lord will occupy His people, His church,

His Bride, His eternal dwelling place. Man may say it cannot be done but with the Lord all things are possible. That perfect church is a satisfaction of the strong desire of His heart to be loved even as He loves. 2 Tim. 1:7

SIGNS 26

The church is variously referred to as being the tabernacle, temple, or the house of the Lord. More importantly to this study is the fact that she is also spoken of as being the body of Christ into which we are inducted by the baptism of the Spirit. Not only that but there is no racism to be found in this all important body of believers. 1 Cor. 12:13 As the physical body has many members with each one ordained to fulfill a particular function and to work in unison with the rest of the body. So the spiritual body, the Bride of Christ, who will never see death, will be complete having the proper members necessary to fulfill the role assigned to that member. Many members, a full complement, but one body. 1 Cor. 12:20 so Paul concluded his message by saying that they were the body of Christ and members in particular. 1 Cor. 12:27

A sign of the impending marriage will be the sealing of the one hundred forty four thousand. Rev. 7:5-8 These are not all Jews. They are Israelites. The Jews are comprised of the tribes of Judah, Benjamin and Levi who remained in Judah and Jerusalem when the ten tribes moved north and became the Northern kingdom or Samaria. Because the ten tribes were scattered abroad they became known as the lost tribes. The Lord knows where they went and where they are even today. If it is absolutely necessary that these special ones are of the foregoing lineage, most definitely the Lord can find them. On the other hand, those in the body of Christ are one body, whether Jew or Gentile. Eph. 2:16 Very definitely the sealed are of the "new man" class, therefore they have to be New Testament saints.

The sign of the precise moment of their sealing is a period when there are no winds blowing anywhere on the face of the earth. Rev. 7:1 A complete calm settling down on the earth. Sounds as if it will be a occasion for total air pollution all over the earth. Also this determines the calm before the storm. The scripture confirms that there will be tremendous wind storms, hurricanes and tornadoes sweeping across the surface of the earth

effecting earth, the sea and the trees. Rev. 7:2 Rest assured that these storms will exceed anything that has ever happened previously. Already the pattern of the weather all over the world is in a process of change. It is like the pattern of weather has become out of sync. The Lord is trying to get the attention of the inhabitants of the world before the crisis comes. This very special group, a vital organ of the body of Christ will be sealed and incorporated into the body of Christ as a part of the marriage of the Lamb. The seal is the perfect, complete fullness of the Spirit. Eph. 1:13 They as well as the whole body of Christ will be changed into His image and have the same unlimited measure of the Spirit. 2 Cor. 3:18

SIGNS 27

It is interesting to note that the messenger (angel) who has the seal of the Lord is the fifth one to be involved in this transaction. Five is the number of atonement. He is the one who commands the others and possesses the seal whereby the one hundred and forty four thousand are sealed. Rev. 7:3 Jesus promised that He would ask the Father, on their behalf, and that He would send the Spirit to forever abide with them. John 14:16 The Comforter was to come in the person of the Spirit, sent in the name of the Lord Jesus, to teach and guide them into all truth. How important He, the Spirit, is to the church for He is the teacher and has not been retired nor has He quit. We need Him today more than ever before that we might know and walk in truth. John 14:26

The sealed are next seen standing with the Lamb, the one true sacrifice, on mount Sion. The Lord Jesus, the Lamb, is the stone planted in Sion and the New Jerusalem which became to the Israelites and continues to be until this very day, a stone of stumbling. In order to participate in the last day order of the Lord we must build on the rock, not trip over it. The rock must be recognized as the true foundation upon which we construct our spiritual house and not be offended by it. Rom. 9:33 The spiritual nature of Sion and the New Jerusalem could not be recorded in a stronger and more conclusive way than that which expressly declares it to be the church in the end of the age. Heb. 12:22-24

Possibly one of the greatest mistakes made by the leaders of the church is their immediate refusal of any teaching which is contrary to what they

believe. That is so evident in the seal placed on this group. Vital to the Bride of Christ in its entirety and in particular to the one hundred forty four thousand, is the seal which is placed in their foreheads and that seal is His Name (most versions) and the Name of His Father. Rev. 14:1 His name, is God given therefore is important. Phil 2:9 Again, God (the Father) has made this same Jesus both Lord and Christ. Acts 2:36 The Father so honored the Son that He has bestowed His name, Lord. And the name of the Spirit, Christ, on Jesus, whom He named in the first place. The full name, the name of the Father, Lord. The name of the Son, Jesus, and the name of the Spirit, Christ will be placed on the forehead of, not only this special group but on the entire Bride. Being married to Him she will take His name upon her. The true family of the Lord both in heaven and on earth gladly receive His name for it is the family name that is bestowed upon them all. Eph. 3:14-15 Having been born of His Spirit we are privilege to bear His name.

SIGNS 28

The book of Revelation is exactly that, the book 'opening up' an understanding of the future, not the past. The present (shortly come to pass. Rev. 1:1) was in reference to the messages to the seven churches, otherwise it foretold the future, even to our time. Its references to time are, "the time is at hand." Rev. 1:3 Rev. 22:10 "things which shall be hereafter." Rev. 1:19, 4:1 All bearing witness that what we are about to consider has no connection with any event from the past. This is a vital understanding that we must have if we are to correctly interpret the all important revelations which are found in the book.

The woman of Revelation twelve is a married woman for it is stated that, she is with child and about to give birth. Rev. 12:2 That there is to be a marriage between Christ and the living church in the end of the age is unquestionable. Christ is presented as loving the church and giving Himself for her. Eph. 5:25 A church which is thoroughly sanctified, glorified and living in complete holiness. Eph. 5:26-27 Inasmuch as the church is His body He will love it and tenderly nourish and cherish it. Eph. 5:28-29 Leaving all others, the two will become one. Eph. 5:31 A mystery, a hidden act, a secret act to which Paul has now made all who will and can receive

it, to know and understand, that the marriage of Christ and His church is very real.

The very special group known as the one hundred forty four thousand are virgins (parthenos, a female living apart, in their Fathers house). The statement that “they are not defiled with women” does not require that they are to be males. As an example, Mary as a virgin, (a parthenos, female virgin), gave birth to the Christ child. Mt. 1:23 This group is not defiled after the manner of women. Take for instance, the marriage of a priest, what defiled a woman so that he might not marry her? Pure and simple, marriage or intercourse. The priest was to marry a virgin. Other restrictions also prevailed in his choice. Lev. 21:13-14 Christ as our great high Priest must marry a virgin of the same status of purity. Paul stated that marriage was “ honorable among all and the bed undefiled.” Heb. 13:4 The whole of the body, the church is purified and given the status of a virgin, so thoroughly and completely does the blood of Christ cleanse and reclassify the sinner. 2 Cor. 11:2 Even so, the very that special group are true virgins and very definitely are female.

SIGNS 29

They are the first fruits unto God and unto the Lamb. Rev. 14:4 The first fruits were the first ripe of all of their crops from the field to the tree, it was to be consecrated unto the Lord. The first mention of it is in connection with the feast of first fruits which took place at the end of the year and was the feast of ingathering. It was the time of the gathering of the general harvest. The shadow of its importance is seen in the statement that “Israel was holiness unto the Lord and the first fruits of His increase.” Jer. 2:3 Indicating that first fruits apply not only to the harvest of the land and its increase but to those who are the people of God. These two elements then are applicable to the product of the marriage of Christ and His church, they are first fruits, and only the beginning of the crop and there is to be an increase, a full harvest.

In Pentecost we seek earnestly to be baptized in the Spirit but the experience which we receive is just the first fruits. Too many settle down spiritually, feeling that they have arrived. We must go on, there is more than the initial experience, there is a harvest to come. Rom. 8:23 Christ is the

first fruits of the resurrection and we well know and believe that there is a great harvest to be gathered when He returns. 1 Cor. 15:20, 23 Then we have the first fruits of a new race who are seen in close proximity with Christ. Rev. 14:4 Seeing that they are named the first fruits we know immediately that there are more to follow. They have the nature and character of Christ. There is no guile to be found in their speech, it is pure and holy before the Lord. They are also noted to be the very epitome of holiness and before the throne of the Lord. Rev. 14:5 They occupy a high and holy position in the eternal economy of the Lord. So, we anticipate a season of revival and ingathering plus the marriage of the Lamb and His perfected church as the next sign of the end of the age,

The beginning of the great tribulation coincides with the birth of the man child. There is an appropriate space of time between the marriage of the Lamb and the birth of the man child. Spiritual activity will be at its peak during that time. The message of the Lord will be intense and many will be saved. It will also be a time of persecution because of the obvious results of the marriage of Christ and the perfected Bride. One of the strange doctrines preached today is that the church will escape this world without persecution. Jesus said; "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Mt. 5:10 Again; "if they have persecuted me, they will persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also." John 15:20 the woman who will give birth to the man child will be persecuted by the dragon just before she escapes. Rev. 12:13 Church wake up. Persecution is already taking place.

SIGNS 30

There will be signs in the heavens as we approach the end of the age. There are also signs which will be present among the inhabitants of the earth. Some even entering into family relationships. The scores of divided families which are so prevalent today are a part of that which Jesus said would come to pass in the end of the age, even going so far as to causing the persecuted, and the hated family member to be killed. Mt. 10:21 The same hatred will spread out into the community and bear the same results. It is a definite sign which we see as being in fulfillment today but we have not yet seen the swelling tide of extreme dislike. Unfortunately, it is not

winding down, it is just getting a good start. Loyalty, to family and country has eroded until it is difficult to find today. Mk. 13:32

The book of Revelation was introduced as not being written in a chronological order. In the area of persecution we come upon one of those instances. The Bride of Revelation twelve is seen in all of her beauty and splendor. In this chapter the woman is noted as fleeing into the place prepared by God for her. Rev. 12:6, 14. While in verse thirteen she is seen being persecuted by the devil that has been cast out of heaven. Then, the manner of escape which will be used on her behalf is declared to be the eagle winged power of the Spirit and she is transported into her place of refuge for the total three and one half years of the tribulation. Therefore we know that in the period of time where she developed into the Bride of Christ, there will be persecution and after the marriage and the birth of the man child there will be persecution. Rev. 12:13

The glorified woman of Revelation twelve is the key to the door which will open the tribulation. Consequently the importance of this event cannot be over emphasized. In conjunction with the birth and snatching up of this child into heaven and the throne of the Lord, the number of the religious people who desert the ways of the Lord and follow the antichrist is astounding. They are represented by the stars of the heavens. One third of the church members will be deceived and follow the antichrist, an astounding, astonishing number who follow men and their charismatic nature rather than the Lord Jesus who is the head of the church. The spiritual frivolity and lightness of the average Christian of today's church will set them up for this very thing. Just imagine, one third. They are spiritual innocents possessing very little of the deeper things of the Lord which are revealed in the Word of the Lord. People who are seen in church only at Easter and Christmas, or when some tragedy strikes them or their family or even somewhere else in the world. Rev. 12:4

SIGNS 31

If there is to be a sign in the scriptures that is of utmost importance, it has to be the startling wonder that John saw illustrate in the heavens. An extremely gorgeously arrayed woman, who could only be a queen clothed in such exquisite garments. She is standing upon a source of light which

reflects the light of the sun in the darkness of night. Then to be crowned with a diadem of twelve bodies of light, twelve stars, each of them light bearing bodies which are sun like, giving forth light. Stars to us are small globes of light out in the universe whereas in all reality they are themselves suns. John saw this vision in the heavens but it will be enacted on earth. Rev. 12:1

In order to grasp just who she is, let us consider her garb. She is certainly still wearing her wedding gown. We know that the sun is the creation of the Lord to nourish life on earth. Its position in the heavens is precisely where it must be in order to sustain the atmosphere and life of this earth. The Lord, created light. Gen. 1:3 Took of His own nature which is a never dying, eternal light, and made a light in which man could live. The fullness of His being as light is unapproachable by mankind in his natural character or life form. 1Tim. 6:16 For the Lord Himself is a Sun, which does not mean that He is a heavenly body of burning gasses but that the light that He is, is far more brilliant than the combination of all the stars of heaven. He outshines them all. Scientist also tell us that the Sun is a burning, flaming fire of intense magnitude. The scripture also described the Lord of glory as a burning consuming fire. Heb. 12:29 The type of fire which consumes all dross but at the same time can be seen as not consuming, when it is as a revelation from the Lord. Ex. 3:2

The Sun is majestic and rules the day. Light is life giving, both natural and spiritual. Fire is spectacular and creates excitement. According to John the Baptist, Jesus was to create a baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire. Lk. 3:16 Sure enough, on the day of Pentecost there were cloven tongues of fire which came upon them as they waited for the descent of the Spirit and they were all filled. Acts 2:3 the woman of Revelation twelve is the revelation of a church body, an organism, the Bride of Christ created and unified by the power of the Spirit. They are fully clothed with the new creation and have full knowledge of Him as well as being made into the image and likeness of the Christ of God. Col. 3:10 The new man, is a new creation which has so altered the life and life style of those who are in the Bride that they have put on righteousness and true holiness. Eph. 4:24 He will have a church of absolute holiness, a glorious church glowing with the fullness of the mighty power and the light of the glory of the Lord. Eph. 5:27

SIGNS 32

When the Apostle wrote concerning a glorious church, just exactly what was his vision of such a church and what is the objective of the Lord in producing a glorious church? Is there anything more glorious than a woman who is clothed with a glory equal to the shining forth of the Sun? Because she is to be the Bride of Christ she must be of equal bearing and status. The prophecy pertaining to the Son was, that He would come as the Sun of righteousness. Mal. 4:2 On the mount of transfiguration, the veil was pulled back and the disciple who were with Him saw Him in His true splendor and glory. His face shone as the sun (Mt. 17:2) and His clothing became exceedingly white and began to glisten and shine with light. Luke 9:29 He who is light, (1 John 1:5) clothes Himself in light, Ps. 104:2 and dwells in light. 1 Tim. 6:16

The glory of the Lord frequently was made manifest that we might know what to expect when He speaks of a glorious church. The glory of the Lord was revealed in the cloud to Israel as they murmured in the wilderness. Ex. 16:10 After his visitation with the Lord, in His presence on the mountain, Moses face shone with the glory of the Lord until the people were afraid to approach him. Ex. 34:29-30 It is interesting that Moses himself was not aware of it. No room for pride. The glory of the Lord appeared at the dedication of both the tabernacle in the wilderness (Num. 20:6) and the temple in Jerusalem. 2 Chron. 7:1-3 Note that there was a shower of the fire of the Lord along with the glory of the Lord. They actually saw the fire and the glory of the Lord as it was made manifest. Then of course we have the experience of the day of Pentecost where visible cloven tongues of fire came upon the one hundred twenty as they were filled with the Spirit. Acts 2:3

Paul wrote of the experience of the true church which will be made manifest in the end of the age. They are a people who have a great thirst, a gut* wrenching hunger for the truth of the Word of the Lord and are not satisfied with the mediocre. (* Sorry for being crude but it is the best way to describe that travail, the hunger pangs of the inner man, that groan and cry from deep within to be fed the meat of the Word of the Lord.) With open face, heart and mind we see the promises of the Lord and are ready to move on from glory to ever deepening and increasing glory. There must be

a change, a metamorphoses take place until the church has reached the same, identical image of the Christ of God. The ultimate being that glorious, majestic, sun clothed woman of Revelation twelve. The book is filled of example and symbol of this great woman. A person must be deliberately blind not to be able to see the vision of the Lord as it begins with Adam and Eve and will conclude in Christ and His glorious church.

SIGNS 33

It is impossible to cease to write concerning the glory of the revealed, and yet to be discovered glory of the Lord. The prophetic expressions of what will be are exciting and wonderful. In the midst of a world filled with strife and turmoil there will arise a church with the glory of the Lord. The moving of the Spirit and the evidence of the visiting presence of the glory of the Lord will not be hidden from the world. In this day of electronic news reporting events are flashed around the world in a matter of seconds. Isaiah said; "The glory of the Lord shall be REVEALED, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it." Isa. 40:5 Simultaneously, around the world there will be those who enter into a deeper walk and life with the Lord than any others have ever known. They will hear the voice of the Spirit calling them to, "Arise shine, for thy light is come and the glory of the Lord is RISEN upon thee." Isa. 60:1 How great will the manifestation of the glory of the Lord be? "For the earth shall be filled with the KNOWLEDGE of the glory of the LORD, as the waters now cover the sea." Hab. 2:14 Under the impact of the last day revival the earth will know of the moving of the Spirit. During the Millennium not only will there be knowledge but the earth will be FILLED with His glory. The Southern Ocean reaches a depth of 14,450 feet. Mt Rainier is 14,100 feet high. Just think of living under the constant blessing and flow of the glory of the Lord.

Another convincing factor pertaining to the Bride is the place of her refuge during the three and one half years of the great tribulation. It is termed to be a wilderness. Rev. 12:6, 14. However, hear Isaiah and his prophecy concerning the wilderness. "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: they shall see the glory of the LORD and the Excellency of our God." Isa. 35:1-2 It is the

glory (the Spirit) of the Lord which will transport the Bride into the wilderness and as with Israel of old, in their wilderness wanderings, the glory will remain with them as their wall of protection. There will be heard in the wilderness the song of the LORD exalting His power, glory and majesty. "Yea, they shall sing in the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD." Ps. 138:5 The perfect church will be in absolute spiritual and physical perfection. Her righteousness will be known by all. The presence of the glory of the LORD overwhelms all sin and sickness. The glory will lead them and will also be their rear guard. They are divinely protected. "Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thy health shall spring forth speedily; and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy reward." Isa. 58:8 The Lord wants to make His glory known.

SIGNS 34

That there is yet a glory of the Lord to be revealed in His church is extremely obvious. Paul referred to the visible, shining glory which was on Mt. Sinai and likewise was imparted to Moses by declaring it to be the glory of the Law. Then he compared it with that which is yet to come and declared that the glory which is anticipated is to be far greater and exceedingly far more glorious than the glory seen in the face of Moses. 2 Cor. 2:7-11 It is a continuous, eternal glory. The full, unhindered administration of the Spirit without the possibility of corruption by the flesh is that which is of the greatest possible glory. The woman of Revelation twelve is clothed with the fullness of the glory of the Father. In the language of the type and symbol relating to the Godhead, the Sun is a type of the Father.

It is the intent of the Lord to inhabit His Temple, His church, with the absolute, completeness of His own being. All the fullness of God. Eph. 3:19 All this is to take place before the Bride will go into the wilderness for we see her clothed with Sun like glory, the glory of the Father. The Bride is the New Jerusalem. The New Jerusalem is lightened by the glorious, eternal presence of the glory of the Lord God and the light of the Lamb. They are the only source of light to be found in the eternal order. Rev. 21:23

Every redeemed person in the eternal; Kingdom of the Lord will glow with the glory of the Lord. A sun clothed woman will be the most glorious. She will be caught up into the glories of heaven at the time of the coming of the Lord Jesus along with those who come up in the first resurrection. All those resurrected will not obtain the same glory in the resurrection. There is the full glory which is likened unto the glory of the sun. Then there is a glory comparable to the shining of the moon, plus a glory likened unto the stars, of which there is as much variety as there is among the stars of the heavens. 1 Cor. 15:41 Every being in heaven will glow with the glory of the Lord. Some more than others, but if one is not quite as brilliant as someone else, it will not matter, for all will be filled with a measure of that glory.

This sign cannot be passed over lightly by stating that the woman is Mary and the man child Jesus. There is absolutely no way whereby such a hangover of Roman doctrine can be equated with the truth of the scriptures. "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Prov. 29:18a The only way to escape the great tribulation and all of its horrors, is to make certain that our spiritual life is absolutely up to date. Shining and brightly polished. Only those in the Bride will not know the pain of the tribulation. This matter is worth some extremely serious study and prayer.

SIGNS 35

The woman of Revelation twelve is portrayed as standing on the moon. How appropriate, for the moon is a type of the Lord Jesus and His position in the Godhead. She is standing on the only foundation that is eternal, none other can replace it. 1 Cor. 3:11 It requires every one who would trust in it to be known by the Lord as one of His. 2 Tim. 2:19 The Lord GOD declared that He would lay a foundation in Zion and Christ was born in and unto Zion. He is the only corner stone, tested, of great value and a foundation which has weathered the test of time. After two thousand years He is still the single, true foundation, upon which a life eternal may be built. Isa. 48:13

The moon was created as a sign as well as a measurement to be used in determining the days, months, and seasons. It was designated to give light in darkness, and to rule over the night. Gen. 1:14 Jesus came as the light of the world manifesting the light and glory of His Father. John 12:46 The

children of Israel were led in the timing of their festivities by the phases of the moon. They followed a lunar calendar of approximately 30 days. Every three years they would add a thirteenth month. How perfectly fitting that the number thirty would play such a part in the life of the Lord Jesus. He began His ministry at the age of thirty, (Lk. 3:23) following the law of one who was entering into the priesthood. Num. 4:3 He was sold out by Judas for thirty pieces of silver. Mt. 26:15 The moon likewise established their feast days, especially the three times of the year when all males were to be present before the Lord for their religious festivities. Deut. 16:16

The moon will become a fearsome and awesome sign in the heavens by being covered with blood. The redeeming power of the Christ of God is the fact that His blood was shed as the Lamb of God on Calvary. One of the names given to the moon in the Hebrew language is "lebana," or white. The moon shines as a white light in the night sky showing forth the purity, the holiness of the Lord Jesus. A privilege which is passed on to those who accept the blood atonement, they are washed whiter than the snow by the blood of Christ. Isa. 1:18 As a last day sign, signaling the coming of the Lord Jesus in what is called the rapture, the moon must first be turned into blood. Joel 2:31 Acts 2:20 Please consider carefully and prayerfully the words of the Lord Jesus concerning this event which will be manifest on our moon. He very definitely said that it would be at the end of the great tribulation, when because of the blood, the moon will no more shine as it does now. Mt. 24:29 He established strongly the fact that this, as well as other horrendous events will take place at the close of the tribulation.

SIGNS 36

There are some interesting facts about the moon which may be considered a help in determining it in being a symbol of the Lord Jesus. It always presents the same face or side to the earth. " Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." Heb. 13:8 His love, His compassion and care for humanity has never changed, not will it change, until the last soul is bought to a knowledge of Christ as savor. The moon is responsible for the tidal actions of the seas and oceans of the world. Its magnetic pull even has an effect on the surface of the earth. His name and the power of His Spirit is always calling and drawing unto Himself the peoples of the earth. John 12:22 The seas in the scripture are a type of the peoples of the earth.

Isa. 17:2 The moon is noted for its rugged surface which was caused, it is proposed, by volcanic activity and having been struck by meteors. The scripture describes the visage of the Lord Jesus as having been marred more than any man. Isa. 52:14 It is hard to imagine the cruelty with which He was treated. His beard plucked. Human spittle covering His face. Bruised and beaten in body and face.

It is vital that we keep in mind the statement made by the scripture that the heavenly light bearing bodies were for signs, among other things. Because our study is on signs, we want to emphasize the message which needs to be conveyed to the whole world, warning them of the soon coming of the Lord Jesus. Jesus related to His questioning disciples that there would “appear the sign of the Son of man in the heaven.” Mt. 24:30 This sign is then made known as a coming event which will warn the world of His impending coming and the consequential rapture and resurrection of the saints. The proper timing is of the essence. We are not left to speculate as to the correct time, which has been established, for this momentously important moment. Jesus emphasized the timing by saying that it was immediately after the tribulation. Mt. 24:29 At that time, the light of the sun and moon will be cut off, which means but one thing, darkness. The stars will streak out of their orbit in a free fall. The universe will be in total disarray. This is the moment of the shaking of the entire universe, for Jesus said; that the powers of the heavens would be shaken. The prince of the power of the air will be utterly defeated. Eph. 2:2

According to the words of the Lord Jesus, this is also the time of the sounding of the trumpet. The angels are likewise command to gather together the redeemed of all ages, either by resurrection or translation. Mt. 24:31 Until the celestial signs which have been established by the Lord take place He will not come. True, many signs are being fulfilled, but there are still other signs which have not yet appeared.

SIGNS 37

The woman of Revelation twelve is wearing a diadem of twelve stars. Twelve is the number of divine government. Jesus chose twelve disciples to follow Him with the ultimate purpose of the twelve guiding the church under the anointing of the Spirit. Of these twelve, Jesus said that one was

of the devil. John 6:70 This was not circumstantial but a deliberate act of the Lord. There is a dual lesson to be learned here. There always will be the strange seed, false seed sown among the wheat, especially so, in the end of the age. Judas foreshadowed the coming antichrist who will be the leading tare among the sheep. Jesus said; "the harvest is the end of the world." Mt. 13:39 At one time he will have been a star in the crown of the woman but by the time of Revelation twelve, he will have been removed from his office and replaced, even as it was with Judas.

A counterfeit in order to be received must appear to be as authentic as the real thing, the real person or the original. It is no wonder then that we find Bible history speaking of a created being named Lucifer (brightness or the morning star) who obviously was a being of extreme beauty and light before the throne of the Lord. He is also called "son of the morning." Isa. 14:12 Because of his desire to control the stars (the people) of the Lord he was cast down to hell, the side of the pit. Isa. 14:13-14 As the eternal Word, Jesus was present and saw the whole transaction as it played out in heaven, for He said: "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven." Luke 10:18 It has been stated that history repeats itself and it surely does in this case.

The antichrist, the counterpart will transform or present himself as being an apostle of Christ. 2 Cor. 11:13 This is no wonder for Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. 2 Cor. 11:14 Foolish deceptions are easily discerned but clever and unscrupulous individuals are working get rich quick scams every hour of the day on people world wide. Most unfortunately, what is true in the secular world is also true in the spiritual world. This is an age of strong and devious deceptions. There is nothing more deceptive than a misinterpretation of the Word. In my life time, I am 91, I have seen intelligent ministers of the gospel, write foolish books naming the antichrist. They have named most every world ruler (including several of our presidents) as well as the head of every religious organization as the antichrist, but they all pass on and become mere history, both subject and writer. The antichrist, like Judas will have a leading part in the last day church from which the Bride of Christ will be formed. Strangely, he will fit a most unique spiritual condition. The light which is in him, is darkness, gross, total darkness. Mt. 6:23

SIGNS 38

One of the strangest prophecies recorded in the Bible came from the mouth of a hired prophet. One who was commissioned to curse Israel. Balaam, was compelled to declare the coming of a star, the Lord Jesus, out of Jacob. As beautiful a word of Messianic prophecy as one could desire. Num. 24:17 The Lord reigns supreme. This Jesus came as the light of the world. John 8:12 Zacharias prophesied of the visitation of "the dayspring from on high." Luke 1:78 Jesus, himself stated that He was the bright and morning star. Rev. 22:16 While Peter made the visitation of the "day dawn and the day star," whereby mankind is born of the spirit to be a very personal experience. 2 Peter 1:19 The real light, the true star, is to be found in the Lord Jesus. If we have the light of the Lord, the Word of the Lord, in us and that Word is anointed by the Spirit of the Lord we will not be deceived

We need not fear, for the deceiver will not speak after the true teachings of the Word of God. Already there are many evidences in the religious world displaying a departure from the truths of the Word. Satan hates the Word and will do his best to destroy it. In the end it will be his downfall. Isa. 8:20

The scriptures use stars when making reference to those who belong in the family of the Lord. For instance, Joseph's dream. The stars represented his brothers and they fully understood that. Gen. 37:9 The progeny of Abraham. Isaac and Jacob are to be as numerous as the stars of the heavens. Gen. 22:17 Consequently that number will include the spiritual seed, that is, those born of the Spirit and the Word. Living in a universe of millions of galaxies each containing millions of stars is there an end. The Lord not only knows how many stars He created but He knows the name of each and every one of them. Ps. 147:4 This Bible truth is also verified by the pastors of the seven churches in Asia being represented by the seven stars held in the right hand of the Lord. Rev. 2:1

The birth and ascension of the man child into heaven will cause a war to take place in heaven. This gives us at least an inkling of the great importance of the birth of the man child. He is born into leadership and like the Lord Jesus will eternally be involved in directing the redeemed of the Lord. Rev. 12:5 This same promise was given to those who were members

of the church at Thyatira and were triumphant over the weaknesses described. Rev. 2:26-27 Jesus, as the King of kings would naturally be the first of those who will guide the multitudes of heaven. Rev. 19:15 Thus we find that there are at least three levels of heavenly, "tax free," government.

SIGNS 39

The second sign is one that is in existence even now but not yet in its final political form. Which political entity is involved is made manifest and may be known by its description given in Rev. 12:3. There is both a spiritual and a political portion to be found here. The dragon is great, in every way, land size, population, politically and financially and is a force to be reckoned with in the world. Its state color is red or fire like. The symbol used is that of a dragon. Tie these together and you have something worth watching as it develops more and more into a great world power and will be a leading advocate of a one world government, one fashioned after its own form of rule. Currently the U.S. government is in debt to it to the tune of trillions of dollars. It has and is purchasing US bonds, companies and properties. It has become famous for ignoring copyrights, particularly in the area of electronics and cyberspace. This is a sign which is developing before our very eyes and who is paying any attention to it? It will have a major role in the development of the ten kingdom empire represented by the ten crowns.

The war in heaven will not be a prolonged conflict. Perhaps but a confrontation where the dragon and the fallen angels who follow him are challenged by Michael and the faithful angels. Michael whose name means "who is like God?" obviously is a revelation of Jesus as an archangel. When He appeared to Daniel He was given the title of "the great prince." Dan. 12:1 He has been exalted to the right hand of the Father where He is a Prince and Savior. Acts. 5:31 In the book of Revelation He is proclaimed to be the "prince of the kings of the earth." Rev. 1:5 Prince, meaning the first in rank or the chief ruler. His majestic position of eternal leadership will be as the "only Potentate, the King of kings and the Lord of lords." 1 Tim. 6:13 The dragon is no match for the Lord Jesus to whom all power in heaven and earth has been given. Mt. 28:18

The being involved in this heavenly skirmish is aptly identified as being a dragon, a fearsome beast. An old serpent, obviously the one who spoiled

the garden of Eden with his presence and temptation of Adam and Eve. His name is, the Devil and it is well known that his name means a false accuser who spends his time, day and night accusing the saints before the throne of God. Rev. 12:10 As Satan he is the adversary of everyone, God and man. He is against everything, particularly anything that is Godlike. He lives to oppose. Joyously, he and his followers will be cast down, thrown out of heaven. Sounds like a little rough treatment but it is only the beginning of the dealings of the Lord with him. Now, after all this span of eternity and time the final acts of judgment are being set in place.

SIGNS 40

At the time of the cleansing of heaven, by the casting out of the devil there is a declaration made proclaiming the great victory and the manifestation of the power of the Lord. Two very important statements are then made. The accuser of the saints who had been active both day and night before the throne was silenced. The being called the devil does not have the capabilities of the Lord. He can only be in one place at a time. Those who have been under satanic attack have not had a personal encounter with the devil but rather with a fallen angel under the direction of the devil. Victory is gained by the redemptive blood of the Lamb. By the Word, His Word, of testimony and by a full and complete surrender to the Lord. Rev. 12:9-11

While the heavens and those dwelling there are exhorted to rejoice the same voice proclaimed woe to the earth and the sea because the devil is now present among them and he is filled with an immense anger for he knows that his time is short. He knows that he has just three and one half years to try to accomplish his purpose here on earth. The book of Revelation speaks of three great woe's this is the first woe. It is in conjunction with the fifth trumpet. Rev. 9:1 Clearly this lead us to information that the seven seals are all opened before the tribulation. The first and the seventh seal reach their fulfillment at the beginning of the tribulation. That is, the completing of the final work of the Holy Spirit in salvation, revival and the formation of the Bride of Christ (1st seal), which will result in the marriage of the Lamb and the church with the resulting birth of the man child. (7th seal).

We are introduced to the seven trumpets following the offering of the prayers of the saints before the golden altar or the Ark of the Covenant and the Mercy Seat, which is Christ our propitiation (Mercy Seat). Rom. 3:25 We may sometimes feel that our prayer go unheard but rest assured they do not. They are as incense before the Lord. Your tears are bottled and recorded. Ps. 56:8 These all become a sweet smelling incense before the Lord. Especially so, in the end of the age when persecution will be greatly increased against the true church. The same angel took fire from altar and cast it into the earth creating four fearful signs. First of all, voices from on high. To hear a voice blasting from the sky will be an extremely appalling thing. Thundering's and lightning's, both in the plural which can only mean that simultaneously and world wide these events will transpire. They are accompanied by an earthquake effecting the whole earth. By this time in the Lords dealings with mankind situations such as this will no longer be local. They want one world, they will get one world. Rev. 8:5

SIGNS 41

Keep in mind that in all the extreme signs that we are about to look at there is the blessing of the oil and the wine (the anointing and joy of the Spirit of the Lord) (Rev. 6:6), resting upon the people of the Lord. When the judgments fell in Egypt, the land of Goshen, the dwelling place of the children of Israel was spared from the punishments which the Lord brought upon Egypt. Ex. 8:22-24, Ex. 9:26, Ex. 10:23 As these events transpire around the world those who are the true saints of the Lord will find a refuge in Him. Ps. 91:1-8 This is the beginning of the time of which Jesus spoke, signs breaking out everywhere. The hearts of men failing them for the fear of the events taking place, and anticipated, around them. Luke 21:25-26

The sounding of the first trumpet will produce a shower of hail, fire mingled with blood. Rev. 8:7 Words fail to express the horrible effect of such a catastrophe. Like so many things in life, if one is not there, they may sympathize but fail to feel the full volume of the fear generated by such a horrific event and this is just the first trumpet that is to sound. This is a repeat and an intensification of the judgment which took place as the Lord was convincing Pharaoh to let the children of Israel go. Ex. 9:23-25 An occurrence which wrought great havoc in Egypt and did not touch Goshen.

v. 26 A parallel may be made here. For as the children of Israel were preparing for a trip in the wilderness, so, when these things begin to take place, the day when the woman of Revelation twelve will go into the wilderness will be fast approaching. Nevertheless, there are still several actions of the Lord which will take place. It stands to reason that as a result of the hail and the fire the trees and grass would be effected. One third of all trees in the forest and the orchards will be completely destroyed while the totality of all green grass will be consumed. This will greatly effect all supplies of food which originate from trees and animals which depend on grass for food.

The trumpets which are sounded previous to the great tribulation period must be looked upon as acts of the mercy of the Lord. The nature of man is such that as all things proceed smoothly in life the Lord is there as a back up when needed. The scripture declared that; "When He slew them, then they sought Him and they returned and enquired early after God." Ps. 78:34 It is a known fact that in recent years people have flocked to church after catastrophes have taken place. If it takes severe and extremely serious situations for people to turn to the Lord, then these coming events will be turned into blessings. Up to and until the beginning of the tribulation there will still be opportunities to repent but it is far better to do so now than to wait for that time.

SIGNS 42

As these trumpets proceed in their order the impact of the event taking place will become more intense. The second trumpet will introduce the destruction of what appears to be a great mountain and is likened unto a volcanic eruption of extreme magnitude. As is common to eruptions of this sort there will be flames and lightning. A frightening happening to say the least. Rev. 8:8 As there is a literal slant to this prophetic utterance there will also be a political. The Lord, through the prophet Jeremiah, said that He would cause the destroying mountain, to be itself destroyed. Jer. 51:25 This, no doubt, signals the end of a last day political entity. Through Malachi He said; He hated Esau and would lay his mountains waste. Isa. 1:3

Once again it is evident that the Lord is still issuing a warning to the peoples of the earth for the calamity caused by the sounding of the second trumpet does not include a total annihilation. The turning of one third of the waters of the sea into blood is in itself a horrific happening. Mind you this is not a red tide but we can expect these judgments to be actually accomplished as they are predicted. Rev. 8:8

The resulting circumstances would naturally cause the living creatures in the waters of the sea to suffocate because of a lack of oxygen in the water. A happening of this type would have a two fold result. The stench of the carcasses of these inhabitants of the sea would wash up on the beach and cause a great stench. Secondly, and perhaps more important, it would cut down on the food supply available to mankind, causing shortages and higher prices. The most vital element of mankind's salvation is the blood of the Lord Jesus. This salvation, which has been and will be refused by the ungodly elements of this world, will make this trumpet to be a reminded of their rejection.

The result of the action pertaining to the casting of this mountain into the sea will cause one third of the ships of the sea to be destroyed. What can be said about it but that it is nature running wild and rampant in an enormous storm such as never before seen on the face of the sea. The seas of the world give birth to the weather which sweeps over the lands of the earth. With such a terrific storm breaking forth on the sea what would be the resulting weather on land. Could the subtle changes of weather world wide which are taking place today be a warning and a fore runner of that which is yet to come? The Lord is gracious and loving and not willing that any should perish. 1 Peter 3:9 That we are approaching the day when these things will begin to take place there is no doubt. The day of preparation is now.

SIGNS 43

There are two occurrences which must be kept in mind as we study these trumpets. So far we have seen only pre-tribulation trumpets. Also that the seventh trumpet is the last trumpet and relates to the second coming, or the rapture of Christ. In the list of seven, the seventh is the last trumpet. Paul assured us that it would be the last trumpet. 1 Cor. 15:52 Jesus

cannot return until the announced time, or the sounding of the last trumpet. Jesus, while not specifying the seventh trumpet stated that it would be “a great sound of a trumpet” and that at that time he would gather His elect from the four winds, or from all over the face of the earth, from one end of heaven to the other. Mt. 24:31

The sounding of the third trumpet will coincide with the results of the war in heaven. Rev. 12:7 Here in Revelation twelve it is the great dragon seen being cast out of heaven. In Revelation 8:10 that incident is seen as a great fallen star, a star of great magnitude and importance falling from heaven. So, we are viewing the same moment of time from a different prospective. If a bad situation can be turned into an opportunity to deceive, the dragon will accomplish it. In his fall he is seen as a star and as a burning or a flaming lamp. As Eve was deceived in the garden, so a portion of the church will be deceived by this fallen dragon because they do not know the scriptures. In his fall he will put on a great display which can only be likened to what many in the church today believe will be the manner, the signs, of the coming of the Lord Jesus in what is called the rapture. There is then to be a deceptive rapture as this star, this lamp, descends from heaven.

One third of the waters of the world are to be impacted by the presence of this evil force. Once again we come to a situation which is both natural and also has a spiritual connotation. This particular star has a name assigned to it and that is Wormwood, which makes him a created being. We know him as the devil, among other things, Wormwood bears the meaning of bitterness or calamity. He most definitely knows how to produce both. If there is anything that Christians should be most careful of today it is a root of bitterness. Heb. 12:15 Relationships, families, churches have been destroyed by bitterness and many, though still attending church today are carrying with them that root which will destroy them and cause them to be deceived. Wormwood not only made the waters bitter but bitter unto death for many will die after having partaken of these waters. What a pathetic way to end life, filled with a bitterness which produces death.

SIGNS 44

The sounding of the fourth trumpet is an introduction to a time of increased catastrophes. It involves not only the earth but the heavens as well.

Rev. 8:12 As we pointed out previously these extreme measures are acts of the mercy of the Lord. With them He is giving mankind a space to repent and no doubt many will. He has promised deliverance to those who diligently and earnestly seek Him, in the latter days, in the days of tribulation. Deut. 4:29-31 "For the LORD thy God is a merciful God. " Some might say then why the tribulation? That is the only situation under which some will seek Him. Those who do not seek Him will find themselves in the midst of the absolutely worst upheavals that have ever taken place. There is a reason for it being called the great tribulation by the Lord Jesus. Mt. 24:21 His statement is self explanatory. There never has been a time like it nor will there ever be again.

The prophecies of the Old Testament speak of a time when the light giving bodies will be total blackened. Isaiah spoke of a time when the day of the LORD would come. A day of cruel wrath and fierce anger of such a great degree that the land will be made desolate and the SINNERS would be completely annihilated. Isa. 13:9 Neither sin nor sinners will survive the great tribulation and most definitely will not be found in the thousand year Millennial reign of Christ. The Psalmist stated that "the sinners would be consumed out of the earth and let the wicked be no more." Ps. 104:35 King Solomon said; "But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it." Prov. 2:22

The prophets of old spoke of a time when the sun, moon and stars would be totally blacked out. Isa. 13:10 In a judgment pronounced upon Pharaoh it sounds more like a word directed at Satan, for the Lord said: that He would put him out, and he will be put out of heaven and his light will also be put out. The heavens will be covered and the sun, moon and stars will be completely darkened. Eze. 32:7 Joel spoke of the army of the Lord which will do great and valiant things in warfare. This army is so powerful that the earth will quake at their presence; however that is not the complete picture, for the heavens will also tremble. He likewise said that the sun, moon and stars would cease their shining. Joel 2:10 Both Isaiah and Jesus said that the heavens would be rolled back as a scroll. That will be paramount to a cosmic quake, the universe in total disarray and in the process of being destroyed. But wait, the fourth trumpet simply involves one third and not yet the whole. The Lord will do what He has said He would do and there is an end to this world. He will prepare a new heavens and a new earth.

SIGNS 45

Five vital elements which maintain life on our planet suddenly show a drastic change. What a severe climatic change will take place with the sun shining with just two thirds of its usual strength. The moon will receive the same treatment, followed by the stars. It can only mean extreme fear and consternation for the inhabitants of the earth. No wonder Jesus said men's hearts would fail them for fear. Luke 21:26 This terrific sign will have the result of one third of the day being darkened as well as one third of the night. That will be a total of eight hours during which the light bearing elements will cause an unusual darkness on the earth. Rev. 8:12 The number of days where this sign prevails is not given but even one day would create great alarm. This partial darkness will take place at the time of the introduction of the tribulation. Total darkness will be at the conclusion of the tribulation. A situation which could well equal that which took place in Egypt, where the darkness was so intense that it could be felt. Ex. 10:21-22 In that thick darkness not one Egyptian moved for three days.

John both saw and heard an angel flying through the sky calling out a last warning pertaining to the works which will follow the sounding of the final three trumpets. They are trumpets of woe, grief and anguish. The time and the door of repentance and salvation as we know it will be coming to an end. It is of prime necessity that we understand that, not all who are stated as being angels, are of the created as angels category. In its simplicity angel (Greek; aggelos, simple is a messenger of any kind). The seven letters of the book of Revelation were written to the seven angels or pastors of the seven churches. Rev. 2:1 - 3:14 In modern day terms we frequently refer to a person as being an angel because of some acts of kindness or word of encouragement which they bring.

This angel being transported through the heavens is of great importance because of her last day message and the uniqueness of her position in the sky. Incidentally she is one of the great, if not the greatest sign of the end of the age. Gideon (Judg. 6:22) and Manoah (Judg. 13:21), both referred to the angel of the Lord as being masculine. We have referred to this messenger as being feminine for it is the perfected church, the Bride of Christ. She is being transferred to that place which the Lord has prepared

as a shelter and refuge for her during the entirety of the tribulation period. The power of the Spirit of the Lord will convey her into that very special, beautiful, safe haven for the three and one half years of the great tribulation, or a times, time and half of a time. Rev. 12:14 The only reference made in the book of Revelation to the tribulation period is three and one half years, never seven.

PASSING (Dated May 31, 2010)

Greetings:

Due to the home going of my dear wife, my companion and confident of 70 years (April 18) at the age of 95 (May 25) these studies may at times miss a day in the coming week.

The Lord willing they will continue as long as He gives me the Word and capability.

For those of you who knew the illness of my (wife) and prayed for us, a heartfelt thank you and the Lord bless you.

*Yours in Christ,
C. J. McKnight*

[Jean McKnight Obituary](#)

SIGNS 46

Events such as the angel flying across the sky are not localized happenings but will be seen and heard world wide, for all who are left behind when the Bride is taken out must hear the message of impending doom. Most definitely not something which will be received gladly by the world of that day. There are to be three more trumpets which will be sounded during the great tribulation period, which makes the deliverance of the Bride of Christ a fourth trumpet occurrence. They will span the three and one half years of the tribulation; the last of them is the seventh and will

sound at the coming of Christ or the rapture. Those who do not want to go through the tribulation are challenged to meet the requirements necessary to be in the Bride such as recorded in Eph. 5:25-27, 32 The Bride will not go through the tribulation but will be kept in a sheltered place until the close of that time.

To properly understand the book of Revelation we must know that the visions which John had were not given nor are they written in sequence. We find that there is another record of the messages declared by this angel of eagle wing power. Rev. 14:6 Her responsibility is that of the church of all ages, preach the everlasting gospel to the inhabitants of the earth. In doing so, she will fulfill the prophecy of the Lord Jesus concerning the preaching of the gospel to every tongue, tribe and nation. Mt. 24:14 What a sight, this mass of the redeemed flocking together and becoming one as they rise from all over the earth. What fear and consternation will be felt by the people of this world as they see such a sign and hear such tremendous words. With such an amazing sign, sight, and word there will surely be those who repent and give head to their last message. When they stand true to the gospel they will be martyred for their faith the Lord Jesus. Rev. 15:2-3, Rev. 7:13-14, Rev. 20:4

With a voice of authority and great power not unlike the thunderous voice of the Almighty Himself the Bride will exhort the hearers to Fear God. Rev. 14:7 Like the heroes of faith, (what an amazing list of martyrs), (Heb. 11) the people who come to the Lord during the tribulation period will receive a great reward for their faithfulness to the gospel, in the most difficult time in the history of mankind to live a Christian life. The vast majority of those who come to Christ during the tribulation will be converts of the two witnesses, whose message will be that of declaring that Jesus was the Messiah. Take notice that they sing the song of Moses, the Law giver and the song of the Lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ. Rev. 15:3 The Lord's two witnesses will spend their entire time in Jerusalem giving forth a witness to the Son of God, the Messiah. Rev. 11:8

SIGNS 47

Following the Angel/Bride who alone has the responsibility of preaching the gospel, is a second voice, an angel with a great pronouncement pertaining

to Babylon (meaning; to confound, confusion). Rev. 14:8 A picture of the last day amalgamated religion which embraces all and everything, lumped into one entity. This has to be a pronouncement before the fact. One of those situations where in the mind of the Lord it is accomplished but its actual fulfillment is in the future. The tangible happening is further explained in other statements made in the book of Revelation. Isaiah gave a prophetic utterance where he declared that the day would come where seven women would grab hold of one man just for the privilege of the use of his name as a covering of their reproach. They would eat their own bread, i.e. maintain their own doctrine. Wear their own apparel, i.e. follow their ritualistic form of worship, only, let us be called by your name. Isa. 4:1

The third angel will make it plain that the great tribulation is beginning. His message contains a strong warning relating to the coming actions of the people concerning their attitude toward the antichrist. Rev. 14:9 They are given notice that to worship the antichrist (beast) or his image or receive his mark in their hand or forehead will cause the wrath of God to come upon them. The horrific, full and absolute eternal judgment of the Lord will be upon those who participate in the world of the antichrist. Their punishment as recorded must be considered the very harshest of all who are disobedient to the Lord. Rev. 14:10-11 Consider though, the mercy of the Lord, in giving warning before the fact. Those who participate in the reign of the antichrist will not do so blindly.

Here, once again, we find that there are those who go into the tribulation period who are considered to be saints of the Lord. Like those who sing the song of Moses and the Lamb they are seen keeping the commandments and the faith of Jesus Christ. Rev. 14:12 These who resist every effort of the forces of the antichrist to convert them to his ways have a special blessing pronounced upon them. It is definite that they will die as martyrs for the Lord. Therefore a very special blessing is pronounced upon them. Their stand for Christ is rewarded with rest and their faithfulness will be benefited greatly. Rev. 14:13 Even though some man made doctrines say otherwise there are several statements made by the scriptures which show beyond the shadow of a doubt that there will be those who have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ but were spiritually at a low tide when the Bride was gathered, therefore missed their opportunity to be delivered from the great tribulation. While we are not there yet, it never hurts to get ready.

Many thanks for your e-mails of condolence. cjm

SIGNS 48

This is the first of the three woes which belong to the tribulation period. It is introduced by the sounding of the fifth trumpet. The actions which are about to be taken are the result of a being of light, a star who will fall from a high and holy position, i.e. heaven. The key of the bottomless pit was surrendered to him. Thus we know that the bottomless pit, a continuous descent, or an eternal expulsion, is in existence even now. Rev. 9:1 It may be compared to what is now known as a black hole in space. A whirling dervish which consumes everything that approaches it. Other bodies in space, once entering its territory do not appear again. Even light is swallowed up by these dark holes. They certainly are an example of this bottomless pit. From its very name we understand that we are dealing with that which is eternal.

Both Joel and Peter make mention of some last day events which it will be well for us to consider here. First of all, they speak of a revival. An outpouring of the Spirit which will have to be the final move of the Lord. It will be a sweep of the world, with the glory of the Lord. A work of the spirit such as has never been. The Lord must visit this generation, in mercy, with an opportunity to repent before the mighty judgments of the Lord are fulfilled, as we are finding in the Word. Joel 2:29, Acts 2:18 There is a reason for this message preceding the declaration of the fearful signs which will be made manifest in the end of the age.

We are studying some of the celestial and terrestrial signs which are to be seen before the coming of the Lord Jesus. It would be easy to attribute some of these signs to natural occurrences, for instance, pillars of smoke. We see that kind of an occurrence when a volcano erupts and there have been several blow up recently. However, in the prophecy, the Lord said that what would take place originated with a work which He would do. Joel 2:30, Acts 2:19 With the opening of the bottomless pit we find a column of smoke proceeding from its mouth akin to that of a huge furnace. This is not a minor situation but like all of the demonstrations of judgment will be of cataclysmic size and effect on the earth and the air. This smoke cloud is so

intense that it will cut off the light of the sun. Remember, in the signs we are not dealing with localized happenings but things which will have great consequences on the whole world. Rev. 9:2 When the Lord judged Sodom and Gomorrah and Abraham looked in the valley he saw that the fire and brimstone had annihilated the cities and that there was a smoke like unto that which was proceeding from a great furnace. Gen. 19:28 That speaks volumes.

SIGNS 49

Generally the sixth trumpet is placed in the time allotted the great tribulation and that is the proper place for it. One thing about its fulfillment deserves our full attention before we consider the rest of the happenings which take place under its sounding. The big hurt is to be placed upon all who do not have the seal of the Lord in their foreheads. Rev. 9:4 If all are raptured at the beginning of the tribulation why is there a distinction made between those who have the seal and those who do not have the seal. In other words there will be saints on the earth during the tribulation period. But this ungodly horde are forbidden to touch them.

What John saw and could only describe as appearing as locusts are wicked and vile spirits emerging from the pit. They are given the capability of injecting their victims with a poison similar to that of scorpions. They do not consume the grass or any green thing or any tree, which would indicate that they are other than natural locusts. Rev. 9:3-4 Their sting will not kill but will create a tormenting sickness and swelling for a period of five months. Rev. 9:6 Interesting, inasmuch as five is the number of atonement. So intense is the suffering cause by their sting, that during that period of time men will seek to die but cannot, for death will have been removed from the capability of all men. Just think of the consequences of people who have other illnesses which would cause death but it will be impossible for anyone to die of any illness. Rev. 9:7

While what we are seeing is very definitely in the spiritual realm; However, John in his description sounds as if he were describing a B-20 of World War 2 fame. They were distinguished by having a tail gunner which made it dangerous to attack them from behind. They are hideous looking creatures and will help bring the world into submission to the antichrist. The fact that

they have a king, a leader, a ruler who reigns and guides them is another indication that these are evil spirits or fallen angels, followers of Satan. He is the angel of darkness and unrighteousness ruling over the bottomless pit. Ultimately there is no question as to the identity of this mass of wickedness for the one who has rule over them is named, in the Hebrew Abaddon, meaning, ruin, destruction or perdition. In the Greek language he is known as Apollyon, the destroyer. These names fit him perfectly and describe the horribly destructive nature which is founding him. He has nothing with which he can benefit mankind in any way but contrary wise everything he touches is ultimately to be destroyed. He is the god of destruction.

SIGNS 50

I think of the three woes being spaced out over the entire tribulation period. The first at the beginning, as an introduction to the tribulation. The second in the middle and the third, one of a variety of extreme judgments which will be experienced at the close of the tribulation and will introduce the second coming or what is called the rapture.

A voice, a sound, a command from the midst of the horns of the golden altar. The golden altar was the article of furniture which stood back to back with the Ark of the Covenant, only separated by the curtain. Incense was offered before it which was symbolic of the prayers of the saints. Note that there is activity before the altar, that is the offering of the prayers of the saint and then the seven trumpets begin to sound. Rev. 8:3-6 When we go back to the fifth seal we find the persecuted martyrs praying for the Lord to avenge their deaths upon those responsible. They are told to wait until the sum of martyrs reaches its full complement. Rev. 6:9-11 The second woe is therefore related to the prayers of the saints and what takes place is in response to their mistreatment.

Four angels which are bound, are about to be loosed on the people dwelling on the earth during the reign of the antichrist. The fact that they are under restraint plus their activity would indicate that they are fallen angels. Their place of incarceration is given as being the great river Euphrates. The Euphrates was the fourth, the last river mentioned as flowing out of Eden and may be likened to that last day amalgamated false

church. Their release is another great tragedy for the inhabitants of the world at that period of time. Like all of the events which the Lord has scheduled for these last times, the dates for their fulfillment has been determined. The Lord has definitely programmed all of His works. Not only has the time element been prescheduled but the number of people who are slain by them are likewise preset at one third of the population of the world. Rev. 9:14 The army composed of horsemen which they will lead is numbered at two hundred million that is more than the population of many countries of the world. The powers of darkness which are in control of the world during the tribulation have nothing of good or of value to offer the world during that time. It will be a time of unlimited wickedness. Every evil act and purpose that can be thought of will be practiced without restraint. Even today there is a movement around the world to do away with all restraints and have a society that is out of control. All this will intensify and reach its climax in the tribulation. That is the reason for these horrendous judgments.

SIGNS 51

The description of this ungodly army is terrorizing to say the least. What tremendous fear the world will experience when these beastly beings of deadly destruction are loosed on the people. It is well that we remember that the condition of society in that day will be one of unrestrained wickedness. The world will be totally committed to the powers of darkness. Most unfortunately, it must be said that they will receive what they deserve. There is no other way of describing the means whereby they wreak their destruction, other than to say what John has recorded is what will be seen and experienced. A horse is a symbol of power, warfare and terror. If these creatures are not horses their appearance will be even more terrifying. Rev. 9:17

The description of the manifestation as given, is exactly that which shall take place. We may discern that by the statement that one third of the population of the earth is killed by their weapons of annihilation, which are fire, smoke and brimstone. Rev. 9:18-19 The result is a hideous death by the flames of hell for that number of human beings. The description given of heads as lions and tails as serpents is evidence that these are ungodly

forces. Both beastly symbols may be attributed to the powers of darkness. Satan masquerades as a roaring lion and is known as that old serpent.

Verse nineteen speaks of a hurt being put on the people in that day. When we read verse twenty we see that hurt was unto death. This disaster is called a “plagues” (plural) by John. In other words, each (any one) of these elements of destruction will have the identical effect on the people who will be killed by them. The peoples of the earth by this time will not have a heart to even be moved toward repentance. They are steeped in satanic worship. That is why even now we see more and more turning to the occult and worship of demoniac powers, often hidden in mysticism and eastern religions. They are also given to the idolatry of every kind. Even in our day there are trends, in every avenue of life, which are established by idols, by people whom others adore and seek to emulate. Of course, in that day the main object of worship will be the living image of the antichrist. Rev. 13:15 Their complete rejection of repentance made a deep impression on John. Their continuation in their sin enables us to foresee what type of a world this will be during the tribulation period. In every avenue of life, in that day, there will be an overwhelming increase of the four areas of sin mentioned by John. Rev. 9:21 Thank the Lord for the golden opportunity offered us today, for if we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

SIGNS 52

The fifth and sixth trumpets initiate the first and second woe. Thus the seventh trumpet will initiate the third woe. The seventh trumpet being the last of the series will make it also to be the trumpet which will usher in the return of Christ. The time of the catching up and resurrection of the righteous dead, termed the rapture. In a series the last is the last, which is in this case the seventh trumpet. This trumpet sound will be the beginning of a series of events which will culminate in the glorious return of Christ. But first, the third woe which is to be executed in a brief period of time.

John related that he saw an astounding and marvelous huge sign in heaven, seven angels, having the seven last plagues (the third woe). They are the executors of the exceeding great wrath of God. Rev. 15:1 We are reminded that there had been a visitation of angel with a strong warning.

Saying; that all who succumbed to worship the beast and his image as well as receive his mark in their forehead or hand would drink of the wine of the wrath of God. Rev. 14:9-10 Fair enough warning, but unfortunately unheeded. The return of Christ is an exceedingly great day for the redeemed who anticipate His return. For the ungodly it is the day when the harvest is gathered into the winepress and they are completely eliminated. Crushed like grapes in the winepress of the Almighty. Rev. 14:19-20

Our attention is drawn to one of the reasons there will be such tremendous judgment manifest against the inhabitants of the earth under the third woe. Also the fact that there will be believers who enter the tribulation and die as martyrs. Standing on a beautiful glowing fire like sea of glass are these who were victorious over the temptation to follow along and worship the beast and his image. The likewise did not give in to receiving his number or his name. Their song makes them to be those who believed the witness and testimony of the two witnesses, for they sing the song of Moses and of the Lamb. They have come to faith that Jesus was their Messiah. Rev. 15:2

The seven angels, originate from the temple in heaven. That would make them to be attendants at the throne of the Lord. Their clothing, pure and white (Gr. Lampros, radiant, shining with the glory of the Lord), linen a sign of righteousness. They represent the righteous and just judgment of the Lord. Girded about with a golden belt or sash, representing the righteousness, the purity and the extreme value of the glory of the Lord.

SIGNS 53

Without going into detail and identifying the four beasts, (better translation, living creatures, for they are not animals). Let it be said that they are four men who have had a special ministry on earth and now, before the throne of the Lord. The description given of them is symbolic of their ministry. One of these four is delegated to pass out seven vials or bowls which are filled to the brim with the wrath of God. Rev. 15:7

As much as the Love of God is an essential part of His nature and being, so is Divine wrath. A fury, stirred by the rejection of His tremendous love for humanity. A love which was exemplified in the giving of the life of His Son as the price of redemption for all of mankind. His anger is righteous and

just, none will have to face who that have done His will. These actions will be taken.” Because they believed not in God, and trusted not in His salvation. Ps. 78:22 This will be exercised against a society which has fully rejected the Lord and who have given themselves totally to the antichrist and his kingdom. Thus, they are worthy of what they will receive. Because He is eternal, and the spirit of man is eternal, these judgments will usher the ungodly into a devils eternity. There are no clearer words concerning His right to take action than those uttered at the conclusion of the third vial and again when the great harlot is judged; “Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.” Rev. 16:7 Rev. 19:2 There is no higher court, not further appeal; the time has arrived when the world will be punished for its negative response to His great and mighty love.

The heavenly temple on this occasion will be filled with smoke caused by the glory of the Lord. It is rightly said; that where there is smoke there is fire. The holy fire, the all consuming fire (Heb. 12:29) which is the glory of the Lord literally filled, crammed to overflowing that holy, heavenly place. There was not a nook or a cranny which the presence of the Holy One left empty. It was jammed full. Get the picture? O, the glory of His presence, how wonderful, how marvelous. It is the manifestation of His power, which is all power in heaven and on earth. Mat. 28:18

This is the inauguration of the days immediately preceding the return of Christ. The world is about to see Him coming in flaming fire at which time they will be excluded eternally from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power. 2 Thes. 1:8-9 There is no question concerning the time element here for Paul continued writing and said that this would take place when He came to be glorified in His saints. 2 Thes. 1:10 The temple is closed. The door of salvation is shut. NO ONE, not even the righteous will enter in until the seven angels are finished with their tasks.

SIGNS 54

The command is given to begin to pour out the vials of wrath upon the inhabitants of the earth, by a great voice, the voice of the Lord. A period of extreme punishment is about to begin as one by one the vials are emptied on the people of the earth. Rev. 16:1

The contents of the first vial are directed toward those who had taken the mark (charagma, a scratch, etching or a stamp as a sign of servitude. Strong's Dict.) of the beast, or the antichrist. While chips are of interest and most definitely a forerunner they are not to be the mark of the beast. The word used by John very definitely indicates a tattoo in the right hand or forehead. It will have the capabilities of a chip and perhaps even greater ability to identify the whole history of the individual. Rev. 16:2 The popularity of tattoos today is unquestionably a method whereby people are being prepared for an easy reception of the antichrist's mark when it is offered. Marks in the flesh as well as cutting the flesh (practiced among some youth today to get a high) were not to be practiced by the people of God. Lev. 19:28 Minor, perhaps but still an indication of the end of the age.

We have already noted in our study that there is a very special angel with a special message which will warn the people of the consequences if they receive the mark, number of name, or worship the antichrist. In so doing they will be the recipients of the full, fiery wrath of God both, while in this world and throughout eternity. Rev. 14:9-10 To submit to the impartation of the mark will seal the doom of any who allow it to be placed on their skin. Rev. 14:11 To accept the mark is to seal forever the consignment of that soul to eternal damnation. It is not a toy or a light matter. It is a life and death decision. It will be a law that all must receive the mark regardless of their status in life. If they want to buy or sell the mark becomes their licenses for their commercial actions. Rev. 13:16-17

The contents of the first vial are aimed directly toward the mark. It is like the center of a target and the angel will not miss. Each and every individual who has that mark on them will break out instantly with a putrefying ulcer in the skin where the mark is imprinted. The destiny of all those who take that mark for any reason is instantly and eternally sealed the moment they receive it. Rev. 16:2 It is an extremely serious disease breaking out and no doubt quickly spreading to infect the whole of their bodies. It is termed noisome, bad, harmful and no doubt very painful. Then John for emphasis added that it is a grievous sore, painful, hurtful and evil. Not a thing to be played with. Rev. 16:2

SIGNS 55

Comparing the works of Moses with the vials this would be like the boils that came upon the Egyptians. We should take note here that the people of Israel were still in Egypt at this time but were not touched by any of the judgments. They were sheltered in the land of Goshen, as the Bride will be during the great tribulation. Standing in the sight of Pharaoh, Moses took the ashes of a furnace and cast them up towards the heavens. Ex. 9:8 The furnace in the scriptures is a type of affliction as may readily be seen in this case. Festering boils broke out on all the Egyptians and their cattle as well. What is impressive is that the magicians who had copied Moses now could not even move around to come and stand before him to resist him. Ex. 9:11 They were filled with boils and pain.

The second vial is a punishment which will cause the seas of the world to be instantly changed into blood, like the blood of a dead man, death would make blood to become putrefied. This of course would cut off the oxygen in the water causing all sea life to perish. Which in turn would cause the sea waters of the world to give off an unbearable stench of corrupting blood and fish. Rev. 16:3 There had been a warning along these lines under the impact of the second trumpet, where only one third of the sea became blood and one third of the sea creatures die. Rev. 8:8-9 In the days of Moses only the fresh water was turned into blood. It made no difference where the water was, in the river or in a vessel at home it was all turned into blood. Ex. 7:19 The oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico is having an impact on a good sized part of the gulf area. What will it be like when all salt water, all over the world becomes blood.

All of these events are world wide. The third vial will cause the fresh water from all sources to be turned into blood. Even bottled water will not escape being turned into blood. Rev. 16:4 We have already noted that this too was one of the accomplishments of Moses and Aaron in Egypt. That was local, this will have an influence on all the waters of the world. The same with the sea, previous to this time the Lord had sent a warning which was evidenced by one third of the waters becoming bitter, causing the death of those who drank of the poisoned waters. Rev. 8:10 Such stern punishment is declared to be just and righteous for it is an act of retaliation for the shedding of the blood of saints and prophets, as well as the blood of Christ.

They are deserving of the punishment which is being given them. Rev. 16:6 This being the appropriate action is verified by two witnesses. The one who is named the angel of waters and the voice of the angel who spoke from the altar. Rev. 16:7 The twofold witness required in salvation. The water and the blood. 1 John 5:6

SIGNS 56

Celestial displays are a very definite part of the last day order. With the pouring out of the fourth vial the sun will suddenly become considerably hotter until its shining will be like fire on the earth. They will be seared by the intense heat and curse the Lord because of the extreme heat. Rev. 16:8 Oddly enough, we are already in a period of time where the earth is becoming warmer and warmer. What we are experiencing today is definitely not what will take place under the impact of the fourth seal. However, it is a warning that such a thing can take place and it most definitely will. We recall also that there will be a time during this great tribulation period where all the celestial bodies will be darkened for a third of their shining and the third of the day and night will be darkened. Rev. 8:12 This is an event which precedes the second coming of the Lord Jesus. Acts 2:20 Jesus definitely stated that there would be signs in the heavens and of earth preceding His return. Luke 21:25-27 Then, and only then, will they see the Son of Man coming in a loud and with great glory. We know it is the time of the rapture because He comes in the clouds.

The reaction of the peoples of the earth is what would be expected under such circumstances. They are extremely ungodly at the time of this manifestation. They have served the antichrist and worshiped him. They are very anti-God. Even now it is common to hear the unsaved cursing God and using His name in vain. There will be no feeling of wrong doing and most definitely will not feel it necessary to repent or feel Godly sorrow for all their ungodly deeds. Rev. 16:9

The fifth vial is directed toward the throne of the antichrist. The throne of mocker and imitation. The anti-god kingdom will then display its true nature, a kingdom of darkness. A darkness like that which took place in Egypt where they did not move for three days. A darkness so intense that they could literally feel it. No Egyptian moved for three days. That is gross

darkness. Ex. 10:21-23 They gnaw their tongues because of the past situations and the darkness was so severe that it caused pain. From past and present happenings they have every reason to be in great pain. The record is that they will react in that manner because of their pains (plural) and their sores (plural). So one source of pain will not have ceased before they begin to hurt from another source. They continued to blaspheme God and found themselves to be incapable of any sort of repentance. It is not a day of salvation. The Lord has given us today as a time to prepare to enter into His plan for the end of the ages. If we miss what He has for us and come to the day of no repentance, then it is for eternity.

SIGNS 57

The sixth vial has a profound effect on the great river Euphrates (the good and abounding river). In the natural it is the longest river in Western Asia flowing some 1,780 miles. It has two rivers which form its head waters. The Frat or Kara-su, (the black river), and the Muradchai, (the river of desire). Just the meaning of the names of these two rivers is sufficient to show that anything associated with this river carries a sinful connotation. We take note also of the fact that it was the last one of the four which flowed out of the Garden of Eden. Gen. 2:14 Being the last of four it is the river of the end of the age. It depicts the political and religious spirit of the antichrist which will prevail during the great tribulation period just prior to the second coming of Christ. The system will cease, the river will be dried up opening the way for the kings of the east (the sun rising). Rev. 16:12 The Sun of righteousness (the Lord Jesus) Mal. 4:2 shall arise in the east; Jesus said that He would be coming from the East. Mt. 24:7 The coming of the kings of the East (or the sun rising) is the coming of the King of kings, with His people who are made to be kings and priests unto the Lord, Jude 1:14.

The ungodly trio composed of the devil, the antichrist and the false prophet regurgitate three unclean spirits which are as ugly and as slimy as frogs. Rev. 16:14 Frogs overflowing the land, invading their houses and even their beds was also one of the plagues which the Lord sent upon Egypt. Ex. 8:1-14 When the frogs died off the whole land smelled of their dying carcasses. These vile, filthy, stinking spirits will subdue every opposition and completely dominate the earth and its peoples. They are in absolute control. They deceive the world once again by working convincing miracles.

The time element involved here is of prime importance. The purpose of the unclean spirits is to gather the armies of the world to do battle against the Lord. This is the day of the great battle of God Almighty and the unclean host of the world of the antichrist. This is also the day when the Lord Jesus will return as a thief in the night. Rev. 16:15 These are one and the same day. The oddity here is that they prepare for that day, there had to have been a warning, but because of unbelief that day will come upon them like a thief in the night. They are readied for battle but do not believe that it is the second coming of the Lord Jesus. This battle has already been named by the Lord and He has called it the battle of Armageddon. The great day, His coming as a thief and the battle of Armageddon are all one and the same event occurring at the close of the great tribulation period. Rev. 16:16 The scripture plainly marks the time of the return of Christ to be at the close of the great tribulation.

SIGNS 58

It is true. The Lord Jesus is coming back as a thief. Just think of it. Jesus warned the church at Sardis that there was a need for them to refresh their spiritual life by reviving what spirituality remained among them. To hold fast and REPENT (key word) for if they did not watch He would come to them at an unexpected hour. He called attention to those who were yet maintaining a standard of purity declaring that they would walk before Him in white. Rev. 3:2-4 We have before us a church, a group which had known the power of the Lord in their midst but had cooled down to such a degree that He called them dead. Rev. 3:1 To those who fail to repent there is a dire warning of the possibility of their names being blotted out of the book of life. Rev. 3:5 His appearing will be a complete surprise to those who are of such low spirituality. To them He will come as a thief.

In spite of what men say, there are those who will not be surprised by the coming of the Lord Jesus a second time. Paul, writing to the church in Thessalonica wrote that there was no need for him to write concerning the times and the seasons. What he did write is beautifully stated, "For you know perfectly that the day of the Lord comes as a thief in the night." 1 Thess. 5:2 They well understood the teaching which they had received from him and others pertaining to the second coming.

Now, what do we believe today? Is Jesus coming as a thief to the whole world? Even Christians being in the dark concerning the appearance of the signs which precede His coming. So much so that His coming is a surprise to them as well as the unsaved? Paul said to the church of that day, and this, that they are not in darkness that day should overtake them as a thief in the night. 1 Thess. 5:4 We are children of light and not of the darkness. We walk in light and not in the dark. Definitely, some signs are, even now, in the process of fulfillment but in these studies we have been looking at a number of signs and events which are not as yet even in sight. As we continue we will discover even more dealings which precede His coming. Now, consider the words of Peter. That day will come exactly as predicted, as a thief in the night. But what will happen in that night? The heavens will pass away with what will be probable the loudest sound ever heard. Talk about a big bang. The elements of the universe will melt with what will have to be the greatest burst of heat ever. All the works, of all men, of all ages will be completely consumed by fire. Nothing left but ashes. All these things shall be dissolved. The second coming is not a casual happening which will capture the imagination of the world and press. They won't even be around to report it, nor will anyone else. His coming is complete annihilation for all sinners.

SIGNS 59

There are a number of events associated with the second coming. It cannot be something which is not known. We have a visitation of one who is declared by John to be an angel. However when we see the description that he gave of this heavenly visitor He could be none other than the Lord Jesus. He is mighty, powerful and valiant. He is clothed with a cloud. The glory of the Lord is to be found in the cloud. Ex. 16:10 The Lord Jesus is the mercy seat and the glory of the Lord would appear on the mercy seat in a cloud. Lev. 16:2 He is destined to return in a cloud of glory. Luke 21:27

His crown is that of the rainbow. Rev. 10:1 Not seen here, as so often seen on earth, as a semi circle but a complete circle. A crown which indicates the fullness of the Godhead dwelling in Him. Col. 2:9 The rainbow with its three primary colors is a type of the unity and the beauty to be found in the Lord. The sign of the covenant that the Lord made after the flood was the bow in

the cloud. Note that He said it is My bow. Also that it is the evidence of the His covenant never to flood the whole earth again. Gen. 9:13 When the Lord made covenant He involved Himself in it as the one who bore full responsibility for keeping it. The bow is seen around the throne of the Lord in heaven. Eze. 1:28

It should be no surprise that His face shines as the sun. He is the Sun of righteousness. Mal. 4:2 John had seen Him previously and proclaimed that His face was shining as the sun in full strength. Rev. 1:16 If His face shines as the sun in all of its strength, and the Word said so, then the light which shines around the throne is seven times greater than ordinary sunlight. Isa. 30:26 Heaven is lightened with a brilliancy that is absolutely staggering. Heaven is a place of exquisite beauty and light. The glory of the Lord will light it up in a majestic fashion. The Lamb is its light. Rev. 21:23

His feet as pillar of fire. Rev. 10:1 Thereby making it known that the world will be judged by Him at the time of His coming. 2 Tim. 4:1 That judgment is to be a judgment of fire. The ungodly are judged and sentenced by His coming. He is coming with the flaming fire of the presence of the Lord and will take vengeance on those who do not follow Him. 2 Thess. 1:8 Pretty hard for sinners to bypass this display and make their way into the thousand year day of rest. Factually, they will not be found after this event. They are utterly destroyed from off the face of the earth. If they could somehow escape and gain entrance into the Millennium, it would take but a second for them to realize that they were in the wrong place. They would not like its purity and holiness.

SIGNS 60

This most extraordinary person is holding a "little book" in His hand, which is opened. The book opened would indicate that the time had come for the things written therein should come to pass. The book is not identified. (Rev. Kevin Connor identifies it as the book of Daniel). Inasmuch as the prophecies of the book of Daniel reach their climax in the book of Revelation it makes for a good connection. The actions taken by this angel are spectacular. He stands on the sea and land, in contact with both elements which make up the earth. His voice as awe inspiring as the roar of a lion, therefore it has to be loud, he declared a special message,

accompanied by the bursting forth of seven thunders, or voices, whose message was sealed. A message is given by the creator of all, that time would be no more. Rev. 10:2-6

Here is a key verse in relationship to the time of the second coming of Christ. It is not instantaneous as some would like us to believe. We take notice that the word “days” as used in Rev. 10:7 is in the plural. There is every indication given in the book of Revelation that His second coming will cover a period of time. Concerning the sounding of the seventh trumpet there is an inference to a span of time involved, however short. Because, “when he shall begin to sound” does not have an instantaneous ring to it. This will bring the mystery of God to a finish. There definitely is a period at the extreme close of the tribulation period when under the sound of the seventh trumpet, the last one, the seven last plagues are fulfilled. Rev. 15 They require a definite period of time for each of them to be fully carried out and their purpose accomplished. Unquestionably there will not be a long time spent in carrying out these plagues but we have to know that they will very definitely be linked to a time element.

The teaching of Christ’s coming in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye originated from Paul’s statement in 1 Cor. 15:51-52 However the subject of which he is writing is the CHANGE (v.51) which takes place in our mortal BODIES at that moment, or an atom of time. It is an instantaneous action or as Paul said; “in the twinkling of an eye.” This will take place at the time of the sounding of the last or the seventh trumpet. The only thing instantaneous about it is the change which is made in the bodies, alive or dead, of those who have had faith in God and have demonstrated it in this life. What a glorious hope we have in knowing that the Lord Jesus will come and we, whether alive or in the grave, will be granted a spiritual body. A body bearing a similarity to the one we now occupy, only spiritual and eternal.

SIGNS 61

“It is done.” Rev. 16:17 That does not mean that this is the end but rather that it is the beginning of the very end. The impact of the seventh angel is the key to the final actions, which most definitely will consume a short

period of time. It is interesting to note that this period is started with four events, any one of which could strike great fear in the heart of those who are exposed to them. Four is the number of the earth, four quarters, four seasons, etc. Especially the granddaddy of all earthquakes will strike extreme terror in the hearts of the people. Rev. 16:18 The effect of this great earthquake on the earth is tremendous. So powerful that the topography of the earth will be completely altered. The islands flee, the mountains are destroyed, hail weighing approximately one hundred twenty five pounds each fall from the skies causing men to curse God. Rev. 16:20-21

The great city Babylon. The name attributed to the great harlot church and in particular the city in which its headquarters will be situated. A city not too difficult to identify for the Lord called her Sodom and Egypt, the city where our Lord was crucified, and we know from the scriptures exactly what that means. Rev. 11:8 She will be consumed by the fierceness of the wrath of the Almighty. That sounds extremely ominous, who can know the extent and power of such pent up anger. The name the Angel gave the city was not very complementary, that is, the great harlot, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS. Rev. 17:5

It is worthwhile to take cognizance of some similarities between the true Bride of Christ and this false church. In the first place both are stated to be religious women. In order for John to see the false woman it was necessary that he be transported into the wilderness. Rev. 17:3 The true church will have been in the wilderness for the entire time of the tribulation period. Rev. 12:6 The true church is recognized as being the Mother of us all. Gal. 4:26 While the false church is the MOTHER OF HARLOTS. Rev. 17:5 The woman in Revelation twelve is clothed, crowned and standing on things celestial. Rev. 12:1 The harlot is clothed with the costly things of this world. Rev. 17:4 There is a mystery which concerns Christ and His church. Eph. 5:32 The mystery of the great harlot is revealed in her intense wickedness. As the Bride of Christ will be the epitome of all that is righteous and holy, so this religious/political system will be the full essence of all that is corrupt and unrighteous. The description that Jesus gave of the Pharisees would certainly fit this false church. Not only whitewashed but clothed with the garments of wealth while inwardly filled with dead men's bones. Mt. 23:27 The blood of saints and prophets is to found in her. Rev. 17:6

SIGNS 62

This harlot woman is an exceedingly striking figure. John when viewing her was awe stricken with her great beauty. He stood looking at her with great admiration. Rev. 17:6 It is an illustration of how deceptive the powers of darkness can be. The appeal of Satan is a facade with which he decorates sin. Especially at the period of time just prior to the tribulation, when the Bride of Christ will have prepared herself. The end of the age is marked by the deceptions perpetrated by the powers of darkness. Most unfortunately many, even church, good and longtime, members are deceived because they only hear with the natural ear the message of the Word and are not doers, whereby they deceive themselves into thinking that they are ready for any eventuality. Jas. 1:22 Tell me this is not an end time sign when evil persons become more wicked and at the same time more clever in “pulling off” their scams. Paul predicted that it would be an indication of the end. 2 Tim. 3:13 The amazing thing is that though people are warned constantly there is no end of the deceptions practiced and committed by unscrupulous persons. That comes about because they are living in an atmosphere of deception and are living a life of dishonesty therefore are easily trapped and exploited.

There is another item in this verse in Rev. 17:6 which needs to be emphasized; that being that this city, this woman, is responsible to a very high degree of the murders of innocents. Jesus addressing the religionist of His days, the Scribes and Pharisees really spoke exceedingly plain to them calling them serpents and vipers. Mt. 23:33 He then posed a question to them that must have stung them deeply by asking how they could possibly escape the damnation of hell. They were guilty of shedding blood, beginning with Able and though he gave a concluding name, that of Zacharias he later was to enlarge on His charges and include Jerusalem. Mt. 23:35-37 This equates her with the woman of Rev. 17:6 She is guilty of the shedding of the blood of saints (Old Testament believers) and the martyrs of Jesus, (those who are Christians yet enter the tribulation or come to faith through the witness and testimony of the two witnesses, Moses and Elijah.)

While men have attributed this horrible, yet beautiful creature to many cities of the world, there is only the one which is so definitely identified. She is named and then her actions over the years past and the prophecy of the future, make it easy to identify her. The words that John heard that day may be applied to only one city which has the blood of the old prophets and the blood of the Holy Apostles marked on her streets. All of heaven joins in the rejoicing over her demise. Rev. 18:20

SIGNS 63

A call for separation addressed to those who are the real people of the Lord. Its message is pertinent to the church of today. We are living in the day of the "beginning," the formation of all these things. If we will carefully listen, we will hear that heavenly voice calling for His people not to be united with the admixture, the compromise that is found in the harlot church. By the time this portion of the prophecy is accomplished it will be too late to find any in the harlot church who have not submitted to its doctrines and practices. Rev. 18:4 The message bearer is of great interest for He possesses great power and is so brilliant that the glory, which is a part of His nature, lightens up the whole earth. Who could He possibly be but the Lord Jesus. Rev, 18:1

The angel then related the spiritual condition of the false church with a plea to pass strong judgment upon her. The cause, her sins have reached unto heaven. Actually it started in heaven with the sin and fall of Lucifer. The tribulation period will be a time of freedom from all that would hinder sin. Extreme ungodliness will be the order of the day. Therefore, like in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah, the wickedness was so great that the Lord could no longer overlook nor tolerate it and was moved to take action to stop it. Rev. 18:5

The Bride of Christ, as she approaches the great tribulation will be formed out of a tremendous, pure, move of the Spirit creating holiness as never before seen in the church. The scripture depicts it as being the double or full portion. In other words being filled with all the fullness of God. Eph. 3:19 The harlot church will also receive her double portion of judgment for she is the very epitome, the essence of all that is wicked and vile. The volume of her pride and wicked works are the measuring stick which will determine

her punishment. Rev. 18:6-7 In this case it is a matter of the deceived, deceiving themselves. She sits secure in her own mind convinced that she is invincible. Isaiah is prophesying to Israel, and then suddenly, addressed them in this manner, "O virgin daughter of Babylon." Isa. 47:1 Thus, Israel is identified as Babylon. Likewise he called her "the lady of kingdoms." Isa. 47:5 Here too she declared that she would not be a widow, nor childless. Isa. 47:8 However the Lord has a different situation for her. In one day that which she had proclaimed in such confidence would come upon her, as a sentence, and she would be bereft of both husband and children. Her judgment would be the very absolutely perfect or complete because of the manifold demonstration of the occult and witchcraft exercised by her. Isa. 47:9 In the foolishness of her overwhelming pride she considered herself to be even as the Lord. Isa. 47:10

SIGNS 64

In one day her plagues will come, Rev. 18:8, in one hour she will be judged, Rev. 18:10, in one hour she is made desolate, Rev. 18:19. How quickly the great harlot city will be judged with a judgment of fire. Thus we see the day and the hour of the fullness of the wrath of the Almighty as it is manifest against those people and powers which were against Him. He will do a quick work in a brief period of time. If there is one word which exemplifies the atmosphere of the age at that moment of time, it should be unlimited fear. The mighty hand of the Lord will be made know in such force and in such extensive and unusual happenings, that the hearts of mankind will utterly fail them for apprehension, awaiting the next demonstration of the power of the Lord. Luke 21:26

The tribulation is waning old and it is now time to be introduced to the Lord Jesus who is preparing to return to the earth in a great display of might and power. Even John's glowing description of Him does not convey the might and majesty which will be demonstrated at His coming. His return will be the most spectacular and yet the most horrendous event of the ages of time. To the saved it is the most wonderful moment of time for it involves the resurrection of the righteous dead and the transformation of the living and the dead. They will receive bodies which are eternal. Bodies made like unto His glorious body. He returns triumphantly as the Living WORD OF

GOD and as the glorified KINGS OF KINGS, leading an army of those whom He has made to be Kings and Priests unto the Lord. Rev. 19:11-16

Strange, how all Bible Commentators agree that this is none other, nor could it possible be, than the Lord Jesus Christ who will come riding on a white horse with the armies of heaven all likewise mounted on white horses. Yet, when it comes to the first seal they make the rider to be the antichrist. Rev. 6:2. In all actuality, Rev. 19 is but an explanation, an obvious revelation, a continuation of Rev. 6. As Rev. 6 typifies the last day revival and workings of the Holy Spirit, so the leader and the armies of the heavenly armies will come empowered by the Holy Spirit. More than any other army in the history of the earth, this heavenly host will go forth conquering and to conquer. The horse is a symbol of power in warfare. Pr. 21:31 With the assistance of the power of the Spirit, we do warfare, not against the armies of mankind but against the principalities and powers of darkness. We must rely on the power of the Spirit as our strength and the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of the Lord, in order to live a victorious life and to fight a good fight unto the end. Eph. 6:17

SIGNS 65

The second coming of Christ is the warfare which has been given the name Armageddon. Rev. 16:16 The name is taken from Har Megiddo, mountain of Megiddo, or the place of the rallying of troops. It was the scene of several battles in Old Testament history. This Armageddon will not be confined to one place but will involve the whole of the earth. It is but a brief conflict between the combined armies of the world led by the antichrist and the armies of heaven led by the Lord Jesus. It is an attempt to defeat Christ at His coming and to take over dominion and rule of all that is heavenly. It is here that the seventh vial is poured out and all of its consequences are completed which include a tremendous earth destroying earthquake. The utter destruction of Babylon and the cities of the world. The manifestation of the wrath of God. All of which will completely alter the appearance of the earth. Rev. 16:17-21 Here is a question for those who believe that the cities now in existence will continue to exist during the Millennium. How could it possible be when the islands are all moved and the mountains are not to be found? Let's believe the Word and not the fanciful stories told by men.

With the entire process previously mentioned taking place how much of an engagement of troops will there be? Certainly a minor conflict as far as the time consumed in battle is concerned. John did see that those who may have escaped the cataclysmic earth changing events were killed by the sword. Rev. 19:21 Here is a question for those who believe that there will be sinners in the Millennium. How could they ever get past all this destruction. The sword of the Lord will accomplish a thorough annihilation of the ungodly. Thank the Lord for a sinless thousand years. Heaven on earth.

Here, at the conclusion of the three and one half year reign of the antichrist, he and the false prophet will be taken prisoner, still being alive, and will be violently thrown into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. This is a fitting punishment for these two deceivers and emissaries of the devil. Rev. 19:20 At the same time an angel will appear with the key to the bottomless pit and arrest the devil. Then he is bound and unceremoniously thrown into the bottomless pit where a seal is placed upon it for the thousand years. Rev. 20:1-3 With these three sources of all ungodliness incarcerated there can be nothing but the most pure and most peaceful thousand years. However we take note that the actions of the devil are not consummated for at the conclusion of the thousand years he is to be loosed for a brief season. Rev. 18:3 He is of such a stubborn nature that he does not to capitulate. His is a case of great self deception.

SIGNS 66

At the conclusion of the thousand years, at last, the final battle is scheduled to take place. It is the battle of God and Magog. This is the final conflict between the two great powers battling over the earth and the souls of mankind. It is the "little season" of Rev. 20:3 This will take place at the conclusion of the thousand years. Rev. 20:7 Satan will be loosed from prison, but not pardoned nor is his sentence altered. He is loosed for the final proof of the lying spirit that he is. He will confront the resurrected ungodly dead with a final proposition whereby they will attempt to take over the kingdom of God. The mass of people whom he will confront and deceive are those who were not involved in the first resurrection and the transformation of the bodies of those who are alive at the second coming of Christ, at the close of the tribulation. Those who are lukewarm Christians

(the unwise virgin class) consequently will not go with the bride into the wilderness but go into the tribulation period. Along with those who will come to faith through the ministry of the two witnesses, who are Moses and Elijah.

It is spelled out beautifully for those who will see what the Word of the Lord is saying, that there will be people who will have to make a life threatening decision, to accept or reject the mark of the antichrist. Because they utterly refused to take the number, the name or mark of the antichrist and they will also refuse to worship him or his image, they will be beheaded. Therefore they will be resurrected at the time of the FIRST resurrection. Rev. 20:5 There is not a resurrection of the righteous at the beginning of the tribulation, for all, from Adam to the last martyrs Moses and Elijah arise together at the time appointed by the Lord and He tells us when that time will be. Rev.20:5b Inasmuch as these martyrs are given thrones, plus the fact that they will live and reign with Christ for a thousand years, will make it necessary that the second coming to take place at the close of the tribulation, and only at that period of time. There is given to us a record of only two general resurrections, the first at the close of the great tribulation and will not include any ungodly at all. The second at the close of the thousand years and will not include any righteous persons. Rev. 20:5a

Those who are resurrected in the first resurrection are raised to life eternal with a spiritual body, made like unto the body of the Lord Jesus. His body was not spirit but spiritual. It was very real, remember he invited Thomas to touch Him and place his hands on the wounds. Luke 24:39 Along with that He showed them His wounded hands and feet, no doubt already healed but the scars are still there and will be eternally. Luke 24:40 Precious, blessed hands and feet, bearing the signs of our redemption. He also ate a piece of broiled fish and honeycomb. Luke 24:41-45 Thus we know that the eternal body is very real and tangible.

SIGNS 67

With all that has preceded the battle of Gog and Magog we are brought to an understanding that this will take place at the end of the thousand years. The people of the nations of the world are those who died outside of faith in God. Rev. 20:8 They are united from all over the world, under the

leadership of the devil. Their goal is to attack and capture the city of the saints but they are destroyed by the fire of heaven. Rev. 20:8-9 The devil is once again taken into captivity and cast into the lake of fire where the antichrist and false prophet are found. Their judgment and torment is eternal

Now it is time for all the ungodly to stand before the great white throne judgment. What an awesome and powerful throne this is, so mighty and majestic that the earth and the heavens fled from His presence. Mind you, this great white throne judgment is not for the righteous. By this time in the annals of the Lord they will have long since been declared righteous and holy. The presence of the Lord promotes purity and righteousness and He will dwell in the midst of His people during the thousand years. The judgment of the redeemed is for this age and begins in the house of the Lord. 1Peter 4:17 The great white throne judgment is one that is to be the lot of those who have been raised from the dead in the second resurrection. It is an act of the righteous judgment of the Lord. No one will have their sentence changed as they stand before the judge of the whole earth. It is a foregone conclusion that the very fact that they are assembled before His throne will pronounce their past judgment as right and proper.

At this moment of time there are books which are opened and then the book of life is also opened. So certain is the Lord of the redeemed that He had their name recorded in the Lamb's book of life, from the foundation of the world. Rev. 17:8 Those whose names have been written in the Lamb's book of life will not be deceived into worshipping the beast. The Lord in His foreknowledge had the names of the faithful written in His book. So, there is a great difference between the books and the book of Life. It may well be said that the other books are books of death. It has been proven that each and every individual under circumstances where the memory is stirred can recall the past events of their life. The brain of man is has the best recorder in the world. This vast multitude will not be called one by one but simultaneously, as one, will have judgment passed on them. None will be released from eternal damnation. All of these will be cast into the eternal lake of fire because their names were not written in the book of life. This is the second death and it is everlasting. Rev. 20:11-15

SIGNS 68

The importance of the book of Revelation may be measured by its introduction. It is declared to be the Revelation of Jesus Christ. That determines it to be of prime significance. Amazingly it is the only book in the Bible that carries with its reading, a blessing. That blessing however is determined by the ability of the reader to hear or receive its message. It is the book of the end of the age and plainly marks the last day events. Rev. 1:1-3 When it is read with understanding it will guide the reader to make the right decisions in the coming days.

Even a casual reading of the words of the Lord Jesus, as recorded by Matthew in the twenty fourth chapter of the book named after him, declare events which have not yet taken place and they are very definitely signs which have not yet been fulfilled. We are in the midst of what Jesus termed to be the "beginning of sorrows." Mt. 24:8 Persecution while rampant in some modern countries of our world has not yet reached the world wide proportions of which Jesus indicated when He said, "all nations."

Mt. 24:9 While changes in where and how one may worship in America are slowly changing and we see our religious freedom slowly eroding, it will one day become a flood of persecution.

Jesus Himself enlightened His followers as to a definite and positive key to the timing of His coming by stating that when the abomination that makes desolate stands in the holy place, then we are extremely close to the end. He is referring to the appearing of the antichrist and the establishment of his reign on earth. Mt. 24:15

The Apostle Paul spoke of this very thing and strongly declared that, that day would not come without certain events taking place first. He listed a great falling away, which is basically the fall from grace of the antichrist who like Judas will be one of the inner circle. He then will be revealed as the son of perdition. Oddly enough, that will only make him more appealing to the masses that he will come to control. 2 Thess. 2:3 While there are already misguided individuals who proclaim themselves to be God. None will have the influence or the effectiveness that he will have. Like none of the others, the antichrist will seem to be the real thing. For one thing, Paul uses the word revealed three times in this chapter pertaining to the way in

which he is made manifest. The same word is used in relationship to the coming of the Lord Jesus. Thus, before the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven, the antichrist will have a pseudo revelation emulating what people anticipate the revelation of Christ to be. In other words, he will have read the book.

SIGNS 69

We have already taken note that the antichrist will come with a revelation of himself, counterfeiting the manner in which the Lord Jesus will come. How about some plain language which unfortunately will anger some who read it. The general teaching pertaining to the second coming of the Lord Jesus sets the church up perfectly for deception. The antichrist will also have a coming (parousia, or rapture as pt is generally stated). The “coming, parousia” of the antichrist will be spectacular, perhaps even much more so than the general Christian community expect of the second coming of Christ. For he will come in the fullness of the powers of Satan, working miracles, with great power and signs and all manner of lying miracles. For sure he will put on a show, an extremely convincing display just like the casual “coming” which many attribute to the coming of the Lord Jesus. 2 Thess. 2:9

I am going to repeat myself but I feel it is necessary. Perhaps I can provoke some to study this subject thoroughly and come up with the truth. I was saved when I was 16, I am now 91. All these years I have heard preachers and church members say that Jesus could come any moment, perhaps tonight. I was not taught that and have never believed it nor taught it and I most certainly do not believe it now. I am challenging you to take time to thoroughly study for yourself the subject of the second coming asking the Holy Spirit who is the great revelator to show you the truth, for what ever is not of the truth is a lie. Please do not get angry with me but for your own good, search out the truth. Where there is not a love for the truth, there is deception. A deception, a strong delusion, originating from a most unexpected source, the Lord Himself. 2 Thess. 2:10-11

Is Jesus coming again? Absolutely, by all means. He promised He would and He keeps His promises. However, the antichrist must come first and do his dirty work on this earth, then and only then will Jesus return. For at the

“coming, parousia, rapture” of Christ the antichrist is consumed by the spirit of the mouth of the Lord Jesus and by the “brightness, epiphaneia, the appearing or manifestation” of the coming of Christ. 2 Thess. 2:8

When the Lord Jesus returns with the purpose of being glorified in His saints, (both the living, by translation and the dead, by resurrection,) He will also appear in flaming fire. The fire of destruction which will completely wipe out every evil force standing against Him. 2 Thess. 1:8 The heavens themselves will pass away with a sound of the greatest explosion yet. The heat will be so great that the elements of the earth will melt. Plus all the works of mankind will be destroyed. 2 Peter 3:10-13
