The Woman of Revelation 12/ The Last Day Church (2)

Author: Rev. C. J. McKnight

June 27, 2003 (20)

THE TIME OF HER SOJOURN IN THE WILDERNESS. The time of her stay in the wilderness is first listed as one thousand two hundred and sixty days (1260). Rev. 12:6 The same interval of time is given, in a different manner and is listed as being a time (1), a times (2) and half a time (1/2) which is three and one half years (3 1/2). Rev. 12:14 Given in prophetic terminology, following the pattern stated in Daniel 7:25 which is a time, times and half a time. The two measurements are identical and cover the same time of duration, which is the length of the great tribulation period, and the time of her dwelling in the wilderness.

THE SAME PERIOD OF TIME WITH DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES. For this occasion the time is measured in months. The prevailing situation will take place while the Bride is in her secret place. During the identical time, the world, the outside world, will sustain the following religious conditions. The first that is mentioned is the circumstance which will prevail in the city of Jerusalem. The place, the city is, exemplified by the outer court of the temple which is symbolic of Israel. Its measurements and furnishings are indicative of the time of the Law. The court is to be left out, actually cast out. The scripture is telling us that the city is to be trodden down of the Gentiles for the period of forty-two months, or three and one-half years. Rev. 11:2 This plainly shows that the time of the Gentiles does not come to a conclusion until the close of the tribulation period, for the Gentiles will be in control for these forty-two months and will trample under foot the city. Jesus was very specific in His statement pertaining to the city of Jerusalem and the treading under foot of Jerusalem. Luke 21:24 The holy city, over and above all other so called holy cities, is the city of Jerusalem. Note Mt. 4:5 Since the Revelation pronounced such a word of prophecy pertaining to Jerusalem, one is made to wonder about peace in the mid east, and in particular for Jerusalem. Under any circumstances the antichrist will have His capitol in and completely

control the city of Jerusalem for the entire length of the tribulation. Daniel foresaw those days and wrote of them. He spoke of a ruler, one of great authority, who would come. Gaining his throne by war or revolution. A man who would blaspheme the living Lord. Altering times and changing laws. He will institute persecution against all who would show any evidence of Christianity. The nations of the entire world will be in complete subjection to him. He is to be the dictator of all dictators. Note that he will seek to afflict mentally or to wear out the saints. Also, they will be given into his hands. He will reign for three and one-half years. Dan. 7:25 These against whom he will institute great persecution are called the remnant of the woman's seed. Those who did not meet the measurements required to be in the Bride of Christ and consequently were not delivered from the great tribulation. They are a portion of the tribulation martyrs who are seen before the throne of the Lord and are identified as being those who came out of the great tribulation. Rev. 7:14.

June 27, 2003 (20)

THE TWO WITNESSES OF THE TRIBULATION PERIOD. The length of time in which they give their testimony covers the same period of time as the preservation of the Bride in the wilderness. One thousand two hundred and sixty days, or three and one-half years. They are men of extreme, supernatural power. They are individuals who are in mourning for Israel, for they are clothed in sackcloth. They are true prophets of the Lord. Rev. 11:3 Their witness is directed, in particular, to the Israelites who are living at that moment of time. Their witness and testimony will replace the witness of the Bride. They will declare that Jesus is indeed the Messiah. As Jesus came to minister to the lost sheep of Israel so, these will make up the completeness of that call to salvation which was given to Israel. Jesus fulfilled the first half of Daniel's seventieth week having ministered three and one-half years prior to His death. Now these two come to finish the seventieth week by ministering for three and one-half years in Jerusalem.

THE HEAVENLY POSITION OF THE TWO WITNESSES. The high and holy position of these two men is indeed unique for they are located before the throne of the LORD, Jehovah. They are proclaimed to be the two olive trees and the two candlesticks standing before the Lord of the whole earth. Rev. 11:4 That they are fully involved with the workings

of the Holy Spirit is very obvious. They are symbolized by olive trees, the source of the natural anointing oil and two lampstands, which illuminated the tabernacle, the temple, the church and very heaven itself. In the vision of Zacheriah, and in the houses of worship, under the Law, there was but one candlestick. In the vision given to John, there were two candlesticks. Rev. 11:4 The seven candlesticks of the book of Revelation are identified as being the seven churches in Asia. They were birthed by and retain the anointing and light of the Spirit of the Lord. Therefore, they are acknowledged as being light bearers to a dark and sinful world. Rev. 1:20 The Old Testament and the New Testament. The Law and the Prophets as the Old. The Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ as the New. These two men are from the Old order and represent the Law and the Prophets. They come to complement the New. They are the two anointed ones or sons of oil. Zech. 4:14

THE CITY WHEREIN THEY GIVE THEIR WITNESS. It is the city where the Lord Jesus was crucified. This city will be a center of great religious activity during the tribulation. It will also be the capitol city of the antichrist as well as it being the city where these two witness minister. It is called a great city and will be the city where the carcasses of the two witnesses will be on display for three and one-half days, a day for a year. The Lord calls it both Sodom and Egypt. This gives us an insight as to the feelings of the Lord toward this place. Rev. 11:8 When the Lord Himself refers to a city in such a manner and with such terms it could hardly be a place which is meaningful to Him.

June 30, 2003 (21)

THE TWO WITNESSES OF THE TRIBULATION PERIOD. The length of time in which they give their testimony covers the same period of time as the preservation of the Bride in the wilderness. One thousand two hundred and sixty days, or three and one-half years. They are men of extreme, supernatural power. They are individuals who are in mourning for Israel, for they are clothed in sackcloth. They are true prophets of the Lord. Rev. 11:3 Their witness is directed, in particular, to the Israelites who are living at that moment of time. Their witness and testimony will replace the witness of the Bride. They will declare that Jesus is indeed the Messiah. As Jesus came to minister to the lost sheep of Israel so, these will make up the completeness of that call to salvation which was given to Israel. Jesus fulfilled the first half of

Daniel's seventieth week having ministered three and one-half years prior to His death. Now these two come to finish the seventieth week by ministering for three and one-half years in Jerusalem.

THE HEAVENLY POSITION OF THE TWO WITNESSES. The high and holy position of these two men is indeed unique for they are located before the throne of the LORD, Jehovah. They are proclaimed to be the two olive trees and the two candlesticks standing before the Lord of the whole earth. Rev. 11:4 That they are fully involved with the workings of the Holy Spirit is very obvious. They are symbolized by olive trees, the source of the natural anointing oil and two lampstands, which illuminated the tabernacle, the temple, the church and very heaven itself. In the vision of Zacheriah, and in the houses of worship, under the Law, there was but one candlestick. In the vision given to John, there were two candlesticks. Rev. 11:4 The seven candlesticks of the book of Revelation are identified as being the seven churches in Asia. They were birthed by and retain the anointing and light of the Spirit of the Lord. Therefore, they are acknowledged as being light bearers to a dark and sinful world. Rev. 1:20 The Old Testament and the New Testament. The Law and the Prophets as the Old. The Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ as the New. These two men are from the Old order and represent the Law and the Prophets. They come to complement the New. They are the two anointed ones or sons of oil. Zech. 4:14

THE CITY WHEREIN THEY GIVE THEIR WITNESS. It is the city where the Lord Jesus was crucified. This city will be a center of great religious activity during the tribulation. It will also be the capitol city of the antichrist as well as it being the city where these two witness minister. It is called a great city and will be the city where the carcasses of the two witnesses will be on display for three and one-half days, a day for a year. The Lord calls it both Sodom and Egypt. This gives us an insight as to the feelings of the Lord toward this place. Rev. 11:8 When the Lord Himself refers to a city in such a manner and with such terms it could hardly be a place which is meaningful to Him.

July 01, 2003 (22)

THE LAST WEEK OF DANIEL'S SEVENTY WEEKS PROPHECY. The seventy weeks were the time allotted to Israel to accomplish the dealings of the Lord with them. It is the last week, the seventieth

week that is of interest to us in this study. A day is found representing a year in this prophecy. Therefore the last week involves a period of seven years. It is interesting to note that not once in the book of Revelation is there any reference to a seven year period of time. However, and to repeat, measurements of one thousand two hundred and sixty days, forty-two months and a time, times and half a time are used. All are in regard to the same duration of time. This final week is allotted in particular to Israel. The message of the Lord is directed to them. It is their time of salvation, though we must remember that the door is not closed to the Gentiles. Under the laws of Israel the Gentiles could become proselytes.

THE SEVENTIETH WEEK MUST BE DIVIDED. It was to be divided into two parts, each a term of three and one-half years. The two periods of time were to be divided, not only by a measurement of years, but by a condition called the overspreading of abominations. Dan. 9:27 This situation is caused by a restoration of Temple worship, or the continuation of old testament sacrifice and worship after the once for all sacrifice of Christ. Isaiah very plainly states the feelings and emotions of the Lord toward any attempt to continue the Old Testament sacrifices after the death of Christ. To do so is an abomination before the Lord and is to blaspheme the Son of God. It is likewise an insult of the highest degree. Isa. 66:1-5 The Lord does not look to the house built by man, He looks to the man who appreciates His Word. Animal sacrifice is unconscionable.

THE ONLY SACRIFICE FOR THE SALVATION OF MANKIND. The offering made by the Lord Jesus on the cross is a once for all sacrifice. It was not only for those of that time, but for all in the future, and for those in the past. None will find their way into the eternal kingdom of the Lord except by the sacrifice of Jesus on Calvary. Though the Law was given by God, its sacrifices did not forgive sin. ONLY THE BLOOD OF JESUS can bring forgiveness. Those under the first testament are forgiven by the sacrifice of the New. Heb. 9:15 It is an impossibility for animal; sacrifice to take away sin. Heb. 10:4 The rending of the veil in the temple is evidence of the end of the law of sacrifice. The way into the Holy of Holies is now open for all. At the death of Christ, the veil of the temple was torn in two, most certainly by the hand of the Lord Himself. Mt. 27:51 Jesus has opened unto us the new way. A way whereby we come directly to the throne of the Lord in times of worship

and need. The Holy presence of the Lord is no longer sealed off and inaccessible to those who would come to Him. Freely, without fear or doubt we may appear before His very throne presence knowing that we will be received and granted an audience with Him. Heb. 10:20-22

July 02, 2003 (23)

CAN GOD ACCEPT A REBUILT TEMPLE AND RESTORED ANIMAL SACRIFICES? The Lord who is not negative, speaks in negative terms of both the temple and the sacrifices, by rejecting them. They were but shadows of the real. The real being the good things that were brought to light through the Lord Jesus. Animal sacrifices CAN NEVER bring about perfection or a pure conscience. Heb. 10:1-2 Why would He re-institute a form of religion of which it is said, It is NOT POSSIBLE that the blood of bulls and goats take away sins. Heb. 10:4 What utter futility, to reestablish something which did not nor can it accomplish its intended purpose. It is impossible for the Lord to find any pleasure in animal sacrifice or ritualistic worship. Heb. 10:6, 8 The first, the Law of sacrifice, has been removed, abolished that the second, redemption by the blood of Christ, might be established or made to abide forever. Heb. 10:9 To revive and restore that which has been abolished and superseded by that which is superior can only create negative feelings and reactions in the heart of the Lord. The Lord already showed His displeasure with a repaired veil and a continued sacrifice of animals by allowing the utter destruction of both the temple and the city, as predicted by Jesus, that there would not be one stone left resting upon the other. Mt. 24:2 All because they did not recognize the visitation of the Lord. Luke 19:44

WHO IS THE HE OF DANIEL 9:27? Who is the Covenant maker? More than that who is the Covenant? From the outset, let it be said that the Hebrew word berith or covenant is only used once in a negative fashion in the Old Testament, and that is in a covenant made with death. Isa. 28:15-18 Every other usage of the word covenant is in relationship of a pact made between the Lord and man. A covenant is an alliance between two persons or groups. The Lord in making covenant with Abraham sealed the covenant and verified it by oath, swearing by himself for there is none greater. Heb. 6:13 PROPHETICALLY, Jesus was declared to be THE MESSENGER OF THE COVENANT. Mal. 3:1 The blood which He shed, the very blood of God,

Himself, was acknowledged as the BLOOD OF THE COVENANT, that which has created a fellowship, a communion between the Lord and His people. Heb. 10:29 The true covenant, the covenant sealed by the blood of Christ is an ETERNAL COVENANT. Heb. 13:20 To correctly understand the HE of Daniel 9:27 we must know who the great covenant creator is and who keeps covenant with man. Not only is it Christ Jesus who shed His blood for our redemption but He has also entered into the throne presence of His Father as our great High Priest. Presenting His blood as the seal of the covenant and our only hope of redemption. He has entered into that which is the real. The greater, the most excellent tabernacle. The building of the Lord. Not a structure created by the hands of man but by His nail pierced hands alone. Heb. 9:11 The HE of Daniel nine, is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. He made the covenant. He sealed the covenant. He keeps the covenant. He fulfilled and fulfills the covenant. He is the COVENANT.

July 03, 2003 (24)

VARIOUS COMMENTS BY DIVERSE COMMENTATORS.

John Wesley's Notes Daniel 9:27 He shall confirm - Christ confirmed the new covenant. Forerunner Commentary Daniel 9:27 Protestants try to ascribe the covenant of verse 27 to the Antichrist because \he,\" they say, refers to \"the prince who is to come.\" But this cannot be! Remember the poetic organization! The key is the word \"many.\" It is literally \"the many,\" and whenever it is used in the Old Testament, it refers to either the covenant people Israel or to the saints, that is, true believers. Jesus says in Matthew 26:28, \"For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.\" Christ makes the covenant, not Antichrist! Confirm means \"strengthen \" or \"make firm\" almost to the point of being unbreakable. This helps substantiate its reference to the New Covenant, an everlasting covenant that strengthened the basic requirements of the Old Covenant. Significantly, when Christ in the Olivet Prophecy gives His disciples the signs of the end, He does not mention a covenant or treaty to be enacted between the Antichrist and the Jews, Christians, saints, or anyone! He does mention both of the events Gabriel mentions here: the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 (Matthew 24:2) and the abomination of desolation (verse 15).

Richard T. Ritenbaugh And he shall confirm the covenant – Christ. The confirmation of the covenant is assigned to Him. Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Havernick, Hengstenberg and Auberlen regard the Messias as the subject, and understand by the confirmating of the covenant, the New Covenant by the death of Christ.

Keil and Delitzsch. In the half of the week, or in the middle of the week, etc,: because Christ preached three and one-half years, and then by His sacrifice upon the Cross abolished all the sacrifices of the law. Footnotes Douay ver.

July 04, 2003 (25)

IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SEVEN. In the middle, the half of the week, or in the middle of the seven years. The last week of the seventy week prophecy is divided into two portions of equal length. Each of them being of three and one half years duration. The first half is the ministry of the Lord Jesus to Israel. The last half is what is known as the great tribulation period. The two thousand years between the two is what is called the overspreading of abominations according to Daniel 9:27.

THE MAN IN THE MIDDLE. There is much in the life of the Lord Jesus which shows Him to be the center, the central figure, the man in the middle, the one in the midst. In relationship to the Covenant it is Christ who is the mediator, the go-between, of the new covenant, which of course, is what the seventieth week is all about. It was in the midst of the week that He was to cause sacrifice and offering to cease. The displeasure of the Lord in animal sacrifice and offering is easily understood by the scripture in Heb. !0:8 Why would He allow something to continue, or to even think of allowing it to be revived or restored, when it displeased Him in such a great fashion? Jesus came to fulfill, to remove, to take away the first, the law of sacrifice, that He might establish the second. Heb. 10:9 Jesus is the ONLY mediator between God and man. He mediates the New Covenant. Heb. 12:24

THE MAN CRUCIFIED IN THE MIDDLE. The scriptures at times seem to go to great lengths to prove a point. Jesus was crucified as one whom we today would call a three strike loser. He was destined to be number with the transgressors. Isa. 53:12 Placing Him on the middle cross would identify Him as the greatest of transgressors. Capital

punishment was imposed upon the innocent one because He was bearing the guilt and iniquity of all men, of all the ages. It was necessary that He die as the guiltiest of the guilty, to pay the price for the most wicked of mankind. He was the MIDDLE MAN, crucified between two thieves. Mark 15:27

CRUCIFIED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY. How striking and fitting that He should spend six hours on the cross. Six is the number of man and He was dying for all mankind. The very heart, the core of the day was used to produce salvation for us. He was placed on the cross at the third hour of the day which would be nine A.M according to our present day measurement of time. Mark 15:25 In the morning He spent three hours on the cross. At NOON, the MIDDLE of the day, darkness came on the country. From the sixth to the ninth hour, three hours of darkness. Mark 15:33 An equal division of time between light and darkness. Jesus spent the first half of the seventieth week bringing light. The last half of the seventieth week is the darkness of the antichrist, the tribulation period. He died the ninth hour of the day, or at three o'clock in the afternoon. Mark 15:33

July 07, 2003 (26)

THE DAY OF CRUCIFIXION WAS THE MIDDLE DAY OF THE WEEK OF THE FEAST OF PASSOVER. Christ Jesus is our Passover Lamb. He was sacrificed exactly according to the time of the slaying of the Passover Lamb in Israel. He fulfilled the type perfectly and precisely according to the commandment of the Word. 1 Cor. 5:7 He was slain on the middle day of the week, or Wednesday because in the midst of the week of seven days or seven years He was to cause all animal sacrifices to cease, forever. Dan. 9:27 In keeping with the prophecy, both for years or days, He divided the week.

WHEN ARE THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS REALLY THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS? When it is used to measure the length of time that Jonah spent in the stomach of a great fish which the Lord had prepared for him. Jesus used this old testament miracle as a measurement of the time which He was to spend in the tomb. This statement of Jesus is NOT AN IDIOM, a figure of speech. It is a fixed period of time, a positive three nights and three days, seventy-two hours, in which He was to be in the earth. Mt. 12:40 Only Wednesday

satisfies the Preparation for the Passover, for the middle of the seven day week and the midst of the seven years. Oddly enough, if we count the day of preparation, the total is three and one-half days, the half day being that day that He was on the cross.

THE THREE DAYS WEDNESDAY ABIB 14 - DAY OF PREPARATION — DAY OF CRUCIFIXION BURIED BEFORE SUNDOWN SO AS TO NOT DESECRATE THE HOLY CONVOCATION WHICH COMMENCED AT SUNDOWN.

THE THREE NIGHTS AND THREE DAYS. THURSDAY (night and day) 15 – SPECIAL SABBATH – FIRST FULL DAY FRIDAY (night and day) 16 – SECOND DAY SATURDAY (night and day) 17 – WEEKLY SABBATH – THIRD AND LAST DAY RESURRECTED AFTER SUNDOWN AT THE CLOSE OF THE SECOND SABBATH DAY OR THE DAY OF SATURDAY

July 08, 2003 (27)

THE MAN IN THE MIDST IS THE COVENANT. The LORD made covenant with Moses and sealed it by passing between the sacrificed animals. The numbers given in describing the sacrifice are interesting. The animals were all three years old. Three is the number of the Godhead. There were three animals. They were split in two. Two times three is six, the number of man. Three times three is nine, the number of the fruit, gifts and virtues of the Holy Spirit. There were two birds. Two is the number of the sacrificed one, the Lord Jesus. Two is also the number of Christ and His church. There were four laid out in each row (three halves plus a whole bird, the birds were not divided). Four is the number of the earth. There were three animals and two birds, for a total of five. The number of atonement. The total number of pieces would be eight. The number of resurrection and new beginnings. Gen. 15:9-10. In the darkness of night, the covenant was sealed and ratified by the flaming, burning presence of the Lord. Gen. 15:17 The Lord the Covenant maker and keeper is in the midst.

THE MAN GIVEN AS A COVENANT OF THE PEOPLE. The thoughts of the Lord are manifest in His Word. He has very plainly spelled out for us His purposes and will. The prophet Isaiah, speaks of one who would be as a gift for Jew and Gentile. Isa. 42:6 The context of Isaiah forty-two is a very positive portrait of the Messiah. The one whom all other

sacrifices foreshadowed. Again the message is relating to the Messiah, the Covenant, in Isaiah forty-nine and context. His is everlastingly the superior covenant and He is the only mediator between God and man. His covenant is constructed and founded on better promises. Heb. 8:6 It is the only covenant sealed and ratified by the sacrifice of the blood of very God, Himself. Scientist tell us that the blood of the child originates from the father of the child.

HE IS THE MAN IN THE MIDDLE OR THE MIDST. From being the fourth man walking with the Israelites in the fiery furnace, Dan. 3:25 to the one walking in the MIDST of the seven golden candlesticks, Rev. 1:13 He is always with and in the midst of His people. Jesus is the very heart, the core, the center of all that is heavenly. As the slain Lamb, He is in the midst of the eternal throne of the Living God. He is in the midst of the four living creatures, who surround the throne. He is in the center of the twenty-four elders whose thrones are situated surrounding the throne of the Lord. Rev. 5:6 Positioned, as He is, in the very center of all heavenly operations it is no wonder that He is the source of all sustenance. The director of the sheep, who will lead them to drink of that ever flowing river of life and glorious artesian wells of life, its source being the throne. Emotionally, the time of all negative things which produce heartache and sorrow, resulting in tears will be over, for He will wipe away ALL tears from the eyes of His people. Rev. 7:17 The covenant is His. The timing is His, that is the midst of the week, and for that matter, the midst of all that the Lord will accomplish.

July 09, 2003 (28)

THE WOMAN DELIVERED FROM THE GREAT TRIBULATION. The Second Coming of Christ cannot be until the close of the tribulation period. Therefore the so called rapture cannot take place until the close of that great tribulation. How could it be more plainly spoken, in words that are easily understood, than the words the Lord Jesus used in Mt. 24:29-31 All of these happenings are associated with the return of the Christ of God.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TRIBULATION OF THOSE DAYS. The time element. Immediately after, Instantaneously following, not before nor during, but after, at the conclusion of the time of the greatest trouble

of earth. While there are many scriptures that may be considered in relationship to the timing, there is one that is of great strength and light. That is the destruction of the antichrist, which is definitely at the conclusion of his reign on earth. The Wicked one has his own revelation or moment of his exposure, when he will be destroyed. How? By the coming (parousia, rapture) of Christ. Reason tells us that the antichrist must first appear, run his course and then be consumed at the moment of the Second Coming of Christ. 2 Thes. 2:8 Involved also is the brightness (epiphaneia, shining forth) of the coming of the Christ. Jesus is coming in flaming fire bringing destruction on all the ungodly. 2 Thes. 1:8 This will happen when He comes to be glorified in His saints. 2 Thes. 1:10 In order to escape the tribulation it is necessary to be a real integral part of the body, the bride of Christ.

THEN SHALL APPEAR THE SIGN OF THE SON OF MAN IN HEAVEN. There is no secret, invisible Second Coming of Christ. The sign of the Son of Man will appear in the heavens. And that sign is declared to be the clouds which will accompany Him. When He comes every eye shall see Him. The visibility of His Coming, proclaimed to those of His days on earth as well as those who are alive at His Coming. Ye shall see. Mt. 26:64 when His angels gather together the redeemed, Mk. 13:27, then they shall see. Mk. 14:62 He will be seen, coming in power and great glory. Lk. 21:27 Peter, scheduled Him to return in the very identical manner in which the disciples had SEEN Him go. Acts 1:11 He is to be revealed, (have an apokalupsis, an appearing, a manifestation), at the time of His return. The church has not increased its spirituality under the teaching of the immanent return of Christ, but has slipped farther into apostasy. We do not increase our spirituality because of threats or fears. Love, a deep love and full appreciation of the Lord is always the motivating factor of a deep and complete spiritual life. The Bride of Christ will focus her love on Him and Him alone. She will be what she is, because she desires to be dedicated to Him. It is imperative that the church of the last days catch a true vision of the mighty work which the Lord will perform in perfecting His people and blending them together into His very own Bride.

July 10, 2003 (29)

AND THEY SHALL SEE THE SON OF MAN COMING IN THE CLOUDS. Mt. 24:30 The visibility of the Second Coming of Christ is far more than an

event which is visible only to the living, those who dwell in heaven and even hell will see Him when He Comes. The message to John on Patmos was that every eye should see Him, even those who pierced Him. That would include those who nailed Him to the tree. That moment of time will be seen by all three places where men are to be found. Rev. 1:7 it must be emphasized here, that, His coming is made even more spectacular by the clouds which accompany Him. His Ascension into Heaven was visibly witnessed by His disciples. They watched Him disappear into a cloud. Acts 1:9 Then, two men dressed in white, the two witnesses, assured them, that precisely, as they had watched Him disappear into the cloud, so He would return in the same manner. Acts 1:10-11 The Woman, the Bride will be the only living body of Christianity alive on the earth at the time of the return of Christ.

REASONS. With the Bride escaping into the place which the Lord has especially prepared for her. The attention of the dragon, satan, will turn to the remnant of her seed, those who did not measure up to the standard of the Bride. The dragon will make war with them. Rev. 12:17 That they are overcome is evident by the fact that the antichrist will conquer them. Rev. 13:7 They are tribulation martyrs. They are seen dressed in white standing before the throne, in the presence of the Lord. Rev. 7:14 It is very apparent that there will be Christians who enter the tribulation period. They are seen again as those who were beheaded for their witness of Jesus and their love and adherence to the Word of the Lord. They did not worship the antichrist nor partake in his system. Rev. 20:4 They will also face the great likelihood of starvation because they will not be able to buy or sell without displaying the number, name or mark of the antichrist, either in their hands of foreheads. Rev. 13:16-17 Current discount cards are not the real thing, just a forerunner to accustom the public to purchasing in this manner. The tribulation martyrs are to be resurrected together with all those who die in Christ at the time of the FIRST resurrection. The FIRST resurrection and the Second Coming are synonymous, they are part and parcel of the same event. If those killed by the antichrist come up in the FIRST resurrection, and the Second Coming and the FIRST resurrection are closely related, actually one event, how could the Second Coming and the FIRST resurrection take place before all who are scheduled to participate in it have died? The Second Coming of Christ can only take place at the close of the great tribulation

period, and after all who are to be resurrected have died. The circumstances of the death of the two tribulation witnesses will immediately precede the end of the tribulation and the time of the Second Coming for they too are caught up into that cloud. Rev. 11:12.

July 11, 2003 (30)

WITH A GREAT SOUND OF A TRUMPET. The sounding of the trumpet coincides with the gathering together of the elect from all over the earth. Mt. 24:31 The trumpet of the resurrection and catching up is the last trumpet. It is the seventh and last of a series of trumpets which will announce different events of judgment which will occur at the end of the age. The predicted period of darkness which takes place at the sounding of the fourth trumpet, will happen as the church is taken into the wilderness. Rev. 8:12 The word angel used in the next verse is actually; (aetos, an eagle.) As the woman is transported into the wilderness she has a dire and strong warning for those who are alive on the earth. It is proclaimed to be three woes which are yet to come on the earth. Each of which will be a proclamation a period of woe for the earth. The last, the seventh will institute a great flurry of activity. The end of which will be the resurrection and translation of the saints and the battle of Armageddon. At the close of the tribulation period. Which is a battle only in words, the victory is certain. There is absolutely no question as to its outcome. Christ is King and will rule the earth for one thousand years. Rev. 11:15.

THEY SHALL GATHER HIS ELECT FROM THE FOUR WINDS. All this to take place at the time of His observable coming. Mt. 24:30 His visibility and the sound of the trumpet, plus the gathering together are all at one and the same time. All to be changed, IN