

A Christian's Calling in the End Times

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The plight of Christians during the Six Seals of the End Times may be the greatest threat to the essence of Christendom in our time that will challenge the doctrinal teachings within the congregations of the world as events that have been commonly taught that are supposed to occur in the period will in fact not occur.

There is quite a large uptake in the congregations to preach on the End Times and I see this as a stirring of the Holy Spirit to bring to the fore persistent issues about the End Time prophecy that need to be clarified and sorted out as far as doctrinal teachings are concerned across-the-board in all of the churches to whom the Lord addressed specific messages in his introduction to the Revelation prophecy as a whole to the Apostle John.

It is a systemic failure of many church organisations to not correctly recognise that their congregations of lowly believers are empowered directly by the Lord Jesus Christ through his indwelling spirit, and in not recognising their gift and suppressing their enthusiasm organisations fall foul of the Lord's warnings to the representative seven worldly congregations. But the tragedy is buried deeper than this in the foundations of the church organisations where "all" teaching is captured and retained by a higher (misplaced) "power" and in many cases where doctrinal issues exist the lowly believers are put in reins and force-fed what the organisation dishes out. If this sounds offensive, it is only echoing (in less polite words) what the Lord has said to all of the congregations of the world in the Revelation's opening chapters.

The reason why the Lord will give understanding to believers in relation to the Book of Revelation is that in some way it is relevant to that person at that particular time. As the author of the Revelation prophecy, God's preface speaks to everyone who reads the opening verses and if we examine God's words he is signalling that he will spiritually bless anyone who not only reads Revelation, but in doing so facilitates the Holy Spirit to spiritually convey the truths and also open their minds to understanding the prophecy as given. Of particular note for us all is God saying to each reader that for them "*the time is at hand*" and he will commune with them as they read.

(Revelation 1:3) *Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.*

¹ All scripture references and quotes are taken from the Authorised KJV unless specifically noted

If ever a Christian has had to take the Lord's word personally – it is here in the “right-now” space of time that they should seriously do so. This is a time when all Christians need to pay attention and grapple with the Spirit of the Lord for a climber's bolt-hold on the reality to come upon the world in the End Times; specifically referring to the Gentile's future through the period of the Beginning of Sorrows. The events that are prophesied to come are going to be challenging and will weigh all believers in the balance to assay the purity of their spiritual gold: And don't just go-off-tap and dismiss this, because every single believer – without exception, will be challenged to make a life or death decision about their human and spiritual futures.

The Lord Jesus Christ has impressed upon me the burden that will come upon millions of souls around the world who are spiritually labouring under one of the greatest lies that has been perpetrated upon them to believe that the Lord will reach down and gather up all Christian believers en-masse and raise them up into the clouds so they will be included with the heavenly witnesses that will accompany Christ on his way to claim his throne upon earth as the Messiah and King of Israel.

This very popular doctrine is referred to as the rapture of the church and its teaching is that it will occur prior to the End Times Tribulation period. A point of clarity is required here to emphasise that the Lord is only going to return to this terrestrial domain at the very end of the Seventieth Week of Daniel's prophecy of Israel's judgment. The Lord does not appear twice ie, at the start of the End Times and again at its end culminating in the Battle at Armageddon. The time difference between the Beginning of Sorrows and the battle at Armageddon is approximately seven years. A second point is also (as they say) sticky in that all other relevant scriptures, of which exceed fifty in number other than the Revelation prophecy itself, do not contain any prophecy that supports an en-masse evacuation of everyone who professes a belief in Jesus Christ to occur at the beginning or prior to the end time period.

For believing Gentiles who are fervent in their pursuit of the truth and who genuinely seek to live a holy life before God, the opening chapters of the Revelation prophecy will send them a hefty message of what is happening in the world's congregations and what role they are being called upon to play.

The Lord himself expresses concern for all “believers” who fall outside of this above group and we have several warnings for them in relation to being cajoled into thinking that the en-masse evacuation of all Christian congregations is a reality that is being taken up by false teachers and others who cherry-pick bits-and-pieces of scripture to sticky-tape this feel-good story together. In this article we are going to look very carefully at the period in question so we can

demonstrably show that the period of Sorrows for the Gentiles is going to challenge every soul to prove their belief and their commitment to Jesus; because the secondary part of the Lord's calling is to participate in the reign of Christ for a thousand years. This participation in Christ's reign is not offered with a free-pass entry to every believer in every Christian congregation. There is a price to pay and that being said, for some it will be a very high price. As mentioned earlier, the Spirit of God will assay the purity of our spiritual gold and each-and-everyone of us will be proved by God to be fit for purpose to be called a saint.

This is a very high-spec calling and my grave concerns are that many will have a notional misapprehension that just because they attend "this" church or "that" church they are going to be given a free pass to eternal life – no questions asked and no proving that they, like the Lord, can overcome the evil that is inherently present within each of us.

There may be some misconceptions about the relevance of the Book of Revelation in these modern times wherein to most, any thought that the time of the end is just around the corner is dismissed out of hand. But Christians must be circumspect here; indeed if we peruse what our Jewish cousins are writing in relation to the coming of their Messiah, it will be prior to the commencement of the seventh millennium². There is a wake-up call here. The year 2020 is in Hebrew calendric speak the year 5780 and there are only two hundred and twenty years remaining until time runs out. In fact, if we subtract the seven years of the Revelation End Times, the period reduces to two hundred and thirteen years and there is no guarantee from God that Jesus will not cut this period short. That is the first point.

The second point is that in the Gospels the Lord is quoted as saying that believers should look to the season when the End Times are coming to fruition³ even though mankind will not be aware of the specific hour. There is a third point to make about the relevance of the Book of Revelation to these current times and it comes through understanding the messages to the seven churches⁴. Contrary to what we all probably thought prior to wrestling with the Revelation prophecy for understanding and thinking it is only applicable to a future time, this opinion will quickly be jettisoned as understanding is acquired and we seek God's guidance on global events. The truth is that this Revelation prophecy is written for Christians in all of the intervening millenniums between when the Lord walked and talked with the Apostles up until the Lord's coronation following the battle at Armageddon. There are some very important messages

² This is based on Creation's six periods and then God rested on the seventh.

³ 1 Thessalonians 5:1, Matthew Chapter 24

⁴ Revelation Chapters 2 and 3

to believers all of the way through this period and in our current time, at this moment, the message for us today is vital to the world congregation and all those who are called to be saints; and it is this message that is of such high priority for the Lord that Satan is deploying every weapon, every subterfuge, every charismatic practitioner of lies and false teaching to destroy this truth and to demolish utterly the high calling for Christians to sainthood.

Within Christendom today we have permitted the gods of this world to build many mountains and establish their high places, even at the altar of our holy sacrifice and to place traps across our paths to snare the unwary. We are talking about millions of souls being caught in all sorts of nets – Trawl nets, Cast nets, Purse nets, Gill nets, Seine nets, and Bag nets; all of which are designed for specific applications in a variety of waters for pre identified target species. The correlation to fishing on a commercial scale and how the satanic forces work in the world is a revelation in itself. Even more cunning is how Christians have a fatal attraction toward these traps and become inextricably caught.

When mankind received a free-will to choose for himself what paths he would walk in his terrestrial lifetime it was a behavioural mechanism by which every soul would be self-motivated to pursue life in obedience to God and to live righteously and be holy in all things – or not! Here is the decision we all at some time have to make.

The waters around making this foundational decision can be very muddy and often clarity is not immediately obvious. The satanic force of evil is with mankind every step he takes and is an impediment to what should be completely obvious in looking to our creator and heavenly Father: And herein are too many Christian-believing souls tricked, persuaded and cajoled and by various other means compromised into unbelief or false belief and are sorely tempted by the things of this world and the desires of their hearts of which all act in concert in an orchestrated symphony of falsehood and pantomime where outward religiosity replaces being a servant in Christ within the Kingdom of God here on earth. Yes! Many believe that only they will be saved in the Day of Judgment but their blind arrogance belies who they really are and what gods are manipulating their strings.

This is what the Lord's messages to the seven churches⁵ show us. There are multiplicities of issues in the congregations and the Lord is calling out all of those believers who are earnest in their service to God and faith in the pathway to sainthood that the Lord has prepared for us. One could very well ask why do believers have to be called out of their churches; Good question! But the answer

⁵ Revelation Chapters 2 and 3

my friends is that it is a very sad reflection on who is running those churches and what they have refused to correct over the millenniums that are serious compromises in their belief even though the Lord put it in black-and-white for them two thousand years ago.

The scriptural meaning of sainthood, or more correctly, what it takes for mankind to be elevated to become a saint and to reign with Christ during his one thousand year kingdom has been cleverly hidden behind an absurd pretence intended to create an easier version of sainthood (let's call it saintism) as decreed by mankind himself and has washed its meaning even further down the muddy mountain by modern congregations picking up the notion that they are, in this respect above, saints - right now.

We are talking about pantomimes and in them nothing could be further from the truth of God's word and we can note that these players are significantly represented in our analogy of the catch in our commercial fishing nets that are depriving these millions of souls of their higher lives. Now do we all understand subterfuge and the sleight-of-hand which are being deployed to trap and kill off the Lord's saints-elect? Please say, "Yes!"

In fact there is direct relationship between this false sainthood and the false en-masse rapture of all Gentile Christian souls through their commonality of all church members believing they are saints in their own lifetime and therefore will reign with Christ in his kingdom – almost regardless of their beliefs and behaviours. This is where a false entitlement comes in. Clearly this is also not true and is blasphemy.

So let's be clear about what a saint is in the context of reigning with Christ in his Kingdom for one thousand years with all of his saints. All saints that thus far are waiting for Christ's Millennial Kingdom are currently in heaven and are biding their time under the altar of God's heavenly temple until all of their fellow believers have been raised as they were; which will occur during the Beginning of Sorrows and the Tribulation period that are within the overall End Times. These are the souls of those who traded their lives to become saints.

Revelation 2:10-11

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

*He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches;
He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.*

Revelation 6:9-11

And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow-servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

Revelation 12:10-11

And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Revelation 20:4-6

And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Let us remind ourselves about what some of these terms mean, and from there the truth of this matter will emerge. We can also acknowledge that scripture does refer to living saints however in the context of those who will reign with

the Lord, they are demonstrably “not there yet” and to exemplify what a saint-elect is we can look to the twelve Apostles who were always going to lose their lives and therefore were always going to be saints.

The saints we are speaking of will be raised to heaven in the First Resurrection and this only applies to those whom have lost their lives as martyrs for the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. These saints are raised immediately upon their premature deaths to be in God’s heavenly temple until it is time for them to accompany Jesus the Messiah to earth at the end of the Tribulation and Wrath of God periods on earth. Those who refer to themselves as living saints and who die of any cause other than martyrdom will be held in death and will go to Judgment before the Lamb of God after the Lord’s one thousand year reign. This is the time referred to as the Second Death as it is the judgment of all, including believers, transgressors and unbelievers the world over. The Lord tells us that they who are raised to heaven as a martyr for the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ will be priests unto God and they will by-pass the Second Death and will go on to live in eternity in the New Jerusalem.

So to be clear about not being a martyr, whether being a believer or a transgressor, all non-martyrs (if I can use it in the negative sense) will go before the Lamb of God and his judgment as decreed through those whose names are either written in the Lambs Book of Life – or not!⁶

We move on now to the events that are prophesied to occur in the Book of Revelation however our focus will be on the first period referred to as the Beginning of Sorrows or, in keeping with the title of this article, the opening of the Six Seals.

God fearing souls who have read the Lord’s Revelation will be very conversant with the last four verses of the book and will be very circumspect about how they discuss the detail of prophecy. For those who have not read the final chapter, the Lord has made a foreboding statement concerning any person who adds or takes away any of the words or details of the prophesy and consequently will be committing a transgression that will not be forgiven and will not be washed away in the blood of the Lamb.

Revelation 22:18-19

For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

⁶ Philippians 4:3, Revelation 3:5, Revelation 20:12, Revelation 20:15, Revelation 21:27, Revelation 22:19

And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

The events that occur within the period of the Six Seals are very highly charged with multiple life and death struggles across all of mankind who are alive in this era. These will be inclusive of Gentiles and remnant Children of Israel and they will be indiscriminate toward both believers and unbelievers. We could say that this is an all-inclusive period that will offer selected pathways to each group as the events that are prophesied come to pass. It is vital that Christians read the text for themselves and facilitate the Spirit of God to lead them into the truths and warnings and guide them into what actions they should take in response to the very confronting series of events that will occur before their eyes.

This period of time is no cakewalk for anyone in the world and for many who have no knowledge of the truths of the God's word the events that surround them will make no sense at all about what is going on. There will very likely exist a great polarisation of the population into two clear categories where one will hate the other and enmity shall grow into persecution. So indulge me to recap the structure of the Revelation prophecy and to draw a contextual picture of the landscape as events start to occur.

It is no coincidence that almost straight away from the opening of the Revelation prophecy we are introduced to the seven churches that represent the world-wide congregation of professing Christians. The importance to us today in relation to how the Lord speaks to these congregations, which not incidentally clearly have issues, is that the Lord is signifying that these seven congregations do not include the remnant of the Children of Israel. This is an important separation.

The individual messages to the churches commence in Chapter Two of the prophecy and with little difficulty we can get a sense of the issues that the Lord is referring to. But what is missed in reading these messages is the Lord's calling to his saints-elect to stand up (so to speak) and he has been giving this message to all those who have been given to him by his father. It is no different today and the Lord's message is still as crisp and fresh as it was two millenniums back when the angel conveyed the Lord's words to his Apostle John.

The Messages to the Seven Churches

(Revelation 2:1 to 3:22)

Ephesus

Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Smyrna

And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

Pergamos

And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him

a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

Thyatira

And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass; I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first. Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works. But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. But that which ye have already hold fast till I come. And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. And I will give him the morning star. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Sardis

And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Philadelphia

And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Laodicea

And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

This brings us up to the Seven Seals and the period known as the Beginning of Sorrows. As the prophecy arrives at this point it signals the end of the Common (Gentile) Era and makes a division between the Gentile Saints-elect and their proving to belong to the Lamb – and all others: And just to keep in context here, after the proving of the Gentile saints-elect is completed the period of Sorrows passes and the Tribulation for the world begins that is perhaps aptly

described as the ionisation of the remnant Children of Israel as they are polarised into recognising Jesus as their Messiah – or not! (Positively or Negatively charged)

Once this period has passed, the horrendous period of God's Wrath upon all unbelieving man and all evil forms from the heavens quickly follows in the Seventh Trumpet sounding. This culminates in the battle at Idumea then the coming of Jesus the Messiah and the great conflagration at Armageddon where the Beast and the False Prophet are cast into the Lake of Fire⁷ and Satan is incarcerated and chained in the infernal abyss for nearly all the next one thousand years.

These are just the headline points of the events to occur and in no way do I seek to add or subtract from John's vision. Please read the scriptural text to take in the full awe of this confronting prophecy.

Now stepping back to where we left off; John describes for us the sequence of events as the Lamb of God releases each of the seals from the book he received from his father.

But we need to just hold this thought for a moment because from the Gospels we read that the Lord addressed this End Time period with the Apostles and we can glean some fill-in information that is not fully expressed in John's prophecy. Matthew recorded this conversation with the disciples and we follow-on to that scripture.

Matthew 24:3-14

(3) And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

(4) And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

(5) For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

(6) And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

⁷ Revelation 19:20

(7) For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

(8) All these are the beginning of sorrows.

(9) Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

(10) And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

(11) And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

(12) And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

(13) But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

(14) And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

It is worthy to note that in Verse 7 the expression “*earthquakes in divers places*” may not necessarily be the earth moving or the crust of the planet cracking open. The word is Gr. Seismos, which is more akin to a quaking of the atmosphere as a result of a great disturbance and also the words “*divers places*” are spots and can be in space and not necessarily regions in the Earth’s crust.

There are two matters of great relevance that arise out of this Matthew passage and they are both related to who the Apostles (and in their early stages, disciples) were. They were all Hebrew and were all of the tribes of the Children of Israel. This is important because the pathway through the End Times for (colloquially) the Jewish population is not the same pathway it will be for Gentile Christians. So in Matthew’s Gospel, as in other passages of the New Testaments, this is reflected in specifically what events Jesus described to them that only the Hebrew population would be subject to. The second point is that the battle at Idumea again principally arises because it is fought in the lands east of the old city of Jerusalem that is divided off by the Valley of Jehoshaphat. This battle deals with the traditional enemies of the Children of Israel and occurs before the final conflict at Armageddon. So the whole chapter covers a broad period but its final focus is the Lord’s return as Messiah.

Of the thirty-plus Old Testament and Gospel passages reviewed that relate to these End Times, most of them refer to the judgment at Armageddon however not insignificantly the others mention the Idumea judgment where the prophecy speaks of a battle for Jerusalem and the slaughter by the Winepress of God⁸. Clearly the Battle for Jerusalem and the Idumea judgment is a different event to that of the battle at Armageddon. To keep perspective here the distance between the old city of Jerusalem and Megiddo is approximately one hundred kilometres so when reading the Revelation text these two separate events must not be confused as being the same.

This brings us back to the Seven Seals of Revelation Chapter Six.

Revelation 6:1-2 (First Seal)

(1) And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.

(2) And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

Looking at each element of what John describes in Verse 2 is very suggestive of a world power going forth and imposing a peace treaty upon all nations of the world. The word “Conquer” is not just thrown in to spice up the prophecy; it is a deliberate inclusion to convey that in effect wars and terrorism will cease on a world-wide scale. Some suggest that the peace initiative will only be in the region of the Middle East and will be centred on Israel having peace treaties with its neighbours and those other nations that have been aggressive toward them. I favour a global peace because of the event in the Second Seal wherein peace is removed from the “earth” ie, not localised – but universal.

When this peace is rolling out it is likely that it will not be immediately recognised for what it is, but as the effect of peace becomes obvious, as in involving many nations, then Christians need to be awake and aware of the great significance it has in relation to the commencement of the End Time events as prophesied. In fact because we can see that peace will be universal, it must have a common agreement (even if coerced) and will be demonstrably embraced – for whatever reason. This raises a question about compromises that may have to be made at that time and what we are not privy to is that the world may be asked to adopt laws and standards that compromise the way of life that self-respecting humans generally live by, or for Christians more importantly, be held at gunpoint to acquiesce in a compromise that is unacceptable to their faith.

⁸ Joel Chapter 3, Zephaniah 1:18, Zechariah 14:1-21, Danial Chapter 12, Isaiah 34:1-17, Revelation 14:14-20

This is not mentioned in this prophecy specifically but I am reminded of the alternate life-styles that God has said the unbelieving world prefers instead of recognising him; as noted in the Gospels⁹.

Now before we move onto the opening of the Second Seal we shall recap the events to this point. From the Matthew Chapter 24 scripture we have record of Jesus saying to his disciples that before the coming of the Messiah there will be rumours and talk about wars and nations shall be in conflict with one another. Kingdoms and princely powers of dominions will be in conflict and I would think that these would be both evil disputing with evil and evil disputing with the good of God. We then see in that passage that the Lord continues his discussion with the disciples and lists famines, pestilences and quakes occurring in a period referred to as the beginning of sorrows¹⁰.

The concurrency of these events above over-lap Revelation Chapter Six and we can say with certainty that from the Gospel accounts and the opening of the First Seal that Christians are still getting on with their lives but also you may have noted that that nowhere in any of the Gospel or Old Testament prophecies, including the opening of the Revelation's First Seal, there is no event even hinted at that could be twisted or construed to describe anything that would resemble all Christians floating off up into the air to meet the Lord and his cloud of witnesses.

We have already mentioned that the Lord only returns once, not twice, and that appearance is at the very end of the Seven Seals, Seven Trumpets and the Seven Vials of God's Wrath. So there is just nothing here at all to suggest a pre-End Time raising of all of the Christian congregations.

Revelation 6:3-4 (Second Seal)

(3) And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see.

(4) And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.

Upon the opening of the Second Seal the world changes for every living soul forever more. The peace that was established under the First Seal is shattered right across the world and there is unrestrained wholesale bloodshed and killing. To say this will be a traumatic time for everyone including Christians is a quantum understatement indeed. If anyone thought that there was an

⁹ Romans 1:18-32, 2Timothy 3:1-9, Titus 1:15-16

¹⁰ Matthew 24:8, Mark 13:8

entitlement to a free-pass out of planet Earth before any “Bad Stuff” happens that thought has just been shattered into the reality of wars, murders, terrorism and chaotic slaughter across-the-board.

There is a sequence of consequences in the Seals and this brings us to the Third Seal.

Revelation 6:5-6 (Third Seal)

(5) And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.

(6) And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.

In the period of this Third Seal we see the consequences of killings and chaos across the globe by an apparent interruption to the world’s food supply. The passage notes a value for wheat and barley; one denarius for a quart of wheat and this is commonly reported to represent an out-of-control inflation rate of nine-hundred percent on the prices of food at that time. The impact of this level of inflation will severely debilitate all of the poorer nations and starvation levels around the world will soar. This leads directly into the next Seal.

Revelation 6:7-8 (Fourth Seal)

(7) And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see.

(8) And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

This is a very grim reality we are reading about here. Coined the Beginning of Sorrows by the Lord¹¹ it can be read as “Pain, Sorrow and Travail” upon the world. Out of this Seal comes Death with Hell following and they have power over a quarter of the earth to kill mankind with the sword, with hunger and with death; and then finally to be slaughtered by the beasts of the earth. That the entity called Death is followed by Hell (or Gr. Hades) Christians might take some comfort that somehow it will not affect them. I do not ascribe to this as

¹¹ Matthew Chapter 24

Hades is merely a place of the departed souls. I was not able to separate the departed souls of Christians and the departed souls of non-Christians who had died from any cause other than martyrdom for the Word of God and Testimony of Jesus Christ. The outcome from the opening of this Seal requires a deep contemplation.

Revelation 6:9-11 (Fifth Seal)

(9) And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

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

(11) And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

The Fifth Seal confirms for us that Christians who lose their lives for the Word of God and the Testimony of Jesus Christ are immediately raised to God's heavenly temple. This passage tells us two very clear pieces of information. First is that there are devoted Christians still alive on earth before the Fifth Seal ie, ipso facto, and secondly those who have been killed and die in Christ as martyrs go straight to heaven and as we have read they are alive and well and in the loving care of God. We see that they are comforted to know their deaths will be avenged in due course but only after the full complement of all martyrs are also raised up into Gods heavenly temple. We note also that the righteousness of these saints is displayed in them wearing white robes; a point that coincides with those who will be arrayed for the Lamb of God and Messiah in the New Jerusalem.

We need to be very clear about who these righteous souls are so we do not get confused about who and when Christians in general are taken to heaven; and just to repeat who this group is we are discussing, they are Christians who have been killed and slaughtered here in this terrestrial world because they testified to the world that Jesus Christ is the risen Son of God and is the Word of God to mankind through whom righteousness is bestowed and it is for all souls to believe and obey the Word of our Father in heaven. It is for this testimony that

these saints-elect were put to death and were raised into God's presence as (if I may use a business term) fully-franked saints.

We follow on now to the Sixth Seal wherein is quite a complex set of events; so for ease of commentary we have divided them into three sections.

Revelation 6:12-17 (Sixth Seal – Part A)

(12) And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

(13) And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

(14) And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

(15) And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

(16) And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

(17) For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

It is difficult not to be (at least) apprehensive when reading this passage. We must keep in mind this is prophecy and apart from being in the future the Revelation in many areas has been metaphorically phrased. This is not a new phenomenon and there are many prophecies that are similarly constructed. During his on-earth ministry, the Lord used this selective method of conveying messages to the people around him. When he spoke to the everyday crowds who thronged about him he spoke to them in parables and when he addressed the questions of the Pharisees, the Sadducees and the Sanhedrin he did so by quoting the Law and the Prophets. But when he was with his disciples, and in particular the Apostles, he spoke to them plainly and in several cases had to explain the parables that he had used earlier in the day. This means we need to be very circumspect with how we interpret the passages here for our discussion

and I think it is stating the obvious to say we need the Spirit of the Lord within to help us out.

Let me first describe what I see as the thrust of this Sixth Seal series of events. This is the separation of all that is good away from all that is evil in the heavens. God is clearing out all of the angels and dominion princes that rebelled against his holiness and who have been wreaking havoc in our terrestrial earth since Satan manoeuvred to take it for himself. In this passage we see that God is separating the terrestrial world from the celestial heavens (Verse 6:14). This will occur at the point that all of the rebellious angels and princes from heaven are cast into our world (Verse 6:13) and the separation of heaven from the earth prevents the angels and princes returning to heaven; hence the metaphor of the Fig tree and the mighty wind which are very apt. When figs are blown off the tree and fall they cannot re-attach themselves – correct. These are the rebellious of the heavens and by this action God is clearing out all unrighteousness from the heavenly domain.

We mentioned that these events are sequential and also consequential and you will recall the famines followed the removal of peace and next came Death and Hell. In this current case we see that the martyrs for the Word of God and Testimony of Jesus Christ have been held under the altar in God's heavenly temple. In a sense they have been not so much hidden, but protected. But as soon as the separation of unrighteousness occurs and the heavens become pure, the martyrs are released and clothed in white.¹²

The action of expelling the angels to earth and then separating heaven from earth causes a mammoth reaction in the terrestrial outer spaces and in our atmosphere (Verse 6:12). The result; the world becomes dark with no light from the Sun or the Moon; and I make the point here that there is no mention of the Sun's light returning over the whole End Time period suggesting everything will be dusky.¹³

Now given the primary importance of Genesis 1:3 when the Lord speaks to Creation and also from John 1:1-5 that the light was in the Lord and "*his life was the light of men*"; I am not at all surprised to see that the light to the world is diminished and remains so for the entire period until the Lord as Messiah returns to us. In other words, the planet will be in a state of diminished light for nearly all of the seven year period. This puts a whole new perspective on what the population of the world will be thinking and very pointedly, what will the effect on the remnant Children of Israel be when they have just been rescued out

¹² Fifth Seal

¹³ Revelation 16:9 might be construed to say that the angel of God increased the power of the light to scorch the earth, but a more careful approach would separate the heat aspect from the light aspect.

of the Battle for Jerusalem and they see the coming of their Messiah – out of the gloom of what was formerly the heavens but now surrounded by millions of saints in white robes (the clouds) all in the fullness of the light of the Lord.

In Verse 6:12 the prophecy uses this Greek word “Seismos” again and it also has been translated as “Earthquake”; and as you will recall Seismos is better described as a quaking of the air, and the best I can describe it for you is the shock wave that follows explosions; and particularly large explosions which as we know causes massive destruction to anything it strikes. So here is this word again used in reference to a massive planet shaking upheaval but is hidden behind our common understanding of a ground splitting earthquake. If we follow this lead it makes perfect sense that the massive upheaval in the separation of heaven from earth would cause this atmospheric quaking to occur.

The reference to every “mountain and island” (Verse 6:14) also makes sense to refer to the princely dominions that inter-connect (or interface) between heaven and earth; and we note that these places were moved and cut off. The prophecy then focusses on the earth and we see that all of mankind who facilitated the evil that was inflicted upon this world and likely they were given some assurances that their participation in the evil dominion and principalities would offer them great rewards and – protection. If you are ever having a sleepless night, think about this aspect of how the evil and mighty of the world shall fall. But I found it extraordinary that in Verse 6:16 that these evil men of the world are very aware that Jesus Christ, the Lamb who was slain, is the prophesied Messiah to come for his righteous souls and to punish the wicked.

Revelation 7:1-8 (The Sixth Seal – Part B)

(1) And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

(2) And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

(3) Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

(4) And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

(5) Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand.

(6) Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephtalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand.

(7) Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand.

(8) Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.

This is Part B of the Sixth Seal and is essentially taken up with the anointing of one hundred and forty four thousand servants from the remnant of the twelve tribes of the Children of Israel. Their service to God is found later in the sequence of events.

However because this section is predominantly taken up with the sealing of these one hundred and forty four thousand servants we tend to under-read¹⁴ Verse 7:1 even though it is a very significant event that will occur whilst Christians are still living; and Yes! They will be impacted also.

The event as described is that four angels of God hold all of the winds from blowing upon the earth, including the seas and the wilderness lands and they do this until the one hundred and forty four thousand servants from the remnant twelve tribes of Israel are sealed. This will be a clearly observable event and depending on how long the sealing takes will determine what environmental impact will be felt.

The impact of having no wind upon the planet's surface will be quite severe from day one. In simple terms if there is no air circulation the poles will get colder and the equatorial belt around the planet will heat up; and it won't need very much time for temperature and humidity levels to become uncomfortable. The event is only half described in Verse 7:2 and we would be safe in saying that the angels will seal the one hundred and forty four thousand in pretty quick time. But the bit we miss (or under-read) is what happens next. The build-up of regionalised hot-spots and cold-spots is the equivalent of winding up a great

¹⁴ Unread : to miss details in the passage in favour of other more popular facts
Over-read : to insert details or other facts to suit doctrinal alignment

spring. The longer it is wound the more energy it stores until released. This is what will occur on earth and although it is not definitively spelt out, there will be devastation across the planet of extreme winds consisting of gales, hurricanes, cyclones, tornados and jet streams at the hands of the four angels when the pent-up winds are released; and I will reiterate that Christians are still all here on the planet unless they have heeded the messages to the seven churches and have overcome their worldly lives.

You may well ask how Christians can “overcome” when all of this devastation is striking the earth. Well the answer is that we should not forget what had occurred in the prior events. There was a false peace – not of God, therefore it will entail compromises to any Christian who loves his life. There is the smashing of this peace and a quarter of the population of the world will be killed. There will be famines, pandemics, plagues and to cap it all the evil angels and their princes will hit town right in the middle of it all. So let me ask the question: What should a Christian do? Answer: You are a Christian because you hold the testimony of the Word of God and Jesus Christ the risen Lord. So do!

Revelation 7:9-17 (Sixth Seal - Part C)

(9) After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

(10) And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

(11) And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

(12) Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

(13) And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

(14) And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

(15) Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

(16) They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

(17) For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

This last section of the Sixth Seal comes to an end with this great gathering in heaven, and we read in Verse 7:9 that no man could number the multitudes that were of people from all nations of the world from all kindreds and all languages. They are standing before the throne and the Lord is also present. They are all wearing white robes and have palms in their hands. This is a magnificent spectacle; awe inspiring at the least; and they give praise and honour to God and his Lamb with a loud chorus of voices.

Moving down to Verse 7:13 we read where one of the elders asks John (paraphrased) “Who are these people and where have they come from?” And we learn from that elder that these multitudes all came out of “great tribulation” and had washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

In the verses following, John records that these multitudes of saints are in the presence of God and serve him day and night in his temple. We further learn of their rewards in the last two verses that they shall hunger no more, neither thirst nor shall the light of the Sun be upon them nor any heat. This confirms that these saints have come through the Six Seal Period – and here we are right at the end of it. All of the elements mentioned in Verses 7:16 and 17 are traceable back to the Seal period that we have covered.

This my friends is the answer to everyone in the world who continues to think that the seven churches whom the Lord spoke to at the beginning of the Revelation prophecy are going to be “raptured” out of this world in toto before anything “bad” happens on earth. Here in this Revelation prophecy is the real Word of God telling us the truth that these multitudes have come out of much pain, travail and sorrow and have lost their lives for their testimony to an evil world.

We know they are martyrs because they are present in heaven at that time standing before the throne of God. If they had merely died of old age they would have been held in death until after the Lord’s one thousand year reign

and they would appear before the great white throne of God for judgment. We have already covered the only two pathways that face every Christian. There are no exceptions regardless of what some might think is their entitlement. The only two ways to heaven are through losing one's life and overcoming death for the testimony they had given – or going to judgment with the sheep and the goats and that separation is solely dependent on whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

We have reached a very significant place in the context of the whole End Time prophecy and at this point it brings to a close the focus on the Gentile saints-elect. From here the focus of the Revelation prophecy will be on Israel and the remnant of the Children of Israel who are dispersed throughout the world. This is the start of the Tribulation Period on all mankind. The broad groups here are the remnant Children of Israel now heading into the seventieth week of judgment from Daniel's prophecy, all unbelievers inclusive of those whom are contrary to holy living and also those that have aided and abetted the celestial Beast in this terrestrial world. Any remnant Christians who did not overcome death during the Seal period will go through the horrors of the unbeliever's judgment period. If they de cease during the period they will be held in death until Judgment Day before the great white throne of God and the Lamb.

Concurrent with these events judgment will also be determined upon the former Babylon of heaven, the whore and her evil network, the Beast of the world, the false prophet and the anti-Christ. There will be two major conflicts at the end of the judgment period during which Jesus the Messiah will return with all of his saints and holy angels for the Lord's one thousand year reign. The first conflict, as we have mentioned previously, will be the judgment of all the nations that have warred against or subjugated the Children of Israel and it will be in the lands east of the old city of Jerusalem. It is referred to in prophecy as Idumea and will take in the battle for Jerusalem. The outcome of that battle is picked up in the Gospels and speaks about the winepress of God for the volume of blood that will be spilt in the ensuing conflict. The second conflict is better known, referred to as Armageddon, where the Lord himself will do mighty things with the sword of his mouth and Satan will be incarcerated at that time for just short of the Lord's reign as Messiah.

The final conflict upon earth will be when Satan and all rebellious souls will be destroyed by a fire from God. Judgment Day will have arrived for all of Creation and the saints and those whose names are found in the Lamb's Book of Life will be swept up into the eternal New Jerusalem where they will abide in the presence of God and Jesus our Lord. This is the final curtain.

Final Thoughts

We all think we are right in all things Christian but in perspective Christian doctrinal issues have been around since Paul had to take Peter to task over preaching one thing but doing quite the opposite.¹⁵ This should serve as a clear example of how unknowingly easy it is to fall foul with doctrine – no matter who or what one might be in this world. Peter was the closest of all the Apostles to the Lord. He was the elder statesman of the new Christian Gospel and yet we find that he too fell foul with doctrine.

That correction came from outside of the Apostle Group and in particular from Paul, formerly Saul the Pharisee of Pharisees who persecuted the early Christian church prior to the Lord intervening with him face-to-face. I am sure Peter would have struggled being corrected in this manner, but to his great credit he realised his error in behaviour that was contrary to the doctrine as delivered by Jesus, the Word of God.

The underlying issue of this article is of course the doctrinal issue of an en-masse rapture of all of the congregations of the seven churches of Revelation Chapters Two and Three and the dissension that this is causing within the world's congregations. As with the Paul and Peter dissension, the resolution was quick and cut straight to the bone. It was Jesus Christ our Lord who through his Word gave clarity to the Jewish-Gentile issue for Peter and it is the Word of God that we look to today for the resolution to this dissension in the congregations about sainthood and the contrary notion of an en-masse rapture.

Clearly the Lord's word does not endorse the en-masse rapture doctrine, however the Revelation prophecy does provide at length where the world's congregations fall short in their relationship with God and why they will not all be holus-bolus floated off the earth before the End Times begin.

I am unsure what one can do if even under the auspices of God's Word the dissenters still refuse to believe that Jesus Christ our Lord is plainly telling us what the situation is with the world's congregations and what must be done to overcome the threat to sainthood that the congregations are currently posing to the elect in their midst.

¹⁵ Galatians 2:11-14

The Book of Revelation prophecy addresses this issue directly and in doing so provides a step-by-step calendar of events that will take place right up to when the Lord will return as Messiah. Having no mention of an en-masse rapture at the very beginning of the End Times and also when we dissect the sequences of events throughout the entire End Time period there is no place where such a rapture can occur, this surely is “*God’s wake-up call to Peter*” for all of the world’s congregations.

My friends, all of these matters can only be according to the Word of God and it can never be a contrary doctrine of man’s own making. If dissenters will not believe the Lord; by definition this is a very serious position to be in as an unbeliever. I wish also to add here that by preaching and endorsing an en-masse rapture, dissenters will fall foul of the Lord’s direct words of warning.

Revelation 22:18-19

(18) For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

(19) And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

This is the tragedy of believing a false prophet and a lying spirit; the consequences of adding an evil (man-made) event to this prophecy will attract God’s wrath. For those who think it is not an evil I would ask them to consider what happens to all of the Christians when the End Time events are happening and they are not raptured away. It sets up an eerily similar scenario to what we are privy to when Satan uttered his first words to Eve. In this case we could re-write a similar scenario and ask, “Who do the dissenters think could step in and say; see it didn’t happen as you were taught it would – but I will help you if you will believe in me?” Think long and hard about this – it is a life and death struggle of mammoth proportions tantamount to that of Satan’s lie to Eve in the Garden, Eastward near Eden. Adam and Eve believed Satan – and Yes! They died, each without a spirit, and were returned to the dust of the ground! Are you going to believe Satan also?

With the Lord’s words echoing as I write this He said;
“*Overcome as I overcame*”.

Geoff



Post Script Material

Below are scripture passages that relate to the End Times. These are the significant scriptures and I make the point that it is not an exhaustive list of all one's that are relevant. However by dividing these passages into groups of who they are relevant to at the time and also by taking care to not confuse similar events, a pattern emerges and becomes a key to opening up where, what and to whom they apply today.

Another noticeable tendency is for complex passages to cover a broad period of time and in doing so not mention every sub-event that is prophesied to occur in between its beginning and end. Hence in Matthew Chapter 24 I found that by paraphrasing it into today's vernacular the full impact of what the Lord was saying to his Apostles became evident and clearly it was not an en masse rapture.

In this article I have endeavoured to be as open as I can and still maintain a modicum of professionalism. In that pursuit I have thrown into the boot-of-the-car (as they say) all of these scripture passages for everyone's benefit and I can only implore you to plough through them and discover what the Lord told the disciples two thousand years ago and what he is telling us today:

And for some levity to finish off, "Thar's some gold in them thar hills sonny. Go gettem!" or perhaps in Aussie speak it might be, "Fair dinkum Bluey, there's so many nuggets up there mate you can't even poke a stick at-em all."

Matthew 13:24-43

(24) Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

(25) But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

(26) But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

(27) So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?

(28) He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?

(29) *But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.*

(30) *Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.*

(31) *Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field:*

(32) *Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.*

(33) *Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.*

(34) *All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them:*

(35) *That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.*

(36) *Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field.*

(37) *He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;*

(38) *The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;*

(39) *The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.*

(40) *As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.*

(41) The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

(42) And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

(43) Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Matthew 24:1-51

(1) And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple.

(2) And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

(3) And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

(4) And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

(5) For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

(6) And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

(7) For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

(8) All these are the beginning of sorrows.

(9) Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

(10) And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

- (11) *And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.*
- (12) *And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.*
- (13) *But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*
- (14) *And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*
- (15) *When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)*
- (16) *Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:*
- (17) *Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:*
- (18) *Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.*
- (19) *And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!*
- (20) *But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:*
- (21) *For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.*
- (22) *And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.*
- (23) *Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.*
- (24) *For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*
- (25) *Behold, I have told you before.*
- (26) *Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.*

(27) *For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

(28) *For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.*

(29) *Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:*

(30) *And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

(31) *And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.*

(32) *Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh:*

(33) *So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.*

(34) *Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.*

(35) *Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*

(36) *But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.*

(37) *But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

(38) *For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,*

(39) *And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

(40) *Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.*

(41) *Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.*

(42) *Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.*

(43) *But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.*

(44) *Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.*

(45) *Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?*

(46) *Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.*

(47) *Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.*

(48) *But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming;*

(49) *And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken;*

(50) *The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of,*

(51) *And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

Matthew 25:31-46

(31) *When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:*

(32) *And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:*

(33) *And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.*

(34) *Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

(35) *For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:*

(36) *Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.*

(37) *Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?*

(38) *When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?*

(39) *Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?*

(40) *And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.*

(41) *Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:*

(42) *For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:*

(43) *I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.*

(44) *Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?*

(45) *Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.*

(46) And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Mark 13:3-37

(3) And as he sat upon the mount of Olives over against the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately,

(4) Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled?

(5) And Jesus answering them began to say, Take heed lest any man deceive you:

(6) For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

(7) And when ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars, be ye not troubled: for such things must needs be; but the end shall not be yet.

(8) For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles: these are the beginnings of sorrows.

(9) But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them.

(10) And the gospel must first be published among all nations.

(11) But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.

(12) Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death.

(13) And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

(14) But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains:

(15) And let him that is on the housetop not go down into the house, neither enter therein, to take any thing out of his house:

(16) And let him that is in the field not turn back again for to take up his garment.

(17) But woe to them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

(18) And pray ye that your flight be not in the winter.

(19) For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.

(20) And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days.

(21) And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ; or, lo, he is there; believe him not:

(22) For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.

(23) But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things.

(24) But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,

(25) And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken.

(26) And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

(27) And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.

(28) Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near:

(29) So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors.

(30) Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done.

(31) Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

(32) But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.

(33) Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.

(34) For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.

(35) Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:

(36) Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.

(37) And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.

Luke 12:35-48

(35) Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning;

(36) And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.

(37) Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.

(38) And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

(39) *And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through.*

(40) *Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.*

(41) *Then Peter said unto him, Lord, speakest thou this parable unto us, or even to all?*

(42) *And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season?*

(43) *Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.*

(44) *Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath.*

(45) *But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken;*

(46) *The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.*

(47) *And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.*

(48) *But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.*

Luke 17:22-37

(22) *And he said unto the disciples, The days will come, when ye shall desire to see one of the days of the Son of man, and ye shall not see it.*

(23) And they shall say to you, See here; or, see there: go not after them, nor follow them.

(24) For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day.

(25) But first must he suffer many things, and be rejected of this generation.

(26) And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

(27) They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.

(28) Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;

(29) But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.

(30) Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

(31) In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back.

(32) Remember Lot's wife.

(33) Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.

(34) I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left.

(35) Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

(36) Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

(37) And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together.

Luke 21:20-33

(20) And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.

(21) Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto.

(22) For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

(23) But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people.

(24) And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

(25) And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;

(26) Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.

(27) And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

(28) And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

(29) And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees;

(30) When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand.

(31) So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.

(32) Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled.

(33) Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

Acts 2:17-21

(17) And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

(18) And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

(19) And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:

(20) The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:

(21) And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Acts 3:19-26

(19) Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

(20) And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

(21) Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

(22) For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

(23) And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.

(24) Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days.

(25) Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.

(26) Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

Romans 11:25-27

(25) For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

(26) And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

(27) For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

1 Corinthians 15:50-57

(50) Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

(51) Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

(52) In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

(53) For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

(54) So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

(55) O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

(56) The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

(57) But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:10

(10) For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

Philippians 3:14

(14) I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

(13) But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

(14) For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

(15) For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

(16) For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

(17) Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

(18) Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

(1) But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

(2) For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

(3) For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

(4) But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

(5) Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

(6) Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

(7) For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

(8) But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

(9) For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

(10) Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

(11) Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

Hebrews 2:9-15

(9) *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*

(10) *For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*

(11) *For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,*

(12) *Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.*

(13) *And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me.*

(14) *Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;*

(15) *And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*

James 2:14-26

(14) *What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?*

(15) *If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,*

(16) *And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?*

(17) *Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.*

(18) *Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.*

(19) *Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.*

(20) *But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?*

(21) Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

(22) Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?

(23) And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

(24) Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

(25) Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?

(26) For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

2 Peter 3:10-13

(10) But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

(11) Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

(12) Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

(13) Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Revelation 16:15-16

(15) Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

(16) And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

Revelation 20:4-6

(4) And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

(5) But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

(6) Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Revelation 20:11-15

(11) And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

(12) And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

(13) And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

(14) And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

(15) And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Isaiah 34:1-8

(1) Come near, ye nations, to hear; and hearken, ye people: let the earth hear, and all that is therein; the world, and all things that come forth of it.

(2) For the indignation of the LORD is upon all nations, and his fury upon all their armies: he hath utterly destroyed them, he hath delivered them to the slaughter.

(3) Their slain also shall be cast out, and their stink shall come up out of their carcasses, and the mountains shall be melted with their blood.

(4) And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree.

(5) For my sword shall be bathed in heaven: behold, it shall come down upon Idumea, and upon the people of my curse, to judgment.

(6) The sword of the LORD is filled with blood, it is made fat with fatness, and with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams: for the LORD hath a sacrifice in Bozrah, and a great slaughter in the land of Idumea.

(7) And the unicorns shall come down with them, and the bullocks with the bulls; and their land shall be soaked with blood, and their dust made fat with fatness.

(8) For it is the day of the LORD'S vengeance, and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion.

Isaiah 63:1-6

(1) Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save.

(2) Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat?

(3) I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment.

(4) For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come.

(5) And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me.

(6) And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth.

Jeremiah 30:2-11

(2) Thus speaketh the LORD God of Israel, saying, Write thee all the words that I have spoken unto thee in a book.

(3) For, lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the LORD: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.

(4) And these are the words that the LORD spake concerning Israel and concerning Judah.

(5) For thus saith the LORD; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace.

(6) Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness?

(7) Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.

(8) For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him:

(9) But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them.

(10) Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith the LORD; neither be dismayed, O Israel: for, lo, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid.

(11) For I am with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished.

Ezekiel 33:2-6

(2) Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman:

(3) If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people;

(4) Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head.

(5) He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul.

(6) But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand.

Daniel 9:20-27

(20) And whiles I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God;

(21) Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation.

(22) And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding.

(23) At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.

(24) Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

(25) Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

(26) And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

(27) And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

Daniel 12:1-3

(1) And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

(2) And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

(3) And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

Joel 3:1-16

(1) For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem,

(2) I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land.

(3) And they have cast lots for my people; and have given a boy for an harlot, and sold a girl for wine, that they might drink.

(4) Yea, and what have ye to do with me, O Tyre, and Zidon, and all the coasts of Palestine? will ye render me a recompence? and if ye recompense me, swiftly and speedily will I return your recompence upon your own head;

(5) Because ye have taken my silver and my gold, and have carried into your temples my goodly pleasant things:

(6) The children also of Judah and the children of Jerusalem have ye sold unto the Grecians, that ye might remove them far from their border.

(7) Behold, I will raise them out of the place whither ye have sold them, and will return your recompence upon your own head:

(8) And I will sell your sons and your daughters into the hand of the children of Judah, and they shall sell them to the Sabeans, to a people far off: for the LORD hath spoken it.

(9) Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up:

(10) Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong.

(11) Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O LORD.

(12) Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about.

(13) Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great.

(14) Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

(15) The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.

(16) The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.

Amos 5:18-20

(18) Woe unto you that desire the day of the LORD! to what end is it for you? the day of the LORD is darkness, and not light.

(19) As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him.

(20) Shall not the day of the LORD be darkness, and not light? even very dark, and no brightness in it?

Zephaniah 1:7-18

(7) Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord GOD: for the day of the LORD is at hand: for the LORD hath prepared a sacrifice, he hath bid his guests.

(8) *And it shall come to pass in the day of the LORD'S sacrifice, that I will punish the princes, and the king's children, and all such as are clothed with strange apparel.*

(9) *In the same day also will I punish all those that leap on the threshold, which fill their masters' houses with violence and deceit.*

(10) *And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD, that there shall be the noise of a cry from the fish gate, and an howling from the second, and a great crashing from the hills.*

(11) *Howl, ye inhabitants of Maktesh, for all the merchant people are cut down; all they that bear silver are cut off.*

(12) *And it shall come to pass at that time, that I will search Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees: that say in their heart, The LORD will not do good, neither will he do evil.*

(13) *Therefore their goods shall become a booty, and their houses a desolation: they shall also build houses, but not inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, but not drink the wine thereof.*

(14) *The great day of the LORD is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the LORD: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly.*

(15) *That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness,*

(16) *A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers.*

(17) *And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung.*

(18) *Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD'S wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.*

Zechariah 14:1-21

(1) *Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.*

(2) *For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.*

(3) *Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.*

(4) *And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.*

(5) *And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.*

(6) *And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark:*

(7) *But it shall be one day which shall be known to the LORD, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light.*

(8) *And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be.*

(9) *And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.*

(10) *All the land shall be turned as a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem: and it shall be lifted up, and inhabited in her place, from Benjamin's gate unto the place of the first gate, unto the corner gate, and from the tower of Hananeel unto the king's winepresses.*

(11) And men shall dwell in it, and there shall be no more utter destruction; but Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited.

(12) And this shall be the plague wherewith the LORD will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth.

(13) And it shall come to pass in that day, that a great tumult from the LORD shall be among them; and they shall lay hold every one on the hand of his neighbour, and his hand shall rise up against the hand of his neighbour.

(14) And Judah also shall fight at Jerusalem; and the wealth of all the heathen round about shall be gathered together, gold, and silver, and apparel, in great abundance.

(15) And so shall be the plague of the horse, of the mule, of the camel, and of the ass, and of all the beasts that shall be in these tents, as this plague.

(16) And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

(17) And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.

(18) And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

(19) This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

(20) In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the LORD'S house shall be like the bowls before the altar.

(21) Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holiness unto the LORD of hosts: and all they that sacrifice shall come and take of them,

*and seethe therein: and in that day there shall be no more the Canaanite
in the house of the LORD of hosts.*

