

# Christianity's Tragic Loss

18/12/2018. This is the first article I have written for 6 months, which concluded with the passing of my dear wife from an inoperable brain tumour. If there is one thing I have learned from this sobering experience, it is that no matter how close we believe we are to Jesus Christ, we are not close enough if we hope to become His Bride. I learned we need an even deeper repentance, with **zero toleration** of the sins which can so easily beset us. It is in this light that I offer to you what I believe God wants made clear to His people at this time.

Do you believe the words of God? Then you must accept that the whole world is deceived by the god of this world; Revelation 12:9, 'And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, **the deceiver of the whole world**—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him'. And 2 Corinthians 4:4, 'In whom the **god of this world** hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them'. In this article we will examine the tragic results of these truths.

It doesn't matter if you are a Roman Catholic, an Anglican, a Church of God member, or even a Muslim, you are likely deceived and according to Jesus Christ you are spiritually asleep, Matthew 25:5, 'The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.' NIV.

Notice that in this parable, verses 1-10, Christ warns that ALL Christians are asleep, and these are not just regular 'Christians', they are spiritually virgins - those who have avoided false churches and false teaching which rejects God's Commandments. When Christ returns He does not even recognise half of them, verses 10 and 13, 'But while they were gone to buy oil, the bridegroom came. Then **those who were ready** went in with him to the marriage feast, and **the door was locked**', "But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, **I do not know you.**'"

Those rejected virgins kept God's Commandments, but in doing so they allowed themselves to be misled by men who claimed to be God's ministers but failed to teach the WHOLE of God's Truth, or were simply not diligent enough in their study of God's word, and by missing out key chapters and verses and dwelling on their own traditions, they failed to prepare for Christ's return, by neglecting to find God's vitally important End Time instructions. Their lack of diligence or willingness to allow men to dictate their beliefs almost quenched their Holy Spirit!

Is that so important? Well, according to this parable, if you want to be in the First and better resurrection (Hebrews 11:35) and share rule with Jesus Christ for 1000 years during the millennium, it surely is! Revelation 20:4,

'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.**'

You see, we must understand that those who take part in the First Resurrection, **marry** Jesus Christ. There can be no closer relationship! There will only be 144,000 of them even after 6000 years. Like the virtuous woman of Proverbs 31, they are *very* diligent and special indeed; in Jesus' eyes they have to be, for their future responsibilities are awesome.

Sadly, most who claim to be Christians today are not willing to spend the time and effort needed to come to know and follow God's word and His Way. They are quite content to be spoon fed rather

than diligently searching and applying the scriptures themselves. Thus the majority of ‘Christians’ will *not* take part in the marriage to Christ on the Sea of Glass in Heaven before our Fathers Throne, Revelation 14:1-5 and Revelation 15:2-3, according to God’s word.

‘Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him **144,000** who had his name and his Father’s name written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. It is these who have **not defiled themselves with women** (The teaching of false churches), for they are virgins. It is these who **follow the Lamb** wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless’.

‘And I saw what appeared to be **a sea of glass** mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb....’

The 144,000 mentioned here were not defiled by such false religion. Instead, they faithfully looked directly to Jesus Christ, - His pattern, teaching and example, 1 Peter 2:21, ‘**For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps**’. They diligently *followed* the Lamb and so escaped the errors taught by the dominion of men, so common in large denominations ruled by hierarchies of all kinds, who decide the doctrines which must be followed by their ordinary members, even on pain of expulsion.

So, let’s look at the major errors which have diverted Christians from their God-given End Time role. First let us recognise that we need to put ALL the major scriptures about the End Time events together if we wish to find the Truth. We will need to include the major contribution of the books of Daniel, Matthew 24, Revelation 6, AND Revelation 14, which has been almost totally neglected!

Ideally, we should make our own chart with vertical columns for each of these and then synchronise the events in those columns so that we can then create one column that includes ALL the events. It is worth going to that trouble.

However, in this context, the book of Daniel makes just one major contribution and so hardly needs a column. Daniel’s 70th week of his 70 weeks prophecy is separate from the previous 69 weeks. Daniel 9:24-25, ‘**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. 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.**’ The Jews of Jesus’ time rejected Him as their Messiah, so God turned to the Gentile church, introducing a gap between the end of the 69 “weeks” and the beginning of the 70th week. That “week” is acknowledged to be 7 literal years, that start when the coming dictator of Europe, “the Beast”, makes a protective covenant or league with the nation of Israel, Daniel 9:27, ‘**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**’, and Daniel 11:23, ‘**And after the league made with him he shall work deceitfully: for he shall come up, and shall become strong with a small people**’. (A token force).

**This 70<sup>th</sup> week is the last 7 years of this age**, which is known as the Tribulation, and it concludes with the establishment of Christ’s Kingdom here on this earth. **We know this because** Jesus Christ

tells us in Matthew 24:15 that the Beast sets up the abomination of desolation in the holy place in Jerusalem, and we know from Daniel 9:27 that this takes place 'In the midst of the week,' the 70<sup>th</sup> week.

Now let's notice that Matthew 24, Revelation 6 and Revelation 14 all provide significant details of this 7-year chronology. Matthew 24:14, tells us that the End Time starts with the gospel being preached in all the world for a witness. The Church has taught that *it* will do that. Wrong. Despite modern technology, men try their best but can never reach everyone! But God can, and Christ explains how in Revelation 14:6-7, '**And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters**'. Here is the same warning message brought by Jesus Christ, 'and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; **repent and believe in the gospel.**" Mark1:15.

It will be miraculously achieved by one of God's angels (See our article, 'Dreams and Visions').

Next follow the first 5 Seals of Revelation 6:2-11, 'Now I watched when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, "Come!" And I looked, and behold, a white horse! And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer. (False Christ)

When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!" And out came another horse, bright red. Its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people should slay one another, and he was given a great sword. (War)

When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" And I looked, and behold, a black horse! And its rider had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard what seemed to be a voice in the midst of the four living creatures, saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius, and do not harm the oil and wine!" (Famine)

When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!" And I looked, and behold, a pale horse! And its rider's name was Death, and Hades followed him. And they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth. (Death)

When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been'. (Persecution of God's people)

These 5 Seals find their equivalents in Matthew 24:4-9.

We should add here that the Second Seal, War, will include the fall of geographical Babylon, as is revealed by Revelation 14:8, 'Another angel, a **second**, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality."' Geographical Babylon, in Revelation 18, is not to be confused with spiritual Babylon, the great false church of Revelation 17. Geographical Babylon is the greatest trading nation on earth, whose actions in both commerce, entertainment and law have corrupted many nations around the earth. Read Revelation 18. God Himself brings symbolic Babylon into captivity, Revelation 18:4-5, 'And I heard

another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, **my people**, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities'. This is the time of **Jacob's trouble**, '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,' Jeremiah 30:7. These are God's people, who are in nations which have acted like Babylon, and deserve punishment in order to correct them, verse 11, 'For I am with you to save you, declares the LORD; I will make a full end of all the nations among whom **I scattered you**, but of you I will not make a full end. I will discipline you in just measure, and I will by no means leave you unpunished.' Who are these people? They are Jacob's descendants, through his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim; America and Britain.

We can know that chapter 18 **differs** in subject from chapter 17, which also includes the fall of a very different Babylon, because they fall at very different times. We see from Revelation 14:8 that *its* Babylon falls very *early* in the Tribulation, the last 7 years, unlike the spiritual Babylon of Revelation 17, the great false church, which is only removed by the ten kings *towards the end* of the Great Tribulation, which is the *last* 3½ years, Revelation 17:16.

Already we have learned new knowledge from God's word that the churches do not understand because they look to their leaders rather than the whole of God's word. But even more serious are the errors of the false scenarios accepted by very many churches regarding the First Resurrection, the resurrection of the Firstfruit Saints, rather than that of general humanity at **the end** of the 1000 years of the millennium, the *second* resurrection, Revelation 20: 11-12, '**Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.**'

These scenarios are referred to as the "rapture" as they involve Christ returning and taking up His saints who have qualified to become His Bride in the First Resurrection. We learn that this event is preceded by dramatic **heavenly signs**;

Matthew 24:29, 'Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.'

Revelation 6:12, 'When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood,' Even the book of Joel refers to these heavenly signs, Joel 2:30-31, and Acts 2:20 repeats them.

The arrival of Christ *for* His Saints we read of in Matthew 24:30, Revelation 6:15-16, and Revelation 14:14.

Matthew 24:30, 'Then will appear in heaven **the sign of the Son of Man**, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.'

Revelation 15-16, 'Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slaved and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and **hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne**, and from the wrath of the Lamb,

Revelation 14:14, 'Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and seated on the cloud one **like a son of man**, with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand.'

Note that at that coming, Christ does not set foot on the earth.

There are several different views of the *time* of the First resurrection. The first and most popular understanding is the Premillennial, Pretribulation 'rapture', which has the Saints taken before the Tribulation even starts, so that they do not experience any tribulation at all. However the 5<sup>th</sup> Seal of

Revelation 6 refutes that theory: Revelation 6: 9-11, ‘When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, **who were to be killed** as they themselves had been.’

As does Matthew 24:9-10, “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and **put you to death**, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another.”

And Daniel 11:33-35, ‘And the wise among the people shall make many understand, though for some days they shall **stumble by sword and flame**, by captivity and plunder. When they stumble, they shall receive a little help. And many shall join themselves to them with flattery, and some of the wise shall stumble, so that they may be refined, purified, and made white, until the time of the end, for it still awaits the appointed time.’

Then there is the Premillennial Posttribulation ‘rapture’. In this theory some believe that the Church will be protected in a place of safety during the Tribulation and that at its end they will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air, and return on the same day – the Feast of Trumpets – back to the earth. This theory never mentions the events on the Sea of Glass, and the idea that we could be changed into spirit beings at our resurrection, be carried by the angels to join Christ in the clouds, be taken to Heaven, before our Fathers Throne on the Sea of Glass, take part in our marriage to Christ, learn how to ride a white horse in Christ’s heavenly army and be taught how to fight at Armageddon, and then return to the earth, all in one day, well, imagine the shock of just being resurrected. Being reunited with your wife or husband in your new spirit body – and then all the rest. It would be impossible!

However, if we put ALL the scriptures together, we can know the Truth! The key scripture here is the one ignored by the churches, and we find it in Revelation 14:14-16, ‘Then I looked, and behold, **a white cloud, and seated on the cloud one like a son of man**, with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand. And another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to him who sat on the cloud, “Put in your sickle, and reap, for the hour to reap has come, for the **harvest of the earth is fully ripe**.” So he who sat on the cloud swung his sickle across the earth, and the earth was reaped.’

Here we see the same events described in Matthew 24:30-31, ‘Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will **see the Son of Man coming on the clouds** of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and **they will gather his elect from the four winds**, from one end of heaven to the other.’

And Revelation 6:12-16, ‘When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. (The Heavenly Signs which precede the First Resurrection) The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slaved and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the **face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb**...’.

However, because we have included Revelation 14 we can **now** see that this harvest of Christ’s Firstfruits takes place at the Sixth Seal **before** the **Great Tribulation**, which occurs **later** in verses 18-19, ‘Then another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and **he too had a sharp sickle**. Still another angel, with authority over the fire, came from the altar and called out in a loud voice to the angel with the sharp sickle, “Swing your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the vine

of the earth, because its grapes are ripe.” So the angel swung his sickle over the earth and gathered the grapes of the earth, and he threw them into **the great winepress of God’s wrath.**’

So, we have the first 5 Seals taking place, which are referred to in Matthew 24:29 as the ‘**Tribulation of those days,**’ followed by the Heavenly Signs and the resurrection of the Firstfruit Saints at the 6<sup>th</sup> Seal. We are told in Revelation 12:14 that the ‘woman’ ie. some of God’s Church, escapes into ‘her place’ where she is nourished (spiritually) for 3½ years. We have learned that place to be the Sea of Glass in Heaven, and there they remain until the end of **the Great Tribulation**, the *last half* of the 7 years. There we know that they marry Christ and I believe we can safely presume that they learn all they need to know about how to help Jesus Christ rule the earth, until their return with Him to the mount of Olives. This at the start of THE 7TH SEAL which we can read of in Revelation 7. (And in our article, ‘From Jerusalem to the Sea of Glass’)

They are taken to the Sea of Glass in Heaven, along with thousands from around the earth and the resurrected long dead Saints, to take part in the marriage.

Revelation 19: 5-7,

‘And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: **for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife has made herself ready.**’

Revelation 14:1-4 ‘

‘Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion (In Heaven cf. Hebrews 12:22) stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father’s name written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, and they were singing a new song **before the throne** and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins.’

Revelation 15:2, ‘And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands’

All of this, and much more has been virtually lost because one man’s false scenario placed the First Resurrection at the **end** of the Great Tribulation, by missing out Revelation 14’s contribution. The great tragedy is that this led to eyes closed to God’s instructions regarding our major role during the End Time, and half of even the virgins shut out of God’s Kingdom during the millennium – their great goal lost! Are you one of the deceived? Do you know that End Time role? Have you made yourself ready?

Tragically these Commandment keeping Christians suffer the Great Tribulation and give their lives in the attack of Satan the Devil, Revelation 12:17 ‘**Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.**’

Significantly, Jesus Christ, in talking about End Time Christians, the only group He refers to in the Bible are those found fleeing from Jerusalem at the arrival of the Beast with his armies. Luke 21:20-21, “**But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart,**

and let not those who are out in the country enter it.” They have just completed their God given task, and are on their way to the First Resurrection!

What were they doing in Jerusalem? Well, if it doesn't come to mind, maybe you need to look at the scriptures which most of God's people are not aware of. Find the answer on page 2 of our 'Articles', under the title, 'Watchmen of Ephraim'.

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