Last Chance Bride (4)

I believe we have seen from God's word that the **whole** Christian world has been confused about the return of Jesus Christ. Revelation 12:9, 'And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the **whole** world: 12, for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.' As a result, even in the Church of God there are variations of belief, but **none** of them can withstand deep comparison with the word of God, which is where *our* loyalty should lie, and the aim of these 4 articles is to encourage us all to look more closely at God's word, so that we can **follow Jesus Christ into His Kingdom** rather than accepting the teaching of men, no matter how much we owe to them.

I am, like John, simply a voice in the wilderness, wishing I had the power and resources to place these words of Christ before the world, but it seems those whose minds are still **open** to the words of Christ are very few indeed, amazing as that seems, but then, when God Himself deludes you, you don't know you are deluded, and Jesus Christ obviously expects deep respect and commitment **to His Words** from His Bride to be.

Before we go any further, it is vital that you understand **the 7 year Tribulation.** In **Daniel 9** we find the 70 weeks prophecy, divided into 69 weeks (v 25) and 1 final week (each day for a year) after a long intermission, until just before Christ's Kingdom. (v27) "Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the **middle** of the week He shall **bring an end** to sacrifice and offering (of God's people) And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, **Even until the consummation**, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate." The first half of the 7 years, Seals1-6, are referred to as "the Tribulation of those days" in Matthew 24:29, and the last half is called "The Great Tribulation" in verse 21.

At the start of that last 'week' (Revelation 14:6..is another chronology of the 7 years) the Beast leading Europe makes a treaty of protection with the nation of Israel in the Middle East, and when world war breaks out at the *second* Seal, Israel becomes the only safe place during the first $3\frac{1}{2}$ years, (Dan. 9:27) until he breaks that 'covenant' or league, at the half way point, and invades Israel as a stepping-stone into capturing the Middle East's oil, intending to kill God's servants who have been fulfilling God's command in Jeremiah 31:6-7, *and* also warning against worshiping the Beast.

Jesus Christ tells us, and so we believe, that this occurs at the significant the half way point in the **7 years**, Daniel 9:27, and **Matthew 24:15**, when God's servants flee from Jerusalem into the Judaean wilderness, where God rescues them at the resurrection, Revelation 12:14-16. May God help you to put the scriptures together!

Some few have recognised the error of believing that the First Resurrection takes place at the Feast of Trumpets at the *end* of the 3½ year Great Tribulation, but have mistakenly placed it instead, at Pentecost, forgetting that the Saints are "nourished" in their place, which we have seen is on **the Sea of Glass, in Heaven,** for a "time, times and half a time", and if you count back from the Feast of Trumpets, for 3½ years, you will pass by the day of Pentecost.

The fact is that Christ *does* return from Heaven at the Feast of Trumpets, but **WITH** His Bride, not **FOR** His Bride, (Zechariah 14:4-5); two quite separate events, separated by the 3½ years, Revelation 12:14, 'And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.'

We have previously seen in part (3) that though *some* who flee from Jerusalem are protected and nourished in the wilderness of Petra in Jordan, the main body of the Saints are taken by Christ to the Sea of Glass in Heaven after their resurrection. That they are there for 3½ years, cancels out the possibility of their resurrection at Pentecost, as we have seen, but correctly brings us to the Wave-sheaf Day during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, (Leviticus 23:10) as that Resurrection year has to be be a thirteen month intercalated year to accommodate all the scriptures. (See our Article "An Abib Resurrection?", page 2 number 10, Articles.)

That was the day of *Christ's* ascension and acceptance after His crucifixion by His Father, as having paid the penalty for mankind's sin. Leviticus 23:11, 'And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted <u>for you</u>: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it.' Modern translations say: "accepted on <u>your behalf</u>," because the Wave-Sheaf, with its many grains, represents not just the acceptance of Christ alone, but His Bride to be, also!

I think by this time, most of us fully understand *why* the churches do not even <u>see</u> God's plain words, because of the delusion God promised to bring upon them as they have failed to love Jesus Christ's words sufficiently, and instead looked to man's false scenarios about the End-Time, Mark 7:8 'Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men.' (Failing to mention, for example, the commands of God about our End-Time role, broadcasting life saving hope to captive 'Israel' - the US, UK etc., from Jerusalem.)

We saw in "Last Chance Bride (2) that despite the teaching of the COG, it is **not** God who blows the trumpet in Revelation 11:15, but an angel, 'And **the seventh angel** sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world **are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ;** and he shall reign for ever and ever.' Compare Zechariah 9:14, 1Thessalonians 4:16, where **God Himself blows the trumpet** at the Resurrection!

So, despite the false teaching of the churches, Revelation 11:15 **is not the Resurrection** *or* the true "Last Trump", at all!" When Christ becomes 'King over all the earth', notice the *real* 'Last Trump', in Psalm 47:3,5.

This Feast of Trumpets in Revelation 11:15 actually depicts the time when Christ *returns* from Heaven **with** His Bride to claim His Kingdom. It is also the 7th Trump, **concluding** with the 7 last plagues, which are poured out in His presence; indeed some believe those ram's horns sound continuously throughout all the plagues, Armageddon and the great earthquake being at their conclusion.

That Feast of Trumpets is a war Feast of the greatest violence and destruction, a most *inappropriate* feast-day on which to celebrate the resurrection; so severe, then, (Matthew 24:22) that such has never been seen before, and when the final subtrumpet sounds, the earth is in total chaos and mankind is decimated, Isaiah 24:1, 5-6, 'Behold, the LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof. The earth also is **defiled** under the inhabitants thereof; **because they have transgressed the laws**, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and **few men left.'** It is sad to relay such verses, but we are dealing with the truth, and our vital need to repent. Much as we love our brethren, we have to admit that only a *tiny* proportion of God's people have actually prepared themselves by obedience, as we have seen, (Acts 5:32) for the First Resurrection.

The whole ridiculously false concept that, while all these horrors play out, the Resurrection takes place as the day of Trumpets progresses around the world; the deceased Saints arise from their graves; then those who are alive are also changed to spirit beings; they rise up into the clouds gathered by the angels; carried to the sea of glass to Heaven; there to sing songs before God's Throne; marry Christ; enjoy the Marriage Supper; be issued their various roles; be taught all they need to know to carry out those roles; including how to ride a war-horse, and then return to earth with Christ to fight at Armageddon, is more than ridiculous, it is plainly impossible!

So, if you have been checking the scriptures as this series progressed towards its conclusion, you will have proved that, quite amazingly, the main resurrection beliefs of the churches of God do not match up with God's words about the Tribulation in the Bible! You have seen that this came about because they did not love God's words enough to actually obey them. Instead, they relied on one man's vision of just 3½ years of Tribulation, and other unbiblical assumptions which do not allow time enough to accommodate the specific End-Time commands of God!

2 Timothy 4:3-4, 'For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.' I say again: do not believe me. Believe God's words! His great mercy will not allow these things to take place until His servants who are able,

have prepared to broadcast that message of hope, but all this information has not been fully understood until it is needed. It takes time to grasp the complexity of the coming seven years, and we need to *study* God's words to find the Truth; Christ expects it of us! **Never assume the truth of church tradition, unless you can see it for yourself in God's word,** or you will be diverted, and deluded, and therein lies failure to keep God's End-Time commands! Acts 5:29, 32, 'Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men....And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Spirit, whom **God hath given to them that obey him.** Have **you** ignored Jesus Christ's words?

1 Thessalonians 5:9, 'For God hath **not appointed us to wrath**, but to *obtain salvation* by our Lord Jesus Christ.'

Revelation 3:10, '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.' We have seen that after the 6th Seal Resurrection, the Bride is taken to the Sea of Glass in Heaven during the 3½ years of the Great Tribulation. This promise applies all who "have kept my command to endure patiently," right up to the 6th Seal. Since that "hour" (7th Seal) is worldwide and inescapable, "kept from" has to mean escape from the location upon which the "hour" transpires, the earth!

Tragically, almost all churches have built *their* beliefs about the End-Time upon a foundation of sand instead of the solid rock of God's word. When this occurs, every doctrine built upon that faulty foundation will fall, because it is subject to failure.

So, some would ask, "does this really matter?" For a start, believing in a Feast of Trumpets resurrection at the end of a 3½ year Tribulation does not allow time for God's stated, commanded, merciful message of hope to be broadcast from Jerusalem.

The **result** is that we are told that the **Bridegroom tarries**, while the Church **sleeps**, Matthew 25:5, Isaiah 52. Waken up! The few watchmen warn, but humanity is suffering greatly, and **we** are responsible!! We do not need to do more than prepare ourselves for this responsibility at this point, but it **must** be acknowledged by God's **faithful**, and preliminary steps taken by those in positions of power who are loyal, who love His word **enough to put it into practice!**

Failure to love these words of Jesus Christ is already delaying the Plan of God, maybe to determine **just who are** the faithful! Without obedience, the Holy Spirit can be quenched! 1Thessalonians 5:19, 'Quench not the Spirit.'

It is my responsibility as a watchman to warn that **failure** to recognise the truth **from the words of Jesus Christ**, and at the least to forward this message to the leaders of our churches and our brethren, **may place doubt** about our love of those words, and mankind, as well as our **preparedness** for the coming of our Lord, Matthew 25:10.

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