

A Prophetic View Of The End Times

A Testimony Of The Lord's Unfolding Revelation



My story of increased spiritual understanding on the journey to towards the end of this age in the plan and purposes of God for His Church.

by

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Introduction

If two people were to look at a scene from different vantage points their description of the scene might be slightly different, but should be complementary of the overall view. I was privileged to have been involved with an International Christian Men's organisation at National level within the UK. I say, "privileged", because it gave me a vantage point from which to see much of what was taking place in the denominations in various parts of the world during the 1980's and early 1990's. This organisation had its beginnings as a result of God's plan and purpose for the Church with a prophetic horizon of the end of the age. It began as a move of God but sadly, like previous moves of God, men took what the Holy Spirit had initiated and organised it! This did not detract from it's prophetic emphasis which was, I believe, very relevant to the whole of the body of Christ and the Lord's ultimate purpose for His body - His church - as it reaches the end of the Church Age.

Jesus said, "Call no man teacher for One is your Teacher," (Matt.23:8). Unless the Holy Spirit gives us revelation, eyes to see and ears to hear, we cannot spiritually understand. Paul prayed for the believers at Ephesus that God would give them a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, that the eyes of their hearts might be enlightened, (Ephesians1:17&18). That is my prayer for those who read this booklet.

A Separation Had Already Begun

As 1994 drew to a close I found myself reflecting on where we had got to in the Lord's plans and purposes and spent this time

asking the Father what He is saying.

The previous two years had been quite amazing as we, with a small number of other believers, had been brought out from among the religious Christian denominational system. This was not a sudden thing but the culmination of what the Lord had been teaching and showing us for several years.

In the 1980's what was a move of God swept through the UK. Known as the so called 'Charismatic Renewal' it seemed to bring many into the Kingdom of God with an emphasis on being baptised in the Holy Spirit. There was an excitement as God moved by His Spirit with healings and miracles. It seemed to bring life to the denominations and new denominational churches sprung up. Home meetings were everywhere. But almost as soon as it had begun this move of God began to fade.

I was part of a small group who began to seek the Lord as to why this was happening. What was wrong? From the late 1980's we met regularly. What the Lord began to show us had us checking with scripture and checking our own walk with Him. We ourselves were guilty of having strayed from scripture. Much of what we did was to do with man's kingdom building, with a small 'k', not the Kingdom of God. We had names over us that replaced the Name of Jesus, memberships of our sectarian groups, and leaders when Jesus said to "call no man 'leader' for One is your Leader, even Christ." (Matt. 23:10) We found that the English translations of scripture wrongly translated Greek words that hid the original meaning and upheld the hierarchical structures that were mirrored in all denominations, rather than the level brotherhood that Christ told us we were. Jesus said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and

whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave,” (Matt.20:25-27) and said, “Do not be called Rabbi; for One is your Teacher, and you are all brothers.” (Matt.23:8)

On 6th January 1993 we met as we had done over these preceding years but this time for one of our number to share a vision and revelation he had had some weeks before of how the Bride and the Harlot, previously mixed together, had come into being but were beginning to separate.

This brother shared a vision and revelation he had had. It took him over an hour to explain much he had received in just moments. He had seen man’s rebellion against God in the form of ‘Baal worship’, ‘Emperor worship’, and mans wrong use of the ‘Law of God’. He heard a voice saying, “Let us build a system that would be acceptable to the world.” He then saw what he called, ‘Babylon’, being built as a building compromising of all three rebellious systems with their temples made by hand, their priests and popes, their idols, altars and laws. He saw a vision of the Bride of Christ, perfect in every way. He drew a picture of two women, one superimposed on the other, explaining that they were presently mixed together **but were beginning to separate**. Whilst we did not fully realise the import of just what God was telling us, it was to become clear that He was advising us what just had, or was about to take place. 1993 was going to turn out to be a momentous year!

Within three weeks two of us who were so called National Leaders of the organisation we belonged to were told by our fellow, so called leaders, that unless we submitted to the leadership of just one of our number, we must resign. It was an attempt to bring a unity among the national leadership of our organisation by having one man be declared head over the others. For some years there had been differing understandings regarding our relationship to the

denominations and our relationship to God. Our exhortation that we be 'led by the Spirit, doing nothing without corporate unity given by the Holy Spirit, so Jesus would be our Head, was not seen by the majority as a viable way forward. The 'headship' of our organisation was taken from Jesus that day! We resigned as leaders and hugged our brethren who could not understand our stance.

Subsequently our memberships of this organisation were also withdrawn. We were now part of the very separation we had had prophesied to us just days before! But we were to find out all of this was but a small part of what was happening on a worldwide basis and which was going to effect the whole body of Christ!

We soon learnt that within these same first few weeks at the beginning of 1993 our organisation had made one man *legally* 'head' of our International organisation too, when it had always been declared that Jesus was our Head. In the same way Jesus had been removed from His place as head of our organisation in the UK the 'International' had also effectively removed Jesus as its head!

All of this coincided with possibly a very significant date, the 31st December 1992 which saw changes in the European Union. Three years before it had been written that this date would see the beginning of the end of the world system as it had existed up to that date, bringing changes that would radically effect every country, referring to the increased sovereignty of the European Community and other trading blocks as the trading frontiers were to be taken down within them.

Something was happening in the spiritual realm we little understood but it's effects were evident.

The Lord Began To Give Understanding

At the beginning of 1995 I reflected on this change we had experienced and subsequent happenings of late 1992 and early 1993. During this time of reflection I received correspondence from a past leader of our organisation who had seen this the change in what had begun as a move of God but which had begun to be organised many years before. It had caused him to resign in the mid 1960's. This letter spoke of that which made up what was of God had always been made up of 'two women', 'two mothers', or 'two cities'. It described Abraham's house with Hagar and Sarah living together, (Gen.16) and paralleled the scriptures in Revelation 12 and 17 which speak of two women, the two women representing the true and false church. I began to understand that the early church, in reality, also had two streams flowing together which was evidenced almost as soon as it had begun. The apostle, John, refers to the spirits of antichrist going out *from* among them. (1 John 2:18-19)

My correspondent wrote that the spirit of religion had always plagued mankind and had always sought to walk with those who were truly spiritual. He said that in all his experience of hundreds of corporate meetings he had never seen 'the near perfect values' manifested other than for very brief moments, or periods, and for decades he had sought God for the answer to this universal dilemma of the effects and presence of these two streams always flowing together.

He then went on to explain that in the last two years (1993 - 1995) he had seen a group of believers, a 'hidden remnant', who were a 'being' people walking in what he called, 'Tabernacle values', spread all over the world, amongst his contacts. He said that he was beginning to see 'this sleeping

giant, this Gulliver, beginning to breathe from a new wind of the Spirit.’

This timely letter I received brought a confirmation of exactly what I believe the Holy Spirit was showing me and what had been prophesied, the separation of the Bride and the Harlot having begun. But I was realising that this separation was the reality of tares being removed from among wheat that Jesus said would come about at the end of the age. What the Lord was showing me was yet to be understood by those still left in the denominations, and acted upon.

Two Streams - Two Cities

Coming as a confirmation to what the Lord had told us in 1993 and which soon became our experience, I was beginning to understand; these ‘two cities’ and ‘two streams’ had always cohabited side by side, seemingly inseparable. Yet my correspondent was saying that he was seeing a separation beginning in that which is called ‘church’.

Our experience, and now this letter, were confirming this was so, for we were indeed part of this very separation, but I realised that our experience alone was no enough. This **must be found in scripture.**

The Lord had already given me a desire to write down this growing revelation in my heart about the wheat and the tares and what the Lord had placed on my heart I now found being confirmed to me. I had to write it down.

The Wheat and the Tares

The parable Jesus shared, of ‘Wheat and Tares’, (Matthew 13:24-30 & 37-43), explains that these differing plants

growing together cannot be separated until the time of the end of the age. Jesus explained that it is at the 'end of the age' (aion = an 'age' or 'period of time', not 'world' as some Bible translations wrongly put it) that the wheat and the tares would be separated. In this parable Jesus explains that to uproot the tares that had been sown by the enemy would uproot the wheat also; "Allow both to grow together until the harvest." If the prophetic revelation that had been shared with us in 1993, that the Bride and the Harlot were now being separated, was 'of the Lord', this could only refer to this time that Jesus spoke about through the parable of the 'Wheat and Tares'.

Jesus tells of a second parable, the parable of the Dragnet, that is also applicable to the end of the age, describing the same event as the separation of the wheat and tares. In this parallel parable the separation of good and bad fish occurs at the end of the age too. Jesus explains, when the wicked are taken out "from among the righteous." (Matthew. 13:49)

Jesus says that this is a removal of those who previously had been mixed together with the sons of the Kingdom. It does not refer to the taking of the church out from the world. This is not the 'catching away of the saints' when Christ returns. This parable refers to a separation of those who would say they belonged to the Kingdom but who in reality have been sown by the devil, stumbling blocks and those who commit lawlessness.

Come Out Of Her My People

As I considered scripture I could see that before the end of this age, and before the return of the Lord, another separation is described of those who belong to the Lord and those who do not, but think they do. Again, it is a separation which is not to

do with those in the world but of what had previously been mixed together. It is to do with "Mystery Babylon."

In Revelation 18, when the sins of Babylon have "piled up as high as heaven," Jesus says, "Come out of her *My* people that you may not partake in her sins and that you may not receive of her plagues." The judgement of what is called 'the great harlot', Babylon the great, the mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth, is about to come. (cf.Rev.17:1&5) "In one day her plagues will come, pestilence and mourning, and famine, and she will be burned up with fire." (Rev.18:8)

We see that the fate of the tares, the bad fish and the city of Babylon is the same, to be burned up with fire. I could see that they all refer to the same event. This judgement is carried out by the 'beast' and it's ten horns, God having put it in their hearts "to execute His purpose." (Rev.17:16&17)

The Church Still Here When The Beast Arises

Many in the body of Christ have an end-time eschatology that has the body of Christ being raptured - caught away - before the emergence of the beast, his mark and the tribulation of the saints - the great tribulation. They therefore maintain that any separation of tares from among the wheat and judgement by the beast is not to do with current believers but so called 'tribulation saints'. It is very necessary, therefore, to understand from Revelation 20:4&5 that the 'first resurrection' of the dead in Christ, which includes the saints of old, and which is also the time of the catching away of the saints, includes those who have not received the mark of the beast and those beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and because of the Word of God. There cannot be a catching away, a rapture of the church, before those saints refuse the mark of

the beast. There cannot be a resurrection before the 'first' one! This scripture makes this very clear.

So it was that I came to realise that the time of the end of this age had begun. The 'Bride' and the 'Harlot', had begun to be separated. I realised also that to begin with, only a few would seem to break free. However, as they break free more will follow. In 1993 we thought this would take place far more quickly than it has! But this was our assumption.

The true sons of God must be set free for their end-time ministry is to preach the gospel of the Kingdom to every tongue, people, tribe and nation, for there are those from every tongue, people, tribe and nation who come out of the great tribulation that John saw in heaven. John says, "After these things I looked and behold, a great multitude from every nation, and all tribes, and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes" and was told "these are those who come out of the great tribulation." (Rev.7:9&14).

This truth, that the church is here during the great tribulation, is often missed because many confuse the 'great tribulation' with the 'wrath of God'. These differing times are always referred to separately in scripture and never interchangeably. The great tribulation is not the wrath of God but caused by Satan having great wrath because he knows his time is short. (cf.Rev.12:12) The 'great tribulation' and the 'wrath of God' are separate events. The church is here for the 'great tribulation' but are not destined for the wrath of God. (cf.1 Thess.5:9)

The End Time Harvest

So it is that Jesus says the separation of tares from among the wheat coincides with the end of the age and

the time of harvest. (cf. Matt. 13:30&40) The multitude who come out of the great tribulation is this end-time harvest which is gathered before the Lord returns. There is no other harvest described in scripture. Many look for man made revival but the only end-time harvest found in scripture is that which coincides with the great tribulation, a soon coming 3½ year period. But first the sons of the Kingdom must be separated.

Jesus said, "Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the Kingdom of their Father." (Matt. 13:43) Daniel prophesies of this same time, saying, "Those who have insight will shine brightly, like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever." (Dan. 12:2&3) Daniel places this time as being in a "time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time," (Dan. 12:1) that Jesus described as "a great tribulation, "such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall." (Matt. 24:21)

It is in her separation from the harlot that we begin to see a picture of the church being brought into the freedom for which Jesus has set her free. Her separation is part of this.

The Separation Has Begun

Perhaps not recognised by many, 1993 saw this separation begin. As the 'two streams', the tares and the wheat, the Harlot and the Bride, began to part it is as though there are three streams. One completely false, one is a continuing mixture, and the other set free. The Bride in preparation for the coming of Her Lord had begun but the true church, which is the body of Christ, still needs to be set fully free from the chains that had bound her for 2000 years. I understood many true believers were still trapped in the denominations.

The true church has only one Head - the Lord Jesus Christ. The true church are His sheep who are those who hear His voice. The true church are those whose only desire is to do the will of their Heavenly Father. We are yet to see the culmination of the two thousand year battle for Jesus to build His church. Only Jesus can build His church, His church looking only to their Head, that He might accomplish through His body the Fathers end-time will.

Interpreting Scripture Aright

“No prophecy of scripture is a matter of ones own interpretation for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men, moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.” (2 Peter 1:20&21) We must therefore look to the Holy Spirit as our Teacher who alone can lead us into all truth. We must not try to interpret scripture by our intellect. This booklet is not written to try to persuade but for it’s truth to be confirmed by the Holy Spirit as to whether it is correct. We must not rely on our intellect for spiritual understanding can only come by revelation that only the Holy Spirit can grant us us. Jesus said, “To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of God, but to the rest it is in parables, so that seeing, they may not see, and hearing, they may not understand.” (Luke 8:11)

In trying to understand parables and scriptures which use picture language many make the mistake of reading too much into the characters or picture language being used. The parables often draw from Old Testament symbolism and this symbolic meaning is very useful to being able to understand them. We must not, however, attribute more to the symbolism than we should. If we do, rather than improving our understanding, we can end up with an incorrect interpretation.

When Paul used the picture of a body to explain the spiritual reality of the church that is the body of Christ, we can overlook the fact that he was referring to functions within the body and not positions. As a result of wrong interpretation some suggest that it is necessary for us to find our correct fixed position: whether we are a little finger or knee perhaps, and teach that we must make sure we are connected to those who are located permanently on either side of us. This misuse of this picture language is used in the denominational church system to encourage a fixed structure through which man's authority and control can flow. (cf.1 Cor.12:13-27)

In the parable of the 'ten virgins' we can miss the message of the story if we assume it does not refer to the church because we realise we are the bride of Christ and therefore think that we must take the role of the bride in this story and not that of the virgins. (cf. Matt.25:1-13)

So it is, when we try to understand 'what is' and 'who are' the City of God we can get confused by reading too much into the picture language. The City of God, the New Jerusalem, is described as the 'bride', (Heb.12:22 & Rev.21:10), which we are, but the New Jerusalem is also called our 'mother', (Gal. 4:26)! Strict literal interpretation is not always adequate.

When we seek to understand the parable of the 'wheat and tares' we therefore need to take care with the picture language being used. The 'seed', which Jesus tells us represents the 'sons of the Kingdom, must not be confused, either in its nature, or in any other way, with the 'word' which is represented in the parable of the sower where Jesus said the 'seed' is the word of God. (cf.Matt.13:3-9 and Matt.13:18-23)).

In the parable of the 'wheat and the tares' Jesus tells us the world is the 'field'. Many therefore think the parable does not refer to the church. But the parable does not refer to those who

are in the world, only the sons of the Kingdom and the sons of the evil one who are mixed together. It is speaking of those who go by the name of 'church'.

Fortunately we have the parallel parable of the 'Dragnet' which describes the same end-time event which assists us in correctly understanding the parable of the 'Wheat and Tares'. These two parables need to be compared to ensure they are correctly understood.

In the parable of the 'Wheat and Tares' we are told that the tares must not be uprooted from among the wheat. If the tares represented false religions and cults we, the church, would be wrong in rescuing people from the likes of Jehovahs Witnesses, Mormons and even the many forms of Christian religion that are not true Christianity. The tares must therefore represent those who look like the church but are not. The tares look like wheat!

To distinguish exactly who would be in the category of tares is very difficult because within any group or denomination there have always been these 'two cities', 'two women, and 'two streams' flowing together who would both definitely say they are Christians. Only the Lord knows all those who are His. This has been so for the past 2000 years and was also the case before then, in whatever was of God! And this is why the separation is not done by man but by angels! (Matt.13:41)

The Thing We Call Church

The church is the body of Christ. (Eph.1:22&23) It is the people and not a building made with hands. Men build churches and plant churches, give names to their churches and maintain dividing walls between their churches. Within

these kingdoms that men have built we find the true church and the false, the manifestation of the two women and two mothers who were in Abrahams home. Sarah made the mistake of trying to ensure Gods 'word' be fulfilled by having Hagar bear Abrahams child. In like manner man has always taken from God, what is God's purpose, and tried 'fixing' it for Him. This is the root of many dual creations! The result for Abraham was many years spent with two women in the same house, both claiming to be his wife, whilst in constant disagreement; the fruit of which we can still see in every man made denomination today.

The Two Women

We can see these 'two women' in the book of Revelation :-

1. Rev.12:6 - This woman is in the wilderness - Israel.
Rev.17:3 - This woman is also in the wilderness - the Harlot.
2. Rev.12:1 - This woman is clothed with the 'sun', (The Lord is called the Sun of Righteousness).
Rev.17:4 - This woman is clothed in purple and scarlet, gold, precious stones and pearls, the riches of the earth - the Harlot.
3. Rev.12:3&5 - This woman is opposed by the Beast that has seven heads and ten horns and attempts to destroy her seed.
Rev.17:7 - The same Beast carries this woman. - the Harlot
4. Rev.12:1 - Upon her head is a crown of twelve stars.
Rev.17:5 - Upon her head is written 'Babylon the Great' - the Harlot.
5. Rev.12:5 - She is the mother of a male who is to rule all nations - Jesus.
Rev.17:5 - She is also a mother, the mother of harlots! Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots.
6. Rev.12:2 - She is filled with new life; she produces life.

Rev.17:6 - She is filled with the blood of the saints. Devouring the lives of others she produces death.

7. Rev.12:6 - This woman gives birth to a King.

Rev.17:7 & 10-II - This woman is carried by a king who is the Beast!

8. Rev.12:10 - Her children receive an everlasting Kingdom.

Rev.17:12 - Her children receive a kingdom for one hour.

9. Rev.12:7 - Her children wage war with Satan.

Rev.17:14 - Her children wage war with the Lamb and with the saints who are with Him.

10.Rev.12:15 &16- Satan uses water to destroy the woman.

Rev.17:17&15 - This woman sits on waters - the nations of the earth, (v.15).

11.Rev.12:16 - The earth helps this woman.

Rev.17:16 - The earth hates this woman.

Paul explains who these two women, these two mothers, and two cities, are in his letter to the Galatians. Paul says, "Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a free woman." (Gal.4:2) Both of these women are mothers and symbolic. Paul explains that "Hagar corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children," and Sarah corresponds to the 'Jerusalem above' who is "free; she is our mother."

Both of these women lived in the same house and Abrahams house was the Lord's house! Abraham's house is a pattern for both natural and spiritual Israel.

We can find other scriptural examples of two women living in the same house. The story is repeated with Rachel and Leah in Jacob's house. Hannah and Penninah in Elkinah's house; and Vashti and Esther in the house of King Ahasuerus. In each we see conflict. Even at the time of the end we see there will be two groups of women, the wise and foolish virgins. Likewise

in every corporate undertaking, no matter how God-directed or seemingly sanctified, for two thousand years we have found the two women that are portrayed in Revelation 12 and 17.

Whereas most would agree that the worst forms of Christianity is to be found in the representation of the 'harlot' of Revelation 17, very few identify that the ingredients of spiritual death found therein are also to be found in what we would describe as the best of corporate activities and denominational groups that men have built. Many denominations have even been formed in man's attempt to rid themselves of that which was not of God.

In the life and ministry of Judas Iscariot, the 'son of perdition', we see a foreshadow of the Antichrist. He lived and walked with Jesus and the other disciples, being one of the twelve, and ministered in power and authority, healing the sick, casting out demons, and preaching the gospel of the Kingdom, (cf. Matt. 10;6-8). As described in Psalm 55;12-14, we see that it was "...a man my equal, my companion and my familiar friend. We had such sweet fellowship together, walked in the house of God...", who betrayed Jesus. Though they were apparently together they were not flowing in the same stream! Sadly we have experienced this same thing.

The reality of these 'two streams' flowing together in the same house was evidenced in the early church. John says, "Many antichrists have arisen; they went out from *among* us." (1 John 2;18&19) Paul warned the elders at Ephesus that "from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after themselves," - not making disciples of Jesus! (Acts 20:30)

The mixing of the 'precious and the vile' (cf. Jer. 15:19), has been repeated over and over again during the intervening centuries. As we look at Church history we sadly see that what

was started in the Spirit has always ended up in the flesh; men taking off the Holy Spirit what He initiated and organising it! Taking it out of His hands. Initially this deterioration is sufficient to blur the clarity of vision and discernment of those involved but eventually the effects are disastrous. It brings spiritual death!

We must realise there is nothing that could prevent this until we see the end-time separation of the tares and wheat. The separation, however, has begun and soon the Lord will be giving His last call, the Lord saying “Come out of her *My* people” in fulfilment of Rev.18:4! But the Lord has always wanted His people to be separated unto Him. “‘Come out from their midst and be separate,’ says the Lord, ‘And do not touch what is unclean; And I will welcome you. And I will be a Father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me,’ says the Lord Almighty.” (2 Cor.6:17&18) Amongst a few and for brief periods this has been seen but soon the tares would again become evident. But it is now the time for the end-time separation that is represented by the parables of the wheat and the tares and the good and bad fish. We are to see a separation into which the tares cannot be sown.

Many have left one system, one denomination, for another, but still found that the ‘two streams’ were still in their midst! Men have come out of one system only to build again that which they left. It seemed that it was impossible to get free! But the separation has begun, the separation of the holy from the unholy, the precious from the vile, the true church is being made ready as a bride, true sons that the whole creation is anxiously longing to see revealed, those who are led by the Spirit. (cf.Rom.8:14&19) When Jesus comes back for His Bride, He will be coming for a clean Bride, not the beautiful harlot!

Understanding The End-time Correctly Is Essential

The end of the age, as understood by Christians, varies significantly, yet only one understanding can be correct. We know from what was told to Daniel, that his prophetic vision was sealed until the time of the end, (Dan.12:9). but as we approach this time of the end let us expect that as 'sons of light' we will begin to receive understanding of these times.

Many have wanted to believe in a pre-tribulation rapture, or in no rapture at all, because they find the scenario described in the book of Revelation too undesirable to cope with. But we must not base our beliefs on our carnal preferences but on the word of God. We may hold to a wrong belief due to our 'wrong understanding' or we may choose a particular doctrine due to 'fear', or because we do not fully trust God with our lives. We may prefer to believe something that is error because of a weak 'personal relationship with the Lord' that prevents us trusting ourselves into His care and eternal purposes. We may not be able to contemplate a scenario which we would not like to be involved in. Nevertheless we should not allow ourselves to hold a view contrary to scripture.

Scripture tells that when the beast is 'seen' "those who dwell on the earth will wonder, those whose name has not been written in the book of life." (Rev.17:8) Those whose names are written in the book of life will be able to identify him at this time.

By the authority of the False Prophet no-one will be able to buy and sell except the one who has the mark of the beast, the name of the beast, or the number of his name, (cf Rev. 13:16-18). We have seen that those who partake in the first resurrection, the event which coincides with the catching away of the saints or rapture of the church, those alive at Christ's second coming, includes those saints who do not receive this

mark of the Beast upon their forehead or upon their hand. (cf Rev.20:4&5)

It is because we are approaching the end of the age that the Holy Spirit is wanting to bring revelation and understanding of these 'times' as we are those who will shortly find ourselves in the time that scripture calls *the* 'great tribulation.' it is essential that we understand what lies ahead for us. We are not to be caught unaware.

But Satan has done all he can to prevent the body of Christ understanding the end of this age because his defeat occurs during this time. The Holy Spirit, Jesus told us, would tell us of things to 'come', (John 16:13). Let us look to Him with open hearts, asking Him to give us spiritual understanding.

Satan Brings Confusion

One of the ways Satan has confused the understanding of many is to have them consider that the 'great tribulation' and the 'wrath of God' is in total the last seven years of this age, that can all be described as the 'great tribulation'. Many believers have been confused by not identifying that the time of the 'great tribulation' is different from the time of the 'wrath of God'. Scripture is clear, we, the church, "are not destined for wrath." (1 Thess.5:9) The wrath of God is a 3½ year period during which God pours His great wrath out on those upon the earth before Jesus comes to the Mount of Olives.

But Jesus comes first 'in the clouds' with his angels to catch away the elect - His church - into the air after the 3½ year period of 'great tribulation'. (Matt.24:29-31) We see that Jesus does not set foot on the earth itself at this time but He comes with His angels in the clouds to fetch His saints. It is after the 3½ year time of the 'wrath of God' that Jesus comes to the earth, to the Mount of Olives, when He comes with his saints.

Scripture is very clear about the difference of these two separate events.

The Wrath Of God

The wrath of God is a time when men seek death and will not find it, for scripture says they will not repent. (Rev.9:6,20&21 and Rev.16:9&11) There is no evangelisation during wrath of God. The church is in heaven with the Lord during this time but natural Israel, who are not saved in this age, are described as a company of “bondservants, with the seal of God on their foreheads, from the twelve tribes of Israel” who go through the time of God’s wrath being poured out. (Rev.7:3 and 9:4) This time of the wrath of God being poured out occurs after the ‘catching away of the saints’, the so called ‘rapture’, (1 Thess. 4:17 and 5:9).

The wrath of God is the time when Jesus breaks the seventh seal and seven angels blow seven trumpets bringing seven judgements. (Rev.8:6 to Rev.11:15) These judgements are also described as seven bowls of wrath, (Rev.16:2-17) culminating with Jesus’ return to the earth with His saints, His Bride. She has “clothed herself in fine linen, bright and clean, because the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.” Jesus returns on a white horse and the armies that are with Him, clothed in fine linen, follow on white horses.” (Rev. 19:7-14)

As Jesus’ returns with His saints, a sharp sword comes from His mouth to smite the nations and begin His millennial rule with a rod of iron. His coming will see Jesus slay the lawless one, known as the beast or the antichrist, with the breath of His mouth”, bringing an end to him “by the appearance of His coming.” (2 Thess.2:8) “The beast and the kings of the earth

and their armies, are assembled to make war against Him who sat upon the white horse and His army.”

This is called the “great supper of God” (Rev.19:17) when the beast and false prophet are thrown into the lake of fire and those assembled with them to make war are “killed with the sword which *comes* from the mouth of Him who *sits* upon the horse, and all the birds have their fill.” (Rev.19:21) “All the birds which fly in mid heaven” are assembled so that *they might* eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great.” (Rev.19:18) This is described as the “winepress of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.” (Rev. 19:15)

Ezekiel prophesies of this same event, "As for you, son of man, thus says the Lord GOD, 'Speak to every kind of bird and to every beast of the field, "Assemble and come, gather from every side to My sacrifice which I am going to sacrifice for you, as a great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel, that you may eat flesh and drink blood. You will eat the flesh of mighty men and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, as though they were rams, lambs, goats and bulls, all of them fatlings of Bashan." (Ez.39:17&18)

This seventh trumpet is described as the “third *and final* woe” of the wrath of God. (Rev.11:14&15) After the sixth bowl of wrath “coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, *come* three unclean spirits like frogs... spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty... and they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called Har-Magedon.” (Rev.16:13-16)

This war, so often wrongly referred to as the 'battle of Armageddon', is really fought in the valley of Jehoshaphat at Jerusalem, overlooked from the Mount of Olives. Joel prophesies, "Proclaim this among the nations: Prepare a war; rouse the mighty men! Let all the soldiers draw near, let them come up! ...Hasten and come, all you surrounding nations, and gather yourselves there. Bring down, O Lord, Your mighty ones. Let the nations be aroused and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat, For there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, tread, for the wine press is full; The vats overflow, for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. The sun and moon grow dark and the stars lose their brightness. The Lord roars from Zion and utters His voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth tremble. (Joel 3:9-16)

Scripture is clear, it is after this battle, at the coming of the Lord to the earth with His church, that He will then restore the fortunes of the whole house of Israel, (cf.Ez.39:25-29) those from every tribe of Israel who were sealed so as not to be harmed in this time of God's anger and judgement. The 1000 year reign of Christ will begin, and those part of the first resurrection, priests of God and of Christ who will reign with Him for a thousand years. (Rev.20:6)

This is the destiny of the body of Christ, the true church. But before the 'wrath of God' and the first resurrection and catching away of the saints who are alive at His coming, the church will go through the great tribulation. The separation of wheat and tares will be complete. No more mixture. The revealing of the sons of God will have come.

The Rapture - The Catching Away Of The Church

After the 3½ year period that scripture refers to as *the* 'great tribulation', all the tribes of the earth will mourn as they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory with His angels, (Matt.24:29-31) to gather His elect from one end of the sky to the other.

The angels told the disciples at Jesus ascension into heaven in a cloud, "This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have seen Him go." John tells of this event in Rev.1:7, "Behold He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn Him." Zechariah prophesies of this event, "They will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn. In that day there will be great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the plain of Megiddo." (Zech.12:10)

Of the 'great tribulation', Jesus said, "unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days shall be cut short." (Matt.21&22) This time of great tribulation is one of false prophets and false Christs showing great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. During this time of great tribulation a man known as the 'Beast' is seen as head of a worldly power with ten horns and seven heads, also known as the 'Beast', who will make war with the saints and overcomes them. (cf.Rev.13:7) This *overcoming*, however, is only in the natural because Satan can only destroy the flesh but cannot harm our spirit.

Everyone on earth will wonder when they see the Beast, except those whose names are written in the Book of Life,. (Rev.17:8) The Beast has authority over every tribe, tongue

and nation. (Rev.13:7-10) and all who dwell on the earth will worship the Beast except those whose names are written in the book of life of the Lamb, slain from the foundation of the earth. (Rev.13:8)

The number of those who have been slain because of the Word of God and because of the testimony which they maintained, is 'completed' during this time. (Rev.6:9-11) They form part of a 'great multitude' from the great tribulation, which no-one could count, from every nation and tribe and peoples and tongues that are seen in heaven as the wrath of God begins to be poured out upon the earth. (cf.Rev.7:9&14)

During this time of Satan's wrath - not God's - the Beast is assisted by another beast, personified and known as the 'False Prophet', who performs great signs and and who causes everyone to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead' to be able to buy and sell. Scripture tells us that the 'perseverance of the saints' is found by not 'worshipping the Beast and his image or receiving the mark of his name', (Rev.14:9& 11). Verse 13 tells us, "blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."

It is in this time the gospel of the Kingdom is preached in the whole world for a witness to all nations. (cf.Matt.24:14) The 'great tribulation' is the time of "an eternal gospel being preached to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people," (Rev.14:6); to produce "the harvest of the earth." (v.15b)

I repeat, all of this is before the rapture, the catching away of the saints, because the first resurrection includes those "who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand." (Rev.20:4&5)

The great tribulation is a time where ‘the salvation, and the Kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ’ have come for they overcome Satan by the “blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they do not love their lives even unto death.” (Rev.12:10&11)

The end of this age is drawing near but who is prepared, who is awake? This is the time of warning but who is listening? But we know, “The Lord God does nothing unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants, the prophets.” (Amos 3:7) The trumpet is sounding. It has actually been sounded for many years but the blasts are getting louder.

For many years the witness of many was towards a vision that the famous evangelist, Tommy Hicks’ had in the 1960’s, one of many modern day prophecies and visions that the Lord has given. I have known brothers who knew Tommy Hicks well. We must take care with prophecies, however, for we are surrounded by false prophets. we must test the spirit of truth and the spirit of error by the anointing we have within. (cf.1 John 2:27 and 1 John 4:1)

Tommy Hicks’s Vision.

Tommy Hicks was an evangelist in the 1950’s and 1960’s. The Lord sent Tommy Hicks to Argentina in the 1960’s and over a period of just a few weeks preached the gospel to several million people, with many being saved and with amazing healings. This was described by some as the largest single event orchestrated by God since the time Jesus walked on the earth.

Tommy Hicks’ vision, repeated three times on 25th.July 1961, was of the end-time scenario, just prior to the Lords return to

'catch away' His saints. First he saw the body of Christ break free of chains that bound it to the earth. The body of Christ, in the form of a giant, was struggling for life, even to live. Its body was covered in debris and as it broke free of its chains, demon like hideous creatures were seen to run away from it. It struggled several times before it finally, and suddenly, broke free.

The debris, chains and demons include the spirits of religion and antichrist that have ensnared the true church over and over again for the past 2000 years. But, as in the vision of the separation of the Bride and the Harlot that corresponds to the time of the separation of wheat and tares, there is seen an end-time release of the true church, the sons of the Kingdom.

Tommy Hicks describes that as the giant stood up, seemingly having cleansed itself from the debris, 'liquid light rained down on the giant'. Then those who made up the body, ordinary people, rich and poor, were used to release many from sickness, paralysis, blindness and deafness. This mighty end-time army came through fire and pestilence and famine; angry mobs with swords and guns could not touch them if it was not their time; on occasions they were translated in the Spirit as Philip was after he had witnessed to the Ethiopian eunuch. (cf. Acts 8:39)

In this vision there was no church or denomination, although there were congregations. All went forth in the Name of the Lord. A multitude seemed to come to a salvation knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ as these people stood forth and gave the message of the Kingdom in this last hour.

Then Tommy Hicks said he saw the graves opened and 'people from all over the world, saints of all ages seemed to be rising', and as they rose, they joined with those from the earth,

forming a 'gigantic body' which, as it did so, Jesus 'became the Head'.

Then he saw the wrath of God being poured forth on the face of the earth, cities and nations weeping and wailing, wanting to take their lives but could not.

We see that this fits perfectly with what scripture tells us. Any vision or prophecy must conform to scripture. It certainly cannot alter scripture. The scriptural place for this vision of Tommy Hicks is within the time of the 'great tribulation', where it fits exactly.

Many have looked for a great revival but have a false hope for that which is false. Some even believe they will bring in a harvest to give to the Lord. Some believe they will take the kingdoms of this world for the Lord.

A false gospel has been preached to mislead many; a gospel that denies tribulation but promises only prosperity. Jesus said "In the world you have tribulation", (John 16:33), and that "affliction and persecution arise because of the Word." (Mark 4:17) "All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted," we are told by Paul. (2 Tim.3:12)

The early Christian writer, Irenaeus, who knew Polycarp, who knew the apostle, John, said that before the end-time church ""be suddenly caught up from the earth", there "shall be tribulation such has not been since the beginning, neither shall be for this is the last contest of the righteous, which, they overcome, they are crowned with incorruption."

Paul strengthened the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith saying "Through many tribulations we must enter the Kingdom of God." (Acts 14:22) This describes an attitude where "the Kingdom of Heaven suffers violence

and violent men take it by force.” (Matt.11:12) This does not describe force against God but the battle required against Satan who is doing all he can to keep the true church from the reality of God’s Kingdom, and living now in the good of it.

In this battle our weapons are not carnal, but spiritual, We need to ‘fight’ in the heavenlies and ‘love’ in our actions. It is a fight of faith. This is how we overcome. Jesus said, that spirit in the world will cause us to be “hated by all nations on account of Jesus Name,” and we will be “delivered up to tribulation.” (Matt.24:9) But we still overcome! In the Spirit we experience the reality of the Kingdom no matter what our circumstances may be. If we are in the Father’s will, having committed our way to Him, we can be in no better place for we are saved from the wrath of God which is coming on the whole world. But our own wellbeing is not the goal but loving God as we love not our lives even unto death to bring others into this marvellous salvation that we have been given.

The end is not yet. The separation unto the Lord is yet to be completed. But the last generation is this generation. Let us be in no doubt. Let us hear the voice of God that is still saying, “COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE,” says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAR; And I will welcome you. And I will be a Father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," says the Lord Almighty.

May each of our hearts be ‘right’ before the Lord for an awesome time lies ahead, which will indeed judge the motives and intents of all men’s hearts. By faith let us keep looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God, the city of God that every saint of old desired to reach. (cf.Hebrews 11)

Colin Winfield - 1995 and 2016