

The Watchmen's Cry

*Understanding the End-times
Based on Your Identity in the Messiah*

Written by Frank Morgan, M.D.

Edited by Abraham Rempel
(with the author's permission)

Written for and dedicated to all who seek the truth,
And who love the Mighty One of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

**“For there shall be a day
When the watchmen will cry on Mount Ephraim,
Arise, and let us go up to Zion,
To YHWH our Elohim”
(Jeremiah 31:6).**

Notes on Editing

The main function of my editing process is to honour the Set-apart Name. In keeping with an established practice, I use the Tetragrammaton YHWH for the Name of the Father, or use *Elohim* which means “Mighty One” or “Almighty.” The formal name for the Messiah is Yahushua (yah oo shoo ah), but I also use the more familiar form, Yeshua (yeh shoo ah). I believe both are correct. As for the actual pronunciation of the Tetragrammaton, I believe that the Father’s Name should be pronounced as Yahuah (yah oo ah). I encourage my readers to actually pronounce the Father’s Name in their reading.

In most cases, actual quotes are left accurate and may include the traditional words for the Father and Son.

A secondary editing function is avoid the many words that have crept into the language of worship, but are false or misleading.

Tanach or *Tanakh*: the Hebrew Scriptures composed of the Law, the Prophets and the poetic Writings.

Brit Chadasha: the Messianic Scriptures (written after the time of the Messiah), and also referred to as the Renewed Covenant Scriptures.

Chapter 1 – *Understanding the Greatest Story Ever Told*

Now YHWH had said to Abram:

"Get out of your country... I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great... And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:1-3).

The Plot

In the beginning, Elohim created man. Man was meant to walk with the Creator and to commune with Him in a way we can only imagine. But because of deceit Adam fell, and with him all mankind share in the curse – the curse which keeps us from having the kind of relationship with the Father for which we were created. As the story goes, within a few generations of the fall, man became so depraved that Elohim was forced to judge mankind with a great flood. Yet, even the flood of Noah did not lead to restoration of a right relationship with the Creator. After the flood man began to once more multiply upon the earth. Wickedness abounded in those days. It must have seemed as though all hope for a righteous mankind was lost. What's more, it must have seemed as though man would never again be able to know his Creator.

Yet, one man found favor in the eyes of the Almighty, and this man was chosen above all others to become the father of all who believe.

This man was Abraham.

Though the basic plot of the Scriptures is easy to understand, what many fail to realize is *how the plot relates to the end of the story*. Most believers just do not understand the relationship between the promises given to Abraham and the Father's ultimate redemptive plan.

In this book we will offer some key points derived from the Father's Torah which will unlock many mysteries concerning just how the Almighty's plan will unfold with the long awaited return of Yeshua Messiah. An understanding of the promises given to Abraham, therefore, turns out to be absolutely essential. For in him, we are told, all nations of the earth will be blessed!

Understanding our role and our identity as believers in the Messiah of Israel has a great deal to do with our ability to understand the end-times.

The fact of the matter is this: *We cannot possibly understand the game plan without first knowing the identity of all the players in the game. We must understand who we are and where we have been in order to understand where we are going!*

Yeshua, you see, is the *Messiah of Israel*.

Chapter 2 – Scattered Sheep...Various Viewpoints

The Pre-tribulation Rapture View

(Editor: This chapter is highly condensed. Suffice it to say that the Pre-tribulation view of end-time events is the most popular view by far. Most Christians believe that the "church" will be raptured away before the coming time of great tribulation. That is what is meant by, the "Pre-tribulation Rapture View.")

Most pre-millennial scholars agree that a seven-year time span, during which there will be major social and economic upheaval, will precede the coming of the Messiah and His 1000-year kingdom. This notion is based on Daniel 9 and will be discussed in detail in the following chapter. As noted above, the major controversy among those with a pre-millennialist mindset concerns the question of whether the Messiah will return *before* this seven-year time span (the pre-tribulation view) or *after* the seven-year time span (a view called the post-tribulation rapture view).

The view put forth in what follows is a version of what is called the "pre-wrath" view. The pre-wrath view is not a new idea. The term was first used by Robert Van Kampen and can be found in his exhaustive work, *The Sign*. This text is not a rehashing of the ground that has been covered by Van Kampen. As we unfold this study, we will address the single issue that seems to determine which view one takes – the issue being that of the *identity* of the Fathers "elect" spoken of in Matthew 24.

Daniel's Amazing 70 Week Prophecy

The vast majority of those who take the Word of Almighty seriously and literally believe in a millennial kingdom and also agree that the Messiah's reign is to be preceded by a seven-year time period. The seven-year period is commonly called the "70th week of Daniel" and comes from the Book of Daniel. Daniel Chapter 9 is an exceedingly important section of scripture when it comes to a careful study of the end-times.

In Daniel 9, after Daniel presents his supplications to the Almighty, he is approached by the Angel Gabriel who gives him a vision that spans the rest of history as we know it. In verse 24, Gabriel states that **"Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your set-apart city."** Then, continuing through the remainder of verse 24 Daniel explains what else must be done during the time frame of this prophecy:

"to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Set-apart."

As we take a careful look at this passage, it is evident not everything on the list has been brought to completion. This is an important point: *The 70 weeks are not yet complete, for all of these things have not fully come to pass.* The language of this

passage seems to point to the Messianic age, also known as the millennial kingdom. This will be a time when Messiah will **“rule with a rod of iron,”** making an end of sins and bringing in everlasting righteousness.

The prophecy Gabriel gave to Daniel, however, covered "70 weeks." Since the completion of the 69th week there has been an apparent gap between the 69th and 70th weeks which has lasted nearly 2000 years.

(Editor: A week in Daniel is a week of years, a week is seven years and seventy weeks is 490 years; and furthermore, a scriptural year is only 360 days long. See Appendix B.)

Admittedly, it sounds pretty strange that the Almighty would stop His time clock and allow an almost 2000-year break in action to occur. But, the gap continues through to this day.

Based on the fact that there has been a “time out” in the Almighty’s clock, many scripture scholars, mostly those who hold to the pre-millennial viewpoint, have erroneously postulated that during this “time out” the Father has turned His attention away from Israel and has instead turned His attention to the “church.” They believe that the “church” has replaced Israel as the “elect” (this is called Replacement Theology).

The Father most certainly has not broken covenant and turned his back on His chosen people. Abraham and his descendants are the “players” in His plan. In the chapters that follow we will reveal the identity of these “elect of the Almighty.” Our presentation will be based on the Almighty’s Word and will not be founded on the notion that the Father has forgotten His promises to Israel. This presentation will reconcile known history with both the promises of the Almighty and the prophetic word which speaks of events to come.

Verse 27 of Daniel 9 continues the prophecy and speaks of the events destined to occur during the 70th week:

"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. And on the wings of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation which is determined, is poured out on the desolate."

During these last seven-years, the Almighty will finish his dealings with sinful man and will **"bring in ever everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and anoint the most set-apart"** (vs 24).

In Revelation 12, a three and a half-year time period is spoken of and correlates with the last half of this seven-year time period. This second half of the 70th week correlates with the time period that occurs after the event described in the phrase,

“but in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering” in Daniel 9:27 and is commonly referred to as the time of “Great Tribulation.” Yeshua named this time period the Great Tribulation in Matthew 24:15-21 when He said, **“Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet... there will be Great Tribulation.”**

When will this 70th week begin? While no one knows for sure, we do know that certain things must happen before the 70th week can start.

First of all, since the prophecy speaks of a presence in the land, the nation of Israel cannot be in captivity. For over 1900 years the Jewish people were scattered among the nations. The regathering of the Jews to Israel in 1948 ushered in exciting times, since an Israelite presence in the land is evidently a prerequisite for the Father's time clock to resume.

We notice also in verse 27 that "sacrifice and offerings" are taking place. This indicates the resumption of temple worship by the Jews. Strictly speaking, the temple does not have to be rebuilt *before* the 70th week of Daniel can begin; however, sometime during the 70th week animal sacrifice will be resumed, presumably in a rebuilt temple (although technically it could be in a portable tabernacle as well).

These facts make what is going on in Jerusalem these days of profound interest. The whole world is watching with intense anxiety at what happens in Jerusalem. In fact, the low-level war that has been going on between the Israelis and Palestinians over the past few years was ignited in the fall of the year 2000 when Ariel Sharon visited the Temple Mount. Surely, the political tension surrounding Jerusalem is fulfillment of Zechariah 12: 2-3, **“Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples.”**

Daniel 9:27 indicates there will be a covenant that will last for “one week.” This *is* the 70th week of Daniel, and so we can look for a seven-year covenant sometime in the future that will indicate the Father’s time clock with respect to the 70 weeks of Daniel has once again resumed ticking. This will be the “covenant with death” between the Anti-messiah and the State of Israel. In light of the present situation in the Middle East, this could occur with very little preparation. Tensions are very high and the entire world’s attention is focused on the Jerusalem problem. Even Muslims are looking for one who will come in and establish peace. The problem is they are looking for the wrong guy! It is fascinating that the Oslo accord was a seven-year treaty, setting precedent in the future for another seven-year pact. Given the current level of tension in the region, and the constant threat of escalation, the time seems ripe for the Anti-messiah to burst on the scene, seemingly with all the answers.

Chapter 4 – *The Awesome Day of the YHWH*

"But the day of YHWH will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up" (2 Peter 3:10).

As we continue to define terms and lay the groundwork for our study we will explore a commonly used term that is poorly understood. It is the phrase the "Day of YHWH." The Day of YHWH is spoken of in the Scriptures as a time when the Almighty will pour out His wrath on the "inhabitants of the earth," and will establish His 1000-year kingdom.

The term "day" when used in the context of "the Day of YHWH" is not necessarily speaking of a single 24-hour day; it is referring to the entire time period of the establishment of the kingdom of the Messiah. The establishment of the Day of YHWH will be the most awesome event this world has ever seen, and there is no way to overstate its magnitude.

Day of YHWH Passages

Perhaps you have been in a church meeting and have heard the church body cheer with excitement at the announcement that "Jesus" would be coming back soon. Yes, His return is something to anticipate with great excitement. However, after taking a look at what the Scriptures say about this matter, you will agree that we ought to be a little more sober in our approach. This day will be a terrible and dark day for many.

Let us see what the Scriptures say:

"Woe to you who desire of the day of YHWH! For what good is the day of YHWH to you? It will be darkness, and not light. It will be as though a man fled from a lion and a bear met him! Or as though he went into the house, leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him. Is not the day of YHWH darkness, and not light? Is it not very dark, with no brightness in it?" (Amos 5:18-20).

"Wail, for the day of YHWH is at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty. Therefore all hands will be limp, every man's heart will melt, and they will be afraid. Pangs and sorrows will take hold of them; they will be in pain as a woman in childbirth; they will be amazed at one another; their faces will be like flames. Behold, the day of YHWH comes, cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and He will destroy its sinners from it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations will not give their light; the sun will be darkened in its going forth, and the moon will not cause its light to shine" (Isaiah 13:6-10).

"The great day of YHWH is near; it is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of YHWH is bitter; there the mighty men shall cry out. That day is a day of

wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of devastation and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet and alarm against the fortified cities and against the high towers. I will bring distress upon men, and they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against YHWH; their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like refuse. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of YHWH's wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of His jealousy, for He will make speedy riddance of all those who dwell in the land" (Zephaniah 1: 14-18).

"And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth; blood and fire and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of YHWH" (Joel 2:30-31).

"Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of YHWH is near in the valley of decision. The sun and moon will go dark and the stars will diminish their brightness... the heavens and earth will shake; but YHWH will be a shelter for His people and the strength of the children of Israel" (Joel 3: 14-16).

There are many other passages in the Scriptures that describe this time we call the "Day of YHWH," but the above should give the reader a feel for what the Day of YHWH is about. As you can see from the passages above, this will be a terrible and awesome time, and our feeble efforts to describe it pale compared to what scripture says.

In other passages, the Day of YHWH is also known as "The Last Day," and "The Day of Wrath." Interestingly, and certainly pertinent to our study of the end-times, the scriptural day of Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, is sometimes euphemistically called the "Day of YHWH." Later in this book, as we delve into the prophetic significance of the fall feasts this will become a very important point.

From the passages cited above we can learn a few things: The Day of YHWH will be preceded by signs in the heavens. The sun will go dark, the moon will not give its light and will become as blood, and the stars will fall from the heavens. Furthermore, this will be a "day" of tremendous fear for those who dwell on the earth. To those who dwell on the earth, the day will come as a shock, they will not be expecting what is coming, and it will come as "a thief in the night."

Thankfully, our citizenship is in heaven and we are not considered as those "who dwell upon the earth." The next few passages will be a great comfort if you know to Whom you belong. Speaking of the Day of YHWH:

"Seek YHWH, all you meek of the earth, who have upheld His justice. Seek righteousness, seek humility. It may be that you will be hidden in the day of YHWH's anger" (Zephaniah 2:3).

"Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; hide

yourself, as it were, for a little moment, until the indignation is past. For behold, YHWH comes out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; the earth will also disclose her blood, and will no more cover her slain" (Isaiah 26:20-21).

"For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of YHWH comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, 'Peace and safety!' then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.... For the Almighty did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Master Yeshua Messiah, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him" (Thess 5: 2-5, 9-10).

Believers are not appointed unto wrath! We do have reason to rejoice, but when we look at what is about to befall the whole Earth, should we not approach this issue with the utmost seriousness? We need to be absolutely sure which side we are on and what it is that places us on the side of the Master.

The "Day of YHWH" speaks of the Messiah's second coming. It is the time in which the Almighty will pour out His wrath on the entire earth. It initiates a kingdom that will last 1000 years.

The Millennial Kingdom

Let us now take a closer look at this 1000-year kingdom. This "Messianic age" will be a time when the Yeshua Himself will rule from Jerusalem. It is the marvelous time spoken of in the Scriptures when the "lion will lay down with the calf" and when, because we will have a righteous King, the world will be at peace.

Let's take a look at just a couple of the many prophecies that speak of this amazing time:

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty El, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever.

The zeal of YHWH of hosts will perform this" (Isaiah 9:6-7).

"There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of YHWH shall rest upon Him... and He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, nor decide by the hearing of His ears; but with righteousness He

shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked... The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb... in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, who shall stand as a banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be esteemed. It shall come to pass in that day that the Almighty shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people who are left, from Assyria and Egypt, from Pathros and Cush, from Elam and Shinar, from Hamath and the islands of the sea. He will set up a banner for the nations, and will assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. Also the envy of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off; Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not harass Ephraim” (Isaiah 12:1-13).

It was, in fact, this Messianic kingdom the disciples of Yeshua thought would arrive just after his resurrection. They inquired immediately before the ascension, **“Master, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”** (Acts 1:6).

The disciples, even after walking with Yeshua, did not know the exact time of the coming of this kingdom, and neither do we. Yet, we are also told, **“Surely YHWH Almighty does nothing unless He reveal His secret to His servants the prophets”** (Amos 3:7). We have the Word of the Almighty and the witness of the prophets. In our day, by the power of His Spirit, the Almighty is pouring out wisdom and understanding as never before. Knowledge is increasing and we are at last able to see more clearly a picture of the end of this age.

The Sabbath and the Millennium

So, how do we know that this kingdom will last 1000 years? As discussed in chapter 2, if we take Revelation 20 at face value we cannot escape the conclusion that the Messiah will reign for 1000 years. The Scriptures do not expressly say that this kingdom will last for 1000 years, but there are some clues.

(Editor: Revelation 20: 4 says, “And they lived and reigned with Messiah for a thousand years.”)

First, we will establish that His kingdom will last for many years. Now, take a look again at the following passage, speaking of the Messianic age, in Zechariah 14:16:

"And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, YHWH of Hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles."

Based on the phrase “year to year,” we can deduce that for many years following the Day of YHWH, a kingdom will be set up with its headquarters in Jerusalem. Interestingly, there will be a requirement that the Feasts of YHWH are kept. A question

worth pondering is this: *Why does the Almighty require us to keep the Feast of Tabernacles during the millennial kingdom, but does not require us to keep it during our time?* We will attempt to address this question in a later chapter.

We see some indication that the millennial kingdom will last for 1000 years when we take a careful look at the Sabbath day. The weekly observance of the Sabbath is perhaps the most important of the Almighty's appointed days. But, what is the meaning of this day? Why did the Father create the world in six days, and rest on the seventh? Couldn't the Creator have just spoken everything into existence all at once? The Almighty has appointed days and festivals not only to remind us of the past, but to show us the future.

“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope” (Romans 15:4).

We certainly can see this principle in the Passover, which began as a celebration of the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt. Yeshua perfectly fulfilled the Passover when on the Feast of Passover He became the Passover Lamb and was slain for all of us. He fulfilled the day of Firstfruits when on that very feast day He became the First Fruit of those from the dead upon His resurrection.

The Feast of Weeks some 50 days later is the Father's ordained festival remembering the occasion He gave Moses the “law” (Torah) from Mt. Sinai. Prophetically speaking, the Feast of Weeks (also known as the day of Pentecost) was fulfilled when the Spirit of the Almighty descended upon man on that very day, and the Law was written on the hearts of men by the power of the Set-apart Spirit.

The weekly celebration of Sabbath seems to have an as yet unfulfilled prophetic meaning as well. It seems the Almighty is planning to deal with the redemption of man in seven 1000-year-long “days.” Both in Psalm 90:4 and in 2 Peter 3:8 we are told for the Almighty a single day is as a thousand years.

“For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it is past” (Psalm 90:4).

“But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with Elohim one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day” (2 Peter 3:8).

Remarkably, scriptural chronology indicates that we are somewhere near the end of 6000 years since Adam was created. Could it be that as we enter the Sabbath millennium, this will be the millennium when Yeshua Messiah is established as King and reigns upon the Earth?

The Almighty's people were instructed in the Ten Commandments to remember the Sabbath and to keep it *set-apart* (the meaning of the word “holy”). The significance of

the Sabbath is much deeper than that Yeshua became our Sabbath. The Messiah is indeed our Sabbath rest! But He will also reign for 1000 years in the millennium of rest. This will be an unparalleled time of peace and prosperity!

In Hosea 6:2, we find a similar concept which seems to confirm this idea: **"After two days He will revive us; on the third day He will raise us up, that we may live in His sight."** Could this be a way of saying that after 2000 years (two days as seen by the Almighty) the Father will raise up the nation of Israel and they will live in His sight? Astoundingly, we see that we are very close to the end of this 2000 year time period!

Could the current groundswell of interest among Christians for things "Hebraic" be a simple fulfillment of prophecy? As we proceed, the reader will find the resounding answer to be "Yes!"

The Great Tribulation

The Great Tribulation is a term Yeshua coined in Matthew 24:21. Strictly speaking, the time of the Great Tribulation will begin at the midpoint of the 70th week of Daniel and last until the "Day of YHWH." We will go into more detail concerning the Great Tribulation in Part III. For now, suffice it to say this time period will be a time of unprecedented hardship for the Almighty's people. It will be a time when family members betray one another and many will be put to death for their faith. It will be a time of testing, a time when the wheat will be separated from the chaff and when those who have built their spiritual houses on shifting sand will suffer great loss.

Chapter 5 – "So, What Difference Does It Make Anyway?"

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6).

"Therefore my people have gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge... But YHWH of host shall be exalted in judgment, and Elohim who is set-apart shall be hallowed in righteousness" (Isaiah 5:13-16).

So far, we have tried to steer clear of most controversial issues as they relate to prophecy. Most scholars who take the Scriptures seriously and interpret the Word at face value are in agreement concerning the things that were written about in the last couple of chapters. In this chapter we will explore in greater detail the differences between rapture viewpoints.

Simply put, differences between one's rapture viewpoints have to do with the timing of the so-called "rapture."

The “Snatching Away”

As a point of fact, the word “rapture” is not even in the Scriptures. It is a word that has been adapted from the Latin Vulgate, which uses the word *Rapiemure* in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 for the Greek word *harpazo* which is translated into English as “snatched away.” Perhaps a better way to think of the “rapture” is as “*our gathering together to Him*” – a more scriptural designation taken from 2 Thessalonians 2:1.

As stated previously, the pre-tribulation rapture view holds that the “snatching away” of the saints to our Master Yeshua Messiah will occur sometime before the 70th week of Daniel begins. Central to their viewpoint is the idea of “imminence” – the notion that the Messiah could possibly return at *any moment*. It is for this reason that you will occasionally see bumper stickers that proclaim, “*Caution: In case of rapture this car will be unoccupied!*” This would be great if true, it just cannot be proven *explicitly* from scripture. The pre-trib viewpoint hinges on the notion that the Messiah could return at any moment, but we will prove in some detail later, that this idea simply is not scripturally sound.

“Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him” (Romans 5:9).

“And to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Yahushua who delivers us from the wrath to come” (1 Thessalonians 1:10).

“For Elohim did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Master Yahushua Messiah” (1 Thessalonians 5:9).

Notice the main point of these verses is that we are to be kept from *the Mighty One's “wrath.”* Notice also what these verses don't say: They *don't* say that we will be kept from persecution or from tribulation. To the contrary, many places in the Scripture seem to indicate that those alive at the end of the age will have to endure some very difficult times.

“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake” (Matthew 24:9).

“And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved” (Mark 13:13).

“It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them” (Revelation 13:7).

Throughout the Scriptures it has never been the Father's style to keep His people from hardship; instead, we often see the Father tests His people through various trials just as He did during the wilderness wanderings under the leadership of Moses.

Post-tribulationists believe the Messiah will return at the end of the 70th week of Daniel. There are problems with this view. Namely, the above verses indicate the Almighty will spare us from his wrath. A careful look back at Daniel 9:25-27 shows us in vs. 27 that sometime after the halfway point of the seven years the following happens: **"even until the consummation, which is determined is poured out on the desolate"** (a reference to the Day of YHWH, the time of the Mighty One's wrath). If the Almighty's wrath happens *during* the 70th week (as implied in the above verse), and we are to be *spared* from the Almighty's wrath, then the "rapture" cannot take place *after* the 70th week.

Despite this point, post-tribulationists will mention the following verses as proof texts of their position. For the sake of clarity the key portions of the verses have been underlined:

"For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened... For false messiahs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect" (Matthew 24:21-24).

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days... the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the Earth will mourn... And he will send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heaven to the other" (Matthew 24: 29-31).

"Now brethren, concerning the coming of our Master Yahushua Messiah and our gathering together to him... Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called Elohim, or that is worshiped, so that he sits as Elohim in the temple of Elohim, showing himself that he is Elohim" (2 Thessalonians 2:1-4).

"So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast... and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months... It was granted to him to make war with the Saints and to overcome them" (Revelation 13: 4-8).

These verses and others certainly do indicate that there will be "saints" or "the elect" present during the last days, and so they argue against a pre-trib rapture, and contradict the notion that the church will be "out of here" when the trouble starts. Notice, though, that these post-trib proof texts do not mention saints or the elect being present during *the Mighty One's wrath*.

Why It Matters

So why does it matter? What is the big deal? Well, here's the problem: Let's carefully

take another look at the verses cited as proof texts for the post-tribulation position.

“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake” (Matthew 24:9).

"For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened. Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Messiah!' or 'There!' do not believe it. For false messiahs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect" (Matthew 24:21-24).

"So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, 'Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?' And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. Then He opened his mouth in blasphemy against Elohim, to blaspheme his name, his tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. It was granted to him to make War with the Saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13: 4-8).

These passages, as does others, indicate Satan will be given power to *overcome* the saints.

It is bad enough that the Word of the Almighty indicates some of the elect will be physically overcome by the powers of darkness, but it is much worse when one considers the Scriptures indicate that a "falling away" or an "apostasy" will occur:

"Now brethren, concerning the coming of our Master Yahushua Messiah and our gathering together to him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Messiah had come. Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called Elohim, or that is worshiped, so that he sits as Elohim in the temple of Elohim, showing himself that he is Elohim" (2 Thessalonians 2:1-4).

As pointed out in the introduction, Matthew 24:12 indicates the “agape” of many will grow cold! *This should alarm you!* If it doesn't it is because you do not understand the implications. Love is at the center of the Father’s two greatest commandments... To love YHWH your Almighty with all your heart and to love your neighbor as yourself. If the Father’s imparted love within us grows cold, then we are lost!

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of Elohim; and everyone who loves is born of Elohim and knows Elohim. He who does not love does not know Elohim, for Elohim is love” (1 John 4:7-8).

Scripture explicitly says: **“the agape of many will grow cold.”** It is an act of sheer denial to think this couldn’t happen to you. As much as we would like to ignore the facts, an honest appraisal of the word of Elohim reveals *we are all at risk!*

Those who believe that they will be raptured away before the 70th week of Daniel even begins simply do not believe they will be around during the time of great trouble, and so they make themselves vulnerable. An often heard mantra from pre-trib preachers is, "We don't need to worry about who the Anti-messiah is because we will not be here when he is revealed." This is in spite of Revelation 13:18 which says, **“Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.”** Why would the Mighty One give us this information, pointing out that it is wisdom to calculate it, if we were not going to be here?

The Good News of Mark elaborates on this same time period:

"Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child: and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved" (Mark 13:12-13).

Heads Up!

In sports, you will occasionally hear players or bystanders shout “Heads up!” to alert others of a wayward ball. In Luke 21:28, Yeshua tells us, **“Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.”** What follows is most definitely a “heads up.” It is with the *utmost love and compassion* that these next few thoughts are written.

Those who teach an amillennialist or preterist view have allegorized away the Word of the Almighty and risk having themselves and their flock being caught unaware.

(Editor: “Amillennialists” do not believe that there is a literal and future 1000-year reign of the Messiah on this earth. “Preterists” believe that essentially most or even all end-time prophecies were fulfilled in the first century after Yeshua Messiah’s birth.)

Those who hold to and teach a pre-tribulation “rapture” risk being lulled asleep by the notion that we will all be “beamed up” before the Anti-messiah appears and begins to prevail over the Saints.

The Mighty One's word clearly indicates that Satan will overcome many in the last days and that the agape of many will grow cold.

"Because you say 'I am rich, I have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' – and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked" (Revelation 3:17).

We live in a lawless generation; many of us are simply not mature enough to resist the falling away. Corporately the church is *not* spiritually prepared for what is about to happen to the whole world.

(Editor: Please re-read that last sentence.)

Today's typical Christians are *carnally minded* with minds that are set upon things of this world. We want earthly blessings, and ministries which cater to those who are carnally minded *abound*.

It is quite possible that the "falling away" has already begun. Later on, we will take a hard look at the state of the church today. For now, we need to continue to build the case for the pre-wrath rapture of the saints, the topic of the next chapter.

Chapter 6 – *The Pre-wrath "Gathering Together"*

"For Elohim did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Master Yahushua Messiah" (1 Thessalonians 5:9).

We will now take a look at the pre-wrath viewpoint. This chapter is by no means intended to be an exhaustive analysis of the pre-wrath rapture view. Rather, this is a simple presentation of scripture that will allow the reader to understand this position which is not widely known among the body of Messiah today. We will use Matthew 24, Yeshua's so called 'Olivet Discourse,' as our primary text. We will compare scripture with scripture and let the Word speak for itself.

The Olivet Discourse

In Matthew 24:1-2, the disciples were walking with Yeshua at the temple and marveling at its magnificence. Yeshua prophesied, **"Not one stone shall be left here upon another that shall not be thrown down."** Later, His inner circle approached Him privately and asked, **"When will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and the end of the age?"**

Notice that the disciples assumed that the events of which they were inquiring occurred simultaneously. The amazing answer Yeshua gives, therefore, had to be what we will refer to as a near/far prophecy. Some of the elements of this prophecy were indeed fulfilled in A.D. 70 as mentioned previously. This was an answer to the first part of the disciples' question, the question concerning the destruction of the Temple.

Interestingly, when it burned in 70 A.D., gold from the Temple melted and ran down into the cracks between the stones. History tells us Roman soldiers literally fulfilled the Messiah's words exactly when they dismantled the Temple stone by stone, throwing each stone down in an effort to get at the gold. Most of what Yeshua foretold, however, has not yet happened; thus, the "far" application of the Messiah's prophecy unquestionably refers to the time of His second coming.

In order to rightly understand this portion of scripture, it is helpful at this time to compare Matthew 24 with its parallel passage found in Revelation 6. Here the Lamb of the Mighty One (Yeshua) has been given a scroll that only He is able to open. The scroll has seven seals that must be opened. You can picture this scroll as a long document which has been rolled up with a line of seven individual seals (like the wax seals one would put their 'seal' or stamp their ring into) spaced across the visible end of the rolled up document.

As the Lamb opens each of the seals, certain judgments are allowed to come forth upon the earth. While it does appear that some of the events in the seal judgments, namely the first four seals, have been happening since time immemorial, it seems from the details of Revelation 6 that there will be a major crescendo in the intensity of the judgments just before the Day of YHWH.

A Jigsaw Puzzle

Putting together the prophetic word of the Almighty is not unlike assembling a jigsaw puzzle. If we are able to align certain portions of scripture and understand that these sections are discussing the same event, we can begin to build a framework for understanding other sections that also "fit" into this picture.

In this way, by realizing Matthew 24 "fits" together with Revelation 6, and by taking note that Yeshua also aligns the prophecies of Daniel with the events spoken of in Matthew 24 (Matthew 24:15), we too can begin to see what the end-times picture will look like.

Daniel 9 defines the last seven years of this age. These final seven years begin with a covenant made with the Anti-messiah. This coming of the Anti-messiah fits perfectly with the opening of the first seal.

Yeshua makes reference to these final seven years and an event called the "abomination of desolation" (spoken of in Daniel 9:27 and reference by Sha'ul in 2 Thessalonians 2:4). Yeshua then goes on to describe the "gathering" of the saints – the event often referred to as the rapture.

When we realize the seal judgments parallel Yeshua's description of the end times found in the Olivet discourse, we recognize that the saints who are alive during the last days will indeed have to endure the first six seals of Revelation. We come to this conclusion because the rapture clearly occurs between the sixth and the seventh seals (Matthew 24:31 and Revelation 7:9-17). Therefore, the saints must endure the

first six seals (during which over a quarter of the earth's population will die and tremendous persecution will occur).

The saints will indeed have to endure the Great Tribulation!

Simply put, Messiah does not “rapture” His bride before the trouble starts. He allows persecution to happen in order to refine His elect. He then rescues her from the throes of tribulation and then afterwards with His great wrath judges those who “dwell upon the earth.”

In Summary

When we take a careful look at the correlation between Revelation chapters 6 and 7 and Matthew 24, we realize that the rapture will occur between the 6th and 7th seal. Understanding this point, we realize that the elect are indeed destined to endure the events outlined by the first six seals of Revelation chapter 6 during which time over a quarter of the world's population will die. Truly, it will be a of Great Tribulation. In light of these facts, we are compelled to give up errant pre-tribulation beliefs. Ultimately it is not what we want that matters... it is what *the Mighty One ordains* that counts.

Yet, we are not without a hope as these days draw closer. As we continue in our studies we will find great comfort as we learn of the heritage we have been given and comprehend the magnitude of the Almighty's promises to His people.

There are many details of the last days that have not yet been addressed and have to do mainly with some of the events and characters that will show up in the last days. These include the Anti-messiah, the two witnesses, the 144,000 sealed from the nation of Israel, the false prophet and the woman riding the beast, as well as “Mystery, Babylon.”

In the next chapter we will touch briefly on some of these and later we will look with much interest at the identity of the woman riding the beast and the 144,000.

Later, as we consider the great plan of redemption and the fall feasts, we will unlock many mysteries concerning the timeline of the Great Tribulation.

Chapter 7 – Confirmation of the Pre-wrath Position

As we begin to understand the Pre-wrath “gathering together” of the elect, we ask ourselves if this is the testimony in the rest of the Scriptures. Indeed it is. Let's take a look at a few more passages from the Scriptures to make sure this pre-wrath theory is true. A favorite passage dealing with this issue is a passage which clearly points to a pre-wrath position and is found in Isaiah 26:19-21:

“Your dead shall live; Together with my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust; for your dew is like the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead. Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, until the indignation is past. For behold, YHWH comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; the earth will also disclose her blood, and will no more cover her slain.”

From this we can infer the Mighty One’s wrath will immediately follow the resurrection and the rapture – a pre-wrath view!

We can also infer that the resurrection will precede the rapture. Sha’ul confirms this for us in 1 Thessalonians 4:15:

“For this we say to you by the word of the Master, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Master will by no means precede those who are asleep.”

Also, take another look at the Isaiah passage and notice the phrase, **“enter your chambers and shut your doors behind you.”** Considering the context, this reminds us of Messiah’s words: **“In My Father’s house are many mansions...” (John 14:2).**

Notice also what else the prophet Isaiah has to say about the events that occur around the time of the Day of YHWH:

“Behold, the day of YHWH comes, cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and He will destroy its sinners from it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations will not give their light; the sun will be darkened in its going forth, and the moon will not cause its light to shine” (Isaiah 13:9-10).

Particularly, let us draw our attention to the phrase, **“the stars will not give their light, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not cause its light to shine.”** Notice how this is exactly in line with the accounts given by both Matthew and Joel:

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

“The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of YHWH” (Joel 2:31).

“Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of YHWH is near in the valley of decision. The sun and moon will grow dark, and the stars will diminish their brightness. YHWH also will roar from Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem; the heavens and earth will shake; but YHWH will be a shelter for His people, and the strength of the children of Israel” (Joel 3:14-16).

Notice how the prophecies are consistent. First, there will be signs in the heavens with the darkening of celestial bodies, and then after this the Day of YHWH will come. Importantly, notice also the above phrase in the Joel passage, “**but YHWH will be a shelter for His people, and the strength of the children of Israel**” which dovetails perfectly with the pre-wrath position.

Imminent Return?

In his classic work *The Coming Prince*, Sir Robert Anderson, *writing in the late 1800's*, created quite a stir when he suggested that the Master would not return until the Jew is restored to the land of “Palestine.” At the time of his writing, the prospect of a Jewish nation in that land was inconceivable. The Turks were firmly rooted in the land of “Palestine” and there was no serious movement among Jews to reestablish their own country in their own land. Who would have imagined what would happen in two world wars to entice the Jewish people to move en masse during the twentieth century to their historic homeland?

Anderson believed the Scriptures. History confirms their truth. In the same way, we can see that the notion of “imminence” – the thought that the Messiah could return *at any moment* is just not scripturally valid.

Before the coming of the Master we have shown with scripture that the following must happen *first*:

- The 70th week of Daniel must begin. It will likely begin with the signing of a seven-year treaty between the nation of Israel and a rising world leader.
- Since the rapture occurs between the sixth and seventh seals, the events described in the first four scrolls in Revelation must take place. Look for a powerful world leader, world war, worldwide famine, and pestilence. During this time there will be unprecedented suffering. One quarter of the earth's population will perish.
- The abomination of desolation must take place, which means temple worship must be resumed and there must be a temple in place.
- Massive persecution of the elect will take place; many will die, and fall away.
- Signs in the heavens will occur, the sun will grow dark, the moon will turn blood red, and the “stars will fall from heaven.” The nations will mourn, and *then* the Master will return and the Angels will gather the elect.

The Abomination of Desolation

The major event that marks the beginning of the Great Tribulation is the abomination of desolation. It will be an incredible occurrence when the Anti-messiah will actually defile the Temple of Almighty and set himself up to be worshipped as the Almighty. As was shown above in 2 Thessalonians 2, this is an event that must happen before the coming of the Day of YHWH.

Yeshua speaks of this event in Matthew 24:15 and following:

"Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the set-apart place... then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.... For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be."

Here, Yeshua is directing our attention to the book of Daniel, where the prophet speaks of an event called the abomination of desolation in three different passages.

In Daniel 9:27 we discover this event will occur at the midpoint of Daniel's 70th week when the Anti-messiah breaks a seven-year covenant in the middle of the week of years:

"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. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate..."

Daniel also spoke of this event in Daniel 11:31:

"And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation."

It becomes clear that at the mid-point of the 70th week of Daniel there will be a temple and a sacrificial system in place. The Anti-messiah will enter into the temple and defile it by setting himself up to be worshipped. As Second Thessalonians 2:3-4 unequivocally proclaims:

"Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called Elohim or that is worshipped, so that he sits as Elohim in the temple of Elohim, showing himself that he is Elohim."

Now let's take a look at Revelation 13 in this light. After a prophetic description of the Anti-messiah and his origins in the first part of the chapter, we learn about some of this evil character's activities in verses 5-7:

"And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against Elohim, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation."

The "dragon" (Satan) gives power to the "beast," (the Anti-messiah), who is given authority for 42 months (the last 3 1/2 years of Daniel's 70th week, the time of the Great Tribulation). The Anti-messiah blasphemes the temple immediately after he is

given this authority. In verse 14, a false prophet arises (the second beast) who **“deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast (the Anti-messiah) who was wounded by the sword and lived.”** In the latter half of Revelation 13, we see severe tribulation will come upon the earth after the temple is blasphemed (the abomination of desolation) – even to the point that the second beast will **“cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast (first beast) to be killed.”** Those who do not pledge allegiance to the beast with the acceptance of his mark will be unable to buy or sell.

When we consider the severity of these events, we begin to understand why Yeshua warned those in Judea (Matthew 24) to **“flee to the mountains”** when the abomination of desolation takes place.

Chapter 9 – *The Players in the Father’s End Time Plan – The Identity of “The Elect”*

Early on in this book it was suggested that in order to fully understand both the end times and the Father’s plan for His people, one must understand just *who* the “players” really are.

In my case, I was unable to authoritatively argue my position because I lacked this essential understanding. In almost every discussion on this topic, I would end up at the same sticking point – *the identity of the elect in Matthew 24*.

I distinctly remember having a wonderful night of fellowship with a couple who attended a Baptist church where I led praise and worship. Just as in other similar conversations, all debate on the pre-trib/pre-wrath issue eventually became circular because we disagreed on the identity of the “elect” in Matthew 24. Driving home that night I remember crying out, *“Master! Who are the ‘elect’ spoken of in Matthew 24?”*

Our heavenly Father is indeed faithful to reveal such matters to us when we ask!

First, let’s look at the verses in question:

“And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened” (Matthew 24:22).

“For false messiahs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect” (Matthew 24:24).

“Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, 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 His angels with a great sound of a

trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other” (Matthew 24:31).

The Almighty’s Chosen People

In both the Tanach and the Brit Chadasha, the term “elect” refers to the Almighty’s chosen ones. In the Tanach, the Hebrew word for elect is *bachiyir*, which comes from the word *bachar* which means chosen. We use the words chosen and elect interchangeably even today. For example, in the United States, if we as a nation *choose* a president, we do this by the process of an *election*. Below are a few examples of verses that include the elect or the chosen.

(Editor: The “Tanach” is the Law, the Prophets and the Writings - or the pre-Messianic Scriptures - and the “Brit Chadasha” is the post-Messianic Scriptures. The terms “Old” and “New” are misleading when referring to the Scriptures.)

“For you are a set-apart people to YHWH your Elohim; YHWH your Elohim has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth” (Deuteronomy 7:6 and 14:2).

“But you Israel are My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the descendants of Abraham my friend. You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest regions, and said to you, ‘You are My servant, I have chosen you and have not cast you away” (Isaiah 41:8-9).

“And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other” (Matthew 24:31).

“You are My witnesses,” says YHWH, “and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no Elohim formed, nor shall there be after Me” (Isaiah 43:10).

“I will bring forth descendants from Jacob, and from Judah an heir of My mountains; My elect shall inherit it, and My servants shall dwell there” (Isaiah 65:9).

“O seed of Abraham His servant, you children of Jacob, His chosen ones!” (Psalm 105:6).

“Therefore, as the elect of Elohim, set-apart and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, long suffering; bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Messiah forgave you, so you also must do” (Colossians 3:12-13).

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a set-apart nation, His own

special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of Elohim, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy” (1 Peter 2:9-10). (Recall that 1 Peter 1:2 addresses this letter to the “elect.”)

Let’s take a look at the verses above and see if we can draw some conclusions about this special group. When we put these puzzle pieces together, we ought to have a picture of who the “elect” really are.

- They are a set-apart people (Deuteronomy 7:6).
- The Almighty chose them as a special people (Deuteronomy 14:2).
- They are descendants of Abraham through Jacob (Psalm 105:6, Isaiah 65:9).
- They will be gathered from the farthest ends of the earth (Isaiah 41:8-9, Matthew 24:31).
- They will be witnesses that the Almighty is the Almighty (Isaiah 43:10).
- They have traits such as tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, and forgiveness (Colossians 3:12-13).
- They were once “not a people,” but are now the people of the Almighty (1 Peter 2:9-10).
- They once did not have mercy, but now have obtained mercy (1 Peter 2:9-10).
- They will inherit the land as the Almighty has promised (Isaiah 65:9).
- The Messiah has forgiven them (Colossians 3:12-13).
- They are of both Judah *and* Israel (Isaiah 65:9).
- *Most importantly, there is no place in the Scriptures that reference the Father changing who His elect people are!*

Putting it Together – The Prophet Hosea

In assembling the pieces of our prophecy puzzle, the missing piece which brings clarity to the picture is this issue of the identity of the elect. An understanding of Almighty’s prophecies given in the book of Hosea is vital to understanding this critical issue. This book records the strange story of the Almighty ordering Hosea to take a wife of harlotry. This marriage then served as a picture of Israel’s harlotry against Almighty. Hosea fathered children with the harlot Gomer and the names of their children were prophetic, in that their Hebrew names described the Almighty’s judgment upon Israel. The Mighty One, however, promised that this judgment would not last forever, and that He would restore Israel and Judah (the Northern and Southern Kingdoms):

“And she conceived again and bore a daughter. Then Elohim said to him: ‘Call her name Lo-Ruhamah, for I will no longer have mercy on the house of Israel, but I will utterly take them away. Yet I will have mercy on the house of Judah, will save them by YHWH their Elohim, and will not save them by bow, nor by sword or battle, by horses or horsemen.’ Now when she had weaned Lo-Ruhamah, she conceived and bore a son. Then Elohim said: ‘Call his name Lo-Ammi, for you are not my

people and I will not be your Elohim. ‘Yet the number of the Children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not My people,’ there it shall be said to them, ‘You are sons of the living Elohim’” (Hosea 1:6-10). (underlined for emphasis)

Notice that in this section of Hosea, the prophet spoke concerning the *House of Israel*, the Northern Kingdom. If we take a look now at some post-Messianic writings (the Brit Chadasha), we are able to come to some amazing conclusions:

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a set-apart nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of Elohim, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy” (1 Peter 2:9-10).

By comparing these two passages, we can deduce that the elect included the “House of Israel,” who were once **“not a people, but now are called the people of Elohim.”** This is consistent with the identity of the elect throughout all the Scriptures.

Perhaps we missed the first “fork in the trail” when we assumed Almighty had somehow given up on the “elect” of the Tanach and found a new kind of “elect” people in the Brit Chadasha (as in dispensationalist theology).

If the “House of Israel” continues to be the Mighty One’s elect people however, what then about the church? Is the church elect? Or... have we tried to define the “elect” by using *our* labels instead of the designations that the Almighty gave?

Hosea offers us another clue which further clarifies the issue of the identity of the elect while speaking specifically about the time of the Great Tribulation:

“For I will be like a lion to Ephraim (Israel), and like a young lion to the house of Judah. I, even I, will tear them and go away; I will take them away, and no one shall rescue. I will return again to My place till they acknowledge their offense. Then they will seek My face; in their affliction they will earnestly seek Me. Come, and let us return to YHWH; for He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up. After two days He will revive us; on the third day He will raise us up, that we may live in His sight” (Hosea 5:14-6:2).

The original nation of Israel split into the Northern Kingdom of Israel (often called Ephraim) and Southern Kingdom of Judah. The above section of scripture clearly is speaking to *both* Ephraim and Judah – the *whole house of Israel* – as Almighty’s chosen. From this verse it becomes apparent that the “elect” (or chosen) are from the *whole* nation of Israel, both the Northern (Israel) and Southern (Judah) kingdoms, and that both Houses will have to endure the Great Tribulation.

Again, the elect have always been from “all Israel” throughout the Scriptures. Now we see through 1 Peter 2:9-10, shown above that the elect *continue* to be Israel – even in the Brit Chadasha scriptures.

It is essential to realize also that the context of Hosea 5:14-6:2 is the Great Tribulation, and that they (Israel) will be “torn,” confirming that many will perish during the Great Tribulation.

The Great Tribulation is sometimes referred to as the time of “Jacob’s Trouble.” **“Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; and it is the time of Jacob’s trouble, but he shall be saved out of it”** *Jeremiah 30:7*. It is worthwhile to point out that this time period is called the time of “*Jacob’s* Trouble” and not just the time of “*Judah’s* Trouble.”

From Hosea 5, we also note that something is required from each of these two Houses of Israel *before* the Master returns, **“I will return again to My place till they (plural – both Ephraim and Judah) acknowledge their offense.”**

It is easy to pick on Judah and to point out their offense. Judah, for the most part, does not know the identity of the Messiah. But who is Ephraim? And what is his offense? For that matter, the really important question becomes, “Who is Israel?” If Judah (the Jewish people) is spoken of separately from Ephraim, does Ephraim exist today separately from those that we call the Jews? Does the “church” fit into all of this? And if so, where?

The next few chapters of this book will address these exciting questions. The answers will shock and amaze you – and if you will receive the Word of the Mighty One, *your identity* in the Messiah will be changed forever!

Chapter 10 – *Who Is Israel?*

You didn’t Learn this in High School History!

After Jacob died, his sons lived in Egypt and were led by Joseph. Of course Jacob eventually died, but the entire clan (who were already quite diverse considering the fact Joseph had twelve children from four different women) stayed and dwelt in land of Goshen, the best land in Egypt. Over two hundred and fifty years passed. The clan grew into an enormous nation – a nation without a home. Considering the change that has taken place in North America over the last 250 years, one is able to easily see that quite a bit can happen over this length of time. The scriptural account tells of a new pharaoh that eventually came to power, one that was different and did not know Joseph. This Pharaoh oppressed and enslaved the Israelites. Through Moses, the Father miraculously freed the fledgling nation and returned them to the land of their fathers – the Promised Land.

After forty years of wilderness wanderings, the Father restored the Israelites to their land through the conquests of Joshua. For a period of time, the nation existed without an earthly king, and Judges were placed over them to settle disputes. Eventually the nation of Israel wanted to be like the other nations of the world and they asked the Almighty for a King. During the 80 year time period of the reigns of King David and King Solomon, the nation of Israel grew to worldwide prominence. It would be difficult to overstate the magnificence of the Israelite empire during this time period approximately 1000 years before the birth of the Messiah.

After the death of Solomon, the entire nation was divided into two Kingdoms. The Southern half, consisting primarily of the Tribes of Judah, Benjamin, and some of Levi, became known as Judah (or the House of Judah). The Northern half, consisting of the remaining 10 tribes, kept the name Israel (the House of Israel). In the Scriptures, the House of Israel is often referred to as "Ephraim." It is *extremely important* to note that the division of the kingdom was by the Father's hand. It was *His* design to fulfill *His* purpose. The books of 1 and 2 Kings and 1 and 2 Chronicles document the histories of these two separate Kingdoms.

Eventually, both the House of Israel and the House of Judah fell into idolatry and were judged by the Mighty One just as He had promised He would in Deuteronomy 28:58-68. Judah went into captivity by the hand of the Babylonians almost 600 years before the time of Messiah, and was kept in captivity for 70 years, just as the Father had decreed they would through the prophet Jeremiah.

After their return from Babylon and for the next 2500 years, the House of Judah kept their national identity preserved despite great hardship and persecution. The House of Judah became the "Jews" of Yeshua's time, and to this day they have miraculously been able to maintain a sense of identity through the careful preservation of the Mighty One's Laws. Today, the House of Judah is back in the Land of Israel, and they have claimed the title of Israel. Indeed, they are of the seed of the man Israel (Jacob), and are deserving of the title. But are they the *whole* House of Israel? What happened to the northern kingdom of Ephraim?

Scattered Seed

Remember, Ephraim was the heir of the promise to become *many nations*. The house of Israel is often referred to as Ephraim in the Scriptures, because indeed Ephraim was the most prominent tribe of the Northern Kingdom. In Hosea 1:10, we see that Israel, or Ephraim became "***not my people.***" (Just as was discussed in the last chapter.) We discover in the Brit Chadasha that they became "***my people***" once again.

Let's take a look at what Sha'ul says to the Romans while writing about the "Gentiles." Referring to the Gentiles, Sha'ul says:

"As He says also in Hosea: 'I will call them my people, who were not my people,

and her beloved, who was not beloved. And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, “You are not My people,” there they shall be called sons of the living Elohim” (Romans 9:25-26).

By this we get a hint that Sha’ul knew that the scattered Northern Kingdom of Israel could be found among the “Gentiles.”

Let us also take another look at 1 Peter. To whom was Kepha writing? His letter is addressed, **“To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia”** (1 Pet 1:1). A cursory glance of this might give one the impression that Kepha is writing to the “Jews” who were dispersed to Gentile cities after 70 A.D. However, scripture scholars generally agree that 1 Peter was written in the early 60’s A.D., *before* the dispersion of the Jews, therefore Kepha *must be writing to the dispersed Israelites*. Notice then *what* he writes to these (whom Kepha also refers to as the “elect” in vs. 1:2):

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a set-apart nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of Elohim, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy” (1 Peter 2:9-10).

Here again is a Brit Chadasha reference to Hosea’s prophecy, thus “connecting the dots” and allowing us to follow the nation Israel across generations until we come to an “elect” people who have put their faith in the Messiah of Israel – Yeshua of Nazareth.

What Does This Mean?

Let us now put the case together. If the following statements are true, then the conclusion will be inescapable:

- The elect, throughout scriptural history, are Israel.
- Ephraim, *like Judah*, is of Israel.
- Ephraim became “not my people,” lost their sense of identity, and were scattered among the nations.
- Ephraim, through the birthright blessing *became many nations*.
- The Almighty kept track of who Ephraim/Israel became.
- Israel became “my people” once again, and “obtained mercy” through the work of the Messiah.
 - Through Messiah, believers have become part of the commonwealth of Israel, regardless of their genetic heritage.
 - The wild branches are made set-apart by the root, and are grafted in to the identity of “Israel.”

What does this mean? It means that our *identity* as the “church” is terribly wrong! We

call ourselves the “church” and proclaim that there are two dispensations and that our omnipotent, all-knowing Mighty One has had to deal with the Jews and the “church” separately, because he didn’t foresee the Jew’s rejection of Yeshua. This is despite Yeshua’s clear proclamation in John 10:16 that there will be *one* flock, and one shepherd. What we must see is the fact that the “one flock” is *still* Israel, made up of faithful believers from both the House of Judah and the House of Israel (Ephraim), and of those foreigners who would join the commonwealth of Israel through the Messiah.

We think that we are the “elect” because we call ourselves the church, but now we find that the “elect” are Israel! If we want to be counted as part of the “elect,” then we must identify with *Israel*, not the man made “church” that has discarded the Father’s ordinances and has adopted her own set of laws and religious doctrines. In doing this, we have tried to make that which is set-apart into something that is “wild.” Instead of identifying with Israel, we have separated ourselves from Israel and our brother Judah. Worse yet, not realizing that Judah is our brother, we as Christians have been guilty of intense persecution of the Jews in times past. Not understanding our identity, we have considered His Word in the Tanach scriptures as being somehow less important than the Brit Chadasha scriptures.

Hear, O Israel!

Do you find yourself watching news from the Middle East and Israel with intense interest? Do you feel drawn to the scriptural feasts? Does your heart quicken when you hear a Messianic praise song? Perhaps the Father is calling you to identify with His elect! The startling revelation of your identity as the Father’s elect will forever change the way you look at the Scriptures. The Word of Almighty will come alive as you realize that the words spoken in the Tanach are about *your* forefathers and the prophecies pertain to *you*.

Read carefully these words spoken of the house of Israel (Ephraim) by the prophet Jeremiah many generations ago. Let the Father speak to your heart, and open your eyes to the fact that He has declared His truth down through the ages, and that this truth has been preserved for this very day, when He is bringing His Word to pass:

“YHWH has appeared of old to me, saying: ‘Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with loving kindness I have drawn you. Again I will build you, and you shall be rebuilt, O virgin of Israel! You shall again be adorned with your tambourines, and shall go forth in the dances of those who rejoice. You shall yet plant vines on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant and eat them as ordinary food. For there shall be a day when the watchmen will cry on Mount Ephraim, ‘Arise, and let us go up to Zion, to YHWH our Elohim.’””

“For thus says YHWH: ‘Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, “O YHWH, save Your people, the remnant of Israel!” Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather

them from the ends of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and the one who labors with child, together; a great throng shall return there. They shall come with weeping, and with supplications I will lead them. I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters, in a straight way in which they shall not stumble; for I am a Father to Israel, and Ephraim is My firstborn. Hear the word of YHWH, O nations, and declare it in the isles afar off and say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him as a shepherd does his flock.' For YHWH has redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of one stronger than he. Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, streaming to the goodness of YHWH – for wheat and new wine and oil, for the young of the flock and the herd; their souls shall be like a well-watered garden, and they shall sorrow no more at all. Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old, together; for I will turn their mourning to joy, will comfort them, and make them rejoice rather than sorrow. I will satiate the soul of the priests with abundance, and My people shall be satisfied with My goodness, says YHWH.”

“Thus says YHWH: ‘A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.’”

“Thus says YHWH: ‘Refrain your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; for your work shall be rewarded, says YHWH, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy. There is hope in your future, says YHWH, that your children shall come back to their own border. I have surely heard Ephraim bemoaning himself: ‘You have chastised me, and I was chastised, like an untrained bull; restore me, and I will return, for You are YHWH my Elohim. Surely, after my turning, I repented; and after I was instructed, I struck myself on the thigh; I was ashamed, yes, even humiliated, because I bore the reproach of my youth.’””

“Is Ephraim my dear son? Is he a pleasant child? For though I spoke against him, I earnestly remember him still; Therefore My heart yearns for him; I will surely have mercy on him, says YHWH” (Jeremiah 31:3-20).

Chapter 14 – The Great Tribulation and the Regathering of Israel

The great tragedy of the pre-tribulation rapture doctrine is that it propagates the notion we need not concern ourselves with the events of the Great Tribulation and the identity of the Anti-messiah because “we won’t be around to experience it.” This kind of thinking is nothing short of a lie from Satan, so that he might deceive *even the very elect*. Perhaps you, too, have heard such sentiments, even from the pulpit of your own church. Maybe you’ve even uttered such nonsense.

The Lawless One

Keeping in mind that there are spiritual principles at work in addition to the physical, a point *must* be made. While we realize that according to the testimony of scripture the Anti-messiah will be a real person who defiles a physical Temple, there are some deeper spiritual applications which can be made.

Since we are now the “Temple of Almighty” and the Spirit of the Almighty dwells in us, could it be that by our own lawlessness (as has been previously pointed out) that we are somehow performing an “abomination that makes desolate?” After all, Sha’ul refers to the Anti-messiah as the “lawless one.”

Previously, we spent a fair amount of time showing the correlation between Matthew 24 and Revelation 6. It was pointed out that the first four seals have been happening at a low level since the impalement of the Messiah. In light of this, another look at Matthew 24 is warranted.

In Matthew 24:5, Yeshua warned that, **“Many will come in My name saying, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and will deceive many.”** This statement of Yeshua was shown to correlate with the coming of the first seal and the appearance of the Anti-messiah. John, however, as shown below, tells us that even in the first century, many Anti-messiahs had already come.

“Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Anti-messiah is coming, even now many Anti-messiahs have come, by which we know that it is the last hour” (1 John 1:18).

In order to reconcile the above passage with the notion that a specific end-times Anti-messiah, *the* Anti-messiah, will appear as suggested by the events described in the opening of the first seal, we must realize that the events of the first four seals have been happening since Yeshua’s sacrifice. Just as there have been many wars and rumors of wars (red horse), famine in various places (black horse), and disease and pestilence (pale horse), there have been many who have come in “My name” saying “I am the Messiah.” It appears that just as with a woman in labor, these birth pangs will crescendo as the Day of YHWH approaches. These seal judgments describe the death of one-third of mankind, and so we can also conclude that we haven’t seen the fullness of the seal judgments.

What’s more, as we ponder the meaning of Matthew 24:5 we would do well to realize that the original manuscripts did *not* include punctuation. In light of this fact, let’s look one more time, this time closely, at this passage. There are quotation marks that have been placed in our English translations that are not found in the Greek. So we have to ask ourselves, which is correct? Is it correct that Yeshua, implying that many will proclaim themselves as the messiah, said:

“Many will come in My name saying ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.”

Or, without added quotation marks, did Yeshua *really* say:

“Many will come in My name saying I am the Christ and will deceive many.”

Think about this for a moment. If Yeshua said as above that many will come in *His* name (in the name of Yeshua) saying *He* (Yeshua) is the Messiah and will deceive many, how might these believers in the Messiah be deceived? And, how does that relate to the coming of *the* Anti-messiah in the opening of the first seal?

It seems likely that the second rendering of Matthew 24:5 is correct and that *the* deception concerns the notion that the Father’s Torah has been done away with, and that we as believers in Yeshua need not concern ourselves with the Father’s everlasting Instructions.

After all, since the first century we have indeed seen wars, famine, and pestilence. Yet, can we honestly say that we have seen many false messiahs who also claimed the *name* of Yeshua for themselves? On the contrary, we have *not* seen these false messiahs. Instead, the testimony of history is that we have seen many coming in the name of Yeshua, proclaiming that Yeshua is the Messiah, but deceiving many with a religious philosophy opposing Yeshua’s words:

“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:17-19).

Thus, as the seal judgments fully come forth we will likely see *the* Anti-messiah teaching and adhering to a great deal of what mainstream Christianity *already* falsely teaches. Daniel confirms this notion with his prophetic words, **“he shall return and show regard for those who forsake the set-apart covenant”** and **“those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery.”** In this way the Anti-messiah will further deceive many. Revelation agrees that it is for the sake of keeping the commandments of Almighty that the Anti-messiah will persecute the elect during the Great Tribulation, **“And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of Elohim and have the testimony of Yahushua Messiah”** (Revelation 12:17).

Incredibly, our assessment of the modern church demonstrates that Satan has already laid the groundwork for this great deception and we see the fulfillment of Yeshua’s prophecy in *our* day before our very eyes. Sha’ul knew all too well that this would happen and he expressed his fear in the following heartrending verse:

“But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Messiah For if he who comes

preaches another Yahushua whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different Good News which you have not accepted – you may well put up with it!” (2 Corinthians 11:3-4).

Indeed, in modern times myriads of preachers and evangelists bring the flock to an understanding of *who* Messiah is (they come in the name of Yeshua saying He is the Messiah), only to abandon their new disciples, leaving the flock hungry and in desperate need of instruction as had been the custom, **“In every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath.”**

(Editor: Sha’ul said in 1 Corinthians 4:15, “For if you should have ten thousand instructors in Messiah, yet not many father’s, for in Messiah Yahushua I have brought you forth through the Good News.” ISR translation)

In our day, the modern-day institution of the church has rejected the Mighty One’s instructions and has instead embraced man’s idolatrous traditions. Seeing this causes one to stop and think... (and shudder).

Therefore:

“Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of Elohim comes upon the sons of disobedience” (Ephesians 5:6).

“Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Anti-messiah is coming, even now many anti-messiahs have come, by which we know that it is the last hour” (I John 1:18).

How close are we? In the concluding section of this book we will examine some of the “signs of the times” that indicate we are indeed living in the last days!

Epilogue – A Call to Set-Apart Living

One obscure but rather provocative prophecy concerning the “day of affliction” has to do with the emerging knowledge of the eternal name of the Mighty One. In Jeremiah 16:19-21 we find a prophecy concerning the restoration of Israel and Judah during the last days of this age:

“O YHWH, my strength and my fortress, my refuge in the day of affliction, the Gentiles shall come to You from the ends of the earth and say, ‘Surely our fathers have inherited lies, worthlessness and unprofitable things. Will a man make gods for himself, which are not gods?’ ‘Therefore behold, I will this once cause them to know. I will cause them to know My hand and My might. And they shall know that My name is ...’”

Here, most all widely accepted translations fall well short of the true meaning and say, “My name is the LORD.” The interesting thing to note is that many are beginning to

come to the knowledge of the true name of the Almighty Creator, the Mighty One of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

(Editor: In more than 6000 instances in nearly every English translation, the Name of YHWH has been replaced with "the LORD.")

The Father's name is most definitely not "the LORD." "Lord" is a title. The word "Ba'al" is rightly translated as "Lord." The Father has a name and the third commandment instructs us not to bring it to nothingness. We take the commandment, "Do not take the name of YHWH your Elohim in vain" to mean not swearing or cursing. Incredibly, a more careful study of the Hebrew indicates the Command ought to read something like this... "I am YHWH your Elohim, do not bring my name to nothingness." This makes sense when we understand that to do something *in vain* is to do it for nothing. Amazingly, for centuries most people have not even realized that the Father has a name and instead have used the label "God" or the title "Lord." *The Father's name is YHWH*, and although the exact pronunciation may be in dispute, the mere fact that more and more people are becoming aware of His name indicates we are getting closer to the end-times based on this prophecy of Jeremiah that rightly ends...

"And they shall know that My name is YHWH"

Prepare! Sound the Alarm!

One cannot begin to overstate the importance of getting one's "house in order" and preparing spiritually for the events which lie ahead. Knowing the truth about having to go through the tribulation is only part of the preparation. Learning to live a set-apart life during the present time is essential.

As we begin to understand the importance of the Father's Instructions (Torah) we are able to see why Sha'ul stated in 1 Corinthians 10 that the things that happened to the Israelites during the wilderness wanderings "**happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.**" Being untaught in the Father's instruction, how do renewed covenant brethren expect one will be able to stand up against the wiles of the Devil during the Great Tribulation if not living a set-apart life now? Following Sha'ul's admonition, we must study carefully the mistakes made by our ancestors so we do not make the same mistakes as the time of His esteemed return approaches.

We have learned it is because "**lawlessness abounds**" that the agape of many will grow cold. Our constant prayer should be that YHWH would not let our agape grow cold. To this end, then, we must embrace YHWH's Law (His Instruction for a set-apart life), His Torah. Once again, we do this not as a means to salvation per se, but because we love the Father *so much* that we agree with His Word, and believe that His instruction is good and set-apart.

We realize, then, it is not as though simply following YHWH's Law saves us in a *legal*

sense, for salvation is by faith. Sha'ul tells us, however, that **"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of the Almighty."** Jacob (James) adds further to this by saying, **"But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."** We recognize, therefore, that obedience to YHWH's law saves us in a very real and practical way by *building our faith* in and leading us to the only one that can *truly* save us, Yeshua the Messiah.

We must see that the *entire* Word of the Mighty One points us to our Savior and that attaining Him is the only worthy goal. To that end, let us do away with the doctrines of man that **"have the appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion... but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh."** We must therefore recognize it is lawlessness to continue in the idolatrous practices we learned from our forefathers.

We must not let "lawlessness abound," supposing by this we are letting "favor abound." We must understand that YHWH alone defines what is set-apart and what is profane; therefore, let us return to *His* Instruction and turn away from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil so we may do *His* will and not ours. In *this* way we will be able to *know* Him and thus strengthen our faith, preparing for the days that lie ahead.

in Hebrews 12:25-26, the writer, quoting the Prophets speaks of a future great shaking of the heavens:

"See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven."

Obviously, this event will be most terrifying. The non-believing world will seek some sort of explanation whether it is scientific or religious. Those who are deceived will believe the calendar change is a sign of the ushering in of a "new age." But, what are we to believe? If our faith is built upon the Word of YHWH then we will be greatly encouraged. Yeshua said it well. We will conclude with His words:

"And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great esteem. Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near" (Luke 21:25-28).

Appendix B – *The 360 Day Year*

“Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by Elohim, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days” (Revelation 12:6).

A fascinating question which often comes up while considering end-times scenarios concerns the 360 day year presented in the Scriptures. Genesis and Revelation both seem to point to a 360 day year. This appendix has been added to shed some light on this most intriguing topic.

(Editor: More important in my mind is how Appendix B elaborates on the catastrophic nature of YHWH's judgments in the scriptural past. The Great Flood was only one of several great catastrophes that have fallen on mankind in the Scriptures.)

Hezekiah's Second Chance

It is a well-documented fact of history that all ancient calendars had 360 day long years. This is thought by many to be the reason we have 360 degrees in a circle and is also felt to be the reason the shorthand sign for degrees looks like a small sun. Evidently, the 360 day calendar worked well during the ancient times and did not require calendar adjustments to account for the longer modern 365 1/4 day year. Then, sometime around 701 B.C. the ancient calendars quit working and the addition of the extra 5 and 1/4 days per year became necessary.

But, how and why did this calendar change happen? And, what is the prophetic significance of this event?

About the same time ancient calendars quit working, the Scripture records the amazing story of the life of Hezekiah, King of Judah. Hezekiah had been a relatively righteous king. He reigned contemporaneously with the prophet Isaiah. The events of his life are recorded in Second Kings, Second Chronicles and also can be found in the Book of Isaiah.

Toward the end of Hezekiah's designated time on Earth, the Mighty One spoke through Isaiah warning Hezekiah that the end of his life was near and that he should “put his house in order.”

Hezekiah, however, was not ready to go, so he cried out to YHWH asking for mercy and an extension of his life. YHWH heard his cry, and extended his life by 15 years. So that Hezekiah would know that the Mighty One had done this thing, Hezekiah was given an amazing sign. Just as the years of Hezekiah's life were rolled back by the the Almighty, the Almighty also caused the sundial to move backward 10 degrees.

The sundial spoken of in this account was most likely an obelisk-like pillar that cast a

shadow on the ground along a sundial “clock.” That the shadow moved backwards was an *incredible* miracle. We will show below that this event shook the very foundations of the whole earth and was most likely the cause of the calendar adjustment. We will also explore the prophetic implications of this amazing event.

So how did the Mighty One cause the shadow on the sundial to move backwards? Did the Mighty One suspend the laws of Physics for this event, or did He cause this to happen within the boundaries of the Laws of Nature that He set up?

This is an important question, because it relates to our discussion of the 360 day year. First of all, *could* Almighty have caused the shadow to move backwards while suspending physical laws? The answer, of course, is certainly He *could have*.

But, is this the way it was done, and if so, why? Further, is this the way the Almighty has worked in the past?

Consider the account of the Red Sea crossing. Why did Almighty use an “East wind” to lift up the walls of the Red Sea and dry the seabed? Couldn’t He have just commanded it to be so, suspending the laws of gravity and causing the walls of water to form?

It seems based on this and other examples, that the Mighty One often works *within* the laws of physics that He defined.

So how did Almighty cause this amazing miracle? One interesting theory that has been proposed is that the sun moved relative to the Earth, causing the shadow to move backward. Some have even proposed mathematical models suggesting that if the sun were to have moved enough to cause the sundial to move backward 10 degrees that this could have thrown the Earth into a wider orbit requiring the extra 5 and 1/4 days.

Velikovsky’s Contribution

In the mid-1900’s a Jewish scientist by the name of Immanuel Velikovsky wrote extensively on the subject of Earth catastrophes. He was criticized by almost all in the scientific community at that time because his assertions ran counter to the common theme of “uniformitarianism.”

The dominant scientific thought over the past 150 years has been in support of evolution. Evolutionists hold that conditions on the Earth must have been relatively stable over “millions of years.” This notion is called *uniformitarianism* and is foundational to the theory of evolution. This school of thought reminds us of the words of Kepha concerning scoffers in the last days:

“Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), that you may be mindful of the words which were

spoken before by the set-apart prophets, and of the commandment of us, the emissaries of the Master and Savior, knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." For this they willfully forget: that by the word of Elohim the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men" (2 Peter 3:1-7).

Velikovsky, a scientist with an unusually broad understanding of astronomy, geology, and anthropology, leaned upon a wide variety of sources to put together Earth's history of the recent past (he believed approximately 10,000 years) that was replete with catastrophes. Amazingly, Velikovsky also made many startling predictions about the nature of the solar system that were confirmed only after the development of sophisticated technologies and the dawning of the Space age.

Central to Velikovsky's theories was the notion that our solar system has not always been as we know it today. Leaning upon ancient star charts and on Greco-Roman mythology, Velikovsky proposed that the planet Venus was birthed from the side of Jupiter and for a time was a comet-like body that looped around the Sun in an elliptical orbit. He suggested that Venus came into near contact with Earth on several occasions and that it was during these "near pass by" events that certain scriptural and historical catastrophes happened such as the flood, the Exodus, and even Hezekiah's sundial event.

Patten, Hatch, Steinhauer and the Long Day of Joshua

Though Velikovsky's theories were remarkable, he did not believe in the Mighty One of Israel. Because of this, his understanding of world history is thus limited. He did, however, open the door to some creative thinking as to just how the Almighty *could have* caused some scriptural events to occur.

In more recent times, this obscure subject has been taken up by believing scientists who with the help of computer modeling have made some very interesting proposals of their own. With the help of computers, Donald Patten, Ronald Hatch, and Loren Steinhauer proposed in their book *The Long Day of Joshua and Six other Catastrophes* that it was the planet Mars that had an elliptical orbit which overlapped the circular orbit of the earth.

(Editor: I am of the conviction that the universe is "geocentric," i.e. that it is the sun, it's seven planets and all the stars that rotate around a stationary Earth. The Earth is not a planet! This is clearly how the Scriptures describe Creation, and is supported by science. Those interested should read James N. Hanson's book The Bible and

Geocentricity. It is listed on my website.)

Noting that scriptural catastrophes or minor events seemed to occur in repeated intervals of about 54 years and also noting that the ancients feared and even worshipped Mars, these authors created a computer model showing that orbits of the Earth and of Mars could have been oriented so that Mars made a near “pass by” of the Earth every 54 years. They proposed through an exchange of energy via “orbital resonance” that the planets eventually settled into the stable orbits we now see today.

It is way beyond the scope of this appendix to try to fully explain the theories of these scientists. Such an undertaking would be a volume unto itself. What we hope to do by introducing the reader to these ideas is to expand the possibilities as to how the Mighty One may in fact bring judgment upon the Earth at the end of the Age.

Prophetic Implications

So did YHWH use an interloping Venus or an intruding Mars to bring about the calendar change? Perhaps it was a different interplanetary body altogether, one which has long since disappeared into the depths of the galaxy. Since we have no living witnesses to the event, we will likely never settle the issue. What we may be able to do, however, is to extrapolate some of the theories proposed by these scientists and gain a better understanding of scriptural prophecy.

Incredibly, based on a plain text reading of the book of Revelation, it seems we will one day experience another calendar change that will result in the restoration of a 360 day year. Amazingly, the truth about this 360 day-year has been completely overlooked by virtually every teacher of scriptural prophecy!

Considering all of these things, let us ask the question, *“If the event which caused the first calendar change was indeed a catastrophic celestial event, could the event which will cause us to return to a 360 day calendar be of like kind?”*

In that context, let us now examine some of the events prophesied to happen at the end of the age. Consider the event that is the harbinger of the “Day of YHWH.” In multiple passages concerning this dreadful day we are told that the Sun will turn black and the moon “blood red,” and that the stars will “fall from heaven.”

But how could this happen?

Some have suggested this will occur as the result of nuclear war. They suggest that the smoke and dust will lead to a “nuclear cloud” and that the sun will be blocked out. But does this fit the text? If the Sun is blocked to blackness by smoke and dust, would it be possible to even see the moon. Not likely

Above, we introduced the possibility that an interloping planet could have been responsible not only for the events of Hezekiah’s Sundial, but also other scriptural disasters. In carefully considering the repeated narrative as to the celestial events

occurring at the time of the Day of YHWH, it seems likely that this will occur again. To prove this assertion, consider the following: If a wandering planet moved into our solar system and moved into relatively close contact with the Earth, it would explain many prophetic events. If the planet was positioned between the Sun and Earth, it could completely block out the Sun while casting a dark shadow on the moon rendering it blood red as does a lunar eclipse. Additionally, there are large and small orbiting bodies around planets. If two planets were to come into relatively close proximity there would undoubtedly be tremendous meteor showers. These massive showers would look just like "stars falling from heaven." Further, consider the events of the first five Trumpet Judgments of Revelation 8 and 9. Though many have claimed that these are descriptions of a nuclear holocaust, these are more readily explained by a cosmic catastrophe of some sort. In these we find:

- First Trumpet - hail mixed with fire (a terrible meteor shower?).
- Second Trumpet - a "great mountain burning with fire cast into the sea" (a giant asteroid?).
- Third Trumpet - a "great star falling from heaven" (another giant asteroid?).
- Fourth Trumpet - a third of the sun and moon blocked out (an interloping planet now casting a shadow over 1/3 of the Earth?).
- Fifth Trumpet - and yet another "star" falling from heaven (this one is big enough to penetrate the Earth's crust letting the massive demon locust hoard escape from the bottomless pit).

But, what does the Word of Almighty have to say about these possibilities?

Incredibly, a great deal if you consider all of the Day of YHWH Passages. Let's take a look at a few others:

Behold, the day of YHWH comes, cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and He will destroy its sinners from it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations will not give their light; the sun will be darkened in its going forth, and the moon will not cause its light to shine" (Isaiah 13:9-10).

"Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of YHWH is near in the valley of decision. The sun and moon will go dark and the stars will diminish their brightness. For YHWH also will roar from Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; the heavens and earth will shake; but YHWH will be a shelter for His people and the strength of the children of Israel" (Joel 3: 14-16).

"The earth is violently broken, the earth is split open, the earth is shaken exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall totter like a hut; its transgression shall be heavy upon it, and it will fall, and not rise again.

It shall come to pass in that day that Elohim will punish on high the host of exalted ones, and on the earth the kings of the earth. They will be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and will be shut up in the prison; after many days

they will be punished. Then the moon will be disgraced and the sun ashamed; for the Lord of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem and before His elders, with esteem” (Isaiah 24:19-23).

Here, the writer of Hebrews, quoting the Tanach speaks of a future great shaking of the heavens.

“See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven" (Hebrews 12:25-26).

Obviously, this event will be most terrifying.

(Editor: Readers may want to read the scientific and technical paper, [A Brief Earth History: A Summary of Creation and Catastrophe Geology](#) by Barry Setterfield. It is listed under Study Papers on my website, www.mennoniteisrael.org. Or visit Setterfield's site at www.setterfield.org.)

The Editor gratefully acknowledges the generosity of Dr. Frank Morgan in giving me access to his book *The Watchmen's Cry*. Readers are encouraged to read the book in it's entirety. It is a book of exceptional clarity, insight and wisdom.

Copies of *The Watchmen's Cry* are available at www.watchmancry.net
Dr. Morgan can be contacted at morgandf@comcast.net

The editor can be contacted at:
905-682-1970
avraham@cogeco.ca
PO Box 29020, St. Catharines, ON L2R 7P9
www.mennoniteisrael.org

**Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people!
Deut. 4:6**