

Don't Believe Me!

Could the majority of the great church organisations have been corrupted? Well, look at the largest, and her daughter Protestant churches, listed in Revelation 17:5 as **“MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS...”** But surely the true Sabbath keeping Churches have not been corrupted? The Apostle Paul answers, **“For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. 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 Christ.**”**

They *were warned again* but they forgot the instruction of Jesus Christ's brother Jude, verse 3, **‘Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.’** And finally, as we will see, Jesus Christ Himself told us that His people would need to flee from Babylon both spiritually and physically just before His Return. So how were they corrupted?

John 14:15-16, **‘If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give **you another Advocate** to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The Spirit of Truth is ‘The Comforter’ or Advocate, Jesus Christ in us, sent by His Father, verse 18, **‘I will not leave you comfortless: **I will come** to you.’** The Spirit of truth can only dwell with Commandment keepers! Acts 5:32, **“And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom **God has given to those who obey him.**”** Many believe they have the Holy spirit, the Spirit of Truth, but they are deceived! Which Commandments have they commonly broken?**

Exodus 20:3-6, **‘You shall have no other gods before Me.**

You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in the heavens above, on the earth below, or in the waters beneath. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the **LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on their children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing loving devotion to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments.’** And verse 10, **‘But the **7th Day** is the Sabbath of the Lord your God...’**

The leaders of the corporate churches forgot all about the pattern established by the early New Testament Church and diverted to a path that seemed right to a man, but which contained the seeds of hierarchy and **idolatry**, exactly what we saw in the **“Mother of Harlots”**, with a man or woman (or men) at the top, deciding the doctrine that all must believe, even against God's word, eg. the Sabbath.

How did this happen? The usual way. A good start, led by a sincere, diligent leader who comes to be regarded by their followers as a prophet, because of his or her apparent understanding of the scriptures. Gradually, their success goes to their head, and nudged by Satan, they come to believe that *they speak for God*, and their followers believe they should obey their rule, or follow their prophetic predictions. Error and prophetic mis-education result, maybe even dominion when some disagree, and disfellowship and worse can become a way of control of what they begin to pronounce is the ‘one true church’!

All it needs though, to fall into deception which in effect *becomes* idolatry, is the false belief that the church *must* be right; that the ‘prophet’ has provided the truth; that if we follow its/his/her doctrine we will be spared the tribulation and belong in the First Resurrection. But the fact is that there are no perfect churches, no more than there are perfect human beings!

So, how can we avoid this corruption? We each have the responsibility to *diligently* absorb and follow the way of life, the pattern taught in God’s word. **We cannot afford to blindly follow the teaching of anyone but Christ!** The man whom God inspired to provide much of the New Testament, the Apostle Paul, gave us the example, himself.

1 Corinthians 9:19, ‘For though I am **free from all men**, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more.’ Remember how Paul corrected Peter?

The early New Testament Church was an association of independent churches linked together by the Holy Spirit, as the branches of the vine, John 15:5, “**I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.**” They looked **directly to Jesus Christ**, studying His words, following His example, *guided* by their proven servants, the ministry, Matthew 20:25-27, ‘**But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:**’

Acts 6:3, ‘**Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.**’ This was the pattern of the early New Testament Church when choosing those to be ordained to the ministry. It ensures that mature Christians, already devoted to service, will become the next generation of proven Spirit led leaders, rather than youngsters trained to follow the beliefs of a ‘Pope’, ‘President’, ‘Prophet’, or ‘Apostle’.

But it seems that size, and a desire for control, lead to hierarchies and ranks, all scrambling for position, time after time. Power corrupts, and what is preached against as ‘Babylon’ at the beginning often emerges later as ‘church government’, or even the ‘Government of God’, as wealth is accumulated and ‘Prophets’, ‘Presidents’ or

'Apostles' take total control. Servants they are no longer, and the fruits are bitter indeed!

But to find out if your church has been corrupted, just ask yourself, "Am I really keeping all 10 Commandments, and the other instructions we find in God's word? Have I checked what is taught by my church, against what I read in the Bible, or do I find contradictions or omissions of God's commands? Most have just accepted that what their church teaches must be right!

Christ expects each of us to be *diligent* followers, and so escape from men. Those who attain to the First Resurrection are pictured in Revelation 14:4, '[These are they who have not been defiled with women; \[the false teaching of churches\] for they are pure, these following the Lamb wherever He shall go. These have been redeemed out from men \[Greek 'the men'\] as firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.](#)' Berean Literal Bible.

The fruits of allowing ourselves to be diverted are always error and lawlessness, Matthew 7:15, 16, 23. "[Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognise them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'](#)"

Error comes about because God has no need of Prophets today, for the Bible is now fully complete, so that no-one needs to speak for God, but by failing to take ALL scripture into account and usurping the prerogatives of God, the 'image of jealousy' is once again commonly erected in the churches, causing God's departure. Ezekiel 8:5-6, [Then said he unto me, Son of man, lift up thine eyes now the way toward the north. 'So I lifted up mine eyes the way toward the north, and behold northward at the gate of the altar \(in the Temple\) this image of jealousy in the entry. Furthermore He said to me, "Son of man, do you see what they are doing, the great abominations that the house of Israel commits here, to make Me go far away from My sanctuary?"](#) It is believed that God dwells in the Northern heavens. The gate of the altar is where the Priests gathered, who have erected this image of jealousy in almost all churches.

So, let us examine the *fruits* of this corruption, for *only then* may some of us come to recognise that it exists, and act to free themselves! If we are to be prepared for the return of Christ, and so enter into the marriage with Christ (Matthew 25:1-10) we need to recognise the false teaching of the churches about the End-Time, in particular!

I am sure that Bible students are all aware that the End-Time is a time of tribulation brought about by mankind's sin, but the first gross error is so obvious that they will already know that the "rapture" theory, which has all believers carried away to Heaven to escape those last 7 years of horror, is a fallacy, totally and obviously disproved by the 5th Seal of Revelation 6:9-11, '[When he opened the fifth seal, I saw](#)

under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, **who were to be killed as they themselves had been.**' This, then, in the **5th Seal**, persecution of God's people, which we will all experience, if we are alive then!

However, the following serious errors still afflict the majority of God's churches and people who are not so faithful as those above:

1. *The Tribulation lasts for 7 years, not 3½!*

Daniel 8:13-14, 17. 'Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to him, "How long will it take for the vision to be fulfilled--the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, the rebellion that causes desolation, the surrender of the sanctuary and the **trampling underfoot** of the LORD's people?' He said to me, "It will take 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary will be reconsecrated." As he came near the place where I was standing, I was terrified and fell prostrate.... "Son of man," he said to me, "understand that the vision concerns **the time of the end.**"' NIV.

This 'treading underfoot' commences **8½ months after Revelation 14:6-7** (the start of the 7 years) 'Then I saw another angel flying overhead, with the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation and tribe and tongue and people. And he said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come. Worship the One who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and the springs of waters." Beraen Study Bible. God always gives us time to repent.

And also, Daniel 11:23, 'And from the time that an alliance is made with him he shall act deceitfully, and he shall become strong with a small people' (a token force, in Israel in the Middle East). 2,300 days is **8½ months** short of 7 years. **This 8½ month period is the period of peace** between the First Angel's message of Revelation 14:6-7 and the outbreak of the World War of the second Seal, in which the United States of America and Britain fall, and the Beast arrives in Israel with his token 'protective force' against the Arab invasion.

The Beast of Europe had made this protective alliance or league with Israel in the Middle East **at the start** of the 7 years, Daniel 9:27, acts on it when the US falls, but breaks it and **fully** invades Israel, at the half way point, 3½ years later.

This tragic misunderstanding, 3½ instead of 7 years tribulation, has blinded the churches to many of God's End-Time commands, so that in their unpreparedness on Christ's return for His Bride they will be left behind to experience the Great Tribulation!

2 Christ returns for His Bride at the Half Way point in the 7 years, not at the End

You can see this from Matthew 24. Verse 14 is fulfilled by the First Angel's message in Revelation 14:6-7 at the very start of the 7 Years. Verse 15 marks the invasion of Israel by the Beast at the 3½ year point, as we see in Daniel 9:27. Verse 16 is the fleeing of God's watchmen who have been faithfully carrying out God's command in Jeremiah 31:6-7, despite the reticence of many today to accept God's future command because it does not fit in with the false scenario they have accepted from their prophet, Jeremiah 6:17-19.

Continuing the events, verse 29 is the start of the Heavenly Signs, and verse 30 immediately follows, when Jesus Christ returns to rescue His watchmen as they flee South from Jerusalem, as the Beast's army arrives in Israel, into the wilderness of Judea, and the First Resurrection occurs.

As in the first Exodus, many believers who were not converted, but had enough faith in the watchmen's broadcast, flee Jerusalem with them and are left behind at the resurrection. They are led to safety and protection in Jordan; see our article and photos, "Christ goes to Petra."

All these events until then are called '**the tribulation of those days**' in verse 29, and comprise the first 6 Seals of Revelation 6, the 6th Seal continuing as the heavenly signs, still verse 29, when Jesus Christ is seen by all humanity in the clouds, verse 30, in great glory. Note that He does not then set foot on Earth, but directs His angels, verse 31, to gather his Bride from wherever they are found, (including those 'watchmen').

The earth mourns, for the people realise that they have left it too late to repent, despite the instructions of the First Angel, and will now face the horrors of the **Great Tribulation**, (the 7th Seal) which they had been warned about, by the Angel. Compare Revelation 6:16-17. Verses 15-28 in Matthew 24 are inset.

God Himself blows the trumpet at the first Resurrection as those faithful watchmen and women are rescued, and the Beast's pursuing army is swallowed up by the earth as they ascend.

Zechariah 9:14-16, '[And the LORD shall be seen over them, and His arrow shall go forth like the lightning; and the Lord GOD shall blow the ram's horn, and shall go out with the whirlwinds from the south. The LORD of hosts shall defend them; and they shall devour and subdue with slingstones. And they shall drink and be boisterous, as through wine. And they shall be filled like a bowl, and like the corners of the altar. And the LORD their God shall save them in that day as the flock of His people; for they are as stones of a crown, lifted up as a banner over His land.](#)' A Faithful Version.

And Revelation 12:15-16, '[And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a](#)

time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.'

1Thessalonians 4:16, 'For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and **with the trump of God:** and the dead in Christ shall rise first.'

3 That is the *Real* Last Trump!

Now we can understand why the Church is confused about the time of "the last trump", 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, 'Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, **at the last trump.** For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.' This occurs at the halfway point in the last 7 years, **not at Revelation 11:15,** ' Then the **seventh angel blew** his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world **has become** the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever."

That trumpet is blown by an Angel, not God, and, if you think about it, the book of Revelation had not been written when Paul wrote to the Corinthians, so that series of trumpets there was as yet quite unknown to Paul, so it could not mean that. No wonder, as "Vines" says under "Trump, Trumpet", 'while "the last trump"... has **no connection** with the series in Rev. 8:6 to 11:15; there is a possible allusion to **Num. 10:2-7**'. He is correct, for there, as the last of a series, that trumpet is sounded to *gather God's people together*; a perfect description of the 1st Resurrection.

The trumpet in Revelation 11:15 is not the 'last' trump anyway, as we are told in Psalm 47:2,5, where Christ is later described as ascending to Heaven from his Kingdom, 'For the **LORD Most High is awesome, the great King over all the earth. God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.**'

4 The marriage takes place in Heaven, no-where else!

What happens in Heaven? Revelation Chapter 4 provides a detailed picture of the throne of God in Heaven, and around the throne the 24 elders sitting before a Sea of Glass, reflecting the rainbow around the throne. Revelation 14: 1-5 pictures the 144,000 on that Sea of Glass, after they have married Jesus Christ, for now they have the family name written on their forehead: Hebrews 12; 22. 'But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels.'

They are there for 3½ years, Revelation 12:14, 'But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to

the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time.’ The Greek word for ‘nourished’ is the verb “‘trepho’, to ‘fully develop’, or ‘personal enlargement’ ie. Spiritual development from being properly fed (nourished, taken care of)” – Word Studies. These are 3½ years of spiritual education from Jesus Christ, preparing *us* to share rule with Him on the Earth. That means that we are still on the Sea of Glass in Heaven when the 7 Angels receive their 7 vials full of the wrath of God, to be poured out upon the earth, as we clearly read in Revelation 15:2, 7.

During that time, and, God’s word indicates, at the very first Pentecost, the marriage takes place, Revelation 19:7.

5 The first Resurrection takes place **Before** the Great Tribulation

We have seen that Christ arrives for his Bride at the 6th Seal, not at the closing of the 7th as is widely taught . This is clearly confirmed in **Revelation 14:14**, ‘Berean Literal Bible,
‘**And I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and upon the cloud is sitting One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle.**’ (For the harvest of His Firstfruits). See the same words in Matthew 24:30 and cf. Revelation 6:17.

The Great Tribulation follows, in **Rev. 14:19**, ‘**So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.**’ We also know from the Great Tribulation in Matthew 24:21 that this is true, for the abomination of desolation is earlier in Matthew 24:15, at the halfway point in the 7 years, as we read in Daniel 9:27.

It is also confirmed by the fact that the 7th Seal directly follows Revelation 6:17, ‘**For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can withstand it?**’ Thus the 7th Seal lasts for the *last* half of the 7 years, and follows the First Resurrection at the half way point. This is clear, for the following chapter, Revelation 7, is all about those who *come out of* the Great Tribulation, see Revelation 7:14. All these left their repentance too late to be in the First Resurrection!

6 Thus there are Two groups of 144,000

God’s word tell us that if we have repented, been baptised, and received the Holy Spirit, **we are sealed already**, Ephesians 4:30, ‘**And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.**’ Those listed in Revelation 7 are **not** sealed until the Great Tribulation is about to start (v3), having seen Christ arrive and collect His Bride without their participation. As we saw in (5) they experience (and probably give their lives to prove their faith) the Great Tribulation, the Seventh Seal. The last few verses in Revelation 7 indicate they will

gain their reward in the Second Resurrection. In verse 15, 'Temple' should properly be translated 'Sanctuary' (Divine dwelling place) for there is no temple in the New Jerusalem. **Compare** Revelation 21:22-23.

Only the 144,000 who marry Christ on the Sea of Glass **ever** become One with Christ and His Father, John 17:21, 'that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may **be one in Us**, that the world may believe that You sent Me.' How awesome is that future!

Conclusion

You have seen the evidence that, just as happened in Ancient Israel, Satan *has* corrupted the minds and so the understanding of most of God's people. Ezekiel ended his life in Babylon and was unable to deliver God's message to Israel, but it is mainly about the End Time anyway, and so for us today. We cannot say that we were never warned. Christ also warns us to 'come out of Babylon' in Revelation 18:4 because most of His people have been diverted from His words and bow before the Babylonian 'image of jealousy' with its false teaching and misunderstanding which will cost them their part in the First Resurrection, but most won't listen to His warning, or just are not familiar enough with His word, until the Great Tribulation comes upon them, and then it will be too late. Jeremiah 5:18-19, '**Nevertheless in those days, said the LORD, I will not make a full end with you. And it shall come to pass, when you shall say, Why does the LORD our God all these things to us? then shall you answer them, Like as you have forsaken me, and served strange gods in your land, so shall you serve strangers in a land that is not yours.**'

It is not too late to repent now that you have seen the evidence. Take courage my brothers and sisters; God is reaching out to you; it is better to stand alone for Christ than worship the image of jealousy by unwarily accepting false teaching with the many. The faithful Church still exists, sometimes singly and alone, a small group, or scattered amidst the churches, but always looking directly to God's word, a spiritual body, rather than a physical organisation. '**And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock [Christ] I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**'

.....