

Still in the Dark?

Most of God's people are in the dark about the events of the End-Time and Jesus Christ's return, and so quite unprepared! I Thessalonians 5:3, '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.**' Tragically, that this will apply to many in the Church is simply down to false teaching, and **idolatry** on the part of the hearers! But those who have stayed close enough to God's word **will believe** what they read and understand, and be prepared, Isaiah 52:1..... '**Awake, awake, put on your strength, O Zion;.....**'

The breadth of God's word provides all the information we need now, the rest of which which will gradually *become* available to us as God feels it is time, but sadly most of God's people are quite satisfied to be fed and accept the stock belief of their church instead of spending time putting the scriptures together to find the truth, as God demands. "**Whom will he teach knowledge? "And whom will he make to understand the message? Those just weaned from milk? Those just drawn from the breasts? For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little."**

I recently visited a 7th Day Adventist Church. The people were fine people in every way, except one. They were quite blind to much of scripture, such as the book of Isaiah, to the extent that they believe that they will spend the Millennium in Heaven rather than on earth, and when I pointed to evidence quite to the contrary, their attitude was, "but that's not what **we** believe," despite plain examples of error in the writing of their 'prophet', E. G. White, that she deliberately only quoted parts of a verse, but not the whole, where it disproves her theory. They deny that they follow her writing, but in fact, they do.

And there's a very similar story for most of God's Church, just a different 'prophet'! Recently, I was looking for a book by M. F. Unger, a great writer on the O.T., in a big Bible bookstore in Perth, when my eye was drawn to the series, 'The Bible Speaks Today,' some of which I have read, and found useful, as the series editor, John Stott, is a very sensible Bible scholar, so I picked up 'THE MESSAGE OF REVELATION', just for interest. I got a great shock when I found that the author, one Michael Wilcock, had carefully put the scriptures about Christ's return together, and found the **truth** about when the First Resurrection takes place. He *believed* it and published it in his book, though he did not accept all the scriptures elsewhere.

What he had done I have been asking people to do for years, and it's so easy.

Referring to Revelation 6:12-17, the 6th Seal, and Matt 24 *with* its parallels, he quoted:

“And when I saw the Lamb open the **sixth seal**, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black like sackcloth of goat hair, and the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars of the sky fell to the earth like unripe figs dropping from a tree shaken by a great wind. The sky receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved from its place. Then the kings of the earth, the nobles, the commanders, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and free man hid in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains. And they said to the mountains and the rocks, **“Fall on us and hide us from the face of the One seated on the throne,** [“Fall on us and hide us from **the presence** of Him who sits on the throne, NAS 1977”] and from the wrath of the Lamb: **For the great day of Their wrath has come, and who is able to withstand it?”** (The same word for ‘face’ is also translated “presence” in 2 Thessalonians 1:9 by the King James translators).

So, Michael Wilcock continues - “Here the meaning is unmistakable. Strings of biblical references to the events of this paragraph are gathered together in Christ’s magisterial discourse (Mark 13 and it’s parallels), where the description is that of the *parousia*, **his return** to this earth and the unveiling of the face of God.” [To be precise, Christ does *not* set foot on the earth when **He comes to collect His Bride** - my comment.]

.....Referring to the 6 Seals of Revelation 6, visions by the Apostle John, he says on page 74, “A third bond between the visions – this time all 6, not simply the first 4 [of the 4 horsemen of the Apocalypse] - is the correspondence between them and the, Gospel passage already referred to, Mark 13 (= Mt. 24; Lk. 21). This is particularly noticeable if we compare Matthew’s version, the fullest of the three, with the chapter before us. We should not be surprised that these passages correspond, since the same person is dealing with the same subject in each case. There Jesus speaks; here the Lamb opens his book. In both places he is revealing something about the future (4:1; Mt. 24:3). Since he is ‘the faithful witness’ (1:5) the truth to which he witnesses must be consistent, and so indeed it proves to be. The two passages are most clearly linked at the events of Seal 6 (6:12-17 = Matt. 24:29-30) but there is no difficulty in connecting those of Seals 2,3 and 4 with the earlier part of the Gospel passage. In fact, we do not have to strain the text in any way to postulate that Christ is not only expounding the same subject but expounding it in the same order, in both places. The two chapters engage at point after point like the two sides of a zip.”

It is so rare to find anyone who has actually taken the trouble to put all these scriptures carefully together and discover that Jesus Christ comes back **at the 6th Seal**, [*for His Bride*] **and** has the courage to stand up for the scriptures!

Most of the Church of God, prefer to follow a man, and accept that He next returns at the “Last Trump,” towards the very end of the 7th Seal (Revelation 11:15) though He returns then *with* His Bride, Zechariah 14:5. Read about the **correct** series of trumps and their meaning in Numbers chapter 10, and refer to ‘Trumpet’ in Vine’s ‘Dictionary of New Testament words.’ Of course this truth puts the kibosh on the

teaching of almost **all** the Church of God about the return of Christ, but sadly I have seen exactly the same **Laodicean** (Rev.3:18-20) attitude from fellow **COG ministers to whom** I have *personally* taken this – “*But we have believed this [the error] for so many years!*” And so they prefer to hide from the truth, and comfortably shelter behind their church tradition with their friends, but at *incalculable cost!* Once this occurs, and persists, eventually God blinds them so that they read over the scriptures He wants them to act on, but they might as well not be there; they do not perceive them!

Notice the *faithful* who loyally and faithfully study God’s word will **not** be in the dark about when to expect Christ’s return for His Bride, once the 7 years have begun, 1Thessalonians 5:4-8,

‘But you, brothers, are not in the darkness so that **this day** [the Day of the Lord, v 2] **should overtake you like a thief**. For you are all sons of the light and sons of the day; we do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, **let us not sleep** as the others do, but let us remain awake and sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night; and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on the breastplate of **faith** and love, and the helmet of our hope of salvation.’

The ‘day of the Lord’, v.2 above, when God first reveals His sovereignty over humanity at the End-Time by **sending the First Angel of Revelation 14:6-7**, is not recognised by them as the very start of the “End-Time”, though *it clearly* fulfils Matthew 24:14 - not the preaching of men, or the spread of digital Bibles, as some preach! ‘**And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.**’

Is that clear enough? But some have thought, if that is true, should not this verse be placed *before the* 1st Seal? Logically, it seems more appropriate there. The answer lies in the questions the disciples asked Christ. There were 3 questions.

- 1/ When shall these things be?
- 2/ What is the sign of thy coming? [parousia]
- 3/ What is [the sign] of the consummation of the Age?

Verse 14 is the answer to the 3rd question, for the end of the Age, introduced by the angel encapsulates the events of the first 5 Seals – they *are* the ‘**Tribulation of those days**’, when at last God begins to intervene in world affairs; the primary climax of which is half way through Daniel’s last 7 years at the 6th Seal.

After the First Angel’s message of Revelation 14, some 8½ months later, according to the scriptures in Daniel 8:14, Revelation 14:8, and Revelation 18:2, (please see our Time Charts), the world’s euphoria resulting from the angelic news about Christ’s coming return, crashes, with the sudden and quite unexpected fall of the US, quickly followed by the UK, and the whole world is plunged into chaos as the 7-year horrors of the Tribulation continue.

This war signals the arrival of the 2nd Seal of Matthew 24:6 and Revelation 6:4, and then successively follow Seals 3, 4, and 5 until we arrive at Matthew 24:15, with the invasion of the Beast's armies into Israel, as the half-way point in the 7 years approaches. (Daniel 9:27)

Matthew 24:15, “So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand)”

The deceived insist that all those mentioned in **Revelation 7** will be in Heaven or Petra during the following ‘great day of his wrath’, or the ‘Great Tribulation’, Revelation 6:17, but notice that the 144,000 mentioned in Rev. 7:4, repent only at the **7th** Seal, v.3, *after* the 6th has taken place, and receive the Holy Spirit only then, *after* seeing Christ come and take His Bride, whereas *the faithful* are already sealed (and prepared by their obedience), from their baptism and the laying on of hands, Ephesians 4:30.

Thus *they* do not miss the 1st Resurrection at the 6th Seal, as also do the ‘great multitude’ of verse 9, verse 13-14, ‘Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?” I answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, “**These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**”’ The latter verses of the chapter indicate these are those described in Revelation 21:4,22,23, and 22:5, when they gain their reward after the 2nd Resurrection! How valuable are the scriptures when we look directly to them without preconceived church doctrine!

If the above has disturbed your traditional understanding, and you seek to be in the First Resurrection, **you don’t need to stay in the dark.** It is not too late to listen to Jesus Christ’s knocking at your door, and repent. I pray that you will build your own chart of these events and find at last the TRUTH, **directly** from the scriptures!

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