

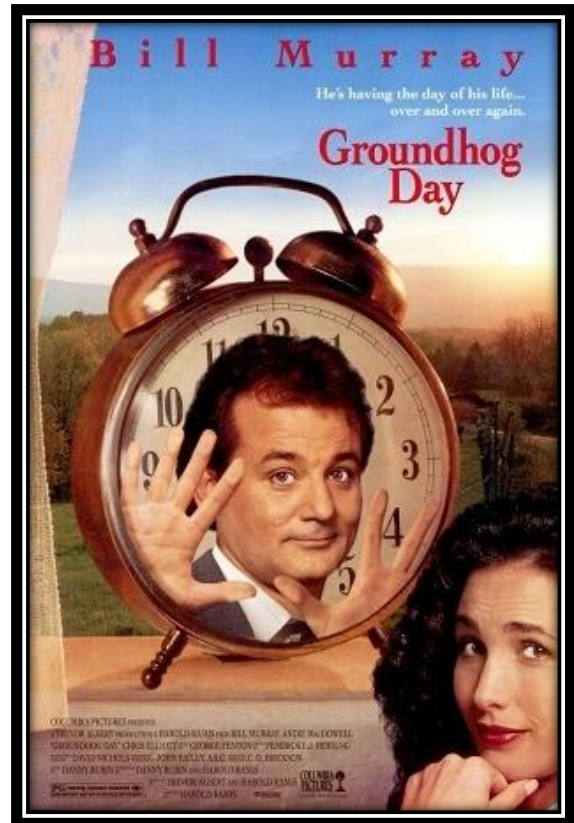
Unraveling the Revelation

The Wonderful Numbers of Sacred Canon

Section IV – Part 44...Revelation & Matthew 24

By Doug Krieger

What started out as an unraveling of the numbers of the Revelation was actually an attempt to unravel the repeated theme(s) set forth in the apocalyptic writings of John, the Beloved. Apocalyptic writing tends to be “thematic” and conflated – that is, what appears to be the same thing really is both – again, that is, it is speaking of the same theme, if you would, from a different emphasis or angle, again and again vignettes are presented – nigh what appears in the film [Groundhog Day](#) with repeated flashbacks in what appears to be the same general sequence of events, only slightly modified and, most certainly, determining the final attitude of Bill Murray and the positive results as a consequence of his change of heart through repeated remediation of his intemperate mindset via adjusting each vignette whereby he becomes a more humble and better human being – as in “how many times do I have to go through this until I truly learn the lesson.”



The Revelation is a series of thematic scenes all having to do with the same overall subject matter insofar as time lines are concerned and of those particular highlights occurring within the same time frame with special emphasis upon sundry items within the overall theme. Here’s the key: Try not to think in “linear terms” – this is a “European film” where sequence of events occurs within a limited platform, only to enhance and repeat itself in another – there is chronology but it’s repetitious and intensifies in the next “scene” ...so, what you are about to read is far more theological/eschatological than our most recent articles; however, we will court more of the numerics and chronologies as is our wont.

The Revelation according to [Revelation 1:1](#) was given to us via SIGNIFY or revealed to John as in “signs” – signs which demand a figurative/symbolic understanding of the Bible in that virtually the entire book of Revelation is a compilation of scores of Scripture taken primarily from the Hebrew Sacred Canon – and, most certainly, it is full of number sets that make your head spin...let alone graphic imagery, creatures, colors, and descriptions – some horrific – designed, we believe, as a mosaic of events which occurred then and which will occur throughout the “Church Age” and, especially, events which will occur in the final prophetic week known as Daniel’s 70th Week – which we affirm is completely yet future and have vociferously argued to that effect.

(Please See: [Jesus Christ Does the Work of Antichrist – a Perfectly Timed Heresy](#) and [Israel’s Temple Sacrifice and the Abomination of Desolation](#); also: [The Futurity of the Seventieth Week of Daniel](#) and to those unenlightened souls who claim that the Early Church Fathers did not teach that the entire 70th Week of Daniel was yet future, please read: [Daniel’s Seventieth Week](#) – especially, the work of Hippolytus, Bishop of Rome.)

Now, this is not to say that the above is void of its literal interpretations – absolutely, there is profound literalism in the Revelation! For if prophecy is simply a series of metaphors, types and shadows without the reality of these matters – then it’s naught but hyperbolic claptrap signifying nothing; therefore, its “application” is most real...it is left to us to decipher what is “signified” to us and how it comes to life in the real world.

The main theme of the Revelation is, of course, the Revelation of Jesus Christ – “Who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty” ([Revelation 1:8](#)) – likewise, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End” – and elsewhere, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last ... I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore” ([Revelation 1:8; 11, 18](#)).

Immediately, one is confronted with the sequence of beginning and ending, of first and last, of Alpha and Omega – what is now, what once was and what will yet be – even the physicality of the Son of Man Who now lives, was dead and is alive forevermore.

So, there is a distinct progression of the Lord Jesus throughout the Revelation – Who through the incarnation “was” and Who lived out His Life (i.e., “He who lives” in the pre-glorified sense) but came to be the Lamb of God – i.e., “was dead” as a result “of the testimony of Jesus Christ” but was resurrected and ascended and

is “alive forevermore” and finally, “who is to come” accounts for His coming again in glory as the Almighty, the firstborn of all Creation – the Beginning-Alpha-First and the End-Omega-Last.

This cosmic accounting of the Son of Man is wrought from Eternity Past as the Alpha – to eternity future, the Eschaton, the Omega. Within the “space-time continuum” the major stages of the Messiah, the Christ are lived out – His incarnation, living (as He lived out His life on the earth as an un-glorified man wherein He could say within His “confined incarnate” state: “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only” – [Matthew 24:36](#)); His suffering and death upon the Cross; His resurrection and ultimate ascension into glory, and, finally, His dissension again to Earth to rule and reign as King of kings and Lord of lords – His coming again in Glory.

Why are we here? Is He gone or is He through His Spirit – the Spirit of Christ – “re-living” His Life “out through His One Body?” Are we, his disciples throughout these past 2,000 years bearing the TESTIMONY OF JESUS CHRIST via the New Birth – wherein “Christ in you the hope of glory” becomes incarnate, if you would, in each one of us (via the Spirit’s regeneration) to enable us as His One Body to live as He lived while on the Earth, touching lives for eternity, for good, for glory – transforming, through the power of that same Spirit of Christ, not only ourselves into His Image from “glory to glory” – from one state of glory to the next state of glory – but giving forth His testimony to a dying world all around us.

Yes, the Testimony of Jesus – Who is the “faithful and true witness” – the faithful and true MARTYR, for that is precisely what the word “witness” really means. In other words – His Death is lived out in us daily – as Paul says: “I die daily” ([I Corinthians 15:31](#)) and “always bearing about in my body the dying of the Lord Jesus” ([II Cor. 4:10](#)) ... “for I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I but Christ lives in me, and the life that I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me” ([Galatians 2:20](#)).

You say – “Do people see Jesus in me – in my daily Life?” Indeed, for we, His Body, are by His empowering Spirit living His Life out on this Earth – are experiencing the “death of the cross” in our own flesh DAILY and many of us, both past and into the future, shall “love not their lives unto the death” – literally, His crucifixion and, bless God, His resurrection, for He is alive forevermore... “the hour is coming” (that “hour” that bespeaks of the final judgment upon the Earth)

and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those that hear will live” ([John 5:25](#)).

Have you heard His voice (“and now is”)? There is a real sense of the present Christ speaking and of we upon the Earth hearing – but the “hour” comes when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those that hear will live...for the previous passage prior to this hearing it says: “He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man” ([John 5:26-27](#)).

He has Life in Himself – He has given Him authority to execute judgment both now and at the final judgment upon the Earth but the day comes when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God and they that hear will live.

Now – today – we are of them that bear witness to “the Word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ” – yes, “for the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ” was John exiled to the Isle of Patmos – to bear witness ... but there were brethren who John saw beneath the heavenly altar – “the souls of those who had been slain for (that very) word of God and for the testimony which they held” ([Revelation 1:4, 9; 6:9](#)) as the epitome of His Death, awaiting His resurrection.

Even so, the Two Witnesses – whom we attest are the corporate group of brethren – who, during the past 4,000 years and most assuredly, during the future 70th Week of Daniel’s prophecy are committed upon the Earth to TESTIFY – to WITNESS for Him and against that Great City, Babylon, in such a prevailing way for the first 1,260 days ... “they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days” ... “when they finished their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them” – just as our Lord Jesus gave testimony and all the forces of hell rose up against Him – and as He died, we die – but as He was resurrected, even so, shall we be made alive in Christ – yes, the day comes when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God and they that hear will live ... for: “After three and a half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them...and they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, ‘COME UP HERE.’ And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them” ([Revelation 11](#)).

Do you see it? It is their testimony – HIS TESTIMONY – lived out in and through the TWO WITNESSES who, as He, are killed in the street of the Great City but who after the 3.5 days of open persecution (from the mid-point of the 70th Week at

the Abomination of Desolation wherein the Beast ascends out of the Abyss unto the final 1,260 days, 42 months, time, times and half a time, 3.5 days/3.5 years of the Great Tribulation known as the time wherein “The devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time” – [Rev. 12:12](#)).

Yes, these TWO WITNESSES shall hear the voice of the Son of God prior to the pouring out of His judgment upon that very Babylon and they will live: COME UP HERE! And, they shall ascend before all the earthlings, just as He ascended – and they shall return with the King of kings, and Lord of lords ([Rev. 19:14](#)) – just as He will return in glory – for they have experienced the Incarnate Christ, the Living out of the humanity of Christ, the death and burial of Christ, the Resurrection of Christ, the Ascension of Christ and the ultimate Return of Christ to rule and reign with Christ ... for they bear the TESTIMONY OF JESUS CHRIST! That’s what this is all about – this is the NORMAL Christian Life!

And what is normal? Try this: “They overcame him (that same beast who had ‘overcome them, and kill(ed) them’ in [Rev. 11:7](#)) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death” ([Revelation 12:11](#)) ... that is as normal as you’re going to get... “for if we suffer with Him we shall also reign with Him” ([II Tim. 2:12](#)).

The Dragon has, since the appearance of the Son of God, sought to destroy the testimony of Jesus but “the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God (Israel) and have the testimony of Jesus (the Church) ([Revelation 12:17](#)).

It becomes more than clear that the ones who “have the testimony of Jesus” possess, as He, “the spirit of prophecy” ([Revelation 19:10](#)); i.e., they cannot help but testify as He testified – they must prophesy because that is what obsessed Him – for Christ in you must come forth to bear witness of the Word of God – and when that culminates in the prophesying of the Two Witnesses, the Dragon, the Beast will be utterly outraged – and has been so outraged nigh since Israel’s Ark of the Testimony – the Testimony which shall prevail until the “sanctuary of the tabernacle of the TESTIMONY in heaven is opened in heaven” where the Ark of the Covenant is revealed in His temple... for that “Ark of the Covenant” is really the “Ark of the Testimony” ([Revelation 15:5; 11:19](#)).

All this to say that the presence of the Lord, the Ark of the Testimony, is the very Spirit of Prophecy which must prophesy, must speak forth the Word of the Lord for it is the very Life of the Son of Man, the Incarnation, human living, crucifixion,

burial, resurrection, ascension and enthronement of Messiah being expounded and propounded – prophesied and witnessed thereto – the inescapable expression of Jesus through His One Body that is revealed throughout the Revelation ... for nigh these four-thousand years has more than sufficient evidence been gathered against that Great City for the Almighty to judge her based upon the witness and testimony of Israel and the Church of the Living God.

This is THE theme of the Revelation – and its repetition resounds throughout the text. Its essence is prophetic – speaks – reveals incessantly – what? The very One Who sits on the Throne ... for when the Four Living Creatures behold Him with the multitude of eyes “in front and in back” their twenty-four wings, having eyes “around and within” and they “do not rest day nor night” – and what do they say, these Living Creatures whose 24 wings (6 on each creature) * 2 (within and without) equal to 48?

“Holy, holy, holy
Lord God Almighty,
Who was and is and is to come!”
([Revelation 4:6-8](#))

They utter THREE “Holy” – but the NU (“The most prominent modern Critical Text of the Greek New Testament”) and the M (“Majority Text”) indicate that 9 “Holy” are listed. What is this? Could this revealing of Him Who sits on the Throne indicate this?

48 Sides * 3 Holy = 144
48 Sides * 9 Holy = 432

If so, then the “144” reveals the Wall of the New Jerusalem and demonstrates that although these eyes reveal Him Who sits on the Throne – they immediately reflect what is upon His heart: The New Jerusalem – His Bride – the Woman – the Bride of Messiah. This dramatic “revelation” is likewise bolstered by the subtle difference in the numeration bringing the 9 “Holy” to $48 * 9 = 432$ which “432” is the fractal/resemblance of the radius of the Sun (Sun’s radius = 432,000 miles – eventually, the New Jerusalem (144) has no need of the physical sun because the Lamb is the light of the Holy City. Indeed: $144 + 432 = 576/144 = 4$ Living Creatures!

But previous to this exposure – prior to the revelation of the 4 Living Creatures – we “saw twenty-four elders sitting” alongside the “Seven lamps of fire...burning

before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God” ([Revelation 4:4-5](#)). What might this indicate? Certainly their first mentioning before the Throne indicates their closeness – and superior positioning – but without the Four Living Creatures they do and say nothing until:

“Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:
‘You are worthy, O Lord,
To receive glory and honor and power;
For You created all things,
And by Your will they exist and were created’”
([Revelation 4:9-11](#))

“Seven lamps of fire” are the “seven Spirits of God.” Truly this is the SPIRIT – and the work of the Spirit in that:

7 Lamps of Fire * 7 Spirits of God = 49
49 = the Work of the Spirit
([Zechariah 4:6](#) – “But by My Spirit” – 49 Years)

Yet, even before we view the 7 Lamps of Fire and the 7 Spirits of God we behold the 24 Elders around the Throne. Just as we witness the “144” of the 3 Holy and the “432” of the 9 Holy – both the Purpose of the Lamb (the “144” as the Bride, the New Jerusalem) and the Sun of Righteousness (the “432”) can we witness the same phenomenon with the 24 Elders? I think so...because, although we have the 24 elders, they are non-functional and speechless until the Four Living Creatures reveal Him Who sits on the Throne – but is not this Throne the “Throne of God and the Lamb” ([Revelation 22:3](#)) – since it is, then:

24 * 144 (48 * 3 Holy) = **3,456** seen as 3...45...6
24 * 432 (48 * 9 Holy) = **10,368** seen as 1...36...8

In both of these configurations we recognize that the 24 Elders via the Wall of the New Jerusalem – i.e., within their Wall are God (36) and the Lamb (45) – for “36” is as the 360° of a circle without Beginning or Ending – the Eternal One and the “45” is the coming of the Sun of Righteousness during the “45” days found in [Daniel 12:12](#): “Blessed is he who waits and comes to the 1,335th Day which is 45

days beyond the 1,290th Day ([Daniel 12:11](#)) and illuminates the arising of the Sun of Righteousness with healing in His wings for humankind.

The **10,368** display the fact that the Elders, through the eyes of the Four Living Creatures, see the New Jerusalem (**18**) and within, the Eternal God (**36**). Therefore, just as the Four Living Creatures and their 48 sides of their 24 wings display both the New Jerusalem (144 or 48 sides * 3 Holy = **144**) and the Sun of Righteousness, the Lamb (432 or 48 sides * 9 Holy = **432**) – even so, when the 24 Elders interlink and/or are “factored into” the mix they likewise have a duality of purpose in that $24 * 144 = 3,456$ or God (**36**) and the (**45**) can be amplified in the $24 * 432 = 10,368$ or the New Jerusalem (**18**) with God (**36**) in her midst.

In all of the numbers above what repeatedly bears witness is this: When we see Who Jesus is, the Lamb upon the “Throne of God and the Lamb” we cannot circumvent the persistent reality of what is the Purpose of God: the Bride, the New Jerusalem, is for the Groom as the Groom is for the Woman, the Lamb’s Bride. The intensity of this longing of the Almighty is irrepressible and utterly consumes the text of the Revelation ... now it’s getting “from here to there” that is at stake: How do these transformative number sets come into being – the Revelation gives us the process how the Son of Man in the midst of the Seven Golden Lampstands (the Church) effects His ultimate intention: The New Jerusalem.

The Prophetic Sequence

**Perversion – Prophecy – Persecution – Perseverance – Purifying –
Preservation – Pronouncement – Perusia – Paradise**

In each of these expressions there is a profound understanding as the prophetic scenario unveils throughout the Revelation – all these elements are present and frequent the theme of the Lamb and His Woman, the New Jerusalem, the Holy City, the Lamb’s Bride – it’s the journey that we see in the “Ps” ... a journey we now wish to relate...the Seven Seals, the Seven Angels, the Seven Trumpets, the Seven Thunders, the Seven Vials or Bowls or Last Plagues approach, what I term the nine-fold panoply of prophetic perfection ... for only the Seven-fold Spirit can be so comprehensive in illuminating to us their content and how each with ever-increasing measure fulfills the prophetic sequence from perversion to paradise and all in between to accelerate the grand finale until descending from heaven’s portal is His Woman, His Bride, the Holy City - the Eternal New Jerusalem.

Just as the Revelation in apocalyptic tones shifts back and forth revealing ever-increasing aspects of the prophetic scenario – our journey may, as a result of the

Spirit's dictates appear to be scattered, even at times, disjointed – but eventually, from this kaleidoscope of discovery we shall arrive to everlasting fullness in that as our steps are from time to time retraced, they are retraced to heighten our awareness of that particular aspect of the journey which may, as well, reoccur in other segments of the Revelation.

The Timing of the “Rapture” or “*Harpazo*”

A word of clarity must be given at this time relative to the timing of the so-called “rapture” (which word is not found in Scripture), however, the word “*harpazo*” is which means in Greek “to seize, carry off by force, to snatch out or away” (ἄρπάζω) and is used approximately 14 times in the New Testament with the most apparent reference to the “rapture” being this verse:

[1 Thessalonians 4:17](#)

*Then we who are alive and remain will be **caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.*

Another apparent reference to the “rapture” is found in [Matthew 24:31](#) at the terminus of Jesus’ account of the “end of the age” – please note, if one were to determine “when the rapture should take place” such a one would be hard pressed to see any “rapture” until the very end of Jesus’ statements on the topic – a quick read of [Matthew 24:3-31](#) (the Olivet Discourse) reveals to us in no uncertain terms that such a rapture is nowhere to be found except at the end of His eschatological dissertation:

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

[\(Matthew 24:31\)](#)

This passage takes place after the “birth pangs of the Messiah” ([Matthew 24:3-8](#)) and after the first 3.5 years unto the Abomination of Desolation ([Matthew 24:9-15](#)) and the final 3.5 years of Daniel’s 70th Week ([Matthew 24:16-31](#)). The sequence of verses is so striking that 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 24:30-31](#)).

How anyone can objectively read these verses and think that the Second Coming of Christ and the rapture of the Church/the “chosen ones” can or does take place until the very “appearing of the Son of Man” at the terminus of all the Scripture which has gone before it AND the conflated “gather together His elect from the four winds...with a great sound of a trumpet” – all this a clear description of the lead up to the “beginning of sorrows” or the “birth pangs” and the entire 70th Week of Daniel YET FUTURE until, what we have called, the final 30 days of desolation and the sounding of the sevenfold trumpet – “a great sound of a trumpet” wherein the elect are gathered together to Him in the cloud; the earthlings mourn as a result of the appearance of the “Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory” which we can readily ascertain is no secret rapture but the overt Wrath of the Lamb and of God during those 30 days unto the 1,290th Day of Desolation (i.e., 30 days past the terminus of the 1,260 days or latter half of Daniel’s 70th Week ([Daniel 12:11](#)) wherein at the end of the 1,260 the elect have been snatched away...and then the Second Coming of Christ which is the 45 days following the 30-days of the Wrath of God and the Lamb ([Daniel 12:12](#))...is beyond me!

The accusation that such a time frame demands that the Man of Sin, the Lawless One, be revealed prior to the Church’s “*harpazo*” is obviously the implication going on here – but does that mean believers endure the Wrath of God and the Lamb – the Seven Last Plagues/Vials/Bowls of His Wrath? Absolutely NOT.

Does that mean the Church as it is in Africa, the Middle East, many parts of Asia shall suffer persecution – yet persevere and be preserved because they willingly prophesy and bear the TESTIMONY OF JESUS – which is the very SPIRIT OF PROPHECY? Absolutely! Does it mean that “if we suffer with Him we shall also reign with Him?” Does it mean we are of them who await the manifestation of the Antichrist? How outrageous is that? That’s the absurdity of the accusation – but whereof shall it be: “They overcome him (the Beast) by the blood of the Lamb and by the Word of their Testimony. Does it mean that we have been robbed of the BLESSED HOPE and the GLORIOUS APPEARING of the Great God and our Savior Jesus Christ? A thousand times NO!

Is the BLESSED HOPE the glorious snatching out of the believers before the Church’s greatest hour of prophetic witness? Or, is the BLESSED HOPE the very appearance of the Son of Man? Which is it? The “snatching out” of the

tempestuous sea or SEEING JESUS WALKING ON THE WATER and having Him in the boat and that boat with those disciples being snatched to shore? ([John 6:19-21](#))?

I am not here to present an elaborate exegesis of Bible passages dealing with this topic – if you wish to hear the pros and cons of the debate and to hear them with an open mind – then please see the [POST-TRIBULATIONAL RAPTURE](#) vs. the [PRE-TRIBULATIONAL RAPTURE](#) or witness via video the excellent account by pastors Jimenez and Anderson entitled: [After the Tribulation](#) and decide for yourself. A frivolous disparagement by bad-mouthing one another as heretics if we hold contrary positions does nothing to prepare us for our greatest challenge yet awaiting us.

Do those who hold to a Pre-trib position not intercede for those around the world suffering for the faith of the gospel? Of course they do – but does that mean they themselves are not willing to lay down their lives for the faith and that they hold to a Blessed Hope that guarantees them they will never have to suffer for Christ – well, I don't believe they affirm such a ludicrous position – if they do, they are grossly deceived.

What believer in their right mind would proclaim: I can't wait to suffer for Christ – I can't wait to see the Antichrist? Such a believer should be ashamed of such declarations – on the other hand, having a “mind to suffer for Him” is quite another matter ... we are told by Paul from his prison cell: “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus...He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross” ([Philippians 2:5-8](#)).

[Revelation 4:1](#)...We pause before “Heaven's open door”...

Now there are lots of rabbit trails one can go off on when attempting to synchronize the events in the book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ – for example, after the Lord's messages to the Seven Churches/Seven Lampstands in [Chapters 2-3](#), John sees a “door standing open in heaven” and hears a voice like a trumpet speaking to him, saying “Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this” ([Revelation 4:1](#)). Now, this is a huge pre-tribulation proof text because we allegedly don't hear nor see neither hide nor hair of the Church until [Revelation 20](#) – here's a vociferous proponent's opening line:

“Where is the church during the seven-year Tribulation, as outlined in [Revelation 4-19](#)? If post-tribulationism were correct, you would expect to see the church

mentioned as being on earth during this time. However, that is not the picture one sees in [Revelation 4-19](#). This writer demonstrates through investigating many of the details of [Revelation 4-19](#) that the church is pictured in heaven with Christ, having been raptured before the Tribulation began. You can become informed of the overwhelming support for the pre-tribulational understanding of this issue through this essay.” ([Where is the Church in Revelation 4-19?](#) – Robert Gromacki, Pre-Trib Research Center)

It’s not fair for me to introduce a solid pre-tribber and then not record the rest of his essay – so, if you’re interested, there’s his link. But the question abides: Whatever happened to the unmentionable Church from [Revelation 4 through the end of Chapter 19](#)? Man, how could we miss it?

I got an idea – let’s start reading Revelation and see if she somehow comes into view. Well, actually, it would have been nice to review [Revelation 19](#) first because there’s something in there about “Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready” ([Rev. 19:7](#)).

I find it impossible to think that the Lamb’s Wife is not the Church – what do you think? Maybe it’s the “Wife of Jehovah”? No way – [Arno Fruchtenbaum](#) thinks that the Lamb’s Wife is the Church – i.e., the Bride of Christ or Messiah and that the Old Testament saints are the Wife of Jehovah. I’m not kidding – it’s going to get real crowded at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb – could be that the Wife of Jehovah will not be invited to spare the embarrassment?

So, by default “His wife” must be married to the “Lamb” and I think that the “Lamb” is the Son of God and Man – therefore, we would have to affirm that [Revelation 19](#) mentions the Church, for last heard, the Church is the Bride of Christ, right?

Now, let’s say that brother Gromacki meant that the Church was not mentioned up to [Revelation 19](#) (i.e., not inclusive of [Revelation 19, just Revelation 18](#))...so that brings us to [Revelation 20](#), right? O.K. – [Revelation 20:1-3](#) gets rid of the Devil and Satan for a thousand years and then John sees something real interesting:

“And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus, and for the Word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had

not received his mark on their foreheads, or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years” ([Revelation 20:4](#)).

Well, according to another Pre-trib brother (Please note: These are all dear brethren in the Lord and so are the Mid-trib – raptured around half way through the 7 years period at the end of “history” – and so are us Post-trib brethren – we just disagree A WHOLE LOT!)...the saints who rule and reign with Christ a 1,000 years are the Body of Christ:

“All believers will be raised up at the Rapture, and changed in the twinkling of an eye ([1 Corinthians 15:52](#)). Our mortal corrupt bodies will be changed into immortal incorruptible bodies, ‘So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’ We will then be taken by the Lord before the Judgment Seat of Christ and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, and then return 7-years later at the Second Coming. After the Battle of Armageddon, and the judgment of the nations, and the destruction of the wicked, **we will enter into the Millennial Period where Christ shall reign from Jerusalem as King over the whole earth. We will serve our Lord, and we will reign with Him. What a day that will be!**” ([Prophecy Concerning the Tribulation](#), David J. Stewart)

In all fairness to brother Stewart – he’s not the only pre-tribber who affirms such – nigh any pre-tribber worth his salt affirms the same – i.e., that the New Testament saints will rule and reign with Christ a thousand years.

So, let’s put 2 and 2 together here. The Church doesn’t show up until at least [Chapter 20](#). The question then abides – who then are the “souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads, or on their hands...and THEY lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years” ([Revelation 20:4](#))?

Listen very carefully here – KEEP A SOMEWHAT OPEN MIND – for if these folks mentioned in [Rev. 20:4](#) are the THEY – and THEY will live and reign with Christ a thousand years...right? Then, let’s check out their pedigree here...they are obviously worthy of ruling and reigning with Christ a thousand years and as brothers Stewart and Gromacki have declared: **“We will enter into the Millennial Period where Christ shall reign from Jerusalem as King over the whole earth. We will serve our Lord, and we will reign with Him.”**

Well, move on over brothers; there's some folks who plan on "ruling and reigning with Christ a thousand years" and it ain't just you folks raptured before the Tribulation – then who are THEY?

Can you imagine – they're that massive multitude that no man can number – and they have "been beheaded" for their witness to JESUS and for the word of God... "who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands (sure sounds like these folks were under the DEVIL'S GREAT WRATH ([Revelation 12:12](#)) ...THEY lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years" ([Revelation 20:4](#)).

Now, don't you think their pedigree all took place in 500 A.D. or perhaps 1300 A.D.? Don't think so. It appears that the manifestation of the BEAST which takes place at the Abomination of Desolation smack dab in the middle of the 70th Week places these "ruling and reigning with Christ a thousand years saints" hailing from within and I mean, DEEP WITHIN, the 70th Week of Daniel – and guess what: THEY HAVE BEEN BEHEADED FOR THEIR WITNESS TO JESUS – sounds almost like they might be Christians, doesn't it? My goodness – could they possibly be the Church of the Living God Who was allegedly raptured out of here before all this happened? Could they possibly be those who are going to "rule and reign with Christ a thousand years?" Could those who have the Testimony of Jesus be the Church?

Dear brothers – this sure sounds like "If you can bear the cross you can't wear the crown." No one can deny who THEY are. Here's someone who directly confronted the Beast of Daniel's 70th Week and now you're going to tell him he can't rule and reign with Christ a thousand years because the Church was raptured before this brother was beheaded? Yeah – it's as absurd as it sounds!

Here he is – beheaded for the TESTIMONY OF JESUS while he's singing "the Song of the Lamb" – and told ([Revelation 20:4](#)) he will rule and reign with Christ a thousand years. To reinforce the point – John repeats the promise made to those who have the TESTIMONY OF JESUS:

"This is the first (lit. "best" as in "superior") resurrection...Blessed and holy is he who has part in the FIRST RESURRECTION. Over such the second death has no power, but THEY shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years" ([Revelation 20:5-6](#)).

I don't know about you – but don't you think that [vs. 6](#) is speaking about the same ones who were beheaded for the TESTIMONY OF JESUS back in [vs. 4](#). These are the THEY who confronted the Beast and they are the ones who shall rule and

reign with Christ a thousand years...so, if the aforesaid pre-trib brethren are planning on ruling and reigning with Christ a thousand years – so are those that bear the Testimony of Jesus and have been beheaded – THEY are the THEY!

Therefore, doesn't it stand to common reason that if the Church is ruling and reigning with Christ a thousand years, that the "beheaded ones bearing the testimony of Jesus" and having gotten the victory of the Beast (political Babylon), over his image (religious Babylon), and over his mark (commercial Babylon) are altogether of that One Body, the Bride of Messiah, the Church of the Living God?

Let me be rather straightforward here: You want to rule and reign with Christ for a thousand years – but you dare not deny them the same privilege – or do you? If they rule and reign with Christ a thousand years – then are they not the Church? Whose testimony do they have? Whose testimony do you have? Of course, the testimony of Jesus. Don't tell me they are not "priests of God and of Christ" but have some kind of second class status in the kingdom – whereas you somehow are a "pre-trib elitist?"

It never ceases to amaze me that the very core of Premillenarianism is found in [Revelation 20:4-6](#) concerning the 1,000 year literal rule and reign of the saints upon the Earth and yet the ones it is referring to as "ruling and reigning" are NOT those raptured before the Tribulation period (7 years) but the ones "who have come out of Great Tribulation" in the first place – HOW IRONIC!

What do you want? Do you want to "rule and reign with Christ a thousand years?" O.K. – if so, then can you identify with them who have the TESTIMONY OF JESUS and stand on the Word of God and pay the uttermost price by being martyred for the Savior? Frankly, there's little wiggle room here, is there? You tell me – WHO ARE THEY? Oh, well, you say, "Yes, they lost their heads for Jesus – but we're the ones who are going to rule and reign with Christ a thousand years! Frankly, they're not the Church, because there's no mention of the Church from [Revelation 4-18](#) or is it [4-19](#). Or, maybe they're some kind of 'Tribulation Saint' who represents another redeemed community of sorts – let's see: Israel, the Church and now the Tribulation Saints ... o.k. – are they in the New Jerusalem? Well, sort of, eventually, oh, WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE – thank you Hillary Clinton.

Or you could be a bit magnanimous and admit: "Well, they're probably some form of Christian – they outwardly were committed to Jesus but I'm inwardly committed to Jesus – they do have the 'Testimony of Jesus' which in some mysterious form sounds like being born-again somehow but who knows what they

are because the Spirit of God didn't do it – He took off with the raptured Church before these folks lost their heads for Jesus!

Shame on you brothers – you do insult to the Spirit of Christ and deprecate those who shall rule and reign with Christ a thousand years – to those who are “priests of God and of Christ” – I can hear them saying to you: “How dare you say I'm not a member of the Bride of Christ – how dare you accuse me of a lesser place at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb – for was not I there at His table AFTER Babylon's destruction in [Revelation 19](#) when it was said: “He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her ...NOW ... let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready” ([Revelation 19:2, 7](#)).

“Whose Wife do you think I am – you expect to rule and reign with Christ a thousand years – then when did you confront the Beast, his image and his mark? When were you persecuted? Did you cry out under the Fifth Seal: ‘How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?’ ([Rev. 6:10](#)). We're you identified after John's perplexity when he was told: ‘Sir, you know' ... ‘So he said to me, ‘These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb...therefore THEY are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them...THEY shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore, the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters,...and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes’” ([Revelation 7:14-17](#)).

“And speaking about overcoming – just who do you think THEY are ‘when THEY finish(ed) their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them' ...yes, who do you think THEY are – you know, the ones for whom ‘the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and HAVE THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS’ ([Revelation 12:17](#)) ...yes, just who do you think THEY are? Finally, ‘THEY overcame him (the Beast and the Dragon) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony and THEY did not love their lives to the death’ ([Rev. 12:11](#)) – just who do you think THEY are?”

Brethren, I think you know who THEY are – but do you choose not to admit they are of His Church, the Body of those who bear the Testimony of Jesus and

overcome by the Blood of the Lamb and are as close to the Throne of the Lamb as you'll ever get! And no, I'm not sorry I sound rather disgusted that you cannot identify them as those who shall "rule and reign with Christ a thousand years" – as the very Body of Messiah – the Bride of Christ – if THEY aren't the saints of the Living God – then who are THEY? Oh, the day comes – perhaps we shall be shamed for countenancing such an abhorrent attitude and displeasure before them who bore such despite and suffering for the Lamb – may He have mercy on us...for if THEY are not accorded such a privileged place on that day...then God Almighty is NOT the "God of all the earth" Who "shall do right!"

Sorry – turns out that wasn't a rabbit trail – it was an elephant's pathway! To blithely claim that the Church is absent from [Revelation 4-19](#) or [4-20](#) is to say that the Triune God is absent as well since it doesn't mention the Trinity. Before this writing is over – you will see the Church holding forth the Word of God in vibrant Testimony to Jesus throughout the entire 70th Week of Daniel's prophecy – unto the very end until they that are alive and remain hear the Last Trump and a loud voice: COME UP HERE!

The Seven Seals – Prophetic Deception – Birth Pangs – 70th Week of Daniel

[Revelation Chapters 4 and 5](#) reveal the throne room of God and the Lamb with [Chapter 5](#) exposing the mysterious 7-sealed scroll – "a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals" ([Rev. 5:1-9](#)) – eventually, when it comes to [Revelation 6](#) we find "the Lamb opened one of the seven seals" (Note: Not "seals" but "seven seals" as per "NU" (the most prominent modern Critical Text of the Greek NT published in the 26th edition of the Nestle-Akland Greek New Testament and "M" or majority text – the "seven seals" draws attention to the "entirety" of the book so sealed.).

At issue is whether or not the "Seven Seals" – in particular, the first four seals having to do with the "Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse," pertain to the 70th Week of Daniel (exclusively) due to the revelation of the Antichrist as the "Man of Peace" conquering upon the White Horse or that these horsemen representing (1) The White Horse – **Quest for Control/Power** under "Peaceful Intrusion" (First Seal: [Rev. 6:1-2](#)); (2) The Fiery Red Horse symbolizing **war** by "taking peace from the earth and that people should kill one another" (Second Seal: [Rev. 6:3-4](#)); (3) The Black Horse symbolizing **famine and disparity of wealth** (Third Seal: [Rev. 6:5-6](#)); and (4) The Pale/Chlorine-looking Horse symbolizing **Death and Hades** (Fourth Seal; ([Rev. 6:7-8](#)) – actually commence their rout during the

peculiar time mentioned by Jesus in [Matthew 24:3-7](#) known as the “beginning of sorrows” or literally, “Birth Pangs.”

Therefore, the question abides: Does the “beginning of sorrows” commence during the time of “great prophetic deception” when Jesus alerts the disciples in [Matthew 24:3-4](#) after they specifically inquired: “When will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and the end of the age?” with Jesus saying: “And Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Take heed that no one deceives you’”? ([Matthew 24:4](#))

In other words – the first response Jesus made to the disciples regarding “the end of the world or age” had to do with what appears to be a period of massive prophetic deception...

*“For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’
And will deceive many.”*

[\(Matthew 24:5\)](#)

Immediately following this statement Jesus says:

*“And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars, See that you are not
troubled, for all these things must come to pass,*

but the end is not yet.

*For nation will rise against nations,
and kingdom against kingdom.*

And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.

All these are the beginning of sorrows (birth pangs)”

[\(Matthew 24:6-8\)](#)

“But the end is not yet” – in other words, “the end of the age” or the “beginning of sorrows” (i.e., the “birth pangs of the Messiah”) has, as of [Matthew 24:6](#), not ensued; therefore, the time of massive prophetic deception and/or the lead up to the birth pangs era or the “time of the end” would be a time of prophetic deception (thinking that the “time of the end” or the “end of the age” was fast upon us), as well as “wars and rumors of wars” – this prelude to the “beginning of sorrows” was clearly not “the end” or the “end of the age.”

It should be duly noted that this is NOT the birth pangs of the Messiah but, if you would, the time of “prophetic deception” and “wars and rumors of wars.” When might that time have been? It seems obvious to this writer that if this period of time mentioned by Jesus was the “lead up” to the “beginning of sorrows” – then it must have been the time period just prior to this unique time frame announced in [Matthew 24:7](#) as the time of the “birth pangs of the Messiah.”

Religious historians are overwhelmed at the proliferation of “prophetic denominations” and prophetic fervor which swept the English-speaking world and *ipso facto* the Earth during the expansion of Western European influences from the commencement of the American Revolution up through the birth of Zionism (late 1800s) and the drumbeats of world war, famine and pestilence which are pronounced in [Matthew 24:7](#).

During the 1800s, in particular, “prophetic deception” emerged as both a British, as well as American, phenomena. Never since the year 1,000 A.D. had there been such interest and religious revival, with acute prophetic anticipation regarding the Second Coming of Christ as what swept the English-speaking World and their expanding empires. We witnessed [John Nelson Darby’s “pre-tribulational rapture” theory](#) take hold, as well as Mormonism and their Temples which commenced in 1843-4, along with the establishment of the [Seventh-Day Adventist Movement](#) having its roots in [William Miller’s interpretation of the 2,300-day prophecy of Daniel 8:13-14](#) and then the spread of the Jehovah’s Witnesses which sprung from the Reformed Seventh-Day Adventist movement – all over the interpretation of these 2,300 days and the soon return of Christ.

Are these the “prophetic deceptions” referred to when Jesus said: “Take heed that no one deceive you”? Indeed, this time frame is most definitely prior to the “birth pangs of the Messiah” clearly enunciated in [Matthew 24:7-8](#) and certainly they are elaborated upon by Jesus’ remarks when He said, “All these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet” ([Matthew 24:6](#)) – and “the end” to which He alludes can only come when “this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come” ([Matthew 24:14](#)).

Yes, the “Sign of Your coming, and the end of the age” ([Matthew 24:3](#)) comes in [Matthew 24:29-31](#) when Jesus says: “Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven ... and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory ... (as He via His angels) ... “with a great sound of a trumpet...will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of

heaven to the other” ([Matthew 24:30-31](#)) – all this “Immediately after the tribulation of those days” ([Matthew 24:29](#)) – What days? “AFTER the tribulation of those days” – and what might “those days” entail?

“Those days” refer back to “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” ([Matthew 24:21-22](#)). Indeed “those days” shall occur AFTER the “Abomination of Desolation” spoken of by Daniel the Prophet in [Matthew 24:15; Mark 13:14; Daniel 9:27; 8:13; 11:31; 12:11](#)) – for when the “Beast ascends out of the bottomless pit (to) make war against them (i.e., the TWO WITNESSES), (to) overcome them, and kill them for the 3.5 days of “open persecution” wherein their “body” lies in the Street of the Great City (Babylon) for 3.5 days ([Revelation 11:9, 11](#)), 42 months ([Rev. 11:2; 13:5](#)); time, times and half a time ([Revelation 12:14; Daniel 7:25, 12:7](#)); 1,260 days ([Revelation 12:6; Daniel 12:11](#), less 30 days of the Wrath of God or 1,290 less 30 days = 1,260 days) ... yes, this is the latter half of Daniel’s 70th Week.

Brethren who acknowledge a mid-tribulational view are sorely remiss in perceiving these Scriptures which clearly speak to the obvious 3.5 days/3.5 years or 1,260 days/42 months of the trampling asunder of the Holy City mentioned in [Revelation 11:2](#) by the Gentiles – a period known as “The Devil has come down to you, having GREAT WRATH” ([Revelation 12:12](#)).

If one understands the term “Holy City” in its Revelation context – one MUST know that it refers to the ultimate Holy City descending out of heaven as a Bride and having the 12 gates with the names of the 12 Patriarchs of Israel and the 12 foundations with the names of the 12 Apostles of the Lamb – viz., Israel and the Church – that is precisely who the Holy City is and that is exactly why Gentile World Powers under the edict of the Beast, the Fiery Red Dragon, that Serpent of Old – called the Devil and Satan who deceives the world – YES – the Devil has come down to you, having GREAT WRATH, because he knows that he has a short time (precisely 3.5 days/3.5 years/1,260 days, 42 months, the latter half of Daniel’s 70th Week or time, times and half a time) ([Revelation 21:9-21; 12:3, 9; 12](#)).

How, pray tell, can the Wrath of God commence for nigh 1,260 days if this is the time of the DEVIL’S GREAT WRATH ([Revelation 12:12](#)) – the Wrath of God and the “Devil’s Great Wrath” are NOT the same? Believers who think for one minute that the Church has escaped the Devil’s Wrath nigh these 2,000 years and into the 70th Week of Daniel are utterly occluded insofar as the “followers of the

Lamb” are concerned – the MARTYRS of the Church cry out ... the DECEPTION of the 1800s haunts the American Church to the core – where is the perseverance of the saints? Where is the TESTIMONY OF JESUS – of Him Who for our sakes and our salvation “endured the cross, despising the shame?”

Suffice it! The climax of the ages is the ULTIMATE CONTESTATION between the “children of light” and the “children of darkness” – they who aspire to a “Blessed Hope” which embraces a “prophetic deception” know not our Lord Jesus Christ – NO! Jesus’ repeated warnings of “massive prophetic deception” and consequent FALSE CHRISTS ([Matthew 24:5, 11, 23-26](#)) – during the lead up to the “birth pangs” era ([vs. 5](#)); during the first half of the 70th Week and prior to the Abomination of Desolation ([vs. 11](#) – mid-point of the 2,520 days of the 70th Week); and during the latter half of the 70th Week of Daniel ([vss. 23-26](#)) – in at least three of these four time frames (the time of “prophetic deception” ([Matthew 24:4-6](#)) prior to the “beginning of sorrows” era; the “birth pangs of the Messiah” era ([Matthew 24:7-8](#)); the first half of the 70th Week of Daniel ([Matthew 24:9-15](#)); and, finally, the latter half of the 70th Week of Daniel ([Matthew 24:15-31](#)) and into the 75 days spoken of in [Daniel 12:11-12](#) ... brethren, the Christ we know went to the Cross, suffered and died for our sins – paid the uttermost price – that’s the CHRIST we embrace – all other “christs” are FALSE CHRISTS...it’s that dramatic a difference – there’s no two-ways about it – any other “Christ” who tells you that the Christian life is one bed of roses doesn’t have any idea Who this Jesus was, is and is to come.

Frankly, my beloved brethren who embrace the notion that somehow the “Blessed Hope” involves the “phased-in, secret rapture of the Church” wherein Christians will not confront the Antichrist-Beast, his False Prophet and his Commercial Entanglement, Babylon the Great – have tragically embraced a “false Christ” – confused the Tribulation with the Wrath of God and Divine Wrath upon the “children of disobedience” having to do with issues involving salvation with that same Tribulation – and some so-called “mid-tribbers” have confused the “Devil’s Great Wrath” with the Wrath of God (as well).

The “wrath to come” spoken of in [I Thess. 1:10](#) is directly connected with these words: “And to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come” speaks of the Wrath of the Lamb which is yet to come; however, “the wrath has come upon them (i.e., the Gentiles) to the uttermost” ([I Thess. 2:16](#)) bespeaks concerning matters of salvation and ultimate judgment before the Judge of all the Earth...just as [I Thess.](#)

[5:9](#) contrasts salvation vs. wrath as in: “For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Confronting the forces of darkness is the very commission of the Church – “You may be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil...For we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places” ([Ephesians 6:11-12](#)).

Therefore, it is the opinion of this brother that the commencement of the Four-Horsemen of the Apocalypse matches the descriptions found in [Matthew 24:3-8](#) wherein the “sign of Your coming, and the end of the age” begins with the “Birth Pangs” – i.e., “the beginning of sorrows” ([Matthew 24:8](#)); whereas, the **massive prophetic deception** precedes the beginning of sorrows... “Take heed that no one deceives you” ([Matthew 24:4](#))...but in a very real sense these “inceptions” of prophetic falsehood, wars and rumors of wars (before the birth pangs era); nation rising against nation and kingdom against kingdom (i.e., world wars during the birth pangs), as well as famines, pestilences and earthquakes in various places (world calamities - during the birth pangs era) and then the actual commencement of the 70th Week (... “then they will deliver you up to tribulation....” [Matthew 24:9-31](#)) ensues and PERSISTS from the time of prophetic deception until the rapture of the believers at the terminus of the 70th Week but PRIOR to the pouring out the Wrath of God and the Lamb during the 30 days (or unto the 1,290th day of desolation), enabling the “saints of the Most High” to return in glory with the Son of Man at the close of the 1,290th Day and the commencement of the 45 days during throughout unto the 1,335th Day.

Brethren – “Let this mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men, and being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross” ([Philippians 2:5-8](#)).

This ends our fourth article in this mini-series – may the Lord abundantly bless us and conform us each day to His Image: The Bride of Christ – to the coming of the Sun of Righteousness, for “She is clothed with the Sun.”

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