

## The Rapture Theory

The very title of this belief should give one pause for consideration. What is a **theory**?

*“An idea that is suggested or presented as possibly true but that is not known or proven to be true.” (Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary).*

Not known or proven to be true. A **supposition** of fact, not true fact. Many churches today recognize this and have since change the name from the **Rapture Theory** to the **Rapture Doctrine**.

You could include the Big Bang Theory in this as well.

What is a **doctrine**?

*“A set of ideas or beliefs that are taught or believed to be true.” (Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary)*

Not really all that much different from the definition of a theory but the purpose of the change is that it makes it **seem** as though it is an established truth.

Early on, the Churches had two different views of the rapture. At first it was a general belief that the rapture was simply something that happened at the end of the world, and it happened to everybody, at the same time.

Later on, it was changed to a belief that only certain Christians would be taken to heaven while the unbelievers would be left behind to endure the events of the tribulation period.

Personally, I have never taken the time to figure out what the difference is between **pre-tribulation**, **mid-tribulation**, or **post-tribulation**. The Bible that I read tells me that there will be two tribulations; one occurs when Satan is released from Heaven by the Archangel Michael and he reigns here on earth for a five month period and the second tribulation lasts less than five minutes when the true Christ returns.

There is no documented proof within the Scriptures that the Archangel Michael is indeed holding Satan in heaven at this time but within the realm of our Father, according to the hierarchy of the “creatures” that surround His Throne, Michael and Gabriel are of highest rank.

One of the assignments of Michael is to be the “watcher” over all Israel and it seems reasonable that Michael would be chosen as Gabriel was used predominately as a personal messenger of our Father concerning matters of utmost importance to Him.

Regardless, even at this present time Satan is being held within the bounds of Heaven for release at a later time;

*Matthew 16:23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men. KJV*

From the time of that statement of Christ, the actual presence, **de facto**, of Satan was finished, although, as with the presence of the Holy Spirit in the absence of Christ Himself, so the demons of the nether world work in partnership with Satan to achieve his goals as well here on earth at this time.

The actual presence of Christ is well documented in the Gospels but Satan’s actual presence here on earth can be documented as well;

*Job 1:7 And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. KJV*

The rapture theory came into being in 1830, from a Scottish woman by the name of Margaret MacDonald. She was a sickly woman who had dreams and visions and from her came the concept of the **rapture doctrine**.

John Darby was an Anglo-Irish Bible teacher, one of the influential figures among the original Plymouth Brethren and the founder of the Exclusive Brethren, and lived from 1800-1882. He listened to some of MacDonald's ravings, who, at the time, said that they felt "evil" and "disturbing" to her, and thought that he could make good use of what she was expounding and took it as his own.

The thing about 'ole Darby was that when he spoke he sure could draw a crowd and before long, being the Evangelical preacher that he was, he got a lot of mileage out of his sermons concerning the **any moment doctrine** and the **rapture theory**.

The movement caught on and soon moved to Canada and eventually the United States in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The opponents of this theory like to say that the word rapture isn't even in the Scriptures, and that's true. It's not. But does that also mean that the concept of this theory isn't there? No, it's not either.

Nowhere, in the Acts of the Apostles, is a pre-tribulation rapture of the Saints spoken of. For 300 years, after the church was set up following the Crucifixion of our Lord, the belief of the early Christians was of a post-tribulation coming of the Lord to defeat and destroy the Antichrist, Satan, in his second to final role before his eventual spiritual death in the Lake of Fire. I say **spiritual** death because Satan will never grace the world in an earthly body.

For 2000 years the Church never spoke of, preached on or recognized a pre-tribulation rapture. Not until Mary MacDonald and John Darby.

The Scriptural teachings **against** such a theory can be found in many places.

In recent times there seems to be a prominent war between those that believe in this rapture and those that do not.

Dave McPherson has written several books outlining the recorded and documented origin of the rapture theory;

"The Unbelievable Pre-Trib Origin", 1973.

"The Late Great Pre-Trib Rapture", 1974

"The Incredible Coverup", 1975.

"The Great Rapture Hoax", 1983.

"The Rapture Plot", 1994.

"The Three R's – Rapture, Revisionism, and Robbery", 1998.

While Hollywood has done their part to counter with;

"Left Behind, The Movie", 2001

"Left Behind II, Tribulation Force", 2002

"Left Behind: World at War", 2005.

With that being said, a lot of words, books and movies by mankind, let's see what the Scriptures have to say about this **rapture** and **any moment doctrines**.

What's really going to happen? Are we going to gather back to Christ, or is Christ going to come back to us. If you read Ezekiel and Revelation you will find that both the Millennium and the Eternity will be spent right here on good old terra firma.

Rapture or not, we're not going to be whisked away to a place that we point to up in the sky, heaven, but rather it's all going to play out right here on good 'ole Mother Earth.

Heaven is not some place in outer space nor is hell within the depths of the earth. **Heaven is wherever our Father is at any given time.**

Certainly things will look a bit different, especially during the Eternity. You can read **Ezekiel chapters 40-48** to learn about the Millennium and **Revelation chapters 21 and 22** to find out about the **new heaven and the new earth.**

But what is the mechanism that will allow the changeover? What are the things that must come to pass before our Lord does return?

I think that there are some things that we must understand before we get into how the transition into the Eternity comes about. We must understand that we have two bodies; one is terrestrial, **earthly** and the other is celestial, **spiritual.**

The Apostle Paul once stated that if Christ has not risen then all we are doing is praying for the dead. But, thankfully, Christ is risen from the dead and He became a **quickenning spirit.** After death, the soul or spirit of a person is **made alive.**

Simply put, the spiritual body contains your soul and spirit after the death of your physical or earthly body. Your earthly, or physical body, contains all three; your spiritual body, soul and spirit while the earthly body is alive. Only after the flesh body dies can the spiritual body come forth.

*1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.KJV*

Don't let Satan deceive you by his evil communications. What are some of those **evil communications?** The **rapture theory** and the **any-moment doctrine.** The words of men, influenced by Satan, may lead your soul to places that you do not want to be.

*1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:34 Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame. KJV*

If you don't read the Scriptures for yourself you will never have the knowledge of our Father. Too many people rely on their preacher/pastor or the traditions of a particular church to tell them what our Father has to say. That is dangerous.

*1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:35 But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? KJV*

**The dead,** your physical body, is never going to be **raised up** from the grave. This is the difference between the earthly and spiritual bodies.

How are they raised up, and when that happens, what kind of body are they in? Does the flesh body get **raised up** like many people believe? That's what the rapture people say. That old dead flesh body is coming right up out of the grave and meet the Lord in the air. What a stink in the air that's going to cause. My goodness; have you never smelled a dead possum in the middle of the road?

What about all the people that died thousands of years ago? All that's left of them is some bones. Is our Father going to put flesh and blood back on those skeletons again? Flesh is flesh and dead flesh remains dead flesh. We're not going to have another experience like Ezekiel had with the dry bones in chapter 37;

*Ezekiel 37:6 And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the Lord. KJV*

Our Father is talking to Ezekiel in a spiritual sense. Ezekiel was told to preach the Word to these bones, which represents the people of backslidden Israel and, spiritually speaking, their **dry bones** had descended into idol worship and they needed an awakening that could only be provided by the Holy Spirit.

How are the dead raised up? Here comes the answer;

*1st Corinthians 15:36 Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die:*

Let's learn a little Greek. The word **quickened** in that language is;

*NT:2227 zoopoieo (dzo-op-oy-eh'-o); from the same as NT:2226 and NT:4160; to (re-) vitalize (literally or figuratively):*

It means to revitalize or make alive again.

The word **sowest** means to put into the ground, **to bury**, as you would a seed. In fact, that's a pretty good analogy, the seed dies and allows the plant inside to come up. The same thing with the flesh body; when it dies the spiritual body now comes up.

But Paul is saying that what it is that you put into the ground, the dead body, it's never going to come up again. Its purpose was to die in the first place because flesh and blood cannot enter into the Kingdom of Heaven;

*1st Corinthians 15:37 And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: KJV*

The body that you bury in the ground is not the body that's going to come out of the ground. The flesh body stays there while the spiritual body comes forth. Just like with a grain of wheat or some other grain, like barley; or cucumbers or squash; vegetables. Any seed will produce the same result.

These **flesh bodies are only temporary**. They are designed by our Father to die. And thank Him for that. I don't know about you but I'm 71 years old and I'm ready to get out of this decrepit old body and into one that doesn't hurt all the time. I'm not going to hurry that process along but I'm ready when it does come. I look forward to it. The blessing is that I'll be with the Father after it happens.

*1st Corinthians 15:38 But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body. KJV*

It pleased our Father to create these earthly bodies and He had a specific purpose for doing so. After the war in Heaven, in the first heaven/earth age, the **katabole'**, our Father had a choice: He could either kill and destroy all souls and begin anew or place us in temporary bodies for a short length of time and allow us to decide, once and for all, who we would follow; Him or Satan.

The reason that we are alive and here today is no more complicated than that. You don't have to climb a mountain in Tibet and consult with a Guru to understand the meaning and reason of this life.

*1st Corinthians 15:39 All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds. KJV*

Humans, cows, birds and fish. All different kinds of bodies but yet, all still earthly, all flesh and blood.

*1st Corinthians 15:40 There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. KJV*

Celestial = Heavenly, spiritual.

Terrestrial = Earthly, flesh and blood.

The **glory** of each one is different. I'm sure that's true but when you get to my age I don't see much glory when I wake up in the morning and look in the mirror to shave. Takes five minutes to get out of bed, another two to stand up straight.

The beauty of a young earthly body is its glory. The picture that the Scriptures paints of how an angel looks is that it looks like its 25 years old with light brown wavy hair.

The glory of the spiritual body is incredible. It never ages, never gets sick, never breaks a bone, never gets the flu and never dies unless our Father is forced to do so because of the decisions that we make in this life. It's up to us, not Him.

*1st Corinthians 15:41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. KJV*

The sun shines more brightly than does the moon; different stars shine with different magnitudes.

Our Father often refers to us, His children, as **stars**. In the world that was, the first heaven/earth age, the tail of the Dragon, Lucifer, his tail being the lies that he told, deceived one-third of all God's children to follow after him and reject our Father;

*Revelation 12:4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. KJV*

The very reason we are in earthly bodies today.

*1st Corinthians 15:42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: KJV*

Some people will tell you that **resurrection of the dead** is proof that these bodies in the grave will rise again in glory at the rapture. Not so. These people are misled.

When this earthly body is planted, put in the casket and placed into the ground, it is planted in corruption. Why? Because the earthly body is corruptible. It ages. It dies. It gets sick.

A piece of steel can be corrupted by water which produces rust. It deteriorates.

Same thing with the flesh body; once born and reaching maturity, it begins to decay, to corrupt, gets old.

Remember this: **corruption** always refers to the **earthly body**; **mortal** always refers to the **spiritual body**.

The earthly body is corruptible and dies and what comes out is the spiritual body, which is incorruptible. It cannot **rust**. It cannot decay. It cannot get old. The spiritual body has put off corruption and has become incorruptible.

*1st Corinthians 15:43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: KJV*

The flesh body dishonors itself by being sinful and perishable while the spiritual body that comes forth, at the death of the earthly body, is **raised in glory** simply because a spiritual body is more glorious than a flesh and blood body because it cannot die.

The flesh body dies in its weakness while the spiritual body begins and ends in knowing that it cannot die in and of itself.

If you had a choice of buying a new car that would quit running after a thousand miles or buying one that would run forever, which one would you choose?

*1st Corinthians 15:44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. KJV*

You have two bodies, one is flesh and earthly; the other is spiritual and heavenly.

*1st Corinthians 15:45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. KJV*

The soul of man is now being introduced into the equation. **Adam**, the first man of the **Hebrew race**, through which the Savior would come, is not the first man of the human race nor is Eve the mother of the human race. Let me say that again: **Adam and Eve are not the beginning of the human race.**

This is a universal, traditional teaching and it is false;

*Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. KJV*

*Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. KJV*

*Genesis 1:28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. KJV*

*Genesis 1:29 And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. KJV*

*Genesis 1:30 And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so. KJV*

*Genesis 1:31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day. KJV*

What you have just read is the creation of the Gentiles, all the various races, and it happened on the **sixth day of the Creation**. Adam and Eve were created on the day following the seventh day of creation on which our Father rested from His work.

The **last Adam** can really be spoken of as the **second Adam** but in either case it is the Lord Himself and He was made a **quickenning spirit** because He rose from the dead. Salvation is worked into it as well.

*1st Corinthians 15:46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. KJV*

The question being asked is why was the **natural**, earthly body created first and not the **spiritual**? Maybe you have already figured out the answer to this question. Are you familiar with the three world ages that the Apostle Peter spoke about in **2<sup>nd</sup> Peter, chapter 3**?

*2nd Peter 3:4 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 the creation. KJV*

*2nd Peter 3:5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God **the heavens were of old**, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: KJV*

*2nd Peter 3:6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: KJV*

*2nd Peter 3:7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. KJV*

If you weren't familiar with these three ages you certainly have been given a gem of truth from our Father's Word. And if you are not familiar with these three ages, why aren't you?

All those years of attending church every Wednesday night and Sunday morning and your pastor never spoke or preached on this subject? My, my. I don't see why he wouldn't; I mean, it's not difficult to understand if taught properly. Jeremiah wrote about it as well, in chapter 4.

Although the Scriptures in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians doesn't go back in time that far, we actually were in spiritual bodies first, then in these earthly bodies and we'll be in a different spiritual body after we die.

**Spiritual--- natural--- spiritual.**

*1st Corinthians 15:47 The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. KJV*

Formed from Heaven, Jesus Christ.

*1st Corinthians 15:48 As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. KJV*

As long as you are in the flesh you cannot enjoy the heavenly with our Father but, at least, we can enjoy His blessings during this time.

*1st Corinthians 15:49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. KJV*

Just as sure as you walk around in these earthly bodies, you will also walk around in your spiritual body. That's just the way it is, that's our Father's plan and no one can change that.

At the moment your earthly or flesh body dies your spiritual body emerges, along with your soul and spirit. It doesn't matter what you've accomplished in this life, regardless of the good or bad that you have done, you will transcend into the spiritual at the time of your physical death.

You may not be in that spiritual body long, if you haven't followed our Father's commandments, but you will be changed regardless.

*1st Corinthians 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. KJV*

Flesh and blood cannot enter into heaven. Why? Flesh is sinful. It's corrupt. You must put on incorruption first and the only way to do that is to enter into that spiritual body.

*1st Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I shew you a **mystery**; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be **changed**, KJV*

So far we've been talking about people that have died and when they did so, they changed from their flesh body into the spiritual body. What happens to the people still living on this earth on the day that our Lord and Savior returns? You've just been told. We will all not die but we will all be changed.

Billions of people will still be going about their daily lives when Christ returns. About 7.1 billion at the time of this writing. And they will all instantly be changed into a spiritual body at that moment.

You that are reading this are very fortunate because you have just had a mystery of God explained to you. Not many people are aware of this truth but now you are.

Everyone will be changed, even if it's only for a short time before they are sentenced to walk into the Lake of Fire. When are they changed?

*1st Corinthians 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. KJV*

When will this change happen? When you least expect it and it will not take any longer than it takes to snap your fingers.

Our Lord has told us that He will come **as a thief in the night**;

*1st Thessalonians 5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. KJV*

That was Paul writing that in his letter to the Thessalonians but Peter gives us a more dramatic picture when that day happens;

*2nd Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. KJV*

The day that this event happens is known as the **Lord's Day**. It's going to be a busy day, for sure:

- ✧ It will be the day that the 7<sup>th</sup> angel will blow the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet.
- ✧ It will be the last day of this dispensation, this generation in which we are now living.
- ✧ It will be the first day of the Millennium, that 1000 year period.
- ✧ It will be the day that those who are still living will change from earthly bodies to spiritual bodies.
- ✧ It will be the day that the two wars of Hamon-Gog and Armageddon will be fought.
- ✧ It will be the day that Satan will be cast into the pit for 1000 years.
- ✧ It will be the day that the two Witnesses will ascend towards the heavens.
- ✧ It will be the day that the Lord Himself sets foot on the Mount of Olives again.

What a fantastic day that will be. Changes going on so fast that you won't be able to keep up with them. Marvelous and exciting. At least, for those that are in good standing with our Father.

What is this **last trump**? Did you know that there were **seven of them**? Of the seals and the vials and the trumps, the only ones that are executed in chronological order are the trumps and these events happen at the last.

**Last**, NT:2078--**eschatos** (es'-khat-os); a superlative probably from NT:2192 (in the sense of contiguity); **farthest, final (of place or time)**:

The last or the furthest one out in place or time.

**And the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.** The soul and spirit of any individual must transcend from a body that is corruptible to a body that is incorruptible.

The corruptible body is the flesh and blood body. The incorruptible body is the spiritual. The change occurs with the transition of the soul and spirit from one, the corruptible, into the other, the spiritual.

The sense of this verse continues with the next;

*1st Corinthians 15:53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. KJV*

For this **corruptible** (flesh) must put on **incorruption**; and this **mortal** (soul) must put on **immortality**.

In this verse Paul is also including the soul as well as the flesh. Remember earlier, when I said that *corruption* has to do with the flesh and blood while *mortal* has to do with the spiritual? What does this word **mortal** mean in the Greek?

**Mortal** NT:2349 *thnetos* (*thnay-tos'*); from NT:2348; **liable to die**:

It also means **deathlessness**. The soul has to put off the state of mortality. How can that be done? By surviving Judgment Day. A rather harsh way of putting it but true nonetheless. You must live your life in such a way that, on Judgment Day, our Father isn't forced to send your **mortal** soul to the Lake of Fire.

When you enter into the Kingdom of God, your soul and spirit will live eternally because it has put on **deathlessness, immortality**. Nothing can endanger the life of your soul after this has happened. Your soul will live forever and ever, without question. Unless you make our Father destroy it. It's up to you entirely.

*1st Corinthians 15:54 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. KJV*

When you step from this flesh body into that spiritual body, and it happens to everyone that dies a natural or accidental death. It will also happen to everyone that is still living when the seventh trump is blown, in the twinkle of an eye.

Death is swallowed up in victory because the death of the earthly body is over. It doesn't matter any longer. This flesh body is useful only for the purpose of being able to follow our Father's commandments, His instructions to us and it allows us to be used by our Father to help others find the truth. It is a vehicle within which the soul and spirit resides throughout this life in this heaven/earth age.

Certainly, without doubt, we fall in love with someone because of how they look or act, to a certain degree. We love our children because they're "cute" little things, most of the time. But for all the attraction that one flesh body can have for another flesh body, it eventually must go to a deeper level than just the complexion or the hair style or a muscular build.

The human body is a marvel of creation but it's designed to wear out. The important parts are the soul and spirit which never wear out.

*1st Corinthians 15:55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? KJV*

The grave holds no victory over anyone. To my way of thinking, the death of this flesh body is a release of the soul and spirit. It no longer can hold us in this dimension, keeping us from the presence of our Holy Father.

We were with Him before we were born and we will be with Him after this physical death. It allows this soul to return to that realm that we don't remember. That is, until we get back there, then we will have 100% total recall of all events, even those that happened in the first heaven/earth age.

Alright, I think that we have a good foundation to build upon as we go into debunking this rapture theory.

When does this change of bodies actually occur? I've already mentioned that it will happen when the seventh angel blows the seventh trumpet but that's really just a cursory answer. When does the soul change bodies?

*2nd Corinthians 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. KJV*

This **earthly house** that Paul is talking about is this **flesh and blood body** and if it were done away with we would have a **building of God** to take its place, **the spiritual body**.

*2nd Corinthians 5:2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: KJV*

Yes, we groan alright, from sore muscles and aching joints and so on, but any Christian that truly loves the Father would give anything to get out of these bodies and be back in His presence once more.

But we must be patient and do things His way; don't ever consider taking your own life just to get back to that heavenly realm because that's the worst way to get there and you will be accused by our Father of murder if you do. You will have murdered one of His children. Yourself.

*2nd Corinthians 5:3 If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked KJV*

This clothing being woven by the righteous acts that we do in this life.

*2nd Corinthians 5:4 For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. KJV*

The condition of your soul is mortal and it must put on immortality; mortality is swallowed up by being replaced with eternal life. Your soul is no longer in danger of being "liable to die".

*2nd Corinthians 5:5 Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. KJV*

Even our Father wants us to be back with Him.

*2nd Corinthians 5:6 Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: KJV*

We are confident that while we are in this flesh and blood body that we are not in the presence of God. We have the Holy Spirit with us in this life but not the actual sight and presence of God.

The fact that Paul states that we are "absent" indicates that we were once, indeed, with Him.

*2nd Corinthians 5:7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) KJV*

We have to believe in things that we do not see; we believe without seeing. The Apostle Thomas did not believe until he had placed his hand in the wounds of our Lord. We do not have that opportunity. We have to believe sight unseen.

A very good explanation of what faith is can be found in Hebrews;

*Hebrews 11:111 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. KJV*

If we have to see to believe then there is no faith at all. Sometimes that's very hard to do but you prove your love for our Father whenever you do have faith.

*2nd Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. KJV*

Certainly, we would rather be in Heaven with our Father than walking around in these flesh bodies.

This is stated just a little differently in Ecclesiastes and it proves, without doubt and with a little faith, that the soul does not lie in the grave with the flesh at the time of death, that it goes instantly back to the Father;

*Ecclesiastes 12:7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it. KJV*

The flesh body returns back to the minerals that it was made of and the spirit immediately goes back to the Father.

*2nd Corinthians 5:9 Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. KJV*

If you are not accepted by our Father by the time that your earthly body dies then all this time spent in these earthly bodies is for naught.

If you have been deceived into believing the lies of religion and false christs, you may have the Millennium to receive the truth for the first time.

If you have rejected the Lord when offered the truth then you might as well live it up in this life for there won't be another after the death of your earthly body. You will walk into the Lake of Fire right alongside Satan.

Faith and a belief that God is real and that Christ died on the Cross for your sins is a pretty good start towards an eternity full of good things. The way that you live your life is what will make you **accepted of Him**.

*2nd Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. KJV*

Everybody, black, white, red, brown or yellow, is going to stand before our Father. If you are worried about what you will be judged for then the time is now to start doing things that will bring you blessings in this life and rewards in the next. Don't just worry about it; do something about it.

Judgment doesn't always have to be negative. Our Father is not hell-bent on sending everyone to hell unless they lived their lives like Moses or Ezekiel or Joel. These were special people, chosen to be prophets and our Father loves us exactly the same as He does them.

If you have followed His Commandments you will probably be in good shape but if you lied and cheated and stole and worshipped money and things of this world, then you probably need to worry;

*James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. KJV*

Our Father knows what the temptations of this world are all about. The desires of the flesh and the sweet, syrupy words of Satan...take you to hell every time. But remember this;

*1st Corinthians 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. KJV*

Our Father will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you can resist so saying on Judgment Day: "Oh, the temptations were just too strong for me", ain't gonna cut it. He will allow you to be tested to your breaking point sometimes but He will always provide a way out. You just have to look for it and open that door and escape.

Alright, let's go to 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians and find out where the **rapture theory** places its roots.

*1st Thessalonians 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. KJV*

The Apostle Paul is writing and teaching and he doesn't want you to be uninformed or unlearned about what happens to those who have died in this flesh and blood body. The word **asleep** is a figure of speech in the Greek;

**Asleep, G:2837, koimao (koy-mah'-o); from NT:2749; to put to sleep, i.e. (passively or reflexively) to slumber; figuratively, to de cease:**

We will probably still experience sorrow when a loved one dies but deep inside we should receive comfort if we know what happens to their soul at the time of physical death. The heathen do not. They don't believe in God or anything; they don't believe in the **hereafter**.

This life is it for them and when they die they believe that it's over and that's the end of it all. They have no hope of anything beyond what their flesh body can experience. They have no faith.

A good teacher will explain to you that the subject and object of what Paul is writing about is **where are the dead**. It's not about flying away but where are the dead. And he gives us the answer in the next verse;

*1st Thessalonians 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. KJV*

I want you to have a really good understanding of what is written here. Paul is using our Lord as an example of what happens to our soul and spirit and it is this;

Jesus has always existed in a spiritual body but He took on an earthly body so that He could be crucified and bear the sins of all mankind once and for all. Three days later He appeared again and looked exactly like He did before the death of His earthly body.

But He wasn't in the earthly body any longer, He was in a spiritual body. His soul and spirit no longer remained in the sepulcher, the grave, but when His spiritual body came forth, so did His soul and spirit.

The exact same thing happens to us. Our soul and spirit existed in the **age that was, the first heaven/earth age**; we were born in an earthly body with the same soul and spirit and when the earthly body dies our own soul and spirit will take on a spiritual body just like Christ did.

All of the people that have lived and died, right up to this present day, their soul and spirit are in Paradise right now awaiting Judgment and since the Millennium and the Eternity will be spent right here on this earth, Jesus will bring all of those saints with Him when He returns on the Lord's Day. That day I spoke of earlier.

The soul and spirit of every person that ever existed on this earth is in Paradise right now, not in some hole in the ground. **To be absent from this body is to be present with the Lord**. Don't ever forget that.

Verse 14 is supposed to give credence to the **rapture theory**, in that, the so-called saints will already have been taken up to heaven and held there throughout the tribulation period and then they come back with the Lord when He returns.

The only true part is that ALL of the souls of the billions of people that have died before us and have gone to Paradise will come with the Lord, not just a select few

*1st Thessalonians 4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. KJV*

This is a pretty important word, this **prevent**. In our modern day usage it would mean that we would stop someone of something but in the Greek it means;

**Prevent**, G5348, **phthano** (fthan'-o); apparently a primary verb; **to be beforehand**, i.e. anticipate or precede; by extension, to have arrived at:

The Word of the Lord says that when we die a physical death the soul goes immediately back to the Father who gave it: *Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.*

Those who are alive and are walking around just like normal cannot **precede** them who have already died because they are already with the Lord in Paradise. Remember I told you that **sleep** is a pseudonym for die or dead.

How much more simple can our Father explain it? Your soul and spirit does not remain in the grave with your dead flesh body, it goes up to heaven to the Father that gave it.

*1st Thessalonians 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: KJV*

*The dead in Christ shall rise first* because they are already there. Paul writes it twice just to make sure that you get it.

*1st Thessalonians 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. KJV*

Then, those of us that are still alive and remain walking around on this earth, doing our daily chores and going to work and so on, when He returns.

Now, here is another word that means something different in the Greek than in the English; the word **air**. We know it to be something that we breathe, it provides oxygen for our bodies. In the Greek it means;

**Air**, G109, **aer** (ah-ayr'); from **aemi** (**to breathe unconsciously**, i.e. respire; by analogy, to blow); "air" (as naturally circumambient):

**It means our spiritual bodies**. When our Lord places His feet on the Mount of Olives again for the second time all flesh and blood bodies will die instantly and our soul and spirit will come forth in our spiritual bodies.

This word **cloud** also seems to throw people off a little as well. We can look up at the sky and see the clouds floating by and when you associate that with "air" I can see that some would think that we will be lifted up, meet Jesus in the sky, and then immediately come back down to earth again. What would be the purpose of that? That doesn't make sense.

Paul was a very learned man who spoke more than one or two languages and he was fluent in them but when it came to the Greek language he spoke, what we might call today, "street Greek or colloquial Greek". It was the language that most people spoke, just like we don't speak using the "King's English", proper English, but we speak with a lot of figures of speech.

Such is this word **cloud**. It means **a great throng of people**. Many people. We use it to a certain extent today in our language where we would describe thousands of grasshoppers or locust flying through the air as a **cloud of locust**, so many of them that they nearly cover the entire sky.

Let's go to Hebrews and see how else Paul used this word **cloud**;

*Hebrews 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, KJV*

Paul is in a large gathering of Christians here and he is encouraging all of them to try to resist the temptation of sin that besets us all and be patient as we live out the years that our Father has given to us. He refers to this huge crowd of witnesses as a **cloud of witnesses**.

Word got back to Paul, after the Thessalonians read his first letter, that what he wrote to them in these now few verses confused them and he wrote the second letter to them to elaborate on the subject.

Satan is always hard at work trying to confuse people and he has no problem finding some to help him achieve his goals. The fledgling churches of that day were wrought with people that took great delight in upsetting the apple cart and bringing doubt and confusion into the mix.

The great deceiver, always hard at work, trying to take as many souls into the Lake of Fire with him as he can.

Verse 17 is the basis of the **fly-away-doctrine** and it simply is a lie.

*1st Thessalonians 4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words. KJV*

Alright, let's go to 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians and see what Paul wrote in his follow-up letter to them, since parts of the first one seemed to confuse them somewhat. He goes into much greater detail as to what will occur during this period of time, just before our Lord returns;

*2nd Thessalonians 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, KJV*

The **subject**, here, and the only subject, is that Paul is going to talk about our **gathering back to the Lord** when He comes. He's going to tell us what's going to happen.

*2nd Thessalonians 2:2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. KJV*

Don't let the traditions of churches or the words of false preachers/pastors or evil spirits, nor my first letter to you, deceive you.

*2nd Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; KJV*

Paul is being very specific. Many people have been deceived into believing this rapture theory and the any-moment doctrine. **Paul is saying that the day of our gathering back to our Lord will not happen until there is a falling away first.**

This kind of puts the any-moment doctrine into a bag with an outside label that says; "LIES CONTAINED HEREIN".

There **IS a specific time** for His coming and Paul has given us two separate **events that MUST happen** before our Lord returns and we gather back to Him.

The **Apostasy must happen** and **the man of sin, the son of perdition** must be revealed for what he really is.

First of all, let's examine the meaning of the word **perdition**.

**Perdition**, G684, *apoleia*, from a presumed derivative of NT:622; **ruin or loss (physical, spiritual or eternal):**

Spiritually and eternally lost. How does that happen? This particular soul is extinguished forever. Gone. Like a drop of fat on a hot coal. Pssssst. A little smoke in the air and it's over.

Paul is saying that there is no way that we will gather back to our Lord until Satan, in his role as the Antichrist, is revealed for what he truly is; an imposter.

What is this **falling away**?

**Falling away**, G646, **apostasia**, feminine of the same as G647; **defection from truth** (properly, the state) ["apostasy"].

**The Apostasy is unknowingly transferring your belief in one thing to another.** When Satan, in his role as the Antichrist, stands on Mount Zion claiming to be God, looking exactly like Jesus Christ, Christians around the world will believe that he is, indeed, the true Christ. They will transfer their belief from the true Christ to the false christ.

Those Christians who loved the Lord all of their lives will be deceived by this false one into believing that he is the true Christ. And to keep themselves from being deceived in the first place, all they had to do was read the Book that our Father gave to all of us, instead of listening to the heretical garbage that comes out of the mouth of most preachers.

Trust me, the blood of every soul that was deceived by this intentional treachery, will fall on these preachers on Judgment Day and there will be a ton of wailing and hollering on that day by these people.

People just do not understand the gravity and the seriousness of what goes on in the world of our Father. He doesn't just smile at this situation, it grieves Him. It angers Him.

If you can keep yourself from being deceived by these preachers by reading the Bible, don't you think that our Father knows that these preachers can do the same thing? Of course He does.

A lot of people like to play church. Dress up in fancy clothes, get their hair done on Saturday, sleep with a hairnet on Saturday night so they don't mess it all up, look good and show off on Sunday morning.

Get together and gossip with their little clutches, suck up to the preacher whenever the opportunity presents itself and then brag about it to make their pitiful little lives look more important than they really are.

Have their little prayer sessions at home or on the phone, pretend to speak in tongues and just try to be something that they aren't. They are so stupid that they don't realize that they are playing right into Satan's hand.

Spiritually, they're running around lighting matches, with Satan holding five gallons of gasoline in the middle of the room, and it makes them feel so important.

How sad and pitiful these people really are.

*2nd Thessalonians 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. KJV*

Satan will sit on Mount Zion in Jerusalem and convince the entire world that he himself is God. How can he do that and get away with it? He will look exactly like the true Messiah, Jesus the Christ. Whatever notion or picture that you have in your mind as to what the appearance of our Lord is, what He looks like, that is exactly how Satan will portray himself to you. Our Father has given him the power to do this.

*2nd Thessalonians 2:5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? KJV*

Paul is saying that he has told all of them before.

*2nd Thessalonians 2:6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. KJV*

*2nd Thessalonians 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. KJV*

Who is the subject here? Satan. The verb, **letteth, is a transitive verb**. That means that you cannot change the already active verb, you must transfer the definition to the present subject. What was the subject and the object of the last verb? Satan sitting in the seat of God.

Who **letteth**? Some will tell you that it's the church but then many of them have Satan preaching from their pulpit most of the time. They are beguiled, a polite way of putting it.

Who is he that restrains Satan? Read **Revelation 12:7** and you'll know;

*Revelation 12:7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, KJV*

*Revelation 12:8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. KJV*

The Archangel Michael and his angels holds Satan at this time.

*2nd Thessalonians 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: KJV*

Satan is going to be revealed.

*2nd Thessalonians 2:9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, KJV*

When the **five month tribulation is over**, Satan being on this earth during that time, our Lord will come.

*2nd Thessalonians 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. KJV*

They received not the truth because they didn't pick up the Book and read it for themselves, they didn't love the Father enough to do that. It was more fun to play church, I mean, it's really boring to sit there and read that Book. They'd rather be at church having their preacher give them HIS version of the truth.

How does our Father handle that situation?

*2nd Thessalonians 2:11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: KJV*

Our Father, by His own decision, will keep them believing the lies; the rapture theory, the any-moment doctrine, keep them singing "I'll fly away old Glory" till their voice becomes hoarse because He loves them that much.

You might ask, why would our Father deliberately keep them believing these lies. That's what the Millennium is for, that 1000 years of teaching and discipline. During this time they will be given the opportunity to know the truth for the first time.

And at the end of those 1000 years they will be tempted by Satan again for another five month period and if they don't come around after that, then they'll walk into the Lake of Fire, right alongside Satan, and they'll be gone forever.

*2nd Thessalonians 2:12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness. KJV*

There will be some that will have understood the truth, they just didn't care about it. The ways of the world held too much pleasure for them and Satan has them hook, line and sinker. This is his world, that's why he is called the prince of the air.

The word **perdition means to perish** and there is only one soul created by our Father that has been sentenced to die and that is the soul of Satan, Lucifer, or the Dragon. Whatever name he is going by, depending on which role he is currently playing.

Right now he is sitting up in heaven, twiddling his thumbs, pointing out to our Father every time that you screw up and waiting for the Archangel Michael to release him to get back on this earth for his first five month period of temptation and deception. His second five month period will come at the end of the Millennium.

Paul wrote the second letter to the Thessalonians because he was afraid that if they believed in the any-moment doctrine, that they would worship the first entity that came along that looked exactly like the Lord and that would mean that they would be deceived into worshipping the false messiah.

That's why he said that the Apostasy and the revealing of the man of sin, Satan/Antichrist, **MUST** happen before the true Messiah returns.

Through the Holy Spirit, Paul has given us these two things to watch for before we gather back to Christ at the end of this dispensation. Christ also gave us a **check list of seven things** that would happen before He returns so I want to go there. Who better to tell us than the Lord Himself?

There are three chapters in three of the Gospels that basically contain the seven events that Christ will give us as to what will happen before His return. They are Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21.

These seven events are seven signs, they are also the seven seals and they are also the signs of the seven trumpets. A lot of "sevens", which stands for spiritual perfection.

*Matthew 24:3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? KJV*

This is a private conversation between Christ and the Apostles and they are asking some pretty important questions. Truly, what could possibly be more important than understanding the signs that foretell the coming of the Messiah?

With that being said, I'm going to **Mark, chapter 13**, because the account is shorter and we'll start with verse 4 and we'll have the same question asked as we read in Matthew.

These are the words of our Lord Jesus Christ as He answers the question from the Apostles;

*Mark 13:4 Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled?*

The coming of Christ and the end of this earth age.

*Mark 13:5 And Jesus answering them began to say, Take heed lest any man deceive you: KJV*

The very first warning that Christ gave was to beware of men, especially those that claim to be of the cloth; the **white collar boys**, the **Bible-toters** that tell you that God spoke to them today and told them which tie to wear to the Sunday morning get-together at the church.

*Mark 13:6 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. KJV*

They will come **Christ-like**. They'll tell you that they are one of His teachers, one of His ministers and if you believe the garbage they teach, you are in serious trouble.

*Mark 13:7 And when ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars, be ye not troubled: for such things must needs be; but the end shall not be yet. KJV*

Here is the **second sign**. Don't let the **talking heads** on your nightly news broadcast get you all excited and fearful. There have been wars and talk of war since time began.

Sometimes I just have to smile when I read a headline that says: "Israeli-Palestinian Peace Talks at a Stalemate". To put it bluntly, the Arabs and the Jews have been at each other's throats since Adam was created. There will never be peace between these two lands.

There will never be complete peace between nations, not even after the Antichrist appears, for even his one-world political system will receive a deadly wound. Not a wound as you might think.

*Mark 13:8 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles: these are the beginnings of sorrows. KJV*

This word **sorrows** is not as you might think, it's not referring to disappointments or worries but **labor pains**.

**Sorrows**, G5604, **odin** (o-deen'); akin to NT:3601; **a pang or throe, especially of childbirth**:

The birth of a new age is compared to the labor pains of a woman giving birth. The closer she comes to the actual delivery time the more frequent the pains become.

The return of Jesus Christ will mark the beginning of the new age and we will all be changed into spiritual bodies at that instant.

But as we approach the end of this age or dispensation the turmoil among nations will become more frequent. The constant drumbeat coming from false preachers will step up a notch, there will be more conflicts between nations.

The **Bear**, Russia, has been hibernating, so to speak, for some years now but just recently she has awakened and sent her troops into Ukraine. Communism is alive and well.

*Mark 13:9 But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them. KJV*

**Ye shall be beaten** means that you will be **brov beaten**. Questioned by the authority called Satan/Antichrist. You will be a witness for the Lord. It's a good thing to be a witness for the Lord but the words that you will speak do not come from you but from the Holy Spirit.

*Mark 13:10 And the gospel must first be published among all nations. KJV*

The Holy Spirit will publish the truth among all nations with the tongue of Pentecost Day, when all the Apostles spoke and everyone present understood their words in their native language, even down to the dialect spoken in the area in which they were born. This was also prophesied by Joel the Prophet which Peter speaks about in Acts, chapter 2;

*Acts 2:19 And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: KJV*

*Acts 2:20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come: KJV*

*Acts 2:21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. KJV*

Is it a coincidence that as I sit here tonight writing this, that in a few hours there will be the first of four lunar eclipses over the next two years. Today is April 14, 2014 and the eclipse, called "the blood moon" will begin at 2:00 am on Wednesday morning. Fascinating isn't it?

Is the Lord going to come sometime during this two year period? Well, no one knows the exact time or hour but I think that we should consider this:

Our Father has told us the **season** in which He will return. That season, or period of time, is likened to the adult stage of the locust, which runs from **May to September**, which is a five month period. To my way of thinking that will be the five month period in which the Antichrist will reign with our Lord coming at the end of that period.

Contrary to what most of the world believes, Jesus Christ was not born on December 25<sup>th</sup> but was conceived on or about that day. This is very easy to prove if you know the dates or the weeks that the Levitical priests served in the Temple.

These periods were called **courses** and the date of the course when Zacharias was serving in the Temple began in the second week of June. With that in mind, read the first chapter of Luke and I'll give you a clue to pay attention to: how long Elizabeth had been pregnant with John the Baptist when her cousin, Mary, went to her and told her of the Immaculate Conception.

The actual birth of our Lord occurred in late September, **around the Feast of Tabernacles**.

His death on the cross occurred at Passover, sometime in April or May, depending on which calendar you are using. Would it not seem reasonable that Christ would return on or near the date of His birth? Immediately following the five month reign of the Antichrist?

I'm speculating, of course. There will be two sets of lunar eclipses over the next two years. Two of them will happen on or near Passover; and two of them will happen on or near the Feast of Tabernacles. In Acts 2:19 our Father said: *And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath*. I think that these four "blood moons", when the moon almost turns to the color of blood, would qualify as "wonders in heaven above", don't you?

Don't forget the words of Joel the prophet:

*Joel 2:31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the Lord come. KJV*

The earth will be exactly between the sun and the moon during these four eclipses making the sun dark and the radiated sunlight from around the earth will give the moon a deep amber color

What a fantastic time to be living. Even the prophets of the Old Testament longed to be living during this time. I don't know if Christ is coming soon or not but I do believe we are being given a sign from Him. Maybe it's time to stop playing church and take a serious look at the condition of your spiritual life.

(The three other eclipses will be on 8 October 2014, 4 April 2015 and 28 September 2015. Sadly, we have cloud cover throughout the night here in the southeast.)

Back to Mark;

*Mark 13:11 But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost. KJV*

Let me say this; the only people that will be brought before the councils of Satan during this time will be **God's Election**. Who are our Father's Election? Those that have the seal of God in their foreheads; they know that the Antichrist is Satan and they are not going to be deceived by him.

And if you are one of the fortunate ones that get to do this for our Father, don't think that you're going to get there and tell the Antichrist/Satan what you think of him. Don't think for one minute that you are going to put him in his place. If you do he will destroy you.

Our Lord just said that the Holy Spirit will speak through you, it will be the words of our Father that you will speak. You don't have to memorize Bible verses in preparation for this, you don't have to have the Song of Moses committed to memory, you simply have to love the Father enough and have studied His Word enough to know the difference between the false and the true Messiah. That's it. Our Father will do the rest.

This **hour is the hour of temptation**, you can read of it in **Revelation, chapter 3**;

*Revelation 3:10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. KJV*

You will not find the Antichrist/Satan tempting because you know who he is but the rest of the world, yes, the rest of the world, will find him tempting because he has deceived them into thinking that he is the Messiah, come to rapture them away.

**Revelation, chapter 17** also speaks of this **hour** because it will be the time when the political system that Satan has put together will reign with him;

*Revelation 17:12 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. KJV*

Satan is death warmed over.

*Mark 13:12 Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death. KJV*

Wait a minute! Even in the name of some religion you couldn't get a mother to deliver her son or daughter to the point of dying! **Death is another name for Satan/Antichrist.**

*Hebrews 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; KJV*

If the mother believes the rapture theory and the spiritual junk taught by most churches, she will go to Satan/Antichrist and plead for her son or daughter because they don't believe that Satan/Antichrist is the true Messiah.

This is **not a physical death** as you might be thinking.

*Mark 13:13 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. KJV*

When your brothers and sisters in Christ become aware of the fact that you don't believe that this fake Jesus, standing in Jerusalem, is the true Messiah, they will say bad things about you. But don't worry, some may be doing that because somewhere deep in their mind they really may not believe that the apparent Jesus is not the true Jesus and they will hate you because you have eyes to see and ears to hear and they don't.

It's probably already too late in the day for them to become convinced that they have been deceived because they will have no Scriptural foundation to fall back on as you do. The rapture theory, the any-moment doctrine and the miracles that Satan/Antichrist will perform during this time will convince them that they are right and you are wrong.

*Revelation 13:13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, KJV*

This word **fire** in the Greek is lightning;

**Fire, G4442, pur (poor); a primary word; "fire" (literally or figuratively, specifically, lightning):**

He will snap his fingers and make lightning come down from a clear blue sky. If you didn't know the truth wouldn't that make you a believer? You have to know what's going on **BEFORE** it comes to pass or you will be deceived as well. Now is the time to do just that. Open your eyes and ears.

But be very careful; there are many websites out there that will give you some convincing Scripture verses to convince you otherwise. They are a part of the overall deception by Satan. He is hard at work laying the groundwork even as we speak and he has a lot of helpers.

Having preachers do his work for him is his favorite deception and there's no shortage of them either. Some of these preachers do his work just for the pension that they will receive when they retire from the church. They know better but they do it anyway. The really big-name preachers do it for tons of money; some do it for the stature of community recognition and some do it because they are just butt-ugly stupid.

Here comes another sign from our Lord;

*Mark 13:14 But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains: KJV*

Did you notice that *(let him that readeth understand,)* is in parenthesis? That's to capture your attention. What its saying is that if you have eyes to see and ears to hear you should know what this *abomination of desolation* really is.

Mainly out of curiosity, I did a web search for **abomination of desolation** and came up with a lot of interesting conclusions by many people.

Front and foremost is that the Vatican or Papal influence will be the abomination.

It has been suggested that a pig offered on the sacred altar was the abomination.

The destruction of Israel will be the desolation.

The surrounding of Jerusalem and its destruction will be the desolation.

The last one is that "a man will ascend the Temple Mount in Jerusalem".

An abomination is something that totally turns our Father away from whatever the source is. Idol worship, of any type, by the Israelites, caused the destruction of Jerusalem by King Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians. Our Father makes it very clear throughout the Scriptures that worshipping anything or any person other than Himself is very bad news for the worshipper.

Satan standing on Mount Zion, claiming to be God, and convincing billions of people that he truly is, is the height of something abominable to our Father. It's not a statue or an idol made of wood or silver or gold but an entity created by God Himself, **in the full pattern**.

Certainly this fulfills the **abomination** part of that phrase.

Desolation, in the spiritual sense, is fulfilled by the act of Satan deceiving millions and millions of people and putting each of their souls in dire straits. How much more could one entity do to offend our Father? It's already been written by Paul that **the Apostasy must happen BEFORE our Lord returns and Satan convincing billions of souls that he is the true messiah IS that Apostasy**.

The word **it** in the King James in Mark 13:14 should have been translated as **he** and Dr. Moffatt, in his translation, has it right when he uses **he** instead of **it** for it is not **desolation**, which indicates a condition; but **desolator**, which indicates an entity which is actually what he is.

Satan will be the one standing in Jerusalem claiming to be God. **He will be the desolator.**

(People really need to get over trying to put Rome or the Pope or the Catholics as causing the destruction of the end times.)

*Mark 13:15 And let him that is on the housetop not go down into the house, neither enter therein, to take any thing out of his house: KJV*

During the time that these verses were written it was common for people to get up on their roof and see what was going on around them. Check to see if maybe the enemy was silently approaching. They were called watchmen.

Christ is saying that when you see all these things begin to happen you won't have time to get down and go into the house to gather up your belongings. It won't do you any good to do so.

*Mark 13:16 And let him that is in the field not turn back again for to take up his garment. KJV*

You're not going to need a change of clothing.

*Mark 13:17 But woe to them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! KJV*

Mothers and fathers have no need to become upset with this verse for it is given in a spiritual sense. We are supposed to have prepared ourselves for a wedding with Christ but for those who are deceived by the Antichrist, they will already be impregnated with his lies and, figuratively speaking, will have gone to bed with Satan instead of waiting for the true Christ.

We're supposed to be a "virgin" when the true Christ returns.

*Mark 13:18 And pray ye that your flight be not in the winter. KJV*

Don't be harvested out of season.

*Mark 13:19 For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be. KJV*

This word **affliction means tribulation**, the first of two tribulation periods. This first one lasts for five months. The second one has to do with the enemies of God. Are you an enemy of our Father?

This tribulation will not be full of horror and bloodshed, it will be a peaceful and religious time. Do you really think that Satan, as the Antichrist, posing as the real Jesus Christ, will bring horror and bloodshed to everyone during this time? Would the true Messiah do that? Of course not. Satan isn't stupid. He's going to come in peacefully and prosperously, to win as many souls through his deception as he possibly can.

This covers the seven events that our Lord said must happen before His return. We saw that the tongue of Pentecost Day came through His Election when taken before the synagogues of Satan and we should not worry if that happens to one of us.

We also found out that the Antichrist, Satan in his second to final role, will appear first, before the true Christ so the next time you hear someone say that "the church" will be raptured away, by Jesus, to return, with Jesus, you will know that it's a lie.

There will be millions of souls or saints that will return with our Lord but they are already under His altar, they are not here on earth in earthly bodies;

*Revelation 6:9 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: KJV*

And the number is almost too many to count;

*Revelation 5:11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; KJV*

He will now explain the **two tribulation periods**, listen closely;

*Mark 13:20 And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days. KJV*

What days is He talking about? The days of the tribulation of the Antichrist. Satan will be so convincing in his deception that even His Election would succumb to his lies if it lasted any longer than this five month period.

Many will tell you that the tribulation will last for 3 ½ years but why don't we listen to our Lord and find out what the truth of the matter is;

*Revelation 9:5 And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be **tormented five months**: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man. KJV*

Five months.

*Mark 13:21 And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ; or, lo, he is there; believe him not: KJV*

The deceived ones will tell you that Christ is in Jerusalem! "I saw it on TV!" Don't believe them. It's the false messiah in Jerusalem at this time.

*Mark 13:22 For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect. KJV*

There is a time coming when one will say that he is coming to "rapture" you out and at that time you will see the deception.

*Mark 13:23 But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things. KJV*

This should not come as a surprise to you. The prophets of old wrote about it; the Apostles wrote about it; Jesus spoke about it. How can you possibly say that you just didn't know? The standard answer will be: "My preacher never told me about it." My, my.

Are you really going to continue to let some man take control of the destiny of your very soul? I don't care if he's a nice guy or not, if he teaches and preaches the rapture theory and the any-moment doctrine and you believe it, you are in very serious trouble. Spiritually.

Life in these earthly bodies is 120 years, at best. Life in a spiritual body can last for untold billions of years. Or it can last for as long as it takes for our Father to sentence you to that short walk to the Lake of Fire, depending on who you worshipped in this life.

If you don't believe in a life in the hereafter, then keep on doin' what you've been doin'. And after the Judgment we'll say "ciao" and never see your dumb butt again. Ever.

*Mark 13:24 But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, KJV*

After this five month period of tribulation of the Antichrist, the appearance of Jesus Christ with His shekinah glory will be so bright that the sun will appear darkened in comparison to it and since the moon receives its light from the sun it will go dark.

*Mark 13:25 And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken. KJV*

*Mark 13:26 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. KJV*

This is the true Christ, this is the day of our Lord, this is the day that we've all been waiting for.

*Mark 13:27 And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven. KJV*

**This is the second tribulation.** It will happen in just a short period of time. This is the time when we will all change into our spiritual bodies and those who have waited for the true Christ will He gather from the four corners of the earth and take them to Him.

The others, if deceived by the Antichrist, MAY go into the Millennium. Others will just be held in reserve, awaiting the final judgment and assume the role of "dead man walking".

Christ is now going to give us some cautionary instructions that we should consider before His return to us;

*Mark 13:28 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near: KJV*

After a long, hard winter we all look forward to the spring. Month after month of storms, snow, rain, hail, sleet, blowing winds, all the things that make up a normal winter, finally our attention turns to slightly warmer temperatures and we look at the trees to see if they have little buds on the ends of the branches. A sure sign that spring is coming.

So we should, in like manner, take the signs that our Lord has just given to us and look at them as a "spiritual winter" because when we see these signs come to pass you should know that the time is near.

*Mark 13:29 So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors. KJV*

*Mark 13:30 Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done. KJV*

In May of 1948, Israel, once again established her borders as a nation and the **good and bad fig** began to return to the land of their fathers. By the year 71AD, the ten northern Tribes had been scattered over the face of the known world and the city of Jerusalem had been destroyed. The remaining Hebrew people, mainly from the Tribes of Judah and Benjamin, had to hang tough for the next 1900 years.

In 1948 the generation of the fig tree began and this is the last generation of mankind. How long is this generation? No one can possibly know and all the mathematics of 40 and 70 and 120 year generations give us no clue as to the time of His return. All speculation is futile.

*Mark 13:31 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. KJV*

Heaven and earth, as we know it, shall pass away for, after the Millennium, there will be a "new heaven" and a "new earth";

*Revelation 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. KJV*

Where are His words kept? In the Book, of course. The Bible.

You must realize that everything that has happened on this earth since mankind was created is just not going to be forgotten about when we **get to heaven**. Nor is the Bible going to be done away with. In fact, during the Millennium the Scriptures will be used to teach those that were deceived in this age.

Satan is locked away in the pit during this 1000 years so he will be of no effect, and these flesh bodies will no longer be around to be tempted by all the things that gave it pleasure during this life. It's a whole new ballgame when we are in our spiritual bodies.

Reading and understanding and living by the words of this Book during this life will be of utmost importance during the Millennium and the Eternity. Putting in the time to read it and understand it now will benefit you greatly in future times. It may even make you one of His Election.

*Mark 13:32 But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. KJV*

No one knows the exact time but His Elect do know the season.

*Mark 13:33 Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. KJV*

You cannot live your life in any way that is contrary to the Words of our Father and expect, at the final moment of earthly life, to confess your sins and make it into heaven by the **skin of your teeth**. Our Lord will return when you least expect it and catch you unawares. What are you going to do then? Beg for mercy? Sorry. Too late Charlie. The facts have been written in the Book and that's what will be used **FOR** you or **AGAINST** you on Judgment Day.

Why would you be so reckless with your soul? The time is right now, today, this moment. It's very easy to do. Sincerely ask forgiveness of your sins, through His precious blood, and you begin anew instantly. And then, on a daily basis, try to live according to His commandments. That's a good start.

We're not talking about breaking New Year's resolutions here, as most of us do, but a heart-felt, sincere effort on your part to live according to His rules and regulations. Daily. Yeah, it's tough to do. But it sure is worth it at the end.

Or you can ignore it, keep doin' what you've been doin' but Judgment Day is going to come just as sure as the sun will rise in the morning. There is absolutely nothing that you can do to avoid it. Nothing. Unbelief does not exempt you from it. Believe it or not, it's going to happen.

*Mark 13:34 For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. KJV*

You and I are the servants of the house. He put us in charge of our own body and life.

*Mark 13:35 Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: KJV*

You will notice that these times are the four major breaks in a day; morning, noon, evening and night.

*Mark 13:36 Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. KJV*

This doesn't mean to actually be asleep when He comes but rather distracted from the unexpected spiritual events that are soon to come. It means that you aren't aware, you have to develop spiritual discernment. Don't go through life with blinders on either side of your eyes. Don't have tunnel-vision, to where the only things that you see on an average day are the things of this earth.

Allow your soul and spirit to come into your conscious mind once in a while, let them remind you that there is more to this life. Your soul and spirit cries to be absent from this earthly body and back with the Father. It's the earthly body that desires to stay here and seek the pleasures that makes it happy.

*Mark 13:37 And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch. KJV*

Be conscious, be aware.

One final place that I want to go, in the Old Testament, **Ezekiel, chapter 13**. What I have covered so far is from the New Testament and the words of the Holy Spirit through St. Paul and from the mouth of Christ in the book of Matthew.

The prophet Ezekiel had a bit to say about this **fly-away doctrine, this rapture theory**.

*Ezekiel 13:16 To wit, the prophets of Israel which prophesy concerning Jerusalem, and which see visions of peace for her, and there is no peace, saith the Lord God. KJV*

Have you read the news lately? Do you see any peace in Jerusalem lately? Negotiators from this country, having peace talks with the Israelis and the Palestinians, trying to convince Israel to cut the city in half just to placate a people that have wanted to annihilate Israel since early times.

And our current president, with serious leanings towards the Arabs and the Syrians, humiliating the Prime Minister of Israel by making him enter the White House through a back door, will not be of much help to the Israelis. America has always loved Israel and they have been a rock in the Middle East for us for many years.

But there is no peace in Jerusalem today. Is it possible that this imposter, posing as the true Christ, could satisfy their cries for peace when he appears?

*Ezekiel 13:17 Likewise, thou son of man, set thy face against the daughters of thy people, which prophesy out of their own heart; and prophesy thou against them, KJV*

Who prophesies out of their own heart? False preachers. Telling the mass of Christians that listen to them that they don't have to worry about no tribulation, you're going to be somewhere else when it happens.

*Ezekiel 13:18 And say, Thus saith the Lord God; Woe to the women that sew pillows to all armholes, and make kerchiefs upon the head of every stature to hunt souls! Will ye hunt the souls of my people, and will ye save the souls alive that come unto you? KJV*

This word **hunt** is an interesting word;

**Hunt**, H6679, **tsuwd** (tsood); a primitive root; to lie alongside (i.e. in wait); by implication, **to catch an animal** (figuratively, men); (denominative from OT:6718) to victual (for a journey):

These preachers lie in wait, their prey are ignorant people who call themselves Christians. They wouldn't know the truth of our Father's Word if it hit them between the eyes. That's what makes them easy prey. Easy to catch. Easy to fool and deceive.

They place cloths over the outstretched arms and hands of our Lord to hide His real truth from them. They could just as easily teach the real truth of the Scriptures but they decide to work for Satan instead.

Will they **save the souls** that come to them? Keep them alive by keeping them out of the grasp of Satan? Teach them the truth of the Scriptures? Warn them that the false one is coming first? No, just the opposite.

*Ezekiel 13:19 And will ye pollute me among my people for handfuls of barley and for pieces of bread, to slay the souls that should not die, and to save the souls alive that should not live, by your lying to my people that hear your lies? KJV*

These preachers teach what they're told to preach or they can look for another job and lose their pension and retirement. Any man or woman, that tells you that they are called to the ministry, and teaches the garbage that they teach every Sunday morning for a fistful of dollars on Friday will eventually pay dearly.

They tell the souls that should die, because of the acts that they do in this life, that they will be **raptured** away from it all and protected, and the souls that should be kept alive, they place at the footstool of Satan because of their lies.

*Ezekiel 13:20 Wherefore thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against your pillows, wherewith ye there hunt the souls to make them fly, and I will tear them from your arms, and will let the souls go, even the souls that ye hunt to make them fly. KJV*

Our Father is against the lies that they tell, that cover up the real truth of the Scriptures. They show pictures of cars going down the freeway without a driver, because he has been “raptured” and “flown away” to a safer place while the others in that car are left to fend for themselves.

Is that a picture of a God that you would want to serve? I saw these posters with my own eyes when I was a child getting my haircut at a barber shop one day. Ironically, it was right next to a movie poster advertising a new movie called Quo Vadis.

They want to **fly away the souls that should not live and condemn the souls that should live.**

They hide their deviousness by telling everyone that they come in the name of Christ and one day they will pay for their treachery.

But our Father says that He will rip them from their arms and save them. When? During the Millennium because God Himself may already have sent the spirit of slumber over them to protect them from these spiritual wolves.

Your war in this life is not just against these preachers but against powers and principalities that drive them. I told you earlier that you probably do not understand the seriousness of what goes on in the world of our Father, that world that would scare us to death if we were to see it in these earthly bodies. Only in spiritual bodies with Christ by our side would we be able to handle it.

*Ezekiel 13:21 Your kerchiefs also will I tear, and deliver my people out of your hand, and they shall be no more in your hand to be hunted; and ye shall know that I am the Lord. KJV*

Our Father loves each and every one of us; He may not like what we do sometimes, but He loves us still and He wants to protect us even though He allows these false religions and false teaching to prevail among us.

But He does give us a back door, a way out, and that is by giving us pastors and teachers that love Him and want to teach His truth. They are out there but they are harder to find than those that teach heresies because there are so many of them.

And even if you find one you must read the Scriptures for yourself. You have to put the effort in yourself, along with a good teacher.

Our Father will tear these souls from their hands and on Judgment Day they shall know that He is the Lord.

*Ezekiel 13:22 Because with lies ye have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad; and strengthened the hands of the wicked, that he should not return from his wicked way, by promising him life: KJV*

Our Father weeps for us when He hears this junk taught from the pulpits of His houses. But then again, they're not *Beth El*, they're *Beth Aven*. Houses of nothing. Houses of vanity.

These preachers promise a quick trip out of here so their precious little followers won't have to endure any hardships and temptations. Boy, are some people going to be surprised and deceived when the Antichrist stands on Mount Zion claiming to be the savior.

On the one hand they will realize that they haven't been raptured away or flown away, that will surprise them and on the other hand, they will think that this false one is the true Christ. One lie will be exposed while the other will continue to take them into the spiritual bed of Satan.

*Ezekiel 13:23 Therefore ye shall see no more vanity, nor divine divinations: for I will deliver my people out of your hand: and ye shall know that I am the Lord. KJV*

These preachers stand up there acting so important, with their expensive suits and gold rings and tie clips. They have the attention of the dumb masses because they haven't studied the Bible for themselves and they know that they have a captive audience. They beg for your money to pay for expensive houses and cars and such.

Every once in a while one of them will get exposed and they will cry and wail before the TV cameras, caught, literally, with their pants down as they entertain women of the night. They'll beg forgiveness and then demand that you forgive them and most times their followers will do just that.

But it doesn't come from the heart, they don't want to lose the life style that they have grown accustomed to living. Having all that money and power pretty much puts them on the level of most politicians.

Sometimes it's very hard to say in your heart that they will soon get their just deserves but that's the way that we have to look at it. Our Father is in control and we must let Him have His way in this.

The "church" must go through the tribulation of the Antichrist before our Lord returns. That means every soul on earth, not just a select few. Everybody that is living at this time will go through this tribulation. No exceptions.

You can smooth out that road that lays before you by understanding the truth before it happens. It's up to you.

Enough said.