

Feast of Trumpets **Yom Teruah – Day of Blowing**

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Leviticus 23:23-25

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Introduction

The long, hot days of summer are at an end. Mirages formed by the rising summer heat disappear as the air begins to cool and the skies turn brilliant blue. Harvesters enter the orchards and fields for the ingathering of their crops. The earth yields up its bounty. Autumn has arrived in the Holy Land! The new moon is sighted and silence grips the land like the calm before a storm. It is the feast of Yom Teruah, the Day of Blowing. Congregations of people gather, waiting to hear the sound of trumpets. One by one the blasts begin. Their notes drifting across hushed landscape then turn upward, ascending into heaven as if calling to the unseen everlasting God.

From the book of Leviticus we can see that God established seven appointed times (feasts) for the Lord Jesus to fulfill prophetically. The Jewish people have been keeping these feasts for about 3500 years, meeting together waiting for their ultimate fulfillment by the Lord. These feasts are spread over about a seven-month period of time each year encompassing three seasons: spring, summer and fall.

Historically, Jesus fulfilled the three spring feasts in chronological order at His first coming. He was crucified on the Lord’s Passover. His body did not undergo corruption in the grave thus fulfilling the feast of Unleavened Bread. And He was raised from the dead on the feast of First Fruits (Easter). Jesus also fulfilled the one summer feast after His ascension into Heaven by sending the Holy Spirit on the feast of Weeks (Pentecost), thereby establishing a new covenant with His people.

The final three feasts are in the fall of the year and will not be fulfilled until Christ’s second coming. The feast of Trumpets is the first of these three fall feasts. The other two are the Day of Atonement and the feast of Tabernacles.

The Feast Of Trumpets - Scriptural Injunction

*Again the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘In the **seventh** month on the **first** of the month you shall have a **rest**, a **reminder** by blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation. You shall not do any laborious work, but you shall present an offering by fire to the LORD.’”*

Leviticus 23:23-25

Alternate Names

The Biblical name for the feast is Yom Teruah ... Day of **Blowing**. However, since it falls on the first day of the seventh month Jewish people call it Rosh Ha Shanna, which literally means “head of the year”. This is derived from the fact that the Jewish **civil** year begins on this date, hence it is known to them as New Year’s Day. The ancient Hebrews had several other names for this feast day because of the various things they believed were associated with it. It was called Yom Hazikaron ... Day of **Remembrance** and Yom Haddin ... Day of **Judgment**.

A little known fact is that the Jewish people also refer to this feast as “**the day, which no man knows**”. The reason for this is that the day commences with the **observance** of the new moon of the seventh month; therefore no man knows when it begins until the moon is seen. The starting date of all the other feasts can be known with certainty since they are calculated from a known point. For example, the first spring feast is the Lord’s Passover occurring on Abib 14. This gives the Jews fourteen days from the observance of the new moon of Abib to prepare for the feast. The summer feast, Weeks, occurs exactly seven weeks following First Fruits. Since the feast of Trumpets is at least halfway over before anyone is aware that it has arrived, the Jews celebrate it over two days. It is called Yoma Arikhata ... the one long day.

As Christians we are reminded of Jesus teaching concerning His second coming (Matthew 24:27-44). He said, “But of **that day** and hour **no one knows**.” Yet at the same time we are reminded that the Apostle Paul told the Thessalonians that the Day of Lord would come upon the whole world like a thief in the night but that Christians would know the day. (1Thessalonians 5:1-11).

When considering the facts around knowing the day and hour we should be aware of several things. **1)** In Jesus’ day people used their own local solar time to calculate days and hours. **2)** It wasn’t until Ferdinand Magellan’s expedition successfully circumnavigated the globe (1519-1522 AD) that the earth was proved to be round. **3)** The use of standardized times zones was established in 1884 with most of the major nations adopting them by 1929. Today, people know that there are two days and twenty-four hours coexisting on planet earth at any given point in time. It is amazing that when Jesus made the statement about not knowing the day and hour of His return, the full implications of that statement would not be known for nearly 1900 years.

The Three Themes

There are three major themes associated with Yom Teruah. The first is *Malkioth* - the acceptance of God as **king**¹ of the universe, who sits in **judgment**² over all his creatures, tempering justice with mercy. The second theme is *Zichronoth* - the acknowledgment that God **remembers**³ to punish the wicked and reward the good. The concept is that this day serves as a warning for people to repent. It is said that on this day God opens three books (Ex. 32:32-33; Daniel 7:9-10, 12:1-3, Malachi 3:16-18, Rev. 13:8, 17:8, 20:12, 15, 21:27):

1. The Book of Life - those who are found therein are **sealed** for life.
2. The Book of Repentance - this book includes most people whose works are neither good nor bad and they have until Yom Kippur to repent. This is called the **sealing**.⁴ Jews wish each other a good sealing for the year to come, and then say, “Next year in Jerusalem.”
3. The Book of the Dead - those who are found therein are wicked and **sealed** for judgment.

The third major theme is *Shofaroth* - the recognition that God **revealed** Himself in the past and will **reveal** Himself again to bring about the end of days. It brings to mind all those events both past and future, which are linked, by the authority of Scripture, with the blowing of the ram’s horn.⁵ These three themes are repeated in the book of Revelation from chapter 4 through chapter 11.

The Shofar

The shofar is made from the horns of a ram primarily because God provided a ram in the place of Isaac when Abraham was about to offer him as a sacrifice. A shofar is never made from the horns of cattle because the children of Israel sinned by worshipping the Golden Calf. Tradition says that the Lord preserved the two horns from the sacrificial ram given in the place of Isaac. He sounded one horn at Sinai (giving of the Ten Commandments) and will sound the other when He redeems His people by the coming of Messiah at the end of the age. The horn is curved or bent to show that we are to bend our will to God as His humble servants. We are also to declare His words like a trumpet.

Reasons for Blowing the Shofar

The **primary** purpose for blowing the trumpets on Yom Teruah is as a **reminder**, both to God and His people. God’s covenant is remembered before Him and men are called to repentance. However, there are several other reasons for sounding the shofar. They are:

1. **Invitation** a gathering of the people.

¹ Revelation chapter 4

² Revelation chapter 5

³ Revelation chapter 6

⁴ Revelation chapter 7

⁵ Revelation chapters 8 through 11

2. **Advance** starting a journey of the people.
3. **Conflict** an alarm for war.
4. **Worship** announcement of spiritual demands.
5. **Presence** of God.
6. **Coronation** of kings.
7. **Consecration** of the people.
8. **Judgment** of God.
9. **Herald** the coming of Messiah.
10. **Emancipation** the sound of the jubilee horn.

Sounds Of The Shofar

On Yom Teruah the trumpets are blown at **seven** different times⁶ throughout the day. Each time period consists of various combinations of soundings, which are meant to keep Satan, the accuser of the brethren, confused. There are a total of one hundred soundings on Yom Teruah consisting of the four following calls:

1. Tekiah - a long blast - **attention**
2. Teruah - 9 short staccato blasts - **alarm**
3. Shevarin - 3 short blasts blown in a wave-like sound - **sobbing or groaning**
4. Tekiah Gedola – an extended long blast - **jubilee**

⁷ saying, “Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations! ^{REV 15:4} “Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; For ALL THE NATIONS WILL COME AND WORSHIP BEFORE YOU, FOR YOUR RIGHTEOUS ACTS HAVE BEEN REVEALED.”

Michael Gibson, Key2Changes.com

Understanding the Feasts

The festivals of the L-rd found in Leviticus (*Vayikra*) 23 were given to us by G-d so His people could understand the coining of the Messiah (*Mashiach*) and the role that the Messiah (*Mashiach*) would play in redeeming and restoring both man and the earth back to G-d following the fall of man in the Garden of Eden (*Gan Eden*). Although most non-Jewish Bible believers have heard of the feasts, the deep meaning and the importance of these feasts are almost universally not understood.

The apostle Paul (*Rav Sha'ul*) wrote to the Gentile believers in Colossae that the feasts of the L-rd, the new moon, and the Sabbath (*shabbat*) days were *a shadow of things to come* to teach us about the Messiah (*Mashiach*) (Colossians 2:16-17). Yeshua (the Hebrew name for Jesus, which means "salvation") was the substance or fulfillment of the greater plan that G-d revealed and foreshadowed in these seven important festivals. To all the readers who are familiar with the festivals, you will be fascinated to discover that the first four feasts or festivals, which are Passover (*Pesach*), Unleavened Bread (*Hag HaMatzah*), First Fruits (*Bikkurim*), and Pentecost (*Shavuot*), primarily teach about the significant events in the first coming of the Messiah (*Mashiach*) and why these events were an important part of G-d's redemption of man. In addition, you will discover that the last three feasts, which are the Feast of Trumpets (*Yom Teruah*; also known as *Rosh HaShanah*), the Day of Atonement (*Yom Kippur*), and the Feast of Booths or Tabernacles (*Sukkot*), give fascinating insight concerning important events that surround the second coming of the Messiah (*Mashiach*).

The festivals are **G-d's feasts** and **His** appointed times that **we** are to observe (Leviticus [*Vayikra*] 23:1-2,4). G-d gave the festivals to teach about the death, burial, and resurrection of the Messiah (*Mashiach*); the empowering of the believers by the Holy Spirit (*Ruach HaKodesh*); the resurrection of the dead; the coronation of the Messiah; the wedding of the Messiah; the tribulation (*Chevlai shel Mashiach*); the second coming of the Messiah; the millennium (the Messianic age or the *Athid Lavo*); and much, much more.

To understand *Shemini Atzeret* and *Simchat Torah*, we must review a few things. First, the seven days of Passover (*Pesach*) are followed by a 49-day period of counting the omer, which climaxes with the fiftieth day of Pentecost (*Shavuot*). Thus, the liberation of Passover (*Pesach*) is linked with the revelation and giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai, known as *Shavuot* (Pentecost). If we look at the festival cycle, *Shemini Atzeret* is analogous to *Shavuot*, which is understood to be the conclusion or *atzeret* to Passover (*Pesach*). Just like *Shavuot*, a one-day festival, is the conclusion to *Pesach*, a seven-day festival, so *Shemini Atzeret*, a one-day festival, is the conclusion to *Sukkot*, a seven-day festival.

⁶ Revelation 8:7 –9:21 and 11:15-17

⁷ The Song of the Lamb seen here also consists of three parts:

1. *Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations!*
2. *Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy;*
3. *For ALL THE NATIONS WILL COME AND WORSHIP BEFORE YOU, FOR YOUR RIGHTEOUS ACTS HAVE BEEN REVEALED.*

“He (Satan) will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times (calendar) and the laws (feasts). The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time.”

Daniel 7:25

Why Study the Feasts?

Many non-Jewish Bible believers wonder why they should study and observe the feasts. I believe there are two good reasons. First, although all Bible believers love G-d with all their heart and seek to serve Him daily, most Bible believers do not have an in-depth understanding of the Bible and do not understand the deep depth of the personal relationship that G-d desires us to have with Him. Most Bible believers understand their personal relationship with G-d the same way I viewed my personal relationship with G-d for many, many years: Attend the local congregation of your choice faithfully and regularly, and be a good, moral, honest, and decent person in living your daily life. Because that was all I knew, that was what I accepted. However, G-d began to teach me and show me the deeper things concerning my personal relationship with Him, and a spiritual understanding of the festivals was a big key to unlocking this mystery. If you are a Bible believer and you desire to understand G-d in a greater way than you do today, the festivals will reveal to you the deeper things concerning your personal relationship with Him.

Secondly, the festivals are **G-d's feasts** and **His** appointed times that **we** are to observe (Leviticus [*Vayikra*] 23:1-2,4). G-d gave the festivals to teach about the death, burial, and resurrection of the Messiah (*Mashiach*); the empowering of the believers by the Holy Spirit (*Ruach HaKodesh*); the resurrection of the dead; the coronation of the Messiah; the wedding of the Messiah; the tribulation (*Chevat shel Mashiach*); the second coming of the Messiah; the millennium (the Messianic age or the *Athid Lavo*); and much, much more.

The Bible provides several powerful reasons for studying and understanding the seven festivals of the Messiah:

1. The feasts are in the Bible, and **all** the Bible is inspired by G-d (2 *Timothy* 3:16-17).
2. The feasts are a shadow of things to come that teach us about the Messiah (*Colossians* 2:16-17; *Hebrews* 10:1).
3. The feasts are prophetic types and examples foreshadowing significant events in G-d's plan of redemption (1 *Corinthians* 10:1-6,11).
4. G-d gave the feasts so we could learn and understand G-d's plan of redemption for the world and our personal relationship to Him (*Romans* 15:4).
5. The feasts, as part of the Torah (which means "instruction"), are as a schoolmaster or tutor that leads us to the Messiah (*Galatians* 3:24).
6. The feasts will point to the Messiah and G-d's plan for the world through the Messiah (Psalm [*Tehillim*] 40:6-8; *Hebrews* 10:7).
7. *Yeshua* (Jesus) came to fulfill all that was written in the Old Testament (*Tanach*), which consists of three parts: the Torah, the prophets (*Nevi'im*), and the writings (*Ketuvim* - personified by the Psalms) concerning Him (Luke 24:26-27,44-45; John [*Yochanan*] 5:46-47).
8. The feasts set forth the pattern of heavenly things on earth (*Hebrews* 8:1-2,5; 9:8-9,23; Exodus [*Shemot*] 25:8-9,40; 26:30; Numbers [*Bamidbar*] 8:4; Ezekiel [*Yechezkel*] 43:1-6,10-12).
9. G-d gives the natural to explain the spiritual (1 *Corinthians* 15:46-47).
10. By studying the natural, we can understand the spiritual (1 *Corinthians* 2:9-13; 2 *Corinthians* 4:18).

What is the Meaning of the Word Feast in the Bible?

Two important Hebrew words appear in Leviticus (*Vayikra*) chapter 23, and each word is translated as feast in English. In verse 2, the word for feast is the Hebrew word *mo'ed*, as it is written, "Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, concerning the feasts [*mo'ed*] of the Lord..." The word *mo'ed* means "an appointment, a fixed time or season, a cycle or year, an assembly, an appointed time, a set time or exact time. By understanding the Hebrew meaning of the English word feast, we can see that G-d is telling us that He is ordaining a "set time or exact time or an appointed time" when He has an appointment with humanity to fulfill certain events in the redemption. In fact, *Yeshua* (Jesus) came to earth at the exact time ordained by G-d (*Galatians* 4:2,4), and G-d has an exact time or set appointment when, in the future, He will judge the world (*Acts* 17:31).

In verse 6 is another Hebrew word translated as feast, as it is written, "And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast [*chag*] of unleavened bread..." The Hebrew word *chag*, which means a "festival,"¹³ is derived from the Hebrew root word *chagag*, which means "to move in a circle, to march in a sacred procession, to celebrate, dance, to hold a solemn feast or holiday." By this we can see that G-d gave the festivals as cycles to be observed yearly so that, by doing them, we can understand G-d's redemptive plan for the world; the role that the Messiah (*Yeshua*) would play in that redemption; and our personal relationship to G-d concerning how we grow from a baby Bible believer to a mature Bible believer. Although G-d gave us the festivals to observe, G-d never gave the festivals so we would obtain salvation from Him by observing them because salvation only comes by faith (*emunah*); however, G-d did give the festivals for the purpose of teaching and instructing His people concerning His plan of redemption and our personal relationship to Him.

The Appointed Place

The feasts are not only G-d's appointed times, but also were to be observed at G-d's appointed place. G-d said that He would choose a place and that it would be a set place where His redemptive plan would be accomplished. Passover (*Pesach*), the Feast of Weeks or Pentecost (*Shavuot*), and the Feast of Tabernacles (*Sukkot*) were to be observed at an appointed place (Deuteronomy [*Devarim*] 16:2,6,9-11, 13-16). This place was Jerusalem (*Yerushalayim*) (2 Kings [*Melachim*] 21:4). From this we can see that Jerusalem (*Yerushalayim*) was appointed by G-d to be the place where important events surrounding the redemptive plan of G-d would be accomplished. *Yeshua* (Jesus) died, was buried, and resurrected in Jerusalem. The empowering of the believers by the Holy Spirit (*Ruach HaKodesh*) took place in Jerusalem. Messiah (*Yeshua*) will return and set His foot on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem (*Zechariah 14:4*) and Jerusalem will be the center of world attention and controversy before the coming of the Messiah (*Zechariah 12:2-3; 14:2-4*).

Three Times a Year They Were to Assemble

Although there are a total of seven feasts (the divine number for perfection or completeness in the Bible), G-d divided the seven festivals into three major festival seasons. The feasts of Passover (*Pesach*), Unleavened Bread (*Hag HaMatzah*), and First Fruits (*Bikkurim*) are in the Hebrew month of Nisan, which is the first month of G-d's religious calendar in the spring of the year. (We'll examine this calendar a little later.) The Feast of Weeks (*Shavuot*), or Pentecost, is observed in the third month, which is the Hebrew month of Sivan. The Feast of Trumpets (*Yom Teruah*), Atonement (*Yom Kippur*), and Tabernacles (*Sukkot*) are observed in the seventh month of Tishrei, which is in the fall of the year (Exodus [*Shemot*] 23:14-17; 34:22-23; Deuteronomy [*Devarim*] 16:16-17). Three is the number of complete and perfect testimony and witness (Deuteronomy [*Devarim*] 17:6; 19:15; Matthew [*Mattityahu*] 18:19-20; Luke 24:44-45; 2 Corinthians 13:1; 1 Timothy 5:19; 1 John [*Yochanan*] 5:8). So the feasts are a witness to G-d's divine plan and the role of Messiah (*Yeshua*) fulfilling that plan. This is the message being communicated to Bible believers concerning the three major festival periods in the year.

Traditionally, non-Jewish Bible believers understand the festivals to be exclusively Jewish feasts. However, Leviticus (*Vayikra*) 23:1-2,4 tells us very clearly that these are **festivals of the L-rd**. In reality, G-d in His divine wisdom instructed us that these festivals are for both Jew and non-Jew, and are to be celebrated jointly with each other (Deuteronomy [*Devarim*] 16:10-11, 14-16). In Deuteronomy (*Devarim*) 16:11, 14, the word translated in English as stranger is the Hebrew word *ger*, which means the non-Jew (Bible-believing Gentile) who has joined himself to the Jewish people. Therefore, the L-rd is the Host of the festivals and all Bible believers are His invited guests.

The Biblical Calendar

In order to fully understand and appreciate the feasts being appointed times given by G-d, it is important to understand the biblical calendar that G-d gave us. There are two primary calendars in the Bible. The first is called the civil calendar and is used from Genesis (*Bereishit*) 1:1 to Exodus (*Shemot*) 12. The first month in the civil calendar is Tishrei. *Rosh HaShanah* (the Jewish New Year), the first day in the civil calendar, is the beginning of the new year. The second calendar in the Bible is the religious calendar. The religious calendar is used from Exodus (*Shemot*) 12 to Revelation 22. G-d established the religious calendar in Exodus (*Shemot*) 12:2, as it is written, "This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you." The month that G-d was referring to was the month of Aviv (*Exodus 13:4*), which is now called the month of Nisan. Prior to G-d's establishing the month of Nisan as the first month in the religious calendar, it was the seventh month in the civil calendar. G-d gave the religious calendar so we could understand that these feasts, which He gave and which are His appointed times and foreshadow important events in the redemption, would happen on the days He ordained on the religious calendar. These important days on the religious calendar are the same days that He gave as festivals in Leviticus (*Vayikra*) 23.

Another understanding for G-d giving a civil calendar and a religious calendar is that everyone who accepts the Messiah (*Yeshua*) into his heart by faith (*emunah*) experiences two birthdays. Just like Tishrei 1 is the first day on the civil calendar and Nisan 1 is the first day on the religious calendar, everyone who accepts the Messiah (*Yeshua*) into his life has a physical (civil) birthday when he was born into the world and a spiritual (religious) birthday the day he accepts the Messiah into his life. The following chart illustrates both types of calendars, showing the names of the months in the biblical calendar.

Civil Calendar

1. **Tishrei** (September/October)
2. **Cheshvan** (October/November)
3. **Kislev** (November/December)
4. **Tevet** (December/January)
5. **Shevat** (January/February)
6. **Adar** (February/March)
7. **Nisan (Aviv)** (March/April)
8. **Iyar** (April/May)
9. **Sivan** (May/June)

Religious Calendar

1. **Nisan (Aviv)** (March/April)
2. **Iyar** (April/May)
3. **Sivan** (May/June)
4. **Tammuz** (June/July)
5. **Av** (July/August)
6. **Elul** (August/September)
7. **Tishrei** (September/October)
8. **Cheshvan** (October/November)
9. **Kislev** (November/December)

The Biblical Calendar (continued)

10. Tammuz (June/July)	10. Tevet (December/January)
11. Av (July/August)	11. Shevat (January/February)
12. Elul (August/September)	12. Adar (February/March)

An Overview of the Festivals

The festivals are blueprints through which G-d revealed His overall plan of redemption for both man and the earth following the fall of man in the Garden of Eden (*Gan Eden*) as well as the role that the Messiah (*Yeshua*) would play in that redemption. The festivals are divided into two major portions, depending upon whether they occur in the spring or the fall. The spring festivals teach about the first coming of the Messiah *Yeshua* (Jesus) and the fall festivals teach about the second coming of the Messiah *Yeshua*. In Hosea (*Hoshea*) 6:3 it is written, "...His going forth is prepared as the morning; and He shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth." The "latter and former rain" in this passage is commonly interpreted and understood to be the coming of the Holy Spirit (*Ruach HaKodesh*). This is indeed a valid interpretation and application; however, the former and latter rain also refers to the first and second coming of the Messiah (*Yeshua*).

G-d set up the festivals in an agricultural context. G-d gave the natural for us to understand the spiritual (*I Corinthians 15:46-47*). During the course of the year, the rains come in Israel at two primary times--the spring and the fall. If we cross-reference Hosea (*Hoshea*) 6:3 with Joel (*Yoel*) 2:23, we see that the former rain is the Hebrew word *moreh* which means "teacher," and the word *moderately* in Joel 2:23, is the Hebrew word *tzedakah*, which means "righteousness." The teacher of righteousness was a term for the Messiah. *Yeshua* (Jesus) was the teacher of righteousness sent by G-d as can be seen in John (*Yochanan*) 3:2. *Yeshua* was sent by G-d to the earth to faithfully teach us righteousness, just as G-d faithfully sends us the rain (Isaiah [*Yeshayahu*] 55:10-11). The harvest (believers in the Messiah) is the product that the rain (the Messiah) produces.

In *Leviticus 23:2* it is written, ".....the feasts of the Lord, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations...." The Hebrew term translated as convocation in *Leviticus (Vayikra) 23:2,4* is *miqra*, which means "a rehearsal." From this we can see that G-d gave the festivals to be yearly "rehearsals" of the future events in the redemption. Because G-d gave the "rehearsals" to teach us about the major events in the redemption, if we want to understand the major events in the redemption, then we need to understand what G-d was teaching us by these rehearsals. The purpose of this book is to show how the "rehearsals" teach us about the real events in the redemption and the role of the Messiah (*Yeshua*) in these events.

In *Deuteronomy (Devarim) 16:16*, G-d instructed the people to come to Jerusalem (*Yerushalayim*) three times a year to observe the feasts. As they came, they observed ceremonies given by G-d that were performed in both the temple (*Beit HaMikdash*) and the home. These ceremonies were twofold in nature. They looked forward and they looked backward. Many of these ceremonies and the specific instructions concerning what was done during these feasts and how they were done can be found in the Mishnah, the oral teaching of Judaism, in the section called *Mo'ed*. The Mishnah is divided into six orders. Each order is divided into tractates, or different sections of each order. The order called *Mo'ed* speaks of the festivals. *Mo'ed*, which we saw earlier means "an appointed time," has two meanings. First, in *Deuteronomy (Devarim) 16:16*, the Jewish people have an appointment to be at a specific place (Jerusalem) at a specific time (the time of the three major pilgrimage festivals). Secondly, G-d has an appointment to perform certain events in the redemption at this time. There are four important aspects to remember when dealing with each of the seven great festivals of the L-rd:

1. All of the festivals are, at the same time, both historical and prophetic.
2. All of the festivals teach about the Messiah (*Yeshua*), or Jesus.
3. All of the festivals are agricultural in context.
4. All of the festivals teach about your personal relationship with G-d and how you are to walk (*halacha*) with

Him as you grow in the knowledge of Him, from being a baby believer to a mature believer.

It is important to remember that as an entire unit, the festivals teach and reveal the complete plan of G-d; however, each festival centers on a particular theme in the plan of G-d.

Fall Festival Overview

The fall festival season begins with a 40-day period called, in Hebrew, *Teshuvah*, which means "to repent or return." This 40-day period begins in the sixth month of the religious calendar, the month of Elul, and concludes on the tenth day of the seventh month, which is *Yom Kippur*, the day of Atonement. Each morning in the synagogue following the morning prayers, a shofar is blown (except on sabbaths and the day preceding *Rosh HaShanah*, the Feast of Trumpets). **Psalm (Tehillim) 27** is read every day. *Rosh HaShanah* is the thirtieth day into this 40-day period of *Teshuvah* or repentance. The biblical name for *Rosh HaShanah* is *Yom Teruah*, which means "the day of the awakening

blast." Non-Jews call this the Feast of Trumpets. It is observed on the seventh month (Tishrei) and the first day of the month (Leviticus [*Vayikra*] 23:23-24). G-d gave us this day to teach us about the resurrection of the dead, the coronation of the Messiah, the wedding of the Messiah, and much more. This day is both the Jewish New Year and the beginning of a period of soul-searching known as the High Holy Days, culminating on *Yom Kippur*. Therefore, the last 10 days of the 40-day period of Teshuvah, beginning on Elul 1, is also called the High Holy Days.

Teshuvah – “**to repent or return**”; also, known as the time when “The King is in the Field” - *These 40 days are a time of meeting with the King of Kings - a time to be happy. Which also corresponds to the prophesied Messianic Virgin Birth (Isaiah 7:14), and the prophesied Messianic Return (Zechariah 14:1-4, 9).*

Psalm (Tehillim) 27:

Psalm 27

*The Lord Is My Light and My Salvation
Of David.*

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

² When evildoers assail me
to eat up my flesh,

my adversaries and foes,
it is they who stumble and fall.

³ Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;

though war arise against me,
yet I will be confident.

⁴ One thing have I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after:

that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,

to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord
and to inquire in his temple.

⁵ **For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;**

**he will conceal me under the cover of his
tent;**

he will lift me high upon a rock.

⁶ And now my head shall be lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent

sacrifices with shouts of joy;

I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

⁷ Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud;

be gracious to me and answer me!

⁸ You have said, “Seek my face.”

My heart says to you,

“Your face, Lord, do I seek.”

⁹ Hide not your face from me.

Turn not your servant away in anger,

O you who have been my help.

Cast me not off; forsake me not,

O God of my salvation!

¹⁰ For my father and my mother have forsaken me,

but the Lord will take me in.

¹¹ **Teach me your way, O Lord,**

and lead me on a level path

because of my enemies.

¹² Give me not up to the will of my adversaries;

for false witnesses have risen against me,

and they breathe out violence.

¹³ **I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord**

in the land of the living!

¹⁴ Wait for the Lord;

be strong, and let your heart take courage;

wait for the Lord!

The first and second days of the 10 High Holy Days (Tishrei 1-10) are **collectively known as one day** (*Nehemiah 7:73; 8:1-2,13*). The seven-day period from Tishrei 3 through Tishrei 9 is called the Days of Awe or the Awesome Days (*Yamim Nora'im*) . . . (and) *Yom Kippur* (the Day of Atonement) is observed on the tenth day of the seventh month (Leviticus [*Vayikra*] 23:26-32) . . . (*both fall feasts*) teaches us about the literal second coming of the Messiah *Yeshua* when He will set His foot down on the Mount of Olives (*Zechariah 14:4*).

collectively known as one day - “² So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, **on the first day of the seventh month** . . . ¹³ **On the second day** the heads of fathers' houses of all the people, with the priests and the Levites, came together to Ezra the scribe in order to study the words of the Law.” *Nehemiah 7:73; 8:1-2,13.*

<http://www.hebrews.org/chap12.html#CHAP12>

Fall Feast Dates

Rosh Hashanah/Feast of Trumpets

(Begins at sundown and Ends at sundown)

2020

September 18, Friday - September 20, Sunday

2021

September 6, Monday - September 8, Wednesday

2022

September 25, Sunday - September 27, Tuesday

2023

September 15, Friday – September 17, Sunday

Sukkot/Feast of Tabernacles

(Begins at sundown and Ends at sundown)

2020

October 2, Friday - October 10, Saturday

Yom Kippur/Feast of Atonement

(Begins at sundown and Ends at sundown)

2020

September 27, Sunday - September 28, Monday

2021

September 15, Wednesday - September 16, Thursday

2022

October 4, Tuesday - October 5, Wednesday

2023

September 24, Sunday - October 25, Monday

Simchat Atzeret/Eighth Day

(Begins at sundown and Ends at sundown)

2020

October 9, Friday - October 10, Saturday

Sukkot/Feast of Tabernacles (continued)
(Begins at sundown and Ends at sundown)
2021
September 20, Monday - September 27, Monday
2022
October 9, Sunday - October 16, Sunday
2023
September 29, Friday - October 6, Friday

Simchat Atzeret/Eighth Day (continued)
(Begins at sundown and Ends at sundown)
2021
September 27, Monday - September 28, Tuesday
2022
October 16, Sunday - September 17, Monday
2023
October 6, Friday - October 7, Saturday

Additional Insights from the Beginning of all prophecy:

“looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith”

Hebrews 12:2

“But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”

1 Corinthians 2:7-8

Genesis 1:14

¹⁴And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

Signs: 226. oth: a sign, a witness, a pledge (*signs, tokens* of changes of weather & times Genesis 1:14 . . .).

Seasons: 4150. moed: appointed time, place, or meeting (translations used: appointed feasts, appointed times, fixed festivals, set time, times appointed.)

Note: It is most probable that in Genesis 1:14 (P), where אֹתוֹת וּמוֹעֵד, the reference is to the sacred seasons as fixed by moon's appearance; and so also לָמַד יְרַח לְמַעַן יַעֲשֶׂה יְרַח לְמַעַן יַעֲשֶׂה *he made the moon for sacred seasons* Psalms 104:19,

*“He made the moon to mark the seasons (the appointed times – Genesis 1:14);
the sun knows its time for setting.”*

Psalms 104:19

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance

Or moled {mo-ade'}; or (feminine) moweadah (2 Chronicles 8:13) {mo-aw-daw'}; from ya'ad; properly, an appointment, i.e. A fixed time or season; conventionally (regularly) a year; an assembly (as convened for a definite purpose); also a signal (as appointed beforehand).

Note: It is here in Genesis 1:14, that we learn that God put the “Redemption of Mankind” in the signs and seasons (sun, moon, stars, and seasons), “The Appointed Times”, of his creation, Day 4, a number symbolizing “Rest & Refreshment”, before He had even created man, and even before man had even fallen, and needed God's Redemption. God had a perfect plan and purpose He created from the beginning of time for the Redemption and Salvation of all things (Matthew 5:8, Ephesians 1:10). This also speaks of God being the Author and Finisher (Hebrews 12:2, John 1:1-4), the Beginning and the End (Revelation 22:13), and the focus and goal of our faith (Hebrews 12:2).

*“You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky,
but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”*

Luke 12:56

Leviticus 23:1-2

Feasts of the Lord

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, These are the appointed feasts (an appointment) of the Lord that you shall proclaim (picture is of someone grabbing someone by the shirt collar and shaking them awake) as holy convocations (rehearsals); they are my appointed feasts.”

The Goal

Hidden Treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge

“My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Colossians 2:2-3

Shadows

Freedom from Human Rules

“Let no one therefore judge you in eating or in drinking, or in respect of a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths **which are a shadow of what is to come but the Body of the Messiah.**” Colossians 2:16-17 (KJV)

Here, he is telling us that the **Appointed Times** (Feast Days) and the **Sabbath** are a **shadow of things to come**. A shadow is of the same image as what it is portraying. So, doesn't this imply these will be observed in the future kingdom? And note the text says that these commands **ARE** a **shadow of things to come**, **not** “were a shadow” or “used to be a shadow” of things to come. He then says, “**let no man judge you**” (in these things: new moon; Sabbath; feasts) “**but the Body of Messiah.**” The word “is” has been added to the original text and did not appear in the Greek.

The Body of Messiah is to judge each other with regard to these things. A second witness to this can be found in the following verses:

“But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone called ‘a brother,’ if he is one who whores, or greedy of gain, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler – not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? **Do you not judge, to pick out by separating, to be of opinion, to judge those who are inside?** But Elohim judges those who are outside. And put away the wicked one from among you!” **1 Corinthians 5:11-13**

“**not judge**” - (*krinō* (2919): **to distinguish** (to approve what is correct and reject what is wrong - discern).

“**to pick out**”: choose.

“**opinion**”: decide.

“**to judge**”: “bringing to trail” - expressing severe disapproval of (someone or something), typically in a formal statement).

Let's Remember what God told the People to do before they got delivered out of Egypt, which we are reminded to do prior to Christ's 2nd Coming:

1. I Will Provide the Way Out and All the Way Into the Promise Land

Exodus 11:2 - Speak now in the hearing of the people, that they ask, every man of his neighbor and every woman of her neighbor, for silver and gold jewelry.”

2. Know the Times

Exodus 12:1-17 - The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, “**This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you.**”³ Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household.

. . .⁷ “Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it . . .

. . .¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ “This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast . . .

. . .¹⁷ And you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day, throughout your generations, as a statute forever.”

Word Study by Ryan Roberts of Key 2 Changes

Jesus' Prophetic Picture of His Second Coming

Listen to Jesus

Lesson 29

*of the Discipleship Book Series, “A Journey with Jesus”,
Jesus' discipleship model, method, and teaching on “Making Disciples”.*

Do you have a desire to know the future? Why?

Introduction:

Upon ending the discourse of His impending death and the rise of the church Jesus left the disciples with a mysterious but hopeful statement. “*Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.*” At that point the disciples had no idea what Jesus meant by the statement but within a few days three of them would experience it first-hand.

It happened when Jesus asked Peter, James and John to accompany Him on a trek up the high mountain⁸ to pray. We know that this event occurred early in the Jewish month of Tishri, which is the 7th month⁹ on God's calendar. After the steep arduous ascent the disciples were weary and fell asleep. As the disciples slept Jesus prayed and while praying His appearance changed. His face shined like the sun and His clothing became white as light. The kingdom of God had appeared with power and glory.

Reading The Scripture:

Matthew 17:1-13, Mark 9:1-13, and Luke 9:28-36

The Transfiguration

Matthew 17:1-3, Mark 9:1-4, Luke 9:28-32

(Gospels forged together into one seamless story, in collaboration with New American Standard Bible,
authored by Michael Gibson, Founder of Spirit & Truth, dba Key 2 Changes: "Follow Me: A Message from God", a journey with Jesus)

30 AD, September 16 - Feast of Trumpets

And some eight days after these sayings, it came about that He took along Peter and John and James, and went up to the mountain to pray. And while He was praying, the appearance of His face became different, and His clothing became white and gleaming. And behold, two men were talking with Him; and they were Moses and Elijah, who, appearing in glory, were speaking of His departure which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions had been overcome with sleep; but when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men standing with Him.

Feast of Trumpets. Today Jews call this Rosh Hashanah (New Year) although the Biblical name is Yom Teruah (Day of Sounding the Trump or Day of Warning). This feast also has two other names that represent themes connected with it. They are Yom Hazikaron (Day of Memorial or Remembrance) and Yom Haddin (Day of Judgment). All of these names point to God's sovereignty and kingship while declaring that men should repent and prepare for His coming.

Matthew 17:4-13, Mark 9:5-13, Luke 9:33-36

(Gospels forged together into one seamless story, in collaboration with New American Standard Bible,
authored by Michael Gibson, Founder of Spirit & Truth, dba Key 2 Changes: "Follow Me: A Message from God", a journey with Jesus)

And it came about, as these were parting from Him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah"-- not realizing what he was saying. And while he was saying this, a cloud formed and began to overshadow them; and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My Son, My Chosen One; listen to Him!" And when the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were much afraid. And Jesus came to them and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid." And lifting up their eyes, they saw no one, except Jesus Himself alone. And as they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man has risen from the dead." And they seized upon that statement, discussing with one another what rising from the dead might mean. And they asked Him, saying, "Why is it that the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" And He answered and said, "Elijah is coming and will restore all things; but I say to you, that Elijah already came, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they wished. So also the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands." Then the disciples understood that He had spoken to them about John the Baptist. And they kept silent, and reported to no one in those days any of the things which they had seen.

The Commands:

1. **THIS IS MY SON, MY CHOSEN ONE; LISTEN TO HIM!**
2. Arise, and do not be afraid.
3. Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.

The Lesson:

As we begin this lesson we must remember that what the disciples saw was a vision ... not the real thing. The vision was a portrayal of future events, much as was the vision given to the Apostle John on the Island of Patmos many years later. And without that revelation we would be limited in our understanding just as the disciples were. What transpired on the Mt of Transfiguration gives us many clues about the future.

⁸ Scholars are divided in their opinion as to which mountain is the Mount of Transfiguration. Some say Hermon while others favor Tabor. I lean towards Mount Hermon for the following reasons. Jesus and His disciples had been spending time in the area of Caesarea Philippi, which lies at the southern foot of Mt Hermon. Mt Tabor on the other hand is fifty miles south of Caesarea Philippi, about six miles southeast of Jesus' hometown of Nazareth. The Scriptures indicate that it was a high mountain. Mt Hermon is the highest mountain in Israel at 9,232 feet whereas Mt Tabor is a modest 1,929 feet in elevation.

⁹ The fact that the "transfiguration" occurred early in the seventh month can be determined from Scripture. By using the gospels of Luke and John in conjunction, the next major event to occur after the transfiguration was Jesus' journey to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkoth), which began on the 15th day of the seventh month. The second witness is Peter's statement when he saw Moses and Elijah talking with Jesus, "*let us make three tabernacles*". The tabernacles that Peter was talking about were sukkaahs, temporary tent-like structures made out of tree branches. The Jews usually started erecting them immediately after the Day of Atonement, which was on the 10th day of the seventh month. They lived in these temporary shelters during the entire Feast of Tabernacles.

When the disciples awoke from their sleep, they saw Moses and Elijah talking with Jesus. From this we can make several observations:

1. Moses and Elijah are the two witnesses of the book of Revelation. *“And I will grant authority to my **two witnesses**, and they will prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.”* (Revelation 11:3)
2. Moses and Elijah are *“the two olive trees and two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.”* (Revelation 11:4)
 - a) The olive trees are referenced in the book of Zechariah. *He said to me, “What do you see?” And I said, “I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold with its bowl on the top of it, and its seven lamps on it with seven spouts belonging to each of the lamps which are on the top of it; also **two olive trees by it, one on the right side of the bowl and the other on its left side.**” Then I said to the angel who was speaking with me saying, “What are these, my lord?” Then he said, “These are the **two anointed ones who are standing by the Lord of the whole earth.**”* (Zechariah 4:2-4 and 11)
 - b) Moses and Elijah, as the witnesses are called lampstands because they represent the Law and the Prophets, which provide heavenly light to live by.
3. On the Mt of Transfiguration we see Moses, representing the Law and Elijah, representing the Prophets speaking with Jesus, the Word of God. Both Moses the Law and Elijah the Prophets testify of Jesus the Word of God.
4. As witnesses of Jesus, Moses and Elijah also represent the following:

<u>Moses</u>	<u>Elijah</u>
The Father	The Holy Spirit
Truth	Spirit
Domestic Olive Tree	Wild Olive Tree
Israel, who was given the Law	Church, who was given the Spirit
Those who have died	Those who are living

Jesus had told the disciples that some of them would not die until they had seen the kingdom of God, after it had come in power.¹⁰ In the vision both Moses and Elijah appeared in their glorified state and the apostles knew their identities. This indicates that the time of the vision is after the two witnesses of the book of Revelation are killed and resurrected from the dead. (Revelation 11:7)

1. *Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly. Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will **all be changed**, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the **last trumpet**; for the trumpet will sound, and **the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.** For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, “**DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY.**”* (1 Corinthians 15:49-54)
2. None of the disciples had seen Moses or Elijah on earth before, so they wouldn’t have known them on sight. However, the disciples did know who they were. This indicates that their heavenly identity was revealed to the apostles.
3. The book of Revelation also supports the time of the vision because the next major event to occur after the witnesses’ death and resurrection is the sounding of the seventh and last trump. With the blowing of the trumpet loud voices in heaven declare, *“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He will reign forever.”* This is the beginning of the millennial reign of Christ on earth or “the kingdom of God after it has come in power.”

Exactly when, Jesus will begin His reign on the earth has been a subject of much debate. The vision doesn’t tell us exactly when this event will take place but it does give the time of year for its occurrence ... early in the seventh month of God’s calendar. This was derived from Peter’s statement about the construction of tabernacles (sukkahs) for Jesus, Moses and Elijah.

There are two significant feasts of the Lord that occur early in the seventh month of Tishri. On the first day of the month is Yom Teruah, the Day of Blowing the Trumpet and it is a Sabbath Day. The day is also called Rosh Ha Shannah (Head of the Year or New Years Day), Yom Hazikaron (Day of Remembrance) and Yom Haddin (Day of Judgment). On the tenth day of the month is Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. It is also a Sabbath Day and the only fast that God declared. Following these two feasts of the Lord is Tabernacles, which begins on the fifteenth day of the month. The first day of

¹⁰ “The kingdom of God after it has come in power” is just another way of describing the millennial reign of Christ on the earth.

the feast and the eighth day are also Sabbath Days. From the evidence of Scripture I believe that the “transfiguration” occurred on Yom Teruah, the Day of Blowing the Trumpet. Hence the beginning of Jesus reign on earth would begin at the same time.

1. The book of Revelation says that His reign begins just prior to the sounding of the seventh and last trumpet blast. On Yom Teruah trumpets are blown throughout the day and as the day draws to a close the **last trump** is sounded with the note Tekiah Godola ... an extended blast. In theory this note does not **end** until it is blown again ten days later at the end of the Day of Atonement.
2. The prophecy in chapter seven of the book of Daniel, verses nine through fourteen, concerning the Son of Man supports Yom Teruah as well.
 - *I kept looking until thrones were set up, and the Ancient of Days took His seat; His vesture was like white snow and the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne was blaze with flames, its wheels were a burning fire. A river of fire was flowing and coming out from before Him; thousands upon thousands were attending Him, and myriads upon myriads were standing before Him; the court sat, and the books were opened. Then I kept looking because of the sound of the boastful words which the horn was speaking; I kept looking until the beast was slain, and its body was destroyed and given to the burning fire. As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but an extension of life was granted to them for an appointed period of time. I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.*
 - The Hebrew teaching is that on Yom Teruah, God opens three books:
 - The Book of Life** - those who are found therein are sealed for life.
 - The Book of the Dead** - those who are found therein are wicked and sealed for judgment.
 - The Book of Repentance** - this book includes most people whose works are neither good nor bad and they have until Yom Kippur to repent. This is called the **sealing**. Jews wish each other a good sealing for the year to come, and then say, “Next year in Jerusalem.”
3. On the Mt of Transfiguration, God, himself spoke out loud saying, “*This is My Son, My chosen one, Listen to Him.*” This is the Ancient of Days bestowing dominion, glory and a kingdom upon His Son, the Son of Man.
4. The disciples didn’t come down from the mountain until the following day indicating that it might have been the Sabbath, therefore required to rest.
5. The “transfiguration” probably **didn’t** occur on the Day of Atonement because that would have given Jesus only one week of travel to reach Jerusalem by the middle of the feast of Tabernacles. The journey from Mt. Hermon would have been five or six days which makes it possible for Jesus to do. However, in order to accomplish the intervening events it would indicate a somewhat longer period of time.
6. On the day following the “transfiguration” we see that the disciples could not cast a demon out of one child. Jesus explains to them that that kind of demon did not come out but by prayer and fasting. This indicates that the disciples had not been in prayer and fasting on the previous day, which eliminates the Day of Atonement because both prayer and fasting are requirements of that feast day.

While Jesus, Moses and Elijah were speaking a **bright cloud** overshadowed the whole party. The cloud is called the **Shekinah** in Hebrew. It is the **cloud of glory** that surrounds God himself. This cloud is seen several times in Scripture. It was the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night that led the Israelites out of Egypt. It was the smoke and fire the enveloped Mt Sinai from which the trumpets sounded and God voice was heard speaking the Ten Commandments. And it was the smoke that filled Solomon’s Temple at the dedication ceremony.

As the cloud began to descend upon the whole party God spoke a commandment to the disciples, “*This is My Son, My chosen one, Listen¹¹ to Him.*” The disciples fell on their faces and were terrified but they got the point; they needed to do the things that Jesus commanded them to do. Immediately, in the twinkling of an eye, Moses, Elijah and the cloud disappeared. This reminds us of the resurrection of the two witnesses in Revelation 11:12 “*And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “ Come up here.” Then they went up into heaven in the cloud.*” When the vision ended Jesus touched His disciples and told them to get up and not be afraid.

Group Discussion:

1. Have you ever had a vision? If you have, what was it like?
2. How does the Old Testament portion of scripture end? Read the last three verses.
3. Why do you think Jesus told the disciples not to tell anyone the vision until after He had risen from the dead?
4. After Peter made his statement about building the three sukkahs, why do you think the Scriptures add this commentary, “not realizing what he was saying”?
 - Peter did not realize He was seeing a vision but thought it was real.
 - It was the Sabbath; therefore he would not be permitted to build the sukkahs.

¹¹ Hear and obey.

- The Day of Atonement had not come yet; therefore by tradition he should wait until the day following it before beginning his construction.
- Another reason.

The Point Of The Lesson:

Hear and obey Jesus now ... before He returns!

Application:

Read Malachi 3:16 - 4:6

Read Daniel 7

Read Revelation 11

<http://www.key2changes.com/lesson-29.html>

The Truth Behind the Pre-Tribulation Rapture Position

Currently within the United States there is a prevailing view of eschatology (study of end time events). It is popularly called the “Pre-trib Rapture” (This eschatological view is actually futuristic – pre-millennial – with a pre-tribulation rapture. It is opposed to the Church’s historic position, which is futuristic - pre-millennial – with a post-tribulation rapture.) and arises from a system of theology known as Dispensationalism. The Dispensational system of theology began to be developed by John Nelson Darby of England in 1827. He inserted a pre-tribulation rapture view of eschatology after hearing a prophecy given by Margaret Macdonald in the spring of 1830. Darby’s dispensational views gained ground in the United States when C.I. Scofield included it in his reference Bible of 1917. After that, it began to be taught at Dallas Theological Seminary and one of its students; Hal Lindsey made it popular with his book, *The Late Great Planet Earth* (1970).

Four major components of the Pre-tribulation Rapture position are:

1. That Christians will be raptured (caught up to meet the Lord in the air) before a seven-year tribulation period.
2. That the rapture occurs before the second coming of Jesus Christ.
3. That the rapture is “secret”. (It will not be visible to anyone. Those who remain are either Jews or unbelievers and they will discover that all the Christians have disappeared in the twinkling of an eye.)
4. That the rapture is imminent. (It can occur at any time. No signs have to precede its occurrence.)

Based on the Pre-tribulation Rapture position as stated above please answer the following questions.

1. If Jesus’ return was imminent (could occur at any time)
 - Why didn’t He say so?
 - Why did He bother to tell His disciples about specific future events?
 - Why did He caution them not to be misled?
 - Why did He issue specific commands to the disciples when they observed the events happening?
 - Since according to this scheme no signs are required to precede the Rapture, why did the Apostle Paul say that our gathering together to Jesus would not occur until after the apostasy and the man of lawlessness was revealed?
2. Jesus commanded His disciples to be alert.
 - Why?
 - What difference does it make if a believer is alert or not, since the rapture is a secret?
 - What are they to be alert for?
3. If the rapture of Christians occurs before Christ’s coming why didn’t Jesus or any of the apostles or prophets tell anyone or write it down?

Michael Gibson, Key2Changes.com

The Son of Man is Coming

Matthew 24:29-31, Mark 13:24-27, Luke 21:25-28

(Gospels forged together into one seamless story, in collaboration with New American Standard Bible,
authored by Michael Gibson, Founder of Spirit & Truth, dba Key 2 Changes: “Follow Me: A Message from God”, a journey with Jesus)

“But immediately after the tribulation of those days there will be signs in the sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light. And the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken, and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet (key phrase number one) and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of

*the sky to the other. But when these things begin to take place, **straighten up and lift up your heads** (key phrase number two), because your redemption is drawing near.*”

the moon will not give its light – Isaiah 13:10, “For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be dark at its rising, and the moon will not shed its light.”; Joel 2:30-31, “And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes.”

Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky – Daniel 7:13, “I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.

they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other – Isaiah 27:12-13, “In that day from the river Euphrates to the Brook of Egypt the Lord will thresh out the grain, and you will be gleaned one by one, O people of Israel. And in that day a great trumpet will be blown, and those who were lost in the land of Assyria and those who were driven out to the land of Egypt will come and worship the Lord on the holy mountain at Jerusalem.”

Strategy of Satan - Daniel 7:25

*“**He will speak against the Most High and oppress his holy people and try to change the set times and the laws. The holy people will be delivered into his hands for a time, times and half a time.**”*

He – Satan

oppress – ware out

set times – dates/calendars

laws – Feasts

Who is “The Thief in the Night”?

*“Remember, I have told you ahead of time,” **Matthew 24:25***

*“All this I have told you so that you will not fall away,” **John 16:1***

*“Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved,” **Matthew 24:12-13***

*“At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other,” **Matthew 24:10***

Be warned. After reading this you will no longer have any excuse for not studying about the return of The Lord. Yeshua Himself TOLD us to watch, stay alert, and be ready.

Yeshua said He was coming back to rule and reign from Jerusalem and I believe Him. He came as a real person in history and He will return a real person in history. “*A Light for the Gentiles and the glory of His people Israel.*” The natural branches will, and are, being grafted back in.

His first coming fulfilled the types and shadows of the Spring Feasts of the Lord: Passover, Feast of Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, and Feast of Weeks or Pentecost; and His second coming will be in accordance with the Fall Feasts of the Lord: Yom Teruah or Feast of Trumpets, Yom Kippur or Day of Atonement, and Sukkot or Feast of Tabernacles.

We’ve been duped. In 336 A.D. a council of men cut off the church from its natural ties to the Jewish nation with all her history and meaning. To our detriment, we lost the Jewishness of the faith.

According to scriptures, the lunar calendar is God’s method of calculating time. The lunar calendar (Jewish religious calendar) marks the seasons. In scripture, the word, “seasons” in Hebrew is “mo’ed” and means “appointed time”. This is referring to the “Appointed Times of The Lord” or “The Feasts of The Lord” (**Appointed Times: God’s Appointed Times when He will Appear to His People, in Fulfilling His Redemptive Plan of Salvation**).

1 Thessalonians 5:1, *“Now on the topic of times and seasons, brothers and sisters, you have no need for anything to be written to you.”*

Okay, let’s stop right there. Times and Seasons. He’s referring to the lunar calendar and the Appointed Times of The Lord. They were Jewish believers (and Gentiles) who not only knew these feasts, but celebrated them.

1 Thessalonians 5:2, *“For you know quite well that the day of the Lord will come in the same way as a thief in the night.”*

Remember that we are a kingdom and priests. I found out that according to Jewish history, the Captain of Temple was called “the thief in the night.” The priests and Levites were in charge of guarding the Temple, including keeping the fire of God going. If the Captain of the Guard came in at night and caught the one of them sleeping on the job, he would hit the man with a stick then take the torch he was carrying and light the sleeping man’s white priestly / Levitical

garments on fire. The sorry fellow would wake up and have to tear the soiled, burning clothes from his body, exposing his nakedness. Shedding new light on these verses:

Revelation 16:15, “Look! **I will come like a thief!** Blessed is the one who stays alert and does not lose his clothes so that he will not have to walk around naked and his shameful condition be seen.”

Revelation 3:14, 18, “This is the solemn pronouncement of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the originator of God’s creation, . . . **Buy from me white clothing so you can be clothed and your shameful nakedness will not be exposed, and calm to put on your eyes so you can see!**”

“Priestly Guard”:

The captain of the guard saw that every man was alert, chastising a priest if found asleep at his post, and sometimes even punishing him by burning his shirt upon him, as a warning to others. (Mid. i. 1 – Jewish Encyclopedia)

The Captain of the Temple (the man of the Temple Mount) visited each guard, and burning torches were carried before him. And every guard which did not stand up (which was not standing), the Captain of the Temple said to him: "Peace be to thee." If he observed that he slept, he smote him with his stick, and he had authority to burn his dress. And they said, "What is the noise (voice) in the court?" "It is the noise of a Levite who is beaten, and his clothes are set on fire, because he slept upon his watch." (Perek I. – Mishnah-Middoth)

1 Thessalonians 5:3-10, “³ Now when they are saying, ‘There is peace and security,’ then sudden destruction comes on them, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will surely not escape. ⁴ **But you, brothers and sisters, are not in the darkness for the day to overtake you like a thief would.** ⁵ For you all are sons of the light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of the darkness. ⁶ So then we must not sleep as the rest, but must stay alert and sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night and those who get drunk are drunk at night. ⁸ But since we are of the day, we must stay sober by putting on the breastplate of faith and love and as a helmet our hope for salvation. ⁹ For God did not destine us for wrath but for gaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰ He died for us so that whether we are alert or asleep we will come to life together with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, just as you are in fact doing.

The Feast of Trumpets (Yom Teruah) was known as the feast that “no one knew the day or the hour.” Again, “**YOU ARE NOT IN DARKNESS FOR THE DAY TO OVERTAKE YOU AS A THIEF!**” **1 Thessalonians 5:4**

<http://fringers.org/2008/12/22/who-is-the-thief-in-the-night.aspx>

Paul’s Teaching Against the Doctrine of Eminency

The Second Coming & The Rapture of the Church are One Simultaneous Event of One Bride (One Church).

2 Thessalonians 2:1-9

The Man of Lawlessness

¹ **Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together** to him, we ask you, brothers, ² **not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed**, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect **that the day of the Lord has come.** ³ **Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed**, the son of destruction, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. ⁵ Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? ⁶ And you know what is **restraining him** now so that he may be revealed in his time. ⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only **he who now restrains** it will do so until he is out of the way. ⁸ And then **the lawless one** will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and **bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.** ⁹ The coming of **the lawless one** is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders.

Verse(s) Breakdown of 2 Thessalonians 2:1-9:

¹ **Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together** to him, we ask you, brothers,

Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together - Paul here is teaching against the doctrine of Eminency, that Jesus can come at anytime; and rather taught that the Second Coming and the Rapture are one simultaneous event that must follow several prior events, as listed in the continuing passage of 2 Thessalonians 2:1-9.

the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ – The Second Coming

our being gathered together – The Rapture; and the two, The Second Coming & The Rapture being as one simultaneous event.

One Simultaneous Event - Jesus said, “**Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man . . . and they will gather his elect from the four winds.**” **Matthew 24:29-31**

Revelation 6:12-17

¹² When he opened the **sixth seal**, I looked, and **behold**, there was a **great earthquake**, and the **sun became black** as sackcloth, the full **moon became like blood**, ¹³ and the **stars of the sky fell** to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. ¹⁴ **The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up**, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. ¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶ calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from **the wrath of the Lamb**, ¹⁷ **for the great day of their wrath has come**, and who can stand?”

the sixth seal, I looked, and **behold**, there was a **great earthquake**, and the **sun became black** as sackcloth, the full **moon became like blood**, ¹³ and the **stars of the sky fell** to the earth – The Signs that **MUST** preceding the Second Coming.

The Coming of the Son of Man – the sixth seal

²⁹ “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the **sun will be darkened**, and the **moon will not give its light**, and the **stars will fall from heaven**, and the **powers of the heavens will be shaken**. ³⁰ *Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man.*” **Matthew 24:29-31**

The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up – The Actual Second Coming of the Messiah.

the wrath of the Lamb, for the great day of their wrath has come – The Wrath of God that follows the Messiah’s (Jesus’) Second Coming and Rapture of the People of God.

² **not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed**, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect **that the day of the Lord has come**.

not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed . . . that the day of the Lord has come – Again, Paul here reiterates the false teaching against the **doctrine of Eminency**, *that Jesus can come at anytime*; and rather continues his teaching that the Second Coming and the Rapture are one simultaneous event that must follow several prior events, as listed in this passage of 2 Thessalonians 2:1-9.

³ **Let no one deceive you in any way**. For **that day will not come, unless** the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

Let no one deceive you in any way – False Teachers, False Messiahs, False Prophets, found teaching in the Church, wolves in sheep’s clothing.

“And Jesus answered them, “See that **no one** leads you astray.” **Matthew 24:4**

“For many will come in my name, saying, ‘**I am the Christ**,’ and they will lead many astray.” **Matthew 24:5**

“And many **false prophets** will arise and lead many astray.” **Matthew 24:11**

“Beware of false prophets, who **come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves**.” **Matthew 7:15**

that day will not come, unless – The Second Coming and the Rapture will not come until after 1) The Great Apostasy (Falling Away – the Breaking of Covenant of the Saints), 2) The man of lawlessness, the Anti-christ, is revealed, followed by him seating himself in the Third Temple, to be built, on the Temple Mount, proclaiming himself to be God.

the rebellion come first – “Then they will deliver you up to **tribulation** and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. **Matthew 24:9-10**

tribulation – (*The Coming of the Son of Man*) ²⁹ “Immediately after the **tribulation of those days** the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ *Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man.*” **Matthew 24:29-30**

Immediately after the tribulation of those days – (*the Church is going to be here during the Great Tribulation*):

“As I looked, **this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them** (one Bride one Church).” **Daniel 7:21**

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “**These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**” **Revelation 7:13-14**

“And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. ¹² Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!” . . . ¹⁷ **Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.**” **Revelation 12:11-17**

“Also **it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them**. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation.” **Revelation 13:7**

⁴ who opposes and exalts **himself** against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.

himself – The man of lawlessness, the Anti-christ, is revealed, followed by him seating himself in the Third Temple, to be built, on the Temple Mount, proclaiming himself to be God – The Abomination of Desolation.

The Abomination of Desolation

¹⁵“So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.¹⁷ Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house,¹⁸ and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak.¹⁹ And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days!²⁰ Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath.²¹ For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.²² And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.²³ Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There he is!’ do not believe it.²⁴ *For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.*²⁵ See, I have told you beforehand.²⁶ So, if they say to you, ‘Look, he is in the wilderness,’ do not go out. If they say, ‘Look, he is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it.²⁷ For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. **Matthew 24:15-27**

The abomination of desolation – (The time of the End) ¹¹ And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and **the abomination that makes desolate** is set up, there shall be **1,290 days** (Abomination to Messiah’s Return). ¹² Blessed is he who waits and arrives at the **1,335 days** (Abomination to Kingdom of God on Earth). ¹³ But go your way till the end. And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days.” **Daniel 12:1-13**

let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains – there were no Jews in Judaea until 1967, for nearly 2,000 years, and today there are nearly 450,000 Jews now occupy Judaea, not including those who have moved into East Jerusalem. Under the proposed “Trump Peace Plan”, there will be a Palestinian State in Judaea, *fulfillment of Jesus’ Prophecy* (Matthew 24:15-16: *flee*), that half way through the *one-week covenant* (Daniel 9:27: one-week = seven years) before Armageddon, Jews will be chased out of Judea following the Abomination of Desolation, as most of Judea will be under Palestinian rule, as proposed in the “Trump Peace Plan”. In addition, as proposed in the Peace Plan, the Temple Mount will be under a shared arrangement as an International place of worship for all faiths, which is also prophesied in Revelation 11:1-2, that the Third Temple will be on the Temple Mount under shared arrangement, trodden outside of the Third Temple by the Gentiles (nations) for 42 months (3 ½ years) until the Battle of Armageddon.

fulfillment of Jesus’ Prophecy – “So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),¹⁶ then **let those who are in Judea flee** to the mountains.” **Matthew 24:15-16**

one-week covenant – (mark of the final 7 years) – “And he shall confirm **the covenant with many for one week**: and **in the midst of the week** he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.” **Daniel 9:27**

under shared arrangement – ¹ Then I was given a measuring rod like a staff, and I was told, ‘Rise and measure the temple of God and the altar and those who worship there, ² but do not measure the court outside the temple; leave that out, for **it is given over to the Gentiles** (nations), and they **will trample the holy city for forty-two months** (3 ½ years). **Revelation 11:1-2**

not be in winter or on a Sabbath – during the Feast of Purim, the beginning of Spring.

⁵ Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?

⁶ And you know what is **restraining him** now so that he may be revealed **in his time**.

restraining him – God’s own timeline dictates it (in his time).

in his time – “But when the **fullness of time** had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law.” **Galatians 4:4**

⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only **he who now restrains** it will do so until he is out of the way.

he who now restrains – God’s own timeline dictates it.

⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and **bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming**.

bring to nothing by the appearance OF HIS COMING – The Second Coming.

OF HIS COMING – (and the Rapture, one more proof that the Rapture and the Second Coming are one big simultaneous event): Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for **the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure**” - for **the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints**. And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to **the marriage supper of the Lamb**.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.” **Revelation 19:7-9**

And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. **Revelation 19:20**

And the beast was captured – a time described at Jesus' Second Coming at the Atoning Sacrifice at the Feast of Atonement.

⁹The coming of **the lawless one** is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders.

The lawless one – the Anti-christ, performing FALSE signs and wonders.

The Generation that see all these things shall not pass, until everything is fulfilled!

“Truly, I say to you, **this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.** Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.” **Matthew 24:34-35**

this generation will not pass away until all these things take place – *Which Generation?* The generation of “*The times of the Gentiles*” – “and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles until the **times of the Gentiles** be fulfilled,” **Luke 21:24.**

times of the Gentiles – After the Romans destroyed Jerusalem in 70 AD, Jews were allowed to remain there until the Bar Kokhba Revolt (131-135 AD). They were expelled from the city of Jerusalem in 134 AD and it was renamed Aelia Capitolina. The city remained under foreign (Gentile) control until June 8, 1967 when it was liberated from Jordan in the Six Day War. In 1980, a proclamation was issued that declared Jerusalem a united city under Israeli sovereignty.

Why did Jesus give us these Prophecies? – to tell us, so that we might understand,
that we are the people of the end times.

The end time has now arrived, a time Jesus spoke of 2,000 years ago.

Caught Up/Rapture Word Study

726 harpázō – properly, seize by force; *snatch* up, suddenly and decisively – like someone seizing bounty (spoil, a prize); to take by an *open display* of force (i.e. *not* covertly or secretly). Used of divine power transferring a person marvelously and swiftly from one place to another, to snatch or catch away.

Acts 8:39

³⁹ And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord **carried (harpázō)** Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

2 Corinthians 12:2-4

² I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was **caught up (harpázō)** to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. ³ And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows - ⁴ and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter.

1 Thessalonians 4:17

¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be **caught up (harpázō)** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

Revelation 12:5

⁵ She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was **caught up (harpázō)** to God and to his throne.

Precedence of Rapture:

Genesis 6:9-9:17: Noah's Ark (the sign that was given to Noah was the death of the Grand-Father Methuselah, meaning, “When He is Dead it shall be Sent”)

Exodus 8:22-23: Jacob's Family Settle in Goshen – And Salvation During the Plagues

Exodus 33:17-23: Moses in the Cleft of the Rock and the Glory of God

Acts 8:39: Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

2 Corinthians 12:2-4: Paul and the third heaven

Word Study by Ryan Roberts of Key 2 Changes

**“This is the First Resurrection . . . The rest of the dead did not come to life
until the thousand years were ended”**

Revelation 20:4-6

The Thousand Years

⁴ Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also *I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.* ⁵ *The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years*

were ended. This is the first resurrection. ⁶ ***Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection!*** Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

This is the first resurrection – “the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God,” Revelation 20:4; “and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands,” Revelation 20:4; “*Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection!*” Revelation 20:6; “**They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years,**” Revelation 20:4; “Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years,” Revelation 20:6.

“When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar **the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God** and for the witness they had borne. *They cried out with a loud voice, ‘O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?’* Then they were each given a white robe and told to **rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been,**” Revelation 6:9-11

The rest of the dead (the second resurrection) – “The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended,” Revelation 20:4; “And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life,” Revelation 20:12.

Revelation 20:7-15

The Defeat of Satan

⁷ And **when the thousand years are ended**, Satan will be released from his prison⁸ and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea.⁹ And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them,¹⁰ and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Judgment Before the Great White Throne

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them.¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.¹³ And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done.¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.