



*H.I.S. Ministries, *He Is Savior*; Acts 4:12

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HIS MINISTRIES FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER, COVERING JANUARY 2023

February has a day fixed (2/14/23) for remembering those we love!

Happy Valentine's Day! 😊

We have recently been receiving questions about the Book of Revelation and also about the Great Tribulation revealed in it. What does this all mean to us living now? How can we prepare for it? To prepare ourselves for the study of the Book of Revelation, we MUST first read the entire Bible to find out what the Old Testament has predestined what we need to know. [The word Revelation is Apocalypsis which means *unveiling*.] *"The New Testament is in the Old Testament concealed. The Old Testament is in the New Testament revealed!"* [If we have not studied or read the Old Testament and know why it was written, we simply cannot understand the New Testament either.]

The title of Jesus is the Word. (John 1:1-3.) The OT came to us through the prophets of God who, on His command, wrote it as *"history written in advance"* so that people would know that what it says has been revealed to the prophets by God who knows the end from the beginning. (Isa. 46:10; Rom. 4:17.) The last prophet, as they were presented in the *Old Testament*, was actually *John the Baptist* (Matt. 11:13; Luke 16:16.) The future and what is still ahead of us, is revealed to us by Jesus Christ Himself. (Hebr. 1:1-3), *"God, who at various times and in different ways spoke in times past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom He also made the world, and who being the brightness of His glory and express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of His Majesty on high."* (Rev. 1:1 to the end; Col. 1:15-20.) Comparing the written length of *Creation to Redemption*, we see that the Creation takes only two chapters in Genesis, few mentions in Psalms and in Job and in Isaiah, but the Redemption takes the entire Word of God. It is taught and explained in Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Joshua, Ruth, the Prophets, the Gospels, the Epistles, and in the Book of Revelation! What did the of Creation cost the Triune God? Just six days, and it was all done. To tell what Redemption is what it takes from God, covers thousands of years and consumes the entire Word of God! **The cost of Redemption was God's Son!**

We are commanded to study the Bible, the *entire counsel of God*. (John 1:1-3; Acts 20:27; Rom.15:4; John 5:39). *"Testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy"* (Rev. 19:10), ***which means that the purpose of prophecy is to bear testimony of the Person and the work of Jesus.***

[There are 8,362 predictive prophetic verses in the Bible – 1/3 of the entire Bible deals with prophecy. (Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy by J. Barton Payne.)

When the end time prophecies spoken of in the Bible begin to happen, as we can see even now, ***"look up and lift your heads, because your redemption draws near!"*** (See Luke 21:25-28.)

Tribulation as a word has many meanings as *“great adversity and anguish, torment, suffering, intense oppression or persecution”*. Many are confused about what *“tribulation”* talked about in the Bible actually means to each of us. Is it part of God’s process for making the world right again as it was when God created it all? (Gen. 1-3.) However tribulation is most often connected to the conflict between *God and the Devil* (Gen. 3:15) which will not end until the Devil is cast into *the lake of fire* to suffer his *eternal torment*. (Rev. 20:10.)

But there is *the Great Tribulation* coming that is to be distinguished from the tribulation that believers in God face in this world, and is *God’s wrath* that is coming upon Israel and upon the unbelieving world at *the end of the age*. (Matt. 24:21; John 16:33; Acts 14:22; Mark 13:24; Rom. 2:5-19; 1 Thess. 5:9.)

When Jesus’ disciples came to Him privately to ask about the signs of His coming and of the *“end of the age”* (Matt. 24:3), they were not thinking about Christ coming back for the Church, but they were thinking of the time when He will come in power and glory to destroy the enemies of Israel and rule the world from Jerusalem as Messiah and king of Israel. [Matthew, in Chapter 1 of his Gospel, had proven, from the temple records that Jesus indeed is the One legally qualified to be the awaited King of Israel and Messiah, and Luke 3:23-38 also verified that His bloodline is connected to King David through the Virgin Mary.]

The GREAT TRIBULATION of God, described in the Old Testament, goes by several different names. It is called *THE DAY OF THE LORD and THE DAY OF RECKONING* (Isa. 2:12); *THE TERROR OF THE LORD* (Isa. 2:19); *THE DAY OF WRATH* (1 Thess. 5:9; and *THE DAY OF TROUBLE AND DISTRESS; and THE DAY OF DESTRUCTION AND DESOLATION* (Zephaniah 1:15) *THE TIME OF JACOB’S TROUBLE and DISTRESS* (Jeremiah 30:7; Daniel 12:1); *THE GREAT AND TERRIBLE DAY OF THE LORD* (Joel 2:11, 31). *The Great Tribulation* will fulfill Daniel’s prophecies of *the seventieth week* (Daniel 7-12; Matt. 24; Mark 13:14-19).

That Tribulation, called the *Day of the Lord*, *will not begin until the falling away comes first and the man of sin, the son of perdition, is revealed*. (2 Thess. 2:2-3.) Though the lawlessness is already at work now, the Holy Spirit is still restraining *until God removes the Spirit filled born-again believers in Christ* (by the Rapture) and then allows *the One-World Ruler - the Antichrist - to step into power and making the peace covenant with Israel for seven years* (Dan. 9:24-27). These seven years are going to be split into two periods (3.5 years each) (2 Thess. 2:3-12) with the division taking place when the Antichrist enters into the newly built Jewish Temple and showing himself that he is God. (Matt. 24:15; Rev. 11:2-3, 7; 12:14; 13:5-6.) He then kills two thirds of the Jews in a *“second Holocaust”*. (Zech. 13:8-9.) For this reason the second half of the seven years is often referred as *the Great Tribulation*. And when compared to the first half, the second half is indeed much more horrific. (Jer. 30:7.) The New Testament actually describes *the entire seven years* thus: *“For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.”* (Matt. 24:21-22; Mark 13:19; Rev. 6-19.)

No matter how bad the world gets now, it is nothing compared to what life would be like during the Great 7-year Tribulation. Our assignment as believers in Christ is to make sure that everyone we know knows the gospel of salvation and receives the Lord before it begins and thus will not face those terrible days. *“For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.”* (1 Thess. 5:9-; Rev. 3:10.) In Matt. 24:3-4, when Jesus warned his apostles about deception, they were not yet fully aware that Jesus will take His own safely away to the place He has prepared for them. (John 14:1-3; Rev. 3:10; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:50-52; Isa. 26:20-21.)

The purpose of God’s wrath and the Great Tribulation is to cause Israel to acknowledge that Jesus they had rejected and condemned to death, **they now will receive as their Promised Messiah and Lord**, and also cause them to gather the rest of the remnant of Jews together to their own land. (Jer. 30:4-11; Ezek. 20:33-38; Dan. 9:27; 12:1; Zech. 14:1-4; Matt. 24:9-31.) This all will take place during this terrible time when God pours out His wrath on unbelievers in the nations of the world for all their evil, just as He did during the

Great Flood. *“The wrath of God comes only upon sons of disobedience”, i.e. those who live and want to live in rebellion against God (Eph. 5:6), but not for those who are seeking God and are wanting to accept Jesus and have their sins forgiven. God has indeed prepared an exception for the wrath of God through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

After the Great Tribulation is past, Jesus will return as KING OF KINGS and LORD OF LORDS (Rev. 19:11-16) and defeat evil (Rev. 19:19-21) and set up His Kingdom (Isa. 11) for a Thousand Years. (Rev. 20:4.)

When we determine to study the Word of God *“from Genesis through the maps” [as we like to say, to imply that the Bible has real maps at the end, when the Book of Mormon does not, for it (BoM) is not real history as the Bible is]* - then we will come to see that the Lord has not left us in darkness about the future as some have said, but God has revealed it all to Jesus Christ (Rev. 1:1-8) *“who is, and who was and who is to come”,* and He committed it to *His angel* to make it known to John, having him write down what will be shown to him in heavenly visions, and share this information with all believers in Christ, while there is still time. The promise of the Lord was and is (v. 3), *“Blessed is he who reads, and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things that are written in it: for the time is near.”*

This book is often erroneously labeled *The Revelation of John the Divine*, but it is *“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants things what must shortly take place”*. (Revelation 1:1-3)

These words already reveal what *will begin to happen shortly after* the Lord takes His church (4:1; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; John 14:1-3), all truly born again believers, to safety by the Rapture.

[*The Book of Revelation of Jesus Christ* is appropriately placed as the last Book of the Bible, Genesis being the First – the Beginning. In the Revelation chapter 1, from verses 4-7, John addresses the book to the *seven churches* (Rev. 2-3), that were located in the Roman province of Asia [*Asia Minor* – i.e. modern Turkey].

These seven 1st Century Churches are listed by name and location by John, who heard a loud voice and a trumpet, saying *“I AM the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last and what you see, write in a book, and send it to seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, to Laodicea. Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man... And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, ‘Do not be afraid. I AM the First and I AM the Last. I Am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I AM alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of the death. Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.”* (See Rev. 1:10-13,17-19.) John understood that this revelation that he was going to learn through visions *was to be made available to all Spirit born believers who are living on this earth until the Rapture [meaning all now living]*. (V.4) John wishes them all *grace and peace* – *grace* meaning *“undeserved favor of God”* that believers will have for their strength, day by day. *Peace*, that believers will also have, comes from God and enables them to face whatever is ahead of them. Therefore *“Grace and peace”* comes from *the Triune God, Jesus Himself, who is the Alpha and Omega* (the first and the last letters in the Greek alphabet), *the Beginning and the End*, *“Who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty”* (v. 8). He is the source and the goal of creation (Col. 1:15-17), and *it is He who began this all, and who will end His divine plan for the entire world. “He is and was, and He is to come.” He is eternal in His person and He is Almighty in His power.*

From Revelation, Chapters 2-3, we read the letters that the Lord Jesus had presented to *the seven churches* in Asia. *They actually and historically represent churches from the time of Pentecost to the present.* Many Bible-scholars (our mentor, Dr. Chuck Missler included) have come to the conclusion that the first three churches listed, *Ephesus, Smyrna* and *Pergamos*, were succeeding one and another, and the last four, *Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia* and *Laodicea* functioned closer together in their practice, and will continue up to the time of the Rapture (possibly soon, our time). Timeline in the history of the church are: *Ephesus*, the church of the first century that was generally praiseworthy, but it already had *left its first love*. *Smyrna*

existed from the first to fourth century and suffered persecution under Roman emperors. *Pergamos* was the church during the fourth and fifth centuries when Christianity was recognized as an official religion through Constantine's patronage. *Thyatira* existed from sixth to fifteenth century. The Roman Catholic Church largely swayed between opinions in *Western Christendom* until it was disturbed by the *Reformation*. [In the East, the Orthodox Church was the ruling body.] *Sardis* existed during the sixteenth and seventeenth century period till the *Post-Reform* when it lost its significance. In the East the Orthodox Church was the ruling body. *Philadelphia* became more noticed during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries when there were mighty revivals and missionary movements. *Laodicea* is the church of twentieth and twenty-first centuries, i.e. *the Church of the last days*, for it surely is both lukewarm and apostate, known by its liberalism and ecumenism promoting "anything that makes people feel good".

It is evident that the Rapture will take place during the "Laodicea-type-period", i.e. our time, when truth and doctrine have become less important even to the strong believers.

Each of the letters from the Lord to His seven churches begin with the first 1-4 verses giving a salutation fitting to that particular church. Jesus expresses to all of them that *He knows their works and their beliefs and conditions* and He also tells what they have done well and what they have ignored. All except one, *Laodicea*, receive commendations, and reproof is given to all except *Smyrna* and *Philadelphia*. To each is given special exhortation to listen and hear what the Spirit is saying, and to each church is given a special promise for those who overcome.

Each church has its own particular character and *Dr. J.B. Phillips* (in "Young Church in Action") has given each of them their "name-title" based on what he has observed of them: *Ephesus* is the loveless church; *Smyrna*, the persecuted church; *Pergamos*, the over-tolerant church; *Thyatira*, the compromising church; *Sardis*, a sleeping church; *Philadelphia*, the church with opportunity; *Laodicea*, the complacent church.

Dr. John F. Walwood (in "the Bible knowledge, Commentary of NT") describes their problems as 1. Losing their first love; 2. Fear of suffering; 3. Doctrinal defection; 4. Moral departure; 5. Spiritual deadness; 6. Not holding fast; 7. Lukewarmness.

The Church (i.e. the true believers in Jesus) is mentioned numerous times in the first three chapters, but not again, not even once until the *Marriage Supper of the Lamb*, in Chapter 19:6-10.

The Church began suddenly on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-2) and is known as *God's heavenly people*, blessed with spiritual blessings and called to share the Glory of God in Christ Jesus as His Bride. The Church will likewise suddenly end in the Rapture. When we study the Book of Revelation, we see that after the Rapture of the Church, from chapter 4:1 onward, focus is back on Israel as it was in the Old Testament and before the day of Pentecost. *Israel is God's ancient and earthly elect people to whom God has promised the land of Israel* (Gen. 12) and the literal kingdom under the rule of Messiah, ruling from the *Throne of David*. (Luke 1:32-33.) The Tribulation, from Revelation chapter 4:1 until 19:5 is Jewish in its character, for the Holy Spirit-filled believers were raptured as the Bride of Christ, and will be waiting to come back with Christ in His Second Coming and be part of Messianic Kingdom. (Rev. 19:11-16; 20:4.) (More of Tribulation and Second coming, see also Zech. 14.)

We hear some saying that we must already be in Tribulation. No we are not. Check this out: There is no Antichrist ruling –yet. One world religious system has not been implemented, yet. "The Mark of the Beast" has not been tattooed on the right hand or forehead of everyone. (Nor will be until there is "the Beast"/the Antichrist, demanding it). When the Great Tribulation begins people will know it, for it will be a living hell for all who are alive on earth. We see many signs of its - coming closer and closer - violence, witchcraft, thefts and murders are increasing almost daily, along with abnormal sexual promotions, "gender-changes" etc., earthquakes and volcanic activities are increasing so are weather patterns. No matter how bad things seem to be now, it is nothing compared what it will be during those 7 years when the Antichrist/the Devil is in total charge.... But GOD... "Seek the LORD while He may be found. Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have

mercy on him; and to our God for He will abundantly pardon. For My thoughts are not your thoughts , nor are your ways My ways, says the LORD.” (Isa. 55:6-8.)

We are so thankful to our God who has strengthened us and given us both better health. Dennis had this cold or flu only for a few days, but I was sick almost 3 weeks, but with the help of the Lord I still got most of the important questions and letters answered, including year-end ministry work. When we ask, God will make all things possible. We want to thank all of you, our ministry friends and supporters, for your prayers and assistance in all things. You are so important to us and to our work. You encourage and lift our spirits.

We heard from Casandra, a former-Mormon convert from about 10-12 years ago, who called during that time and asked if she could bring an LDS person to talk with me as she had done all those years ago. I asked if they could wait a week or so for me to get better, and when I said “yes”, they came exactly a week later! It was a very good over 4 hour-discussion that was very interesting to me. I found out that her male-friend had, about 30 years before, been a Mormon missionary but had not been active in his church ever since. He related his life story, and I was able to tell him about Jesus of the Bible, and why Mormonism is not biblical nor Christianity. Much of it was totally new to him and somewhat new even to his friend who participated in all that we were talking about. I gave them both a nice leather-bound NKJ-Bible and they promised to start studying earnestly. I also gave them our booklets, *The Truth About Mormonism*, and Amir Tsarfati’s book, *Bible Prophecy, the Essentials*, he had written with CA Calvary Pastor, Barry Stagner. I was surprised that just a week later they together called to let me know that they have been reading and talking about what they have so far learned. Very positive! I also gave them **Amir’s website** www.beholdisrael.com and even suggested that he’d subscribe to **Amir’ Telegram site** to get daily Middle East reports. Our God is amazing – He is willing help anyone who is truly interested to know the Truth about Him and be saved.

The weather has been much colder than usual (it was 4 degrees only this morning). We have had much more snow than usual. The entire Utah is happy about that for the last 2 years the drought has been devastating to this desert country. Maybe we’ll have even excess of water during the coming Spring to direct it to Salt Lake that has been dangerously dry.

We again ask for your prayers for Judy, Marlene, Bruce, Heber, Aira, Mark, Virve, Dave B., Justin, Jake, Luke, McKensy, Jamie, Sharon, Suzi, Lisa, Sandy and Al. There are others who need prayer for their hearts to open for Jesus and His Gospel and salvation. We can promise that they will receive immediate peace to their hearts and minds when they ask forgiveness and salvation of the Lord.

Please pray also for our many dear friends and relatives who have heard the gospel, even often, but have not responded, at least not to us yet, but the Lord knows who trust their lives into His hands and care. He will bless you!

In the Love of Jesus,

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