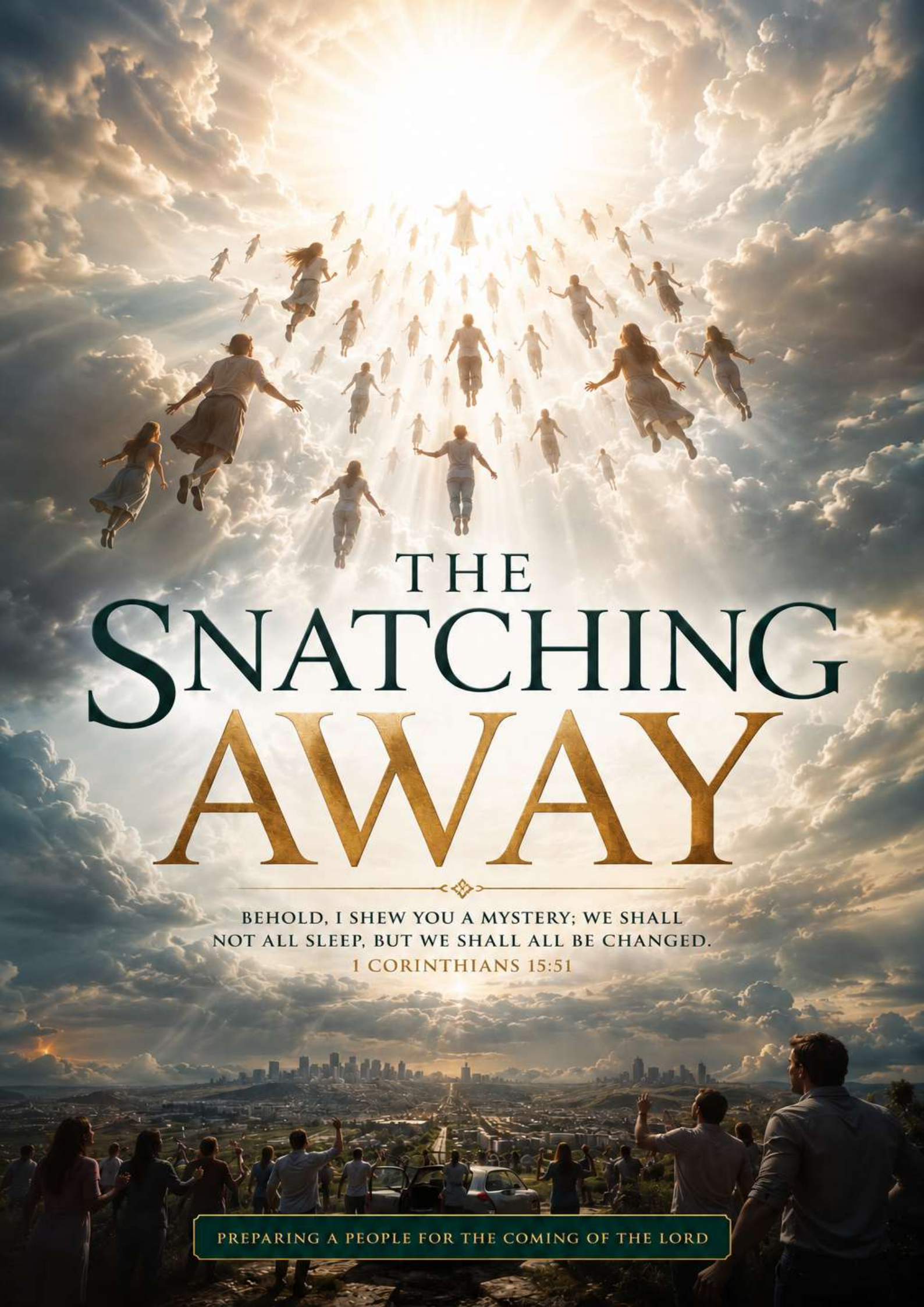




THE SNATCHING AWAY

BEHOLD, I SHEW YOU A MYSTERY; WE SHALL
NOT ALL SLEEP, BUT WE SHALL ALL BE CHANGED.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:51

PREPARING A PEOPLE FOR THE COMING OF THE LORD

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The Snatching Away

INTRODUCTION

Believers are confused about the purpose of the Ecclesia (Church). There are many reasons for this, and the primary aim of this book is to help the members of the Body get clarification on this matter.

If you are interested in discovering the truth and have an open mind to receive what the Holy Spirit desires to reveal to you, the truth will set you free.

Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.

John 8:32 NIV

But if you do not have a teachable spirit, are rebellious, stubborn and dull of hearing, you must first ask the Holy Spirit to remove the spirit of rebellion.

Rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft, and stubbornness as bad as worshiping idols. So because you have rejected the command of the LORD, he has rejected you as king. 1 Samuel 15:23 NLT

Sincerely ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart and eyes.

For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand

with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.

Matthew 13:15 NKJV

People often blindly follow the teachings of various preachers and constantly change their minds based on the differing opinions of those preachers. Therefore, I do not bring you my opinion, for I am not entitled to any opinion, but I bring you the truth from the Word of God.

I invite you to join me on an exciting journey through the Scriptures to unlock the mystery that the Bible refers to as “**the snatching away**” of the believers. This book is not a complete teaching on the topic, but it has the purpose of laying down a good foundation based on Biblical proof to enlighten your knowledge of **the snatching away** to meet our Messiah in the air, where the marriage ceremony will take place.

THE SNATCHING AWAY

To snatch away means to take, to pull, to pluck, to catch, catch up, catch away, sometimes by force. The Strong’s dictionary refers to the Greek word, “**harpazo**”, which is **NETCHATEF** in Aramaic.

There are many uninformed people, even pastors, who preach that the rapture is not in the Bible. That some Bible Translations did not translate the original documents correctly does not mean the concept is not in the Bible.

G726 (Strong's)

ἁρπάζω

harpazō

har-pad'-zo

From a derivative of G138; to *seize* (in various applications): - catch (away, up), pluck, pull, take (by force).

The use of the English word “**church**” is an incorrect translation, for in Greek it has a completely different meaning, namely “called-out ones”. The original Greek word, meaning “**church**”, appeared only two times in the Bible, referring to “*something that belongs to a god*”.

The word is used in the New Testament seventy-seven times, each time referring to the Greek word “**Ekklesia**”, which **refers to the called-out ones**.

G1577 (Strong's)

ἐκκλησία

ekklēsia

ek-klay-see'-ah

From a compound of G1537 and a derivative of G2564; a *calling out*, that is, (concretely) a popular *meeting*, especially a religious *congregation* (Jewish *synagogue*, or Christian community of members on earth or saints in heaven or both): - assembly, church.

God is calling us out of the religious institutions and world systems. His called-out ones are His government, which will rule and reign with Him. Paul points us to the fact that all who accept Christ Jesus and are baptised into Him, become by faith His offspring, heirs and Abraham's seed, irrespective of ethnicity, culture or belief system.

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:28 KJV

The moment we accept Christ Jesus and are baptised, we are one in Him! We must understand this for the snatching away to make sense.

We need to distinguish between **four prominent groups of people**.

- The Unbelievers / The Unrighteous
- The Nations of Israel.
- The Body of Christ.
- His Bride (His called-out ones).

The Unbelievers: They have never accepted Christ Jesus. The Bible refers to them as the unrighteous and also as goats.

The Nations of Israel: They have not yet accepted the Messiah and are still waiting for Him. They will be misled by the false messiah before they accept the true Messiah at the end of the seven-year Tribulation.

Footnote:

No formal theology includes Israelology. Therefore, we lack the knowledge of God's plan for His chosen nation. This term is a study of Israel as God's Instrument.

The Body of Christ: This group has not been baptised into Christ. Many believe that being sprinkled on the forehead with a few drops of water as a baby means you were baptised into Christ. Baptism should be a baptism of repentance. A baby cannot repent. There is no evidence of the baptism of babies in scripture. ***If you perhaps do not agree with this Biblical view, don't quit reading, but proceed until the light breaks through!***

The Bride of Christ: This group is not equal to the Body of Christ. Just as God created a wife for Adam out of the body of Adam, likewise, He calls a group of people out of the Body of Christ to be His Bride. Adam needed a wife to rule and reign and take dominion on earth. Likewise, the Son of Man requires a Bride to rule and reign on earth. This is the group of people who have grown into spiritual maturity, have been cleansed, purified and set apart for a special use. (For a more detailed explanation on this concept, please listen to the video series on our website, "The End Time Harvest" and the "Second Coming of Christ". www.berashithministry.co.za)

Religion has misled us into believing that the **church** is a building where believers gather to listen to a person who calls himself a pastor (predominantly because of a worldly qualification) and has been given the sole right to speak what the Lord says. He controls, dominates and manipulates "his" people for one hour a week.

In contrast, the Lord intends to establish His government, His ekklesia, to take dominion and rule and reign on earth, and not be a “**church**”.

But religion deceives us and keeps us in bondage in the pews of the church, powerless to demonstrate the Word of God. Jesus demonstrated power throughout His ministry, and His disciples followed His example. But today we are powerless as many denominations do not believe in the working of the Holy Spirit any more.

Surely, there will be a 1 000-year reign when the Messiah will descend from the heavens to establish His Kingdom on earth. He will then rule and reign with His Bride from Jerusalem.

I WILL RETURN!

Then Jesus said, “I am light to the world and those who embrace me will experience life-giving light, and they will never walk in darkness.”

John 8:12 TPT

Jesus confirms the concept of a born-again experience. He describes it as embracing HIM, after which we will experience life-giving light and never again walk in darkness.

“I Am Not from This World”

One day Jesus said again, “I am about to leave you. You will want to find me, but you will still die in your sins. You won’t be able to come where I am going.” John 8:21 TPT

*Jesus spoke up and said, “You are all from the earth; **I am from above.** I am not from this world like you are. ²⁴ That’s why I’ve told you that you will all die in your sins if you fail to believe that I AM who I AM.”*

John 8:23-24 TPT

Jesus was about to leave, and those who had not yet found him would die in their sins. ***Dear reader, we also need to find Jesus so that we will never experience death!***

Jesus is not from this world, but from ABOVE, from a different Kingdom. There is a deep Biblical truth in Jesus’s explanation to Nicodemus that, except a man is **born again**, he cannot **SEE** the Kingdom of God (John 3:3).

We are missing the true meaning of Jesus’s words.

*Except a man be born of **water** and of the **Spirit**, he cannot **ENTER** into the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. John 3:5b-6 KJV*

If you are not born out of water and of the Spirit, you cannot ENTER the Kingdom of God!

You see, God told Moses to come up on the Mount of Sinai. There, He showed him a pattern in heaven and commanded him to build the very same pattern on earth.

They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the

tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain." Hebrews 8:5 NIV

God showed Moses that there were indeed three different places of dwelling in heaven, namely the Outer Courts, the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. **Therefore, my beloved reader, the question is not whether you will go to heaven or not, but where you will dwell once you get there.**

If you are satisfied with the relationship with Jesus that will result in you dwelling in the Outer Courts one day, then let it be so. The outer courts are far from the throne, and you will probably be doing gate service.

There are people longing for more. Let me explain this by using the different relationships Jesus had with specific people.

- First, the **multitudes**. Jesus cared for them, healed them and fed them, but afterwards they all went home.
- Then, Jesus had the **72 disciples** whom he sent out in pairs, but we do not even know any of them by name.
- The third group was the **12 disciples** who walked closely with Him every day. He shared many secrets and mysteries with them.
- Then there were **three disciples** out of the 12, whom Jesus took with Him on special occasions, namely John, Peter and James.
- Out of these three, there was only **ONE BELOVED**, namely John. He was the only disciple who laid his head on the chest of the Messiah.

Where do you fit in? Are you also a beloved disciple, or are you part of the multitudes?

The Scriptures mention two beloved saints, John and Daniel. Both of them received a revelation vision about the end times. God makes known the future to his closest and most beloved friends.

Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets. Amos 3:7 NIV

The point here is that we were born from a corruptible seed, from the dust. We need a born-again experience. We must be born from above (1 Corinthians 15:44) so that we will never experience death (John 8:51).

I speak to you this eternal truth: whoever cherishes my words and keeps them will never experience death. John 8:51 TPT

We need a born-again experience from above to be one with Christ. To enter the Kingdom of Heaven, we need to be baptised into Christ and come out of the water and into the Spirit.

That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. John 3:6 KJV

Many believe that when you confess with your mouth and believe with your heart, you have made it. But that is only the beginning. Many things need to happen before we can enter into the Holy of Holies.

No one could enter the Tabernacle except through the gate. Jesus said, "I am the Gate, the Way and the Truth." Thus, the moment we are born

again, we enter the gates of the Tabernacle. Then, we need to move forward and put to death our flesh before we can participate in the resurrection of Christ. The brazen laver (water bowl) points us to the washing of our souls by the Word of God. Only thereafter can we enter into the Holy Place, where we need to experience the table of show bread and the menorah, the seven lamp stands and the altar of incense, before we can move into the Holy of Holies.

Paul explains that God is transforming us into the Holy of Holies – His dwelling place. That means, saints, there is a process we need to go through while on earth. There was a protocol for God's people to follow before they could enter the Tabernacle, the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. Only priests ready for service could enter the Holy Place. The question is whether we are in the service of the Messiah or working for somebody else. Only the High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies, which indicates that not every priest can simply walk into the Holy of Holies. This is important to understand in order to fully grasp the concept of the snatching away of a group of people.

OUR REST

Jesus explained to his disciples why He was about to leave them.

Don't worry or surrender to your fear. For you've believed in God, now trust and believe in me also. ²My Father's house has many dwelling places. If it were otherwise, I would tell you plainly, because

*I go to prepare a place for you to rest.³ And when everything is ready,
I will come back and take you to myself so that you will be where I am.*

John 14:1-3 TPT

Are you trusting Him to do what He promised? Many will say yes, but do not trust Him unconditionally and are still trying to work out their own lives. Are you trusting Him for your healing, your provision, your deliverance and your joy and peace? If you are still fearful and overwhelmed by daily worries, then you have not yet learnt to fully trust Him.

Jesus says we do not need to worry or allow fear to overtake us. He is preparing a place for us, not on earth but in heaven where His Father's house is.

When that place is ready, He will fetch us so we can REST!

I trust that my First Love, Yashuah HaMashiach, is preparing a place for me at His Father's House and **will return to take me to be with him.**

This is what the “*snatching away*” is about!

As a reminder, it means to take, to pull, to pluck, to catch, catch up, catch away, sometimes by force. It refers to the Greek word “*harpazo*”.

This is profound! He is coming back to fetch us so that we can be with Him to **REST!** Paul warns us that because of unbelief we may miss entering our rest, just as Israel did.

Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, Today if ye will hear his voice,

⁸ *Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of*

*temptation in the wilderness: ⁹ When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. ¹⁰ Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do always err in *their* heart; and they have not known my ways. ¹¹ So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)* Hebrews 3:7-11 KJV

Remember our opening statement. Harden not your heart!

*For this people's **heart is waxed gross**, and their **ears are dull of hearing**, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.*
Matthew 13:15 KJV

Israel hardened their hearts for 40 years in the wilderness and, as a result, did not enter their promised land. They did not believe that they could overcome the giants in Canaan, and their unbelief kept them from entering. The Promised Land, Canaan, was to be their place of REST.

Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief.
Hebrews 4:6 KJV

There remains, therefore, a rest to the people of God. To enter this rest, we need to labour for it, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief (Hebrews 4:9-11).

For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. ¹¹ Let us labour therefore to enter into that

rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

Hebrews 4:10-11 KJV

When we constantly harden our hearts by not believing God's promises, we might reach a point where we will miss our dominion rest. Don't be deceived! Satan is trying his best to hinder you from entering your rest.

It was God's intention for Adam and Eve to stay in their rest in the Garden of Eden. Instead, the old serpent deceived them and, from that day on, we now need to labour to enter our dominion rest.

THE RESURRECTION

The Doctrine of Christ, recorded in Hebrews 6, points us to the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment. The moment we understand these concepts, the veil is lifted and we understand that Christ will return to take us where He is – His Father's house.

*Therefore leaving the principles of the **doctrine of Christ**, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of **repentance from dead works**, and of **faith toward God**, ² of the doctrine of **baptisms**, and of **laying on of hands**, and of **resurrection of the dead**, and of **eternal judgment**.* Hebrews 6:1-2 KJV

When Paul stood trial in front of Felix, he said that he was on trial only because he believed in the resurrection of the dead (Acts 24:21). His hope was not in Felix, who had the power to free him from prison, but in

God, the hope of a resurrection from the dead. Paul was saying, “Felix, you may be able to put my body to death, but my hope is in my God, who will resurrect me from the dead.”

And my hope is in God, the same hope that even my accusers have embraced, the hope of a resurrection from the dead of both the righteous and the unrighteous. Acts 24:15 TPT

Paul quoted Jesus on the resurrection of the dead, both of the righteous and the unrighteous.

*I speak to you eternal truth: **Soon the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who listen will arise with life!** ²⁶ For the Father has given the Son the power to impart life, even as the Father imparts life. ²⁷ The Father has transferred to the Son the authority to judge, because he is the Son of Man. ²⁸ So don't be amazed when I tell you these things, for there is a day coming when all who have ever died will hear my voice **calling them back to life,** ²⁹ and they will come out of their graves! **Those who have done what is good will experience a resurrection to eternal life. And those who have practiced evil will taste the resurrection that brings them to condemnation!***
John 5:25-29 TPT

Jesus indicated that the righteous would be resurrected to eternal life, but the unrighteous to eternal condemnation. Paul received a revelation that Christ had risen from the dead as the first fruit of a great resurrection harvest and that each person (the righteous and the unrighteous) would one day be resurrected, each in his proper order!

But the truth is, Christ is risen from the dead, as the first fruit of a great resurrection harvest of those who have died. ²¹ For since death came through a man, Adam, it is fitting that the resurrection of the dead has also come through a man, Christ. ²² Even as all who are in Adam die, so also all who are in Christ will be made alive. ²³ But each one in his proper order: Christ, the first fruits, then those who belong to Christ in his presence. 1 Corinthians 15:20-23 TPT

Jesus assured His disciples, standing alive before Him, that **they would come alive too.**

Soon I will leave this world and they will see me no longer, but you will see me, because I will live again, and you will come alive too.
John 14:19 TPT

This means, saints, on that day when His voice calls us to be resurrected, not all of us will be dead.

Listen, and I will tell you a divine mystery: not all of us will die, but we will all be transformed. 1 Corinthians 15:51 TPT

Please read Paul's clear explanation in 1 Corinthians 15 (Passion Translation) that the first man (Adam) was from the dust of the earth and the second Man (Lord Jehovah) from the realm of heaven.

The first Adam has a race of people just like him, and the One sent from heaven has a race of heavenly people, which is just like Him. So, there are earthly bodies and heavenly bodies. Flesh and blood cannot inherit

God's Kingdom realm, nor can that which is decaying inherit what is incorruptible.

Not all of us will die, but all will be changed and transformed. This will happen when we slip out of this perishable body into the imperishable to receive our new heavenly bodies.

It will happen in an instant—in the twinkling of his eye. For when the last trumpet is sounded, the dead will come back to life. We will be indestructible and we will be transformed. ⁵³ For we will discard our mortal “clothes” and slip into a body that is imperishable. What is mortal now will be exchanged for immortality. ⁵⁴ And when that which is mortal puts on immortality, and what now decays is exchanged for what will never decay. 1 Corinthians 15:52-54 TPT

THE DIFFERENT HARVESTS

During my search for the truth, I asked the Lord why there was so much confusion about the **rapture** of the church. God gave me the answer:

“The mystery is revealed in the harvest.”

The Scriptures revealed the different harvests, as Paul said, “*Christ has risen as the first fruit of a great resurrection **harvest**. But each one in his proper order*”, meaning not all will be of the same harvest!

*But the truth is, Christ is risen from the dead, as **the first fruit of a great resurrection harvest of those who have died**. ²¹ For since death came*

through a man, Adam, it is fitting that the resurrection of the dead has also come through a man, Christ. ²² Even as all who are in Adam die, so also all who are in Christ will be made alive. ²³ But each one in his proper order: Christ, the first fruits, then those who belong to Christ in his presence. 1 Corinthians 15:20-23 TPT

Listen to the rest of Paul's explanation. Different seeds yield different harvests.

*But when it dies, God gives it a new form, a body to fulfil his purpose, and he sees to it that each **seed gets a new body** of its own and becomes the plant he designed it to be. 1 Corinthians 15:38 TPT*

The Harvest of the Earth

I looked and behold—I saw a white cloud, and sitting upon it was one like the Son of Man, wearing a golden crown and holding a sharp sickle. ¹⁵ Another angel came out of the temple, shouting out to the one sitting upon the cloud, “Take your sickle and reap, for the time of reaping the harvest has come and the harvest of the earth is ripe!” ¹⁶ So the one sitting upon the white cloud gave his sickle a mighty swing over the earth and reaped its harvest. ¹⁷ Then another angel came out of the heavenly temple, and he too had a sharp sickle. ¹⁸ And another angel came out from the altar of incense—the angel with authority over fire. He shouted out with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, saying, “Take now your sharp sickle and harvest the clusters of the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe.” ¹⁹ So the angel gave his sickle a mighty swing over the earth and gathered the grapes from the vine of

the earth and threw them into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

²⁰ And the winepress was trodden outside the city until blood poured out of the winepress as high as the horse's bridle for a distance of one thousand six hundred stadia. Revelation 14:14-20 TPT

By studying the ancient Jewish tradition of harvests, we identify three different harvests.

- The Barley Harvest.
- The Wheat Harvest .
- The Wine Harvest.

The **Barley Harvest** will be those people who came into spiritual maturity first. Barley is harvested by winnowing, which symbolises that this group of called-out ones (the Bride of Christ) will be harvested under the correction of the Ruach HaKodesh.

Wheat, however, requires a more severe method of harvesting because of the hardening of the chaff. Wheat, in ancient Jewish tradition, was harvested after the Barley Harvest by the use of a tribunal, which is where the word tribulation comes from. The wheat is part of the Body of Christ, but they have not yet reached spiritual maturity. This group needs further correction in order to be ready to be harvested later.

The final harvest is the **Wine Harvest**, which is the Nation of Israel. A small remnant, who at first will be misled by the false messiah, will survive the great tribulation, and their eyes will be opened to receive their true Messiah, Yashuah HaMashiach. They are the elect, whom the angels will gather together from the four winds of the earth.

And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. Matthew 24:31 KJV

THE FOUNDATION

Consider the following foundational concepts.

- When you embrace Yashuah HaMashiach, you will experience life-giving light and will never again walk in darkness (John 8:12).
- When you cherish His words and keep them in your heart, you will never experience death (John 8:51).
- For those who embrace Him and cherish His words and keep them, Yashuah is preparing a place in His Father's house.
- He promises to come back to fetch us so that we will forever be with Him to rest.
- That day, when He comes back to fetch us, is the day when His voice will call both the dead in Christ and those who remained alive on earth back to Him.
- Yashuah promised that there would be two resurrections. First, the resurrection of the dead in Christ, who will be resurrected unto eternal life and, second, those who have done evil and who will be resurrected unto eternal damnation.
- As Christ has been resurrected from the dead as the first fruits of a resurrection harvest, likewise, all will one day be resurrected, **but each one in its appropriate order.**

- Therefore, the doctrine of resurrection points us to different seeds that will bring forth different harvests.
- And these harvests will be ready at different seasons and times.

JUDGMENT

According to Hebrews 6, the Doctrine of Christ indicates that eternal judgment always follows resurrection.

This Biblical truth further gives us information to help unveil the mystery of the Second Coming of Christ Jesus, our Messiah – Yashuah HaMashiach.

Judgment follows Resurrection

It is a Biblical principle that God never judges the righteous together with the unrighteous. To mention only one example, the angels could not destroy Sodom and Gomorrah unless Lot and his family were removed.

“Hurry and take refuge there, for I cannot do anything [to punish Sodom] until you arrive there.” For this reason the town was named Zoar (few, small). Genesis 19:22 AMP

This is a Biblical principle, and the Lord will never violate His word. God cannot break his word, and because **his word cannot change**, the promise is likewise unchangeable (Hebrews 6:18 KJV).

My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips. Psalms 89:34 KJV

If God should ever violate His word, the whole universe would be destroyed. This is powerful, as Yehôvâh Elohim upholds the universe by the power of His word.

...upholding all things by the word of his power. Hebrews 1:3 KJV

If we truly believe this, we can rest assured, because the Lord will never break His promise to return for us, and He will never judge the righteous along with the unbelievers (the unrighteous).

Understanding the different resurrections and judgments helps us better understand the “snatching away” of the called-out ones.

The Likeness of His Resurrection

*For since we are permanently grafted into him to experience a death like his, then we are permanently grafted into him to **experience a resurrection like his and the new life that it imparts.*** Romans 6:5 TPT

No surprise that Paul said, “*I may know him and the power of his resurrection*” (Philippians 3:10 KJV).

Christ’s resurrection is the resurrection of the called out ones!
Colossians 3:1 TPT

THE BEMA SEAT

All the **righteous** will one day appear before the judgment seat of Christ. This is the “**Bema Seat**” in Greek.

*For we must all appear before the **judgment seat** {G968 - Bema} of Christ; that every one **may receive the things done in his body**, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

2 Corinthians 5:10 KJV

G968 (Strong's)

βῆμα

bēma

bay'-ma

From the base of G939; a *step*, that is, *foot breadth*; by implication a *rostrum*, that is, *tribunal*:- judgment-seat, set [foot] on, throne.

The Bema Seat is a platform of reward and not of judgment or punishment. Remember, Jesus said that those who died in Christ (***per implication also those who are still alive in Christ, permanently grafted into Him***) will be resurrected first unto eternal life. Immediately after this first resurrection, judgment will follow. This is the Bema Seat judgment, where all the righteous will receive their rewards. 2 Corinthians 5:10 is clear that we will be recompensed for our actions done, whether good or bad.

Recompense means the following:

- Indemnify, repay, reimburse, pay money to, make reparation to, make restitution to, make amends to.
- *She wanted to recompense him in some way.* Reward, pay, pay back; *archaic* guerdon.
- *She still hasn't received much to recompense her loss.* Make up for, compensate for, make amends for, make restitution for, make reparation for, redress, make good, satisfy.

Also, we see that this judgment will take place in front of the throne.

*For one day we will all be openly revealed **before Christ** on his throne so that each of us will be duly recompensed for our actions done in life, whether good or worthless. 2 Corinthians 5:10 TPT*

PASSING THE TEST

Before we can participate in this first resurrection, we must pass the test.

I am in sorrow over the Body of Christ because many believe that we need a born-again experience only. But our born-again experience is merely the starting point for a new life in Christ Jesus. Jesus explained to Nicodemus that a born-again experience is needed to **see** the Kingdom of God. After this, we need to be baptised into Christ. When we come out of the water, we **enter** the Kingdom of God. Then, we must move through cleansing and purification to become whole and holy to **inherit** the Kingdom of God.

Many Christians are still captive in sexual immorality or drunkenness. They still hate their brothers and sisters in Christ.

Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him. 1 John 3:15 NIV

Such people will **not** inherit the Kingdom of God.

*Know ye not that the **unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?** Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind.
¹⁰ Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.
1 Corinthians 6:9-10 KJV*

You can be sure that no-one who is **sexually immoral** or impure, or who is covetous (an idolater), has any inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and God (Galatians 5:19-21).

*But outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the fornicators and the murderers and the idolaters and whosoever loves and makes a lie.
Revelation 22:15 JUB*

Now that we are completely convinced that the righteous will inherit the Kingdom, the next question arises. "How do the righteous qualify for inheriting the Kingdom?"

*We feel a personal responsibility to continually be thanking God for you, our spiritual family, every time we pray. And we have every reason to do so because **your faith is growing** marvelously beyond measure.*

The unselfish love each of you share for one another is increasing and overflowing! ⁴ We point to you as an example of unwavering faith for all the churches of God. We boast about how you continue to demonstrate unflinching endurance through all the persecutions and painful trials you are experiencing. 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4 TPT

Are you part of a spiritual family, a “**mispoca**”, which means an “entire family network of relatives by blood or marriage and sometimes close friends”?

Is your faith growing beyond measure? Is the unselfish love you share for one another growing? Or are you living in daily conflict with everybody around you?

Do you demonstrate unflinching endurance, meaning that you do not show fear or hesitation in the face of dangers or difficulty when going through persecutions and painful trials? Or are you complaining about your difficulties?

If you can answer “**yes**” to the positive questions above, Paul says it will make you worthy to inherit the Kingdom of God!

All of this prove that God’s judgment is always perfect and is intended to make you worthy of inheriting the kingdom of God, which is why you are going through these troubles. 2 Thessalonians 1:5 TPT

All trials and persecutions are a test for every believer to overcome, not only to be set apart from the rest, but to receive the qualification for participating in the first resurrection. When we endure to the end, we will

receive the **victor's crown**. Our reward is waiting for us in the heavens, but we **MUST** first pass the test.

My fellow believers, when it seems as though you are facing nothing but difficulties, see it as an invaluable opportunity to experience the greatest joy that you can! ³ For you know that when your faith is tested it stirs up power within you to endure all things. ⁴ And then as your endurance grows even stronger it will release perfection into every part of your being until there is nothing missing and nothing lacking.
James 1:2-4 TPT

If your faith remains strong, even while surrounded by life's difficulties, you will continue to experience the untold blessings of God! True happiness comes as you pass the test with faith and receive the victorious crown of life promised to every lover of God!
James 1:12 TPT

*Isn't it obvious that all runners on the racetrack keep on running to win, but only one receives the **victor's prize**? Yet each one of you must run the race to be victorious. ²⁵ A true athlete will be disciplined in every respect, practicing constant self-control in order to win a laurel wreath that quickly withers. But we run our race to win a victor's crown that will last forever. ²⁶ For that reason, I don't run just for exercise or box like one throwing aimless punches, ²⁷ but I train like a champion athlete. I subdue my body and get it under my control, so that after preaching the good news to others I myself won't be **disqualified**.*
1 Corinthians 9:24-27 TPT

Both Paul and James point us to the **victor's prize**. There is a crown in heaven waiting for us when we endure to the end, remain faithful and pass the test. Paul was very concerned that he himself might be disqualified. He was not concerned with losing his salvation, but with being disqualified from receiving his reward, his crown.

As already mentioned, Paul encourages us to learn from Israel's failures.

Learning from Israel's Failures

My dear fellow believers, you need to understand that all of our Jewish ancestors who walked through a wilderness long ago were under the glory cloud and passed through the waters of the sea on both sides. ² They were all baptized into the cloud of glory, into the fellowship of Moses, and into the sea. ³ They all ate the same heavenly manna ⁴ and drank water from the same spiritual rock that traveled with them—and that Rock was Christ himself. ⁵ Yet God was not pleased with most of them, and their dead bodies were scattered around the wilderness. ⁶ Now, all these things serve as types and pictures for us—lessons that teach us not to fail in the same way by callously craving worthless things ⁷ and practicing idolatry, as some of them did. For it is written: The people settled into their unrestrained revelry, with feasting and drinking, then they rose up and became wildly out of control! ⁸ Neither should we commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, which caused the death of twenty-three thousand on a single day. ⁹ Nor should we ever provoke the Lord, as some of them did by putting him to outrageous tests that resulted in their death from snakebites day after day. ¹⁰ And we must not embrace their ways by complaining—

grumbling with discontent, as many of them did, and were killed by the destroyer! ¹¹ All the tests they endured on their way through the wilderness are a symbolic picture, an example that provides us with a warning so that we can learn through what they experienced. For we live in a time when the purpose of all the ages past is now completing its goal within us. ¹² So beware if you think it could never happen to you, lest your pride becomes your downfall. 1 Corinthians 10:1-12 TPT

Jude also warns us.

I need to remind you, even though you are familiar with it all, that the Lord Jesus saved his people out of Egypt but subsequently destroyed those who were guilty of unbelief. ⁶ In the same way, there were heavenly messengers in rebellion who went outside their rightful domain of authority and abandoned their appointed realms. God bound them in everlasting chains and is keeping them in the dark abyss of the netherworld until the judgment of the great day. ⁷ In a similar way, the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and nearby towns gave themselves to sexual immorality and the unnatural desire of different flesh. Now they all serve as examples of those who experience the punishment of eternal fire. Jude 1:5-7 TPT

These people insult anything they don't understand. They behave like irrational beasts by doing whatever they feel like doing. Because they live by their animal instincts, they corrupt themselves and bring about their own destruction. ¹¹ How terrible it is for them! For they have followed in the steps of Cain. They have abandoned themselves to Balaam's error because of their greedy pursuit of financial gain. And

since they have rebelled like Korah rebelled, they will experience the same fate of Korah and likewise perish. Jude 1:10-11 TPT

The story of Korah is documented in the Book of Numbers. Numbers 16:1-40 indicates that Korah rebelled against Moses, along with 249 co-conspirators. As punishment for their rebellion, God sent fire from heaven to consume all 250 of them. Korah's Reubenite accomplices, Dathan and Abiram, were also punished when God caused the ground to split open beneath their feet, swallowing them, their families, everyone associated with Korah, and all their possessions. Furthermore, the Israelites who did not like what had happened to Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and their families, objected to Moses, and God commanded Moses to depart from the multitude. God then smote 14 700 men with a plague as a punishment for objecting to Korah's destruction (Numbers 16:41).

Remember Hebrews 3 and 4, where the Israelites served as an example for us. They did not enter their Promised Land because of the hardening of their hearts, because of unbelief and rebellion.

COUNTED WORTHY

The Lord said we must pray to be counted worthy. Part of the test is to wait patiently for the soon return of our Lord Jesus Christ the Messiah.

Meanwhile, brothers and sisters, we must be patient and filled with expectation as we wait for the appearing of the Lord. Think about the farmer who has to patiently wait for the earth's harvest as it ripens

because of the early and latter rains.⁸ So you also keep your hopes high and be patient, for the presence of the Lord is drawing closer.

James 5:7-8 TPT

The Sadducees were a religious group that denied the resurrection of the dead. In Luke 20, they asked Jesus about a woman who had seven husbands, who had all died. They wanted to know who she would be married to in heaven. Jesus explained that those worthy of the resurrection from the dead into glory would become immortal, just like the angels in heaven.

Jesus replied, “Marriage is for the sons of this world only.³⁵⁻³⁶ But those who are worthy of the resurrection from the dead into glory become immortal, like the angels, who never die nor marry. When the dead come to life again, they will be sons of God’s life—the sons of the resurrection.³⁷ In fact, it was Moses who taught the resurrection of the dead when he wrote of the Lord God who was at the burning bush and described him as ‘the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.’³⁸ Don’t you agree that God is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living? For in his eyes, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are alive forevermore. He must be the God who raises the dead.” Luke 20:34-38 TPT

According to 2 Thessalonians 1, we are worthy of inheriting the Kingdom of God once we have persevered and endured to the very end. Combining the words of Jesus with this principle, we can indeed believe that there remains a rest and a victorious crown for those whose faith grows marvelously beyond measure, who share an unselfish love for others, who stand with an unwavering faith and demonstrate unflinching endurance

through all persecutions and painful trials. We should realise that our faith is being tested and we must choose to remain strong even while surrounded by life's difficulties. We must believe and expect that there remains a rest for us and that we will receive the victorious crown. Run the race to win! Run the race to win a victor's crown that will last forever!

**Those who never give up, whose hearts never grow cold
and who never reject the love of the truth, will be worthy
of the resurrection of the dead.**

Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man (at the Bema Seat Judgment) Luke 21:36 KJV
(Emphasis is mine)

*Be careful that you never allow your hearts to grow cold. Remain passionate and free from anxiety and the worries of this life. Then you will not be caught off guard by what happens. Don't let me come and find you drunk or careless in living like everyone else. ³⁵ For that day will come as a shocking surprise to all, like a downpour that drenches everyone, catching many unaware and un-prepared. ³⁶ **Keep a constant watch over your soul,** and pray for the courage and grace to prevail over these things that are destined to occur and that you will stand before the presence of the Son of Man with a clear conscience.*
Luke 21:34-36 TPT

PURIFICATION

The resurrection is about our transformation. We will be changed from mortal to immortal when we slip out of these earthly bodies to receive our new glorified bodies.

*Dear friends, we are now God's children, **but what we will be like has not been revealed yet.** We know that when the Messiah is revealed, **we will be like him**, because we will see him as he is. 1 John 3:2 ISV*

Not all of us will die, **but all will be transformed** and changed (1 Corinthians 15:51). It is not yet revealed what we will be like when we change, but one thing is clear – we will be like the Messiah (1 John 3:2). Amazing!

It will happen in an instant—in the twinkling of his eye. For when the last trumpet is sounded, the dead will come back to life. We will be indestructible and we will be transformed. ⁵³For we will discard our mortal “clothes” and slip into a body that is imperishable. What is mortal now will be exchanged for immortality. ⁵⁴And when that which is mortal puts on immortality, and what now decays is exchanged for what will never decay, then the Scripture will be fulfilled that says: Death is swallowed up by a triumphant victory! ⁵⁵So death, tell me, where is your victory? Tell me death, where is your sting?
1 Corinthians 15:52-55 TPT

We will overcome the last enemy – death! In the twinkling of an eye, we will be like Jesus! We will receive our glorified bodies when we meet Him in the air.

*And all who focus their hope on him will always be **purifying themselves**, just as Jesus is pure. 1 John 3:3 TPT*

Throughout the Bible, God commands us to be **pure**, for He is pure. Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God (2 Corinthians 7:1). My dear friend, Jesus gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and **purify** unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works (Titus 2:14).

From the above scriptures, it is clear that the righteous will appear before the throne in heaven for the Bema Seat Judgment. This judgment will be a **platform of reward**. The righteous will receive their reward, **whether it is good or bad**.

WHEN WILL THE BEMA SEAT JUDGMENT HAPPEN?

In answer to this question, let us study the four other judgments in the Bible. Once we know when they will happen, we will also find the answer to when the Bema Seat Judgment will take place.

1. JUDGMENT OF THE EARTH

Enoch, the seventh descendant of Adam, saw the righteous in heaven before the throne in front of the Bema Seat Judgment, receiving their rewards. He also saw the judgment of the unrighteous.

Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, ¹⁵ To execute judgment upon all and to convict each one of them for their ungodly deeds and for all the terrible words that ungodly sinners have spoken against him. Jude 1:14b-15 KJV

This verse indicates judgment of the ungodly deeds. This is the judgment of the earth.

- John saw thrones, and those sitting on them were given judgment (Revelation 20:4).
- This is the **Barley Harvest**, which will be part of the **snatching away**. Those who will be alive during the resurrection of the dead will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Messiah for the marriage ceremony.
- John also saw the souls of those who were **beheaded** because they witnessed of Jesus. They are part of the **Wheat Harvest**. They had not worshipped the beast, nor his image, nor had received his mark upon their foreheads or in their hands, and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.
- Both groups will be part of the thousands of saints descending with Christ to rule and reign during the **Millennium Reign**.

Listen to what Jude says about the people on earth who will be judged.

These people are always complaining and never satisfied—finding fault with everyone. They follow their own evil desires and their mouths speak scandalous things. They enjoy using seductive flattery to manipulate others. Jude 1:16 TPT

Satan bound for a thousand years

Revelation 20 shows the judgment of the earth. Remember, at this stage, satan would have been thrown down onto the earth.

And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. Revelation 12:13 KJV

John saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand to lay hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the devil, satan himself, and bound him a thousand years (Revelation 20:1-2).

John is clear that the rest of the dead, referring to the unrighteous, lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the second resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that had a part in the FIRST resurrection; on such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. (Revelation 20:5-6).

Satan will be released after the thousand years to deceive the nations again. That will be the final Gog and Magog battle, and he will finally be destroyed, after which he will be thrown into the lake of fire for eternity.

2. THE ANTICHRIST AND THE FALSE PROPHET

The antichrist and the false prophet will also be taken directly into the lake of fire after the seven-year Tribulation (Revelation 20:10).

3. SHEEP AND GOATS

Immediately after the Tribulation, the Son of man will appear in the heavens. During a private meeting on the Mount of Olives, Jesus explained to four of his disciples, John, Peter, James and Andrew (Mark 13) what the sign for this coming of the Son of Man would be.

*Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: ³⁰ And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ **And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.** Matthew 24:29-31 KJV*

The angels will gather together his elect, which is Israel, from the four winds, and He shall separate the nations just as a shepherd would divide sheep from the goats. The goats (the unrighteous) will go directly into the lake of fire.

And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: ³³ And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. Matthew 25:32-34 KJV

Serving our brothers and sisters is a very serious matter and will greatly determine whether we will be gathered with the sheep or with the goats.

Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: ⁴ For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: ⁴³ I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. ⁴⁴ Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? ⁴⁵ Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. ⁴⁶ And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal. Matthew 25:41-46 KJV

But unto the sheep on his right, Jesus said:

*Come, ye blessed of my Father, **inherit the kingdom** prepared for you from the foundation of the world. Matthew 25:34b KJV*

4. THE GREAT WHITE THRONE

There remains another resurrection and final judgment at the end of the thousand-year reign. This is what Revelation refers to as the Great White Throne Judgment.

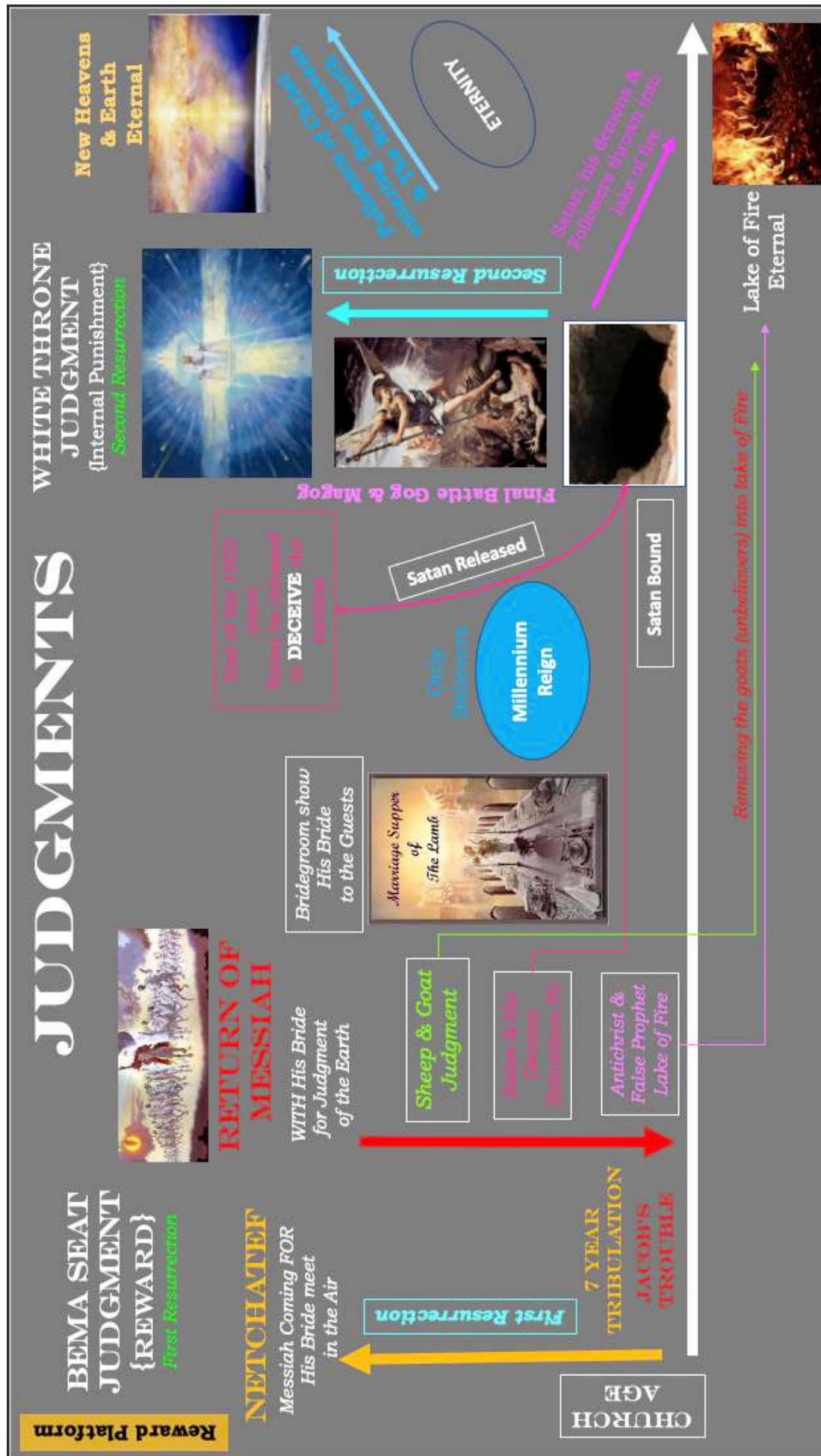
*And I saw a **great white throne**, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which **is the book of life**: and the **dead were judged** out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. ¹⁴ **And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.** ¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:11-15 KJV*

The White Throne Judgment is for judging the dead. These are the unrighteous who never received the Messiah as their Saviour. It also refers to the second death, which implies that this is a second resurrection.

***But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.** This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. Revelation 20:5-6 KJV*

This judgment will clearly take place at the end of the Millennium Reign.

- The White Throne Judgment is for the unrighteous.
- Revelation 20:14 mentions this as the second death, meaning that this judgment is the final judgment for the wicked, and they are all destined for the lake of fire.
- Henceforth, blessed and holy are those who participate in the first resurrection.
- Those who are worthy of the first resurrection will not be influenced by the second death. It will have no power over them. They have already overcome the last enemy! *“Death, where is your sting?”*



Let us pause for a moment to recap and remind ourselves of the following.

A New Race

The Good News which the apostles preached and recorded for us in the New Testament, is the message of the Messiah who was crucified, buried and resurrected. These actions paid in full the price for the human race, which was born in sin because of Adam and Eve's disobedience in the Garden of Eden. Because of their disobedience, all of humanity is born from the dust with a sin nature. The first Adam is the father of a race just like him.

Christ, the second Adam, was born from an incorruptible seed, from a virgin, and He never saw decay. He was the first to be born from above. This explains why we need to be born again if we want to share in His likeness. If we are not born again, this time from an incorruptible seed, we will stay in our old nature, which is in the likeness of Adam's sinful nature.

As the first Adam has a race like him, likewise, the second Adam. This race is born from above and permanently grafted into Christ. The Scriptures are clear that you are born from above only after you come out of water and are baptised in the Holy Spirit. This is very important to understand, because we need to distinguish between the different groups of people the Bible talks about.

Many scriptures are meant for the wicked and unsaved, and should the righteous interpret these scriptures as if written for the righteous, they may walk in condemnation. Similarly, if scriptures that are exclusively written for Israel are being interpreted as if for the called-out ones, we may end up being deceived and confused.

Raised from the Dead

Our true Messiah, Yashuah HaMashiach, was raised from the dead. If we are permanently grafted into Him, we will share in His resurrection. Christ's resurrection is our resurrection too (Colossians 3:1).

Christ is the First Fruits of a great resurrection harvest. We therefore need to understand the harvest pattern that the ancient Jewish people followed in the Old Testament. The principle of the first fruits is that the rest of the harvest is redeemed. This is profound, and we must understand this concept to fully embrace the **snatching away** of the called-out ones.

Christ being the first fruits of the resurrection harvest means that those who are permanently grafted into Him will also be resurrected. But each according to its own order (1 Corinthians 15:23). This confirms there are indeed more than one harvest.

John mentioned these different harvests in Revelation 14.

- The Barley Harvest, by winnowing.
- The Wheat Harvest, by a tribunal.
- The Wine Harvest, by the wine press.

Scriptures on the harvests are meant for the righteous - those who will eventually be harvested, each according to its own order. The **Barley Harvest** are those in early spiritual maturity who will be snatched away before the tribulation. (*This will be discussed in the next section.*)

The **Wheat Harvest** are those who still need further correction, and they will go through the tribulation for at least three and a half years. These are the saints who did not worship the beast, nor took the mark of the beast. They are the beheaded saints John saw before the throne in heaven (Revelation 20:4).

Clearly, we find two main groups of people in the heavens: those sitting on the throne (Barley Harvest saints) and the beheaded saints standing before the throne (Wheat Harvest).

No flesh and blood can inherit the Kingdom of God, and we will all be transformed (changed) to receive glorified bodies. The purpose of the resurrection, therefore, is to be transformed, to receive our glorified bodies and to stand on the platform of reward, the Bema Seat, to receive rewards for our deeds, whether good or bad.

It is only in the middle of the Tribulation that satan will be cast down onto the earth (Revelation 12:13) to persecute the woman. The woman is the Nation of Israel, who will be deceived by the antichrist, pretending to be the Messiah. They will go through the winepress, and at the end of the seven-year Tribulation, they will accept the Messiah.

Romans 11 will then come into fulfilment when Christ grafts back the original branches into the Olive Tree. Then there will be only one nation with one King. Gentiles and Jews will be one.

Judgment

Judgment follows resurrection. The first resurrected saints, following the first fruits, will appear in front of the Bema Seat Judgment to receive their rewards. Both the Barley and the Wheat Harvests will appear before the Bema Seat.

After the seven-year Tribulation, the Messiah will return with His Bride to judge the earth and to rule and reign for a thousand years. Satan and his demons will be bound in the bottomless pit.

The false prophet and the antichrist will go directly into the lake of fire. Then, the nations will be separated.

The goats will be on the left of the Messiah. They are the unrighteous and will also go into the lake of fire.

The sheep will stand on His right. They are the righteous who will inherit the Kingdom of God. Predominantly, they will be the Nation of Israel, a small remnant which will still marry, have children and die during the Millennium Reign.

The Mount Olives Private Meeting

Having laid down this foundation, we can now return to the question when all of this will take place. The four disciples, in a private meeting with Jesus on the Mount of Olives, asked Him this question. As a matter of fact, this was a question often asked by His disciples when they were gathered together.

Every time they were gathered together, they asked Jesus, "Lord, is it the time now for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?"

Acts 1:6 TPT

They expected the Messiah to free Israel from the Romans and restore His Kingdom on earth.

And as he sat upon the mount of Olives over against the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴ Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled? Mark 13:3-4 KJV

They wanted to know when the end of this age would be and what the sign of His coming would be. Jesus gave a detailed answer in Matthew 24, explaining everything to the four disciples.

Take note that a specific English or Afrikaans word in the Bible may not express the original meaning in Greek or Aramaic.

The “**end of the world**” in Matthew 24:3 is “*aiōn*” in Greek, and it shows the end of a dispensation, a period. Thus, this is NOT the end of the

WORLD as many wrongly believe. The end of the world, when all will be burning with brimstone and fire, will only occur at the end of the 1,000-year Millennium Reign, as Peter describes. Only then will a new heaven and a new earth be created for us.

G165 (Strong's)

αἰών

aiōn

ahee-ohn'

From the same as G104; properly an *age*; by extension *perpetuity* (also past); by implication the *world*; specifically (Jewish) a Messianic period (present or future): - age, course, eternal, (for) ever (-more), [n-]ever, (beginning of the, while the) world (began, without end). Compare G5550.

I highly recommend that you listen to a complete teaching on this subject on the website

www.berashithministry.co.za

under the Video Menu. It starts with the End Time Harvest series and continues with the Second Coming of Christ. This will give you an in-depth insight into this topic.

Don't miss Rick Renner's profound Biblical explanation of Matthew 24 in these teachings. He explains the true Biblical meaning of Matthew 24 in the original Greek.

Not only did Jesus give them this sign, but He also gave them many other signs. These signs are not the end yet, but they are birth pains as we

reach the end of this age. Throughout the Bible, we find various dispensations that God took humanity through to steward the earth according to specific rules and regulations. (For more information on this topic, please download my book from the website under the Product Menu: "Dispensation".)

When Jesus was crucified on the cross, the new dispensation of grace started. The question was when it would end.

THE SIGNS

Deception

Take heed that no man deceive you. Matthew 24:4b KJV

As we near the end of this dispensation, deception will be at such a level that many will be confused.

Wars

And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars. Matthew 24:6 KJV

Notice that Jesus says we will be overwhelmed by **rumours** of wars.

Famine, Pestilences and Earthquakes

For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. Matthew 24:7 KJV

Today, with the coronavirus active on planet Earth, this verse has a new meaning for us.

The Lord foretold in Deuteronomy 28:1-14 that we would receive a blessed life when we obey his instructions. Deuteronomy 28:15-68 indicates that curses will follow if we do not obey his instructions.

The approval of abortions and same sex marriages is an abomination in the eyes of our Lord. Thus, plagues not even mentioned in the Bible will come upon the earth.

Also every sickness, and every plague, which is not written in the book of this law, them will the LORD bring upon thee, until thou be destroyed. Deuteronomy 28:61 KJV

Berashith Ministry specialises in the spiritual roots of sicknesses and diseases in people's lives. There are roots for most diseases. The only way to deal with plagues, sicknesses and pestilences is to return to our First Love.

Worldwide Persecution

Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. Matthew 24:9 KJV

Over the past 2 000 years, many saints were put to death because of their faith in Christ Jesus.

From now on, let no one bring me trouble or criticism, for I am carrying the very scars of our Lord Jesus in my body.

Galatians 6:17 TPT

The world hates Christianity. Freedom of speech and religion is a privilege rendered to the world. For Christians, it is slowly passing away, and before long, we will be told who and what to worship.

Love shall wax cold

And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. ¹¹ And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. ¹² And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. Matthew 24:10-12 KJV

Sadly, there are false prophets in the Body of Christ. Even family members will betray and hate one another. Love shall wax cold, which we are already seeing. Each one lives only for himself and does not care for the needs of his brother.

He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Matthew 24:13 KJV

Only those who endure will inherit the Kingdom of God. That is why Paul says in 1 Corinthians 9:27 that he may be disqualified. Let me encourage you to endure to the end! Our precious reward is waiting for us in heaven, and we will be compensated for all our trials and persecutions!

Do you have scars, like Paul, as proof of your trials and persecution?

Preaching of the Gospel to all nations

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

Matthew 24:14 KJV

The mentioned signs are like billboards on the side of the road indicating the distance from your destination. But finally, when you see THIS sign, this age will end – **when the gospel has been preached to all nations.**

With modern technology and social media, everyone who chooses to, can have access to the Gospel. We are indeed at the end of this age.

Interestingly enough, Jesus did not stop here. This confirms it is not the end of the world as many wrongly believe. It is only the end of this dispensation of the church. Jesus gave his four disciples even deeper insight by referring to Daniel.

When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand: ¹⁶ Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains

Matthew 24:15-16 KJV

THE DANIEL 9 PROPHECY

As knowledge increases (Daniel 12:4), the Daniel 9 prophecy becomes clearer. I believe this prophecy has many angles and, therefore, can mean many things. Since I highlighted only the main issues from Matthew

24, I will add a summary of the Daniel 9 prophecy, which Jesus Himself referred to on the Mount of Olives.

Daniel spoke of a seventy-week prophecy. We will use the Jubilee Bible Translation, as it is translated into a more understandable English, in comparison to the original King James Version.

The Seventy Weeks

Seventy weeks are determined [Heb. Cut] upon thy people and upon thy holy city to finish the prevarication and to conclude the sin and to make reconciliation for iniquity and to bring in everlasting righteousness and seal the vision and the prophecy, and to anoint the Holy of Holies.

²⁵ *Know therefore and understand that from the going forth of the word to cause the people to return and to build Jerusalem unto the Anointed [Heb. Messiah] Prince, there shall be seven weeks, and sixty-two weeks, while the street shall be built again and the wall, even in troublous times. ²⁶ And after the sixty-two weeks the Anointed One [Heb. Messiah] shall be killed and shall have nothing: (and the ruling people that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; whose end shall be as a flood, until at the end of the war it shall be cut off with desolation). ²⁷ In one week (they are now seventy) he shall confirm the covenant by many: and at the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and because of the many abominations, desolation shall come, even until complete destruction shall be poured out upon the abominable people. Daniel 9:24-27 JUB*

In Matthew 24, Jesus refers to the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel. For many years, I found these words difficult to understand. I believe most of the readers have the same experience. So, let us determine the meaning of the “abomination of desolation” by comparing a few versions.

*When therefore ye see the **abomination of desolation**, which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let him that readeth understand). Matthew 24:15 ASV*

*You will see '**The Awful Horror**' of which the prophet Daniel spoke. It will be standing in the holy place. (Note to the reader: understand what this means!) Matthew 24:15 GNB*

*So when you see the **destructive desecration**, mentioned by the prophet Daniel, standing in the Holy Place (let the reader take note), Matthew 24:15 ISV*

*When you witness what Daniel prophesied, '**the disgusting destroyer**,' taking its stand in the Holy Place [let the reader learn], Matthew 24:15 TPT*

From these translations, the abomination of desolation refers to something destructive and disgusting. The key passages in Daniel, which mention the term “abomination of desolation”, are Daniel 9:27, Daniel 11:31 and Daniel 12:11. It is a technical term, so it has a precise and consistent meaning in all three passages. The phrase refers to an act of abomination, something unclean that enters, in this case, the Temple.

And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator. Daniel 9:27 ESV

Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress, and shall take away the regular burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate. Daniel 11:31 ESV

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. Daniel 12:11 ESV

In the Strong's Dictionary, the word "abomination" refers to idolatry. This brings new insight to the Daniel 9 prophecy.

Abomination

G946 (Strong's)

βδέλυγμα

bdelugma

bdel'-oog-mah

From G948; a *detestation*, that is, (specifically) *idolatry*: - abomination.

Let us investigate the meaning of **abomination**.

- An abomination is normally a great sin, commonly worthy of death. Those readers immersed in current debates about sexual ethics may at first think of an abomination as a sexual sin.

- Indeed, The Scriptures call sexual sins like adultery, homosexuality, and bestiality, abominations (e.g., Leviticus 18:22, 29-30).
- But more often, throughout the Bible, “abomination” refers to major covenant violations, especially idolatry (in Deuteronomy alone, see 7:25; 13:6-16; 17:2-5; 18:9-12; 27:15; 32:16).
- In the historical books, “abomination” always describes idolatry, often with child sacrifice (1 Kings 11:7; 2 Kings 23:13).
- Abomination also refers to idolatry in the books of the prophets, including Daniel 9 and 11 (Daniel uses “*siqqus*”, a term that always appears in connection with idolatry).
- In the Old Testament, the word translated “abomination” is “*shiqquwts*”. The Hebrew root for abomination is “*shaqats*”, [which means] ‘to be filthy,’ ‘to loath,’ ‘to abhor’” (“Abomination of Desolation,” International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia).
- It is most often used to describe idolatrous worship practices, especially those most offensive to a sense of decency and morality.
- The New Testament equivalent is “*bdelygma*”, which means “a foul thing (loathsome on account of its stench), a detestable thing” (Thayer’s Greek Lexicon).

We can conclude that an abomination is **something abhorrent and detestable to God and His people.**

Desolation
G2050 (Strong’s)
ἐρήμωσις
erēmōsis

er-ay'-mo-sis

From G2049; *despoliation*: - desolation.

Now, let us get a clear understanding of **desolation**.

- In the Old Testament, the word translated “desolation” (or “that which makes desolate”) is “**shamem**”, and it means “to destroy, lay waste, devastate; to be astonished”. It is something so horrible that it can leave a person speechless (The Complete Word Study Old Testament, p. 2376).
- In the New Testament, the word is “**erēmōsis**” and essentially means the same thing, “a making desolate” (Thayer’s Greek Lexicon).

Thus, biblically, desolation involves **destroying, desecrating and leaving something in such a horrible condition** that an onlooker will be left speechless.

When we put these two terms together, we learn that Daniel and Jesus were describing a foul and abhorrent thing that will horribly desecrate and devastate an area within the city of Jerusalem. Jesus described this thing as “standing in the holy place”. So this refers to a detestable thing that will be erected, or established, at the holy place (the place where priestly sacrifices were, and will be, carried out).

But what exactly does the abomination of desolation refer to?

- When we study this topic, we see that the phrase doesn’t refer to one singular event but to multiple events.

- Biblical prophecies sometimes have more than one fulfilment: a partial fulfilment and a final fulfilment.
- This is sometimes called prophetic duality.
- The abomination of desolation has three fulfilments—two in the past and one in the future.

THE FIRST FULFILMENT

The first fulfilment of the Daniel 9 Prophecy occurred in 168/167 BC during the rule of the eighth Seleucid king, Antiochus IV. He was better known in history as Antiochus Epiphanes (Greek for “manifestation of god”). We find this in Daniel 11:31, stating that armed forces will arise from his midst, and they'll desecrate the fortified Sanctuary, abolish the daily sacrifice, and establish the destructive desecration. It is also well documented in the apocryphal books Maccabees 1 and 2.

Antiochus oppressed the Jewish people in several ways.

- In 167 BC, he erected an altar to the Greek god, Zeus, in the middle of the Israelite Temple and sacrificed a pig. Both items were strictly forbidden in Jewish law.
- He regarded himself as Zeus, a manifestation of a god, and thus wanted Israel to worship him, foreshadowing that the antichrist will force everyone to worship a false god.
- He outlawed circumcision under penalty of death and forced the Jews to sacrifice to the Greek gods.

- He killed a great many of the Jews and sold many into slavery when they protested against his abomination of desolation.

All this partly fulfilled Daniel's prophecy. These acts were loathsome, abhorrent and detestable to the Jewish people and were the first fulfilment of the abomination of desolation.

THE SECOND FULFILMENT

A second fulfilment of the abomination of desolation occurred in AD 70, when Roman armies under Titus sacked the city of Jerusalem.

But he told them, "You see all these things, don't you? I tell you with certainty, there isn't a single stone here that will be left standing on top of another. They will all be torn down. Matthew 24:2 ISV

In the process, Titus' forces destroyed the Temple building and altar. It has not been rebuilt to this day. Luke 21:20 identifies Jerusalem as being "surrounded by armies" before its desolation in AD 70.

This event also appears to be the forerunner of a similar event that will happen shortly, before the return of Christ.

To keep it short, Daniel referred to 69 weeks before the Messiah would be cut off. "Cut off" means to be put to death. Adding 69 weeks to 445 BC, when the commandment was given by Artaxerxes to restore the walls of Jerusalem in Nehemiah, was exactly the date that Jesus rode into

Jerusalem on a donkey on the day of His crucifixion. The mathematical calculation is done as follows:

When we multiply 69 prophetic weeks by 7, for prophetic years, times 360 days in the Jewish Calendar, we get 173 880 days. According to Bible Scholars, Artaxerxes gave the decree to restore Jerusalem on March 14, 445 BC and adding these 173 880 days, we come to April 6, 32 AD – the day of the crucifixion.

Take Note

There are various opinions and calculations for the crucifixion date of Christ. I do not claim at all that 32 AD is the date of crucifixion, as our timeline is so distorted that it makes it impossible to calculate any date with 100% certainty.

There were three other decrees also made. **Cyrus** made a decree in 537 BC in Ezra 1. Another was made by **Darius** in Ezra 6, and a third by **Artaxerxes** in 458 BC in Ezra 7. These three decrees were made for the restoration of the Temple and not, as Daniel referred to, for the restoration of Jerusalem. Only the Book of Nehemiah gives a reference to the decree for the restoration of Jerusalem.

As these two events have already come into fulfilment, there can be no doubt that the third event will occur in future. Daniel speaks of the 70th week.

Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness.

Daniel 9:24 KJV

After 70 weeks, the Messiah will finish the transgression, make an end of sin and bring in everlasting righteousness. When Jesus returns with His saints after the seven-year Tribulation, He will finish the transgression by binding satan in the bottomless pit. He will make an end of sin, as only the righteous will go into the Millennium Reign. This is profound!

What is this 70th week then?

After 69 weeks, the Messiah would be put to death, as Daniel prophesied. There would be a “***pause***”, so to speak, a period Daniel did not understand, before the 70th week could start. That “pause” is the dispensation of the church age. In the Old Testament, it was hidden from Israel that the Gentiles would also have a period to become people of the Messiah, grafted in as wild olives into the Olive Tree (Romans 11). The end of this dispensation is a mystery that no one knows the hour or the day of, only the Father! **But Jesus gave us signs to know when the end would be here.**

Jesus was speaking to Jews on the Mount of Olives, and this prophecy of Daniel 9 is for the Nation of Israel. Very important to understand that this prophecy is about Jacob’s trouble. Daniel was reading through the Book of Jeremiah when Gabriel visited him with a message.

Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it. Jeremiah 30:7 KJV

Many scholars do not distinguish between the Nation of Israel and the called-out ones. We must keep these two corporate groups of people separate, as God has different purposes for them. When we do not distinguish between these groups, it causes confusion. The reason for such confusion is that pastors are not exposed to Israelology during their studies. Israelology is the theological study specifically focused on what the Bible teaches about Israel being God's instrument.

A PRINCE

Back to Daniel 9. Daniel mentioned a “**prince**” coming from a people who will destroy the city (Jerusalem) and the sanctuary, after the Messiah has been put to death. After Jesus was crucified, the Romans, under the leadership of Titus, came into Jerusalem and destroyed the city and the Temple, literally not leaving one stone upon another. Most theologians agree that this prince is the **antichrist**.

This is confirmed in the New Testament in two separate passages, which also provide the last pieces of the puzzle as to what the actual act of the abomination of desolation is.

The Apostle Paul describes the end-time Tribulation and gives his readers an interesting sign of that period, concerning the antichrist and the blasphemy he commits.

*Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and **exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship**, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 NASB*
(Emphasis added)

This agrees perfectly with Jesus' statement that the abomination will be in the holy place of God and will be a specific individual, as described by Daniel.

Finally, in Revelation 13:5, the Apostle John describes the antichrist and the time given him to rule, which is 42 months.

This agrees with Daniel 9:27, which says the antichrist will break his treaty with Israel in the middle of the seven-year tribulation, and it also matches up with Daniel 12:11, that there will be 1 290 days (approximately 3.5 years) before the abomination of desolation occurs.

John also explains that an image of the antichrist will be constructed, and people will be forced to worship it.

And by the signs that it [the false prophet] is allowed to work in the presence of the beast [the Antichrist] it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived. ¹⁵ “And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain. Revelation 13:14-15 ESV

It is possible that this image could be set up in God's rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem and could be what Paul refers to, rather than the antichrist seated there in person.

So, by allowing scriptures to interpret scriptures, we find that a **reasonable answer** to what the abomination of desolation is, is that it will be the **antichrist, three and a half years into his reign, taking a place in God's rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem and proclaiming to the world that he is God and must be worshipped as God.**

When this occurs, the Creator will respond to the challenge and ultimately and eternally destroy the antichrist (Revelation 19:20).

THE FUTURE FULFILMENT

When Jesus spoke about the “abomination of desolation,” He was speaking in the context of the “**end of the age**” (Matthew 24).

Therefore when you see the “abomination of desolation,” spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (whoever reads, let him understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

Matthew 24:15-16 NKJV

So, here we see another fulfilment of the “abomination of desolation” to occur in the future.

We should note that Daniel 12:11, which mentions this abomination of desolation being set up, also states that the daily sacrifices will be taken

away. Since the Jews are not currently offering any daily sacrifices in Jerusalem, this means that **daily sacrifices will be re-established at some point in the future**. For sacrifices to be offered, an altar must be constructed.

Students of Bible prophecy are watching for the reestablishment of Jewish sacrifices in Jerusalem. For this event to occur, many believe that the 3rd Temple must first be erected.

What this end-time fulfilment of the “abomination that makes desolate” will be is not yet clear. As discussed, it will be something established in Jerusalem that is abhorrent to God.

The Apostle Paul wrote about a future leader called “the man of sin”, who *“opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God”* (2 Thessalonians 2:4 NKJV).

Revelation reveals a future political figure called **the beast** who will be allied with a religious figure known as the **false prophet**. Together, they will invade Jerusalem and control the city until Christ returns and overthrows them. This beast and false prophet will likely be responsible for setting up the future abomination of desolation.

Jesus warns the Jewish people, specifically those in Judea, to flee to the mountains when they see this abomination. As we shall see, this will signal that the Great Tribulation, the unprecedented 3.5-year period of global war and suffering, is about to begin.

The phrase served as a technical reference to the introduction of an idolatrous image or an act of pagan sacrilege (violation or misuse of what is regarded as sacred) within the Sanctuary that produces the highest level of a ceremonial impurity and temple profanation.

The Trigger Point

I found two basic trigger points in the Bible. First, Jesus mentioned to His four disciples on the Mount of Olives that those in Judea should flee into the mountains when they see this abomination of desolation.

When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand): ¹⁶ Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains. Matthew 24:15-16 KJV

Abomination of Desolation

Only those living in Jerusalem can flee to the surrounding mountains. It is a sign for the Nation of Israel. In the middle of the seven-year Tribulation, this person, the prince, the antichrist, will break the covenant he made with the people. This is the turning point for everything.

Israel will at first believe that He is their Messiah who came to free them and establish His Kingdom in Jerusalem. In the middle of the seven years, when he breaks his covenant and tries to put them to death, they will flee

to the mountains. Many believe they will hide in the area of Petra, where the Lord will supernaturally look after them.

The Falling Away

There is a second trigger the called-out ones are looking for. The Greek word “***apostasia***” is often translated as “falling away”. Most Bible scholars agree that this word refers to a falling away of the faith that the Holy Spirit puts within each believer. However, when we study a specific chapter in God’s Word, the general contents of that chapter should be our first clue as to what the author wants to tell us. All Bible scholars agree with this.

The epistle of Paul to the Thessalonians predominantly focuses on the coming of Christ, and this is the opening statement.

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

Paul speaks of our gathering together unto Jesus. This is the “snatching away” of the called-out ones.

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

When he says “**FOR THAT DAY**”, he refers to our gathering together unto Him. That day cannot come except there comes a falling away first. “***Apostasia***” in Greek can be translated into English as “falling away”.

G646 (Strong's)

ἀποστασία

apostasia

ap-os-tas-ee'-ah

Feminine of the same as G647; *defection* from truth (properly the state),
("apostasy"): - falling away, forsake.

Many Bible scholars use this single verse in the Bible to confirm the falling away of the faith. But in the contents of Paul's letter, I beg to differ. The motivation is that, when Paul explicitly addresses the people about a falling away of their FAITH, he uses a different word, namely "**parapiptō**".

*If they **shall fall away**, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame. Hebrews 6:6 KJV*

"**Parapiptō**" refers to falling aside, but also to the Greek **apostatise** – falling away.

G3895 (Strong's)

παραπίπτω

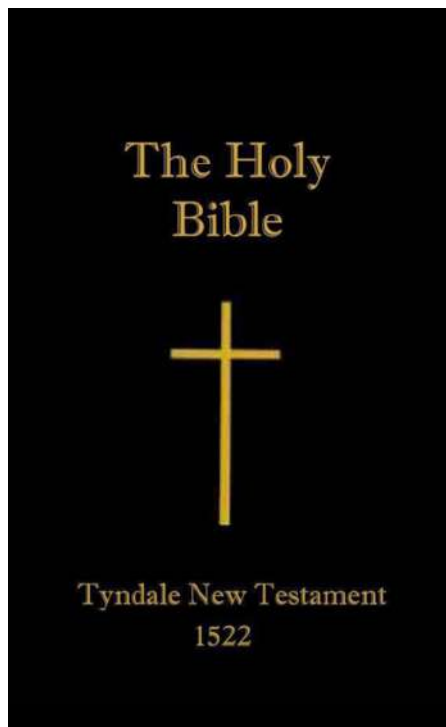
parapiptō

par-ap-ip'-to

From G3844 and G4098; to *fall aside*, that is, (figuratively) to *apostatize*:- fall away.

I believe Paul may have used the word "apostasia", but his intention was not to address the falling away of the faith, but something else. How can we know for sure? First, because of the contents of this specific epistle, which is our gathering together unto Christ. Second, the older translation

I believe Paul may have used the word “***apostasias***”, but his intention was not to address the falling away of the faith, but something else. How can we know for sure? First, because of the contents of this specific epistle, which is our gathering together unto Christ. Second, the older translation in English, the Tyndale 1522 Translation, translated this verse as follows.



2Th 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any meanes for the lorde commeth not excepte ther come a departynge fyrst and that that synfnll man be opened the sonne of perdition

It makes much more sense that the Tyndale 1522 translated this verse as: “**The Lord cannot come before there comes a departure first.**” Only then can the Son of Perdition be revealed. There are many scriptures in the Bible confirming this departure.

*Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the **bridegroom**, and the voice of the **bride**, the sound of the millstones, and the light of the candle.* Jeremiah 25:10 KJV

*Then I will make to cease from the cities of Judah and from the streets of Jerusalem the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the **voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride**; for the land will become a ruin.* Jeremiah 7:34 NASB

*For this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Before your eyes and in your days I will bring an end to the sounds of joy and gladness and to the **voices of bride and bridegroom** in this place.*

Jeremiah 16:9 NIV

*And the **voice of the bridegroom and of the bride** shall be heard no more at all in thee: Revelation 18:23 KJV*

Saints, a day of departure is coming, a snatching away! This will be a snatching away out of danger. Only then can the Son of Perdition, the old serpent, satan, be released on the earth to deceive the nations. John saw this in a vision.

And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. Revelation 12:13 KJV

This is a mystery.

*For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this **mystery**, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that **blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.***

Romans 11:25 KJV

That is why the current dispensation is one of grace. It is in this dispensation, by His grace, that we have the opportunity to make it unto salvation. Israel is paying a price for you and me, as wild olive branches, to be grafted into the original Olive Tree. Therefore, my beloved friend, on that day when the called-out ones depart, the Lord will turn to Israel to save them as He promised Abraham when He made a covenant with him.

Paul's first letters was to the Thessalonians. In these two epistles, Paul explains the revelation that he received from the Holy Spirit while on Mount Sinai in Arabia for three years. Paul explains that, after his conversion, he went into Arabia and waited there for three years before going to see Peter in Jerusalem. He did not make contact with any other disciples.

I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus. ¹⁸ Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days. ¹⁹ But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother. Galatians 1:17b-19 KJV

Fourteen years later, Paul went to Jerusalem to communicate the revelations he had received from the Holy Spirit to the disciples.

Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with me also. ² And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain. Galatians 2:1-2 KJV

Even Peter declares that some of Paul's epistles are difficult to understand.

As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood. 2 Peter 3:16 KJV

HARPAZO

Satan has deceived many members into believing that the rapture is not in the Bible. If a word in the English or Afrikaans vocabulary does not appear in your Bible, it does not disqualify the Doctrine of Christ. The moment we understand the doctrine of resurrection and eternal judgment, the rest of the snatching away falls into place.

*For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: ¹⁷ Then we which are alive and remain shall be **caught up** together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Wherefore comfort one another with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 KJV*

This is the first resurrection. The dead in Christ will rise first, but, as Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15, not all of us will be dead on that day. Therefore, those who are alive and remaining shall be **caught up**!

G726 (Strong's)

ἁρπάζω

harpazō

har-pad'-zo

From a derivative of G138; to seize (in various applications): - catch (away, up), pluck, pull, take (by force).

“**Caught up**” is the English translation for “**harpazo**”, which means to catch away, catch up or take by force. This is a very specific word Paul used that shows we will be snatched away out of danger.

The Scriptures are clear that the spirit of the antichrist is already at work on planet Earth. Throughout time, it has manifested in various ways. Nero, who persecuted Christians, was already seen as the antichrist in those days. The same with Hitler, who tried to wipe out the Jewish people. The spirit of lawlessness has already been at work for ages. Paul speaks of this mystery of lawlessness that is already at work.

For the mystery of lawlessness is already operating; only there is one who holds back just now, until he is taken out of the way.

2 Thessalonians 2:7 TLV

There is a restraining force in place that is holding back the works of the antichrist, satan. It is the voice of the Bride and the Spirit. According to the Scriptures, a day is coming when the voice of the Bride and the Bridegroom will be no more.

That is the day of the snatching away – the harpozo – the pulling, taking by force.

When the first resurrection takes place, we will be transformed and changed in the twinkling of an eye.

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and

this mortal must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. 1 Corinthians 15:52-54 KJV

Some Bible scholars speak of the great exchange, when the dead in Christ and those who are still alive are snatched away and the wicked shall be revealed.

*And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: ⁹ Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, ¹⁰ And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹ And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: ¹² **That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.** 2 Thessalonians 2:8-12 KJV*

The Son of Perdition, the antichrist, will be able to deceive the nations on earth. Because they will choose not to believe the truth, the Lord will send them a strong delusion, and they will believe the lie.

Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: ²⁵ Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. ²⁶ For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their

women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

²⁷ And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet. ²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Romans 1:24-28 KJV

In Revelation 12, satan was cast down to the earth and unto him was given power to make war against the saints and to overcome them.

*And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. ⁶ And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. **And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them:** and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. Revelation 13:5-7 KJV*

Some use this scripture as proof that the saints will go through the seven-year Tribulation and be overcome by satan. They do not know the Scriptures and use this one verse to bring confusion.

This verse refers to those left behind who will be part of the Wheat Harvest. Yes, satan will receive power to overcome them. That is why John saw beheaded saints before the throne. This is the only way for them to be redeemed. (There is a complete teaching on our website under the End Time Harvest series.)

AMBASSADORS

When Paul describes that we will be taken, he uses the word “**ginomia**” which means to arise, be assembled, be married!

*For the **mystery of iniquity doth already work**: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken^{H1096} **out of the way**. 2 Thessalonians 2:7 KJV*

G1096 (Strong's)

ginomai

ghin'-om-ahee

A prolonged and middle form of a primary verb; to *cause to be* (“gen” -erate), that is, (reflexively) to *become* (*come into being*), used with great latitude (literally, figuratively, intensively, etc.): - arise be assembled, be (come, -fall, -have self), be brought (to pass), (be) come (to pass), continue, be divided, be done, draw, be ended, fall, be finished, follow, be found, be fulfilled, + God forbid, grow, happen, have, be kept, be made, be married, be ordained to be, partake, pass, be performed, be published, require, seem, be showed, X soon as it was, sound, be taken, be turned, use, wax, will, would, be wrought.

Paul is talking about a marriage! Wow! “Assembled” means gathered together. Paul started his epistle with our gathering together unto Christ.

The Bridegroom is coming for His Bride, and a marriage ceremony will take place!

...whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth and destroy him with the brightness of his coming. 2 Thessalonians 2:8 KJV

Paul is using a **military term** when he speaks of “**fallen away**”. It refers to a political defection, as we can see in Jeremiah and 1 Chronicles. Also in the Webster's 1828 Dictionary, “**falling away**” is cited specifically as commonly referring to defection. The word **apostasy** can also mean “**desertion from one's party**”.

And Zedekiah the king said unto Jeremiah, I am afraid of the Jews that are fallen to the Chaldeans, lest they deliver me into their hand, and they mock me. Jeremiah 38:19 KJV

And there fell some of Manasseh to David, when he came with the Philistines against Saul to battle: but they helped them not: for the lords of the Philistines upon advisement sent him away, saying, He will fall to his master Saul to the jeopardy of our heads. 1 Chronicles 12:19 KJV

When we leave this earth, we will be defecting from the world, its ways, thoughts, and from the prince of this world, Satan.

- It is a great removal from this world, as we fall away (defect) from this world to Christ and the heavenlies.
- It is a rebellion and desertion of the world – a pulling out and a withdrawal from satan's territory.
- The major, unmistakable sign that has to happen before that day (time of wrath), is that Christ will gather His children and remove them from this world.

Paul reminds us that waiting on the removal and defection of Christ's faithful servants is the only thing that withholds (prevents) the antichrist

from being revealed. Once Christ has gathered together His faithful, the first seal of the Tribulation will be opened, which is the antichrist coming onto the scene as the white horseman of the apocalypse. Only when Christ gives the defectors from the world a haven and new citizenship, will He release the antichrist to his machinations (Revelation 6:1-2).

When a leader wages war, he makes sure his ambassadors and citizens are safely withdrawn before opening fire.

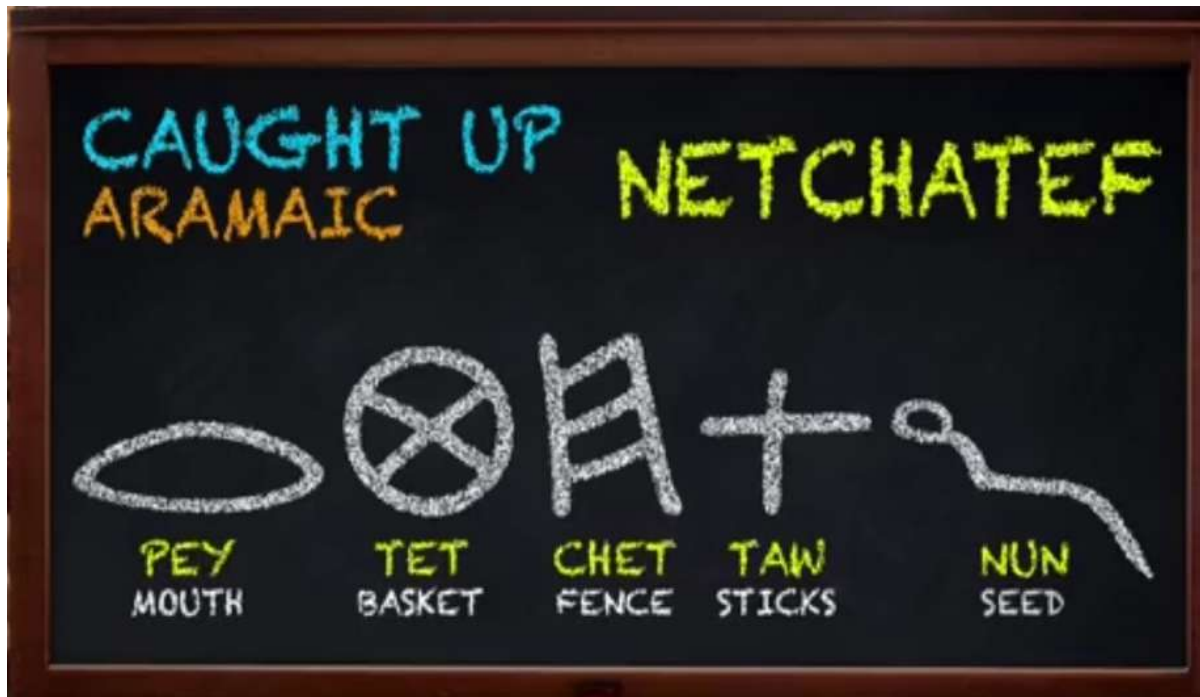
Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20 ESV

NETCHATEF

There is still lots to share on this topic, but I am going to close with the Netchatef. According to my knowledge, Alan Horvath is one of the very few, if not the only Bible scholar who is aware of the original word for “**harpazo**” (caught up) in Aramaic, namely NETCHATEF. Acknowledgment to him for the following information.

In Aramaic, Netchatef is spelt: Nun, Taw, Chet, Tet, Pey.



Nun is a picture of a Seed: This represents life, unstoppable motion, offspring, and heirs.

Taw is a picture of Sticks: This represents signature, sign, monument.

Chet is a picture of a Fence. This represents providing protection, specifically with Netchatef, spiritual gifts of the Ruach.

Tet is a picture of a Basket. This represents surrounding, catching fish, containing and storing, generosity, and doing things in secrecy.

Pey is a picture of a Mouth. This represents speech, praise, and being on the edge of something.

Combining everything, the word NETCHATEF speaks of:

- An unstoppable act.
- Kidnapping of the seed of Yashuah.
- Kidnapping of the heirs of Yashuah.
- Those who have the mark – the signature of Yashuah.
- Those who are a monument in time by the works of Elohim.
- His chosen ones, His children.
- Adopted children.
- Divided and separated.
- The called-out ones who are operating in the gifts of the Ruach.
- Generosity of the Lord.
- Angels do not understand what He is doing in secret.
- Protecting His heirs from hasatan.

Yashuah needs not explain His decisions and actions. He is looking for those who love Him and not the world.

Pitch your tent with Elohim every day. Pray and ask that you will be counted worthy to be taken in the Netchatef.

Live in the Spirit daily. Do not live in the flesh, believing that you have earned a ticket to heaven.

THE COMING OF THE LORD

While writing this book, I was also summarising Thessalonians, and noticed a link between what Paul wrote to them, and what the Apostle Peter wrote in his second epistle.

This is my second letter to you, dear brothers, and in both of them I have tried to remind you—if you will let me—about facts you already know: facts you learned from the holy prophets and from us apostles who brought you the words of our Lord and Savior. 2 Peter 3:1-2 TLB

Paul ends his epistles to the Thessalonians with these words:

Finally**, dear brothers and sisters, pray for us that the Lord's message will continue to **spread rapidly** and its glory be recognized everywhere, just as it was with you. ² And pray that God will rescue us from wicked and evil people, **for not everyone believes the message.
2 Thessalonians 3:1-2 TPT

If this message could spread rapidly, Paul understood it would speed up the coming of our Messiah. Those who do not believe the message, he calls evil and wicked.

Above all, you must understand that in the last days mockers [deceivers] will multiply, chasing after their evil desires. ⁴ They will say, "So what about this promise of his coming? Our ancestors are dead and buried, yet everything is still the same as it was since from the beginning of time until now." 2 Peter 3:3-4 TPT

The Jewish people were very concerned about when the Messiah would free them and restore the Kingdom of God. In this passage, the Greek word “**parousia**” is used for His coming. “**Parousia**” can also mean “presence”, “arrival”, or “visitation”.

The Aramaic can be translated as: “**Where is the kingdom that he brought?**”

Since creation started, the Nation of Israel has been looking for their Messiah to free them.

And now Peter explains.

So, dear friends, don't let this one thing escape your notice: a single day counts like a thousand years to the Lord Yahweh, and a thousand years counts as one day.⁹ This means that, contrary to man's perspective, the Lord is not late with his promise to return, as some measure lateness. But rather, his “delay” simply reveals his loving patience toward you, because he does not want any to perish but all to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:8-9 TPT

The Lord's concern for as many people as possible to make it unto salvation is bigger than our concern for His soon return.

The Aramaic is quite different and can be translated as:

*“The Lord does not treat his kingdom like a dutiful chore {motivated by duty rather than desire or enthusiasm, a routine task, especially a household one}, as some people consider it, like the treatment of a temporary laborer. **But he pours out his Spirit on your behalf, since***

he does not wish that anyone should perish but that everyone should come into grace.”

As we are approaching the day of the return of our Messiah, we must more than ever before desire to live a holy life.

And so since everything around us is going to melt away, what holy, godly lives we should be living! ¹² You should look forward to that day and hurry it along. 2 Peter 3:11 TLB

The Passion Translation asks, “*Don’t you see how vital it is to live a holy life? We must be consumed with godliness*” (2 Peter 3:11).

While we anticipate and help to speed up the coming of the day of God, when the atmosphere will be set on fire and the heavenly bodies consumed in a blaze. ¹³ But as we wait, we trust in God’s royal proclamation to be fulfilled. There are coming heavens new in quality, and an earth new in quality, where righteousness will be fully at home.

2 Peter 3:12-13 TPT

Peter teaches us that the church can speed up (and, **by implication, slow down**) the coming of the day of God. The closer we get to Christ, the closer His coming will be. “The day of God” is a phrase equivalent to the “day of the Lord”.

A day is coming when all will live according to God’s perfect will for their lives, and righteousness will be at home on earth and in every heart. This will be when justice reigns on earth.

The Aramaic can be translated as: ***“We expect from his promise a new sky and a new earth in which the virtuous people will dwell.”***

Dear reader, the Scriptures are clear that we prepare for the coming of the Lord by living a pure life. Everyone who really believes it will try to stay pure, because Christ is pure (1 John 3:3 TPT).

Preparation for the Coming of the Lord

*So, my beloved friends, with all that you have to look forward to, may you be eager to be found living pure lives when you come into his presence, without blemish and filled with peace.¹⁵ And keep in mind that our Lord’s extraordinary patience simply means more **opportunity for salvation**, just as our dear brother Paul wrote to you with the wisdom that God gave him. 2 Peter 3:14-15 TPT*

The phrase “opportunity for salvation” can be translated from Aramaic as:

“Consider the Lord’s outpouring of [his] Spirit as salvation.”

In this context, regarding the coming of our Lord and our gathering together to meet Him, Peter referred to Paul’s epistles and acknowledged the wisdom he had received from the Ruach HaKodesh.

Our wise and beloved brother Paul has talked about these same things in many of his letters. Some of his comments are not easy to understand, and there are people who are deliberately stupid, and always demand some unusual interpretation—they have twisted his letters around to mean something quite different from what he meant, just as they do the

other parts of the Scripture—and the result is disaster for them.

2 Peter 3:15b-16 TLB

These words from the Holy Spirit forewarn us of these things so that we would not be led astray!

As for you, divinely loved ones, since you are forewarned of these things, be careful that you are not led astray by the error of the lawless and lose your firm grip on the truth. ¹⁸ *But continue to grow and increase in God's grace and intimacy with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.* 2 Peter 3:17-18 TPT

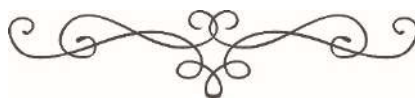
The Aramaic does not use the imperative but makes it more of a decree.

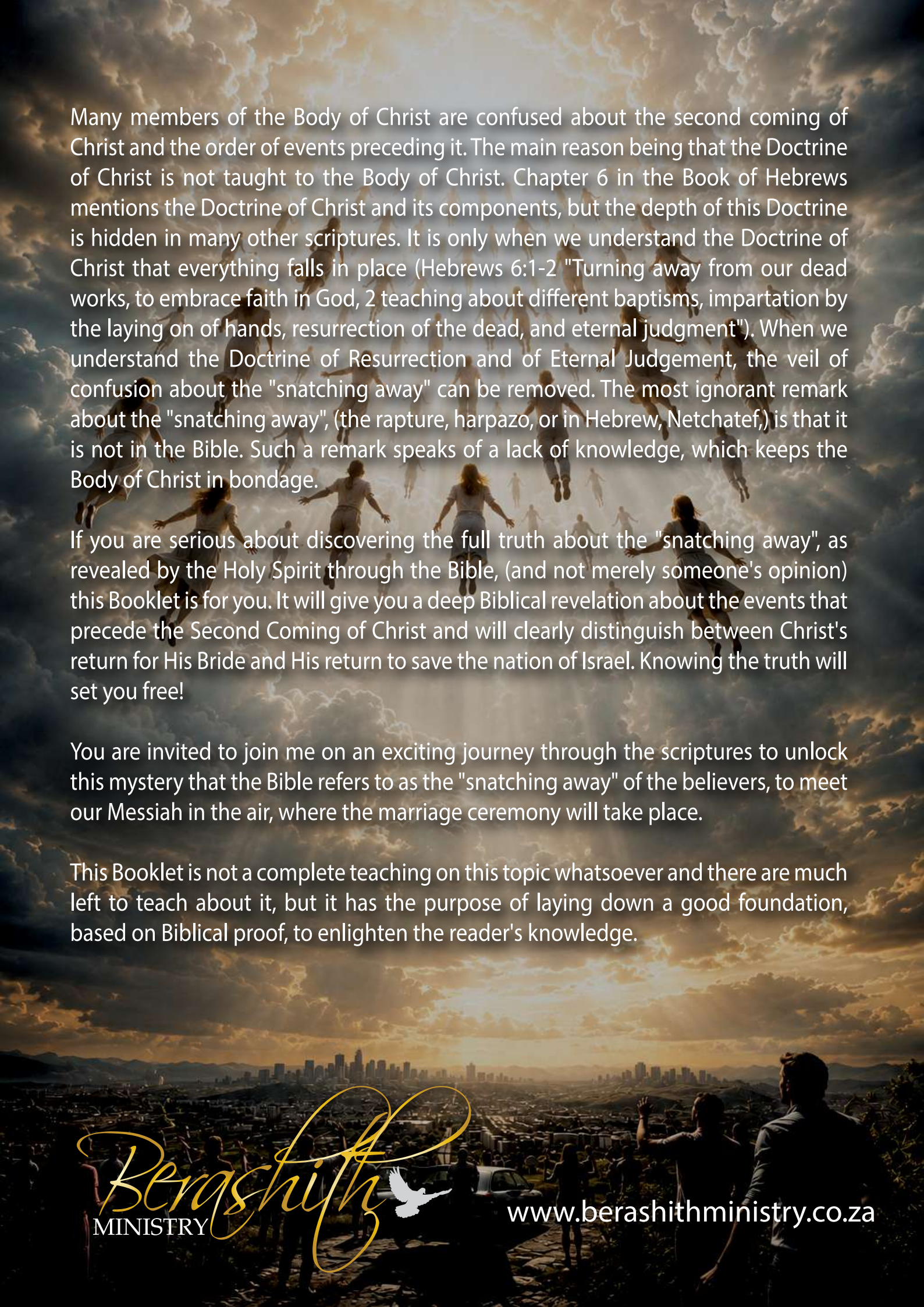
“You continue to be nourished in grace and in the intimate knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Messiah, and of God the Father.”

Spiritual growth yields to the grace of God and passionately desires to know Jesus Christ intimately. In time, we will grow into His beautiful image.

May He receive all the glory, both now and until the day eternity begins.

Amen!





Many members of the Body of Christ are confused about the second coming of Christ and the order of events preceding it. The main reason being that the Doctrine of Christ is not taught to the Body of Christ. Chapter 6 in the Book of Hebrews mentions the Doctrine of Christ and its components, but the depth of this Doctrine is hidden in many other scriptures. It is only when we understand the Doctrine of Christ that everything falls in place (Hebrews 6:1-2 "Turning away from our dead works, to embrace faith in God, 2 teaching about different baptisms, impartation by the laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment"). When we understand the Doctrine of Resurrection and of Eternal Judgement, the veil of confusion about the "snatching away" can be removed. The most ignorant remark about the "snatching away", (the rapture, harpazo, or in Hebrew, Netchatef,) is that it is not in the Bible. Such a remark speaks of a lack of knowledge, which keeps the Body of Christ in bondage.

If you are serious about discovering the full truth about the "snatching away", as revealed by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, (and not merely someone's opinion) this Booklet is for you. It will give you a deep Biblical revelation about the events that precede the Second Coming of Christ and will clearly distinguish between Christ's return for His Bride and His return to save the nation of Israel. Knowing the truth will set you free!

You are invited to join me on an exciting journey through the scriptures to unlock this mystery that the Bible refers to as the "snatching away" of the believers, to meet our Messiah in the air, where the marriage ceremony will take place.

This Booklet is not a complete teaching on this topic whatsoever and there are much left to teach about it, but it has the purpose of laying down a good foundation, based on Biblical proof, to enlighten the reader's knowledge.



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