

# CHAPTER 10

## Preparing for Jesus' Soon Return

### **TIME IS RUNNING OUT, THE CONVERGENCE OF ALL SIGNS IS HERE!**

All of the prophetic signs that Jesus and the prophets warned would take place just prior to His return are now happening. This convergence of all these signs together is what Jesus revealed would identify the final generation and that they would not pass away until He physically returns to earth (Luke 21:31-32). One thing you may be wondering is; "*How much time remains until His coming?*" If the final generation began at the time of Israel's restoration as a nation on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 1948, we are already 72 years into this terminal generation (@ December 2020). Time is very short. *What is about to happen?* You may ask. Upcoming is a possible timeline to the Rapture and Jesus' physical return to re-establish God's divine order over planet earth. These are two very distinct miracle events that chronologically happen in very close proximity to one another and may need a bit of clarification.

Jesus' return to earth is an amazing two-phase event that will rock the world like no other event in history. In terms of chronology many believe the Rapture and Christ's physical return to earth are only about 3 ½ years apart. In terms of scriptural and prophetic timing they may be wrongly perceived as being a simultaneous event, but they are not. They occur very close together but they are separate events for very important reasons that we will discuss in our potential timeline that follows. Again, we emphasize this is only a potential framework for these events not an inflexible or dogmatic claim. We hope that the Rapture does take place before all the tribulation of the *Seal Judgements* (Revelation 6:1-17) come to pass, but we believe there is strong scriptural and natural evidence to the contrary. Also, we believe we would be doing a great disservice to other Christians and our family and friends by not warning them of the potential reality of having to be here for the Seal Judgments. We believe to be forewarned is to be forearmed and will prevent many from questioning and even abandoning their faith when things don't come to pass as they were told. Not warning them would leave them totally unprepared to face the great persecution and even martyrdom that lies before us. God's people need to be prepared to face great persecution, suffering and even death for His sake. However, you need not fear for His grace and strength will sustain you no matter what is required of you.

## **“THE RAPTURE” ... THE GREAT ESCAPE FROM COMING WRATH**

The first phase of His return is the Rapture when Jesus will appear in the clouds of heaven to rescue those who are lovingly watching and waiting for their Master’s return; <sup>15</sup> *“For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not precede them which are asleep (dead).* <sup>16</sup> *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:* <sup>17</sup> *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.* <sup>18</sup> *Wherefore comfort one another with these words”* (I Thessalonians 4:15-18 KJVER).

This first phase of Jesus’ return has a twofold purpose. Hebrews 9:2; I Thessalonians 5:9 and Luke 21:36 reveals that part of the purpose is to rescue us from the wrath to come as described in the Revelation “*Trumpet*” judgments (Revelation 8:6 to 9:21 and 11:15-19) and the “*Bowl*” judgments (Rev. 16:1-21).

<sup>28</sup> *“So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin (not regarding sin) unto salvation”* (from coming wrathful judgement) (Hebrews 9:28 KJV).

<sup>9</sup> *“For God hath not appointed us to wrath, (filled judgments) but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ”* (I Thessalonians 5:9 KJV).

<sup>36</sup> *“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”* (Luke 21:36 KJV).

God’s Rapture rescue is a tremendous blessing to those who escape because approximately two thirds of the world’s population will perish as a result of these coming judgments. God in His mercy and love will rescue His children from these horrors. Secondly, at the Rapture all God’s children who are either alive or dead will receive their eternal, indestructible, incorruptible resurrection bodies like Jesus had at His resurrection;

<sup>50</sup> *“Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither does corruption (perishable) inherit incorruption.* <sup>51</sup> *Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep (die), but we shall all be changed,* <sup>52</sup> *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 (who are alive) shall be changed.* <sup>53</sup> *For*

*this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*  
<sup>54</sup> *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.* <sup>55</sup> *O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory?*” (I Corinthians 15:50-55 KJVER)

*“Do you realize what this means?”* True Christians who are alive at Jesus’ return at the Rapture will not face death, but will be miraculously and instantly be transformed into their supernatural, eternal bodies like Jesus when He ascended into Heaven. This is why I often declare to our young people in our Crosspower and Oasis gatherings that I’m not going to die but I’m going to fly out of here. Listen to what Jesus declared to Martha regarding this incredible resurrection event; <sup>24</sup> *“Martha says to Him, I know that he (Lazarus) shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.* <sup>25</sup> *Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believes in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: <sup>26</sup> And whosoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Believe you this?”* (John 11:24-26 KJV). Jesus clearly reveals that not only the dead Christians would be resurrected at this spectacular event, but those who are alive at this time and believe will never face death. Hallelujah! This is incredible and Deb and I and all who believe on Him will personally experience it! *What about you?* Some of you who are hearing this for the first time can hardly believe what you are reading. Yes; reality is stranger than fiction. When Deb and I first heard about this wondrous event we were amazed and terrified at the same time. We knew we were not ready to meet Jesus and that we would be left behind to face the terror of coming judgement. Many of you may be experiencing the same inescapable horror of the reality of your condition before God. The good news is that Jesus died and paid the full penalty so that you can be ready and be rescued from your sin and these coming wrathful judgements. If you are at any time reconsidering your need to surrender your life and receive God’s priceless gift of forgiveness and reconciliation then please review the steps to salvation on pages 72 to 76. When you make your peace with the Lord then the Rapture becomes an exciting event of great comfort, and hope. Deb and I by God’s grace no longer fear what lies ahead, but we are watching with joyful expectation for our loving Lord’s soon return. Our time each day is now primarily focused on spending intimate times of worship and prayer with the Lord receiving His guidance and sharing the *Good News* of His love and salvation with others as the Holy Spirit leads. Also, prayerfully trusting as Jesus promised that by His enablement, we will be accounted worthy to escape all these coming horrors and stand before Him at the Rapture (Luke 21:36). Of course, we live life, we work and pay bills like everyone else, but we prioritize our relationship with God and making Him known to others above all else. In today’s world it’s easy

to be distracted from what is really important even as Christians. We as Believers need to realize that after the Rapture we will stand before our Lord and be judged. We will either be rewarded or be ashamed and suffer loss for what we did or did not do here on earth.

## **POST RAPTURE JUDGEMENT & THE REWARD OF BELIEVERS**

Even though our good works as Believers contribute nothing to our salvation they are extremely important in determining our reward and status in God's coming Kingdom.

*“For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, that each one may receive his recompense in the body, according to what he has done, whether it was good or bad” (2 Corinthians 5:10 MEV).*

After the Rapture all God's saints will appear before the Lord Jesus in Heaven to be judged for our deeds or lack thereof including the motives for doing them (1 Corinthians 3:8-15). The Bible reveals that our works will be tested by the fire of God and if any of them survive we will be rewarded for them. *What shall our reward be you ask?* Jesus revealed in Matthew 25 verses 14 to 30 that part of the reward will be related to the size of the region that we will oversee during His millennial 1,000 year reign on earth (see also Luke 19:11-26). This may also very well apply to the magnitude of responsibility and servant leadership we exercise in the eternal age in the New Earth as well (Revelation 21:24-27 and 22:12-14).

One other aspect of our reward that could be determined by our works is the size and splendor of the “*Mansion*” that Jesus promised to prepare for us (John 14:1-3). We don't know the full scope of what these rewards will entail, but we have enough revelation to understand the very great importance and impact they will make upon the degree of our fulfillment in eternity. Therefore, let us now labour for Him in such a way that we will have no eternal regrets.

Along with this special judgement during this time in Heaven will be the awesome celebration of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. When the Lord's Bride (His Church) will be joyously united with her Beloved Bridegroom forever (Revelation 19:6-9). Both of these events will take place after the Rapture and before Jesus' physical return to earth during the last half of Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week. Hopefully this will awaken every Believer to the vital importance of diligently occupying until His return with clean hands and a pure heart.

## A “TAKE HEED” TO BELIEVERS & SEEKERS TO PREPARE!

<sup>34</sup> “*And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged (ensnared) with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.*” <sup>35</sup> *For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.* <sup>36</sup> *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”* (Luke 21:34-36 KJVER).

Jesus gives an important “*take heed*” to Believers in this passage that we all need to take to heart. He warns that even true Christians can be distracted and preoccupied by: a) “*Surfeiting*” (carousing) which is indulgence in worldly pleasure, and entertainment b) “*Drunkenness*” which is a warning to *sipping saints* who enjoy indulging in alcoholic beverages in their supposed *freedom* c) “*Cares of this life*” which are the preoccupations with daily life (school, career, finances, family problems, personal problems, relational problems, etc.) that lead to neglect of our personal intimacy and focus on doing God’s will with our time, talents and resources. Indulgence in these things will lead to a lukewarm, half-hearted form of Christianity that will leave us unprepared for His return (Revelation 3:14-16). Consequently, Jesus exhorts His followers to daily remain watchful in prayer and communion with Him. In order, that we may be found diligently occupying in knowing Him intimately and making Him known to those in our sphere of influence. Jesus also warned in Matthew 25:1-13 that as many as 50% of true “*born again*” Christians would so neglect their personal intimacy with God that He would declare to them at His coming; <sup>12</sup> “*But He (Jesus) answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not*” (Matthew 25:12 KJV). Shockingly these *Believers* will not be accounted worthy to escape the coming judgement and will be left behind to face the horrors of the Revelation Judgements. Therefore, we urge those Christians who are reading this to examine your walk with the Lord. Have you drifted from your “*first love*” and waned in your passion for Him and for reaching others with His love (Revelation 2:4-5)? Are you guilty of being caught up in the things Jesus warned about in Luke 21 i.e., “*Cares of Life,*” or “*Surfeiting*” or “*Drunkenness?*” If you are, we urge you to repent and seek the Lord with all your heart and forsake this world’s pleasures and cares. We shared an urgent prophetic warning with our University group on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019. I sensed at that time the Lord in His love was providing a time of reprieve for His people to prepare for coming persecution and the shaking of all things (Hebrews 12:25-29). Beloved, God is warning us that a persecution madness and viral hatred of Christians is coming very soon (Matthew 24:9) to North America. It is already starting ... but it will get far worse and if we are not ready, we could very well be among those who will fall away and become

casualties (Matthew 24:10-12). Now is the time in this season of reprieve to return to the Lord with all our hearts and ask Him for the “oil” of His Spirit (Luke 11:13) to fill us daily and to help us build a rock-solid foundation by knowing and obeying His Word (Joel 2:12-14; Matthew 7:24-27). Now as never before, we need to seek to know Him intimately, diligently studying, applying and obeying His Word and making Him known to others led by His Spirit. It is those who intimately know their God and who obey Him who shall be strong and carry out great exploits in this coming great *Harvest of humanity* (Daniel 11:32b; Isaiah 60:1-5; Revelation 7:9-14).

Recently Rabbi Jonathan Cahn and others including our Pastor; Dr Joseph Grubb sensed to call God’s people to 10 days of intense prayer, fasting and repentance. *The Return* and other initiatives took place from September 18<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 with over 10 million Believers participating worldwide. God is truly calling His people to return to Him with all our hearts so that we may be strong to stand in persecution and to mobilize and empower us to bring in the greatest harvest of souls in history (Joel 2:12-32). If you would desire to hear what the Spirit is saying in this hour, we encourage you to Google Jonathan Cahn’s message in Washington D.C. at *The Return* on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (The Return.org). Those of you who are seeking to begin your relationship with God need to remember the vital importance of seeking His face to know Him and His guidance and not just His hand of provision. If we truly love someone, we should long to spend time with them and so it is with the Lord. If we truly love Him, we should desire to spend time with Him. Daily talking to Him in prayer, worshipping Him in song and hearing His voice through His Word and the still small voice of His Spirit to our hearts to guide us into His will from the “*secret place*” (Psalm 91:1; Matthew 6:6).

### **THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING HOW TO PRAY EFFECTIVELY**

<sup>6</sup> “*But you, when you pray, enter into your closet, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father which is in secret; and your Father which sees in secret shall reward you openly.* <sup>7</sup> *But when you pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.* <sup>8</sup> *Be not you therefore like to them: for your Father knows what things you have need of, before you ask Him*” (Matthew 6:6-8 KJVER).

This daily personal time of earnestly seeking and connecting with God in prayer and loving on Him is by far the most important part of our day. Our time of undistracted communion and intimate prayer and worship of God in the “*secret place*” is the major key to knowing and hearing God. Jesus instructed His followers to go into

their prayer “*closet*” and “*shut your door*” and as we spend time with Him and our Heavenly Father led by His Spirit, He will reward us openly.

In His guidance to prayer Jesus emphasized the importance of praying in secret not to be noticed by others and to “*shut your door.*” The point being, to shut out the distractions and diversions that will undermine our time of undistracted devotion and communion with Him. This includes things like cell phones, computers or other media distractions. Our God deserves our undivided attention during this special time each day and it should be the most cherished and protected time of our day. In the Lord’s guideline to prayer known as *the Lord’s Prayer* Jesus provides a framework for what to include in our time of communion with Him (Matthew 6:9-15). The Lord desires relational prayer and we should listen to Jesus’ exhortation in verse 7 of Matthew 6 not to use the Lord’s Prayer or any prayer in vain repetition like the heathen do. The Lord desires that we use this prayer as a guide to spontaneous conversational prayer to Our Father in Heaven from our hearts. First of all, Jesus emphasizes our need to enter our Father’s presence with praise and adoration by hallowing and magnifying His name (verse 9). Using anointed worship from YouTube or stored on your cell phone or on CD’s can enhance this area of communion with the Lord. Next, we are to pray for His will and Kingdom purposes to be brought forth into the earth as Holy Spirit leads (verse 10). This is the time when you earnestly pray for God’s will to be done in your family, friends and neighbour’s lives and, in your city, province and nation. We know that God’s will is that no one would perish in hell and therefore as we pray led by His Spirit in this regard, we can know He hears us. Since we know He hears us, we can be confident that He will do whatever He can to help our loved ones come to the knowledge of the truth that they too may be saved. We encourage you to Google [mbj8388.wordpress.com](http://mbj8388.wordpress.com) to learn about *Courts of Heaven Prayer* for help in praying more effectively in this regard. Next, you can take time to pray for your personal needs including for forgiveness of any sin the Holy Spirit brings to your attention (verse 11-12). Always remember that in order to receive forgiveness we must release forgiveness to others who have sinned against us (Matthew 6:14-15). Next, Jesus instructs us to pray for His grace to overcome temptations of the flesh and to overcome evil spiritual forces that may come against us (verse 13a). Finally, in conclusion of your prayer time you should close by again honouring and worshipping the LORD for Who He is and for all the great things He has done (verse 13b) and will continue to do for you as His child.

## **INFILLING / BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT = MORE EFFECTIVE PRAYER**

Another very important aspect of our prayer life is praying in the Spirit or in other tongues as the Holy Spirit gives utterance (Mark 16:17; Acts 2:1-4; Romans 8:26-27; I Corinthians 14:2-4; Jude 1:20). This type of prayer is very effective as the Holy Spirit enables us to pray in the perfect will of God and at the same time it personally edifies and strengthens us as Believers. At times, especially when we don't know what to pray the Holy Spirit intercedes for us with groaning too deep for words (Romans 8:26). Don't be afraid to pray passionately and desperately as the Holy Spirit intercedes through you, it will accomplish much (James 5:16). Another tremendous benefit of the Baptism or total infilling of the Holy Spirit is that you will receive greater power to be a bold witness for Jesus (Acts 1:8 and 4:31). You will also experience a greater manifestation of the gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit in your life (I Corinthians 12:7-11; Galatians 5:22). If you would like to know more about; *How do I receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?* Google the question, or contact us personally or talk to a Christian leader who can help in this regard.

*How much time should we spend in personal intimacy with God each day?* When you spend time in worship, prayer, reading the Word and waiting upon Him for downloads of wisdom and guidance for each day, this will vary. Jesus rebuked His disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane for not being able to watch in prayer for one hour (Matthew 26:40). You could use this as an initial objective of communing with the Lord a minimum of one hour each day. If you like, start by spending ½ hour in the AM and ½ hour in the PM and build from there. For further guidance for this vitally important area of your spiritual relationship with God, please check out our; [Intimate Overcomers Daily Spiritual Checklist](http://crosspoweryouth.org) at [crosspoweryouth.org](http://crosspoweryouth.org). Now let us get back to the countdown to Jesus' return.

## **A POTENTIAL TIMELINE TO THE RAPTURE AND JESUS' IMMEDIATE RETURN**

What we're about to share may ruffle some theological feathers, but we have good reason to believe this is where we are in relation to Jesus' return and the prophecies of Revelation. However, as we mentioned earlier, we are not dogmatic that this is exactly the way things will unfold. Deb and I don't believe that the Bible reveals a pretribulation Rapture, but a prewrath Rapture. Consequently, we believe that as Believers we need to be ready to face tribulation even as our brethren are now facing in many parts of the world. Jesus warned that we would be hated by all nations and that they will persecute us and kill us for His namesake (Matthew 24:9). Also, that this will be a season when many professing Christians will fall away from the true faith and betray and even hate one another (Matthew 24:10-12). Through this time just ahead the Lord will purify His Church and separate the "tares" or the counterfeit



from the genuine Christians (Matthew 13:24-30 & 36-41). Also, we do not believe that the first 6 “*Seal*” judgements of Revelation 6 are the wrath of God, but that they are the final “*birth pangs*” of redemptive judgements Jesus spoke of in Matthew chapter 24. Consequently, the first four Seal Judgements more commonly known as the “*4 Horsemen of the Apocalypse*” (Revelation 6:1-8) and the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Seal Judgements (Revelation 6:9-14) very much parallel the “*Birth Pang*” redemptive judgements in Matthew 24. These judgements include war and killing, outbreaks of disease, famine, earthquakes, the martyring of Christians and cosmic upheaval. We believe these “*Seal Judgements*” are the climatic or final wave of the Matthew 24 judgements. They’re also the same types of redemptive shakings that God has used throughout Biblical history to get His people to wake up and return to Him. These redemptive judgements are being released in the earth to shake, awaken and purify God’s church to prepare her as a beautiful spotless “*Bride*” for the coming of the “*Bridegroom*,” our Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 25:13; Ephesians 5:25-27). All this at the same time will prepare and empower His church to complete the great commission by bringing in the greatest harvest of souls ever (Matthew 24:13-14; Revelation 7:9-17). These Seal judgements as the final birth pangs will either birth Believers into the Rapture or into the coming wrath of the “*Trumpet*” and “*Bowl*” judgements revealed in Revelation. How each of us will fare in this regard will depend upon whether or not we faithfully maintain our intimacy with the Lord as discussed earlier. Either we will be like the wise virgins who maintained their intimate and obedient relationship with Jesus and be ready for His return. Or we’ll be like the five “*foolish virgins*” who were preoccupied with other things and neglected their relationship with the Lord and were left behind to face the coming wrath. The choice is ours (Matthew 25:1-13 and 7:17-21).

### **THE 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE RELEASED(?)**

We believe the first Seal has been broken and has released, the “*White Horse*” and its rider who is symbolic of the false Christ (Antichrist) and the spirit of lawlessness. This spirit of antichrist and lawlessness has been released into the earth to remove all vestiges of God’s moral and ethical standards in order to prepare the way for the rule of the Antichrist. This is why we are now seeing an exponential increase in the casting aside of Biblical morality. Along with the unprecedented embracing of every form of immorality and perversion including the onslaught of the *Gay* and Transgender agendas. This spirit of lawlessness is the driving force that is spreading this tidal wave of immorality and perversion over the entire world (Rev. 6:1-2).

It should be noted at this point that the *Global Deep State Elites* are the main vehicle that this *spirit* is using to fast track its lawless agenda worldwide. In order to prepare

the way for their coming totalitarian world leader, the Antichrist.

We also believe the second Seal has been broken and has released the “*Red Horse*” and its rider with authority to influence people to kill one another. Consequently, in the earth there has been a tremendous devaluation of human life and people are killing one another on many fronts as never before (Revelation 6:3-4). These include the obvious increase of killing through wars, terrorism, genocide, mass murder, civil violence and the not so obvious killing through abortion, euthanasia and the intentional release of manmade plagues. Worldwide 40 to 50 million babies are killed in their mother’s wombs every year. This is by far the greatest wholesale slaughter of humans in history. And it is one of the major reasons why we believe the “*Red Horse*” of killing and death has already been released. The most recent vehicle of extermination that this spirit has inspired is *euthanasia* or medically assisted suicide. Laws regarding this form of killing are becoming increasingly liberalized. Soon they will be able to euthanize (murder) children, adults and the elderly for the most trivial of reasons even without permission anywhere in the world. In the days ahead you will see that the Global Elites are truly the primary instrument being used by this *killing spirit* to propagate these many forms of extermination on various fronts worldwide.

