# **UNVELLED!**

# The Ancient Secrets of Daniel & The Revelation of Jesus Christ

JOAN H. RICHARDSON

#### Unveiled!

The Ancient Secrets of Daniel & The Revelation of Jesus Christ Written by Joan H. Richardson Copyright © 2017, 2020 by Joan H. Richardson

Printed in the United States of America

#### ISBN 9781545602058

All rights reserved solely by the writer. This writer guarantees all contents are original except for quotations that do not infringe upon the legal rights of any other person or work. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form without the permission of the writer. The views expressed in this book are not necessarily those of the publisher.

Unless otherwise designated, Scriptures are taken from The Holy Bible: King James Version – public domain.

Young's Literal Translation of the Holy Bible (YLT) – public domain.

Scripture taken from The Holy Bible New International Version ® (NIV) Copyright © 2011 by Biblica. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture taken from The New American Standard Bible  $\circledR$  (NASB) Copyright  $\circledcirc$  1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture taken from the New King James Version ® (NKJV) Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture taken from the Holman Christian Standard Bible ® (HCSB) Copyright © 2009 by Holman Bible Publisher. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations taken from the Tree of Life ® (TLV) Translation of the Bible. Copyright © 2015 by the Messianic Jewish Family Bible Society. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture taken from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ® (ESV) Text Edition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Underscores in the Biblical texts are added for emphasis. Brackets are added outside the text for clarification.

# The Revelation of Jesus Christ

#### CHAPTER 11

11 Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. <sup>2</sup> But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot *for* forty-two months. <sup>3</sup> And I will give *power* to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."

<sup>4</sup> These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. <sup>5</sup> And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. <sup>6</sup> These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.

<sup>7</sup> When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. <sup>8</sup> And their dead bodies *will lie* in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. <sup>9</sup> Then *those* from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. <sup>10</sup> And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.

<sup>11</sup> Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. <sup>12</sup> And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them. <sup>13</sup> In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of

heaven.

<sup>14</sup> The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.

<sup>15</sup> Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" <sup>16</sup> And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, <sup>17</sup> saying:

"We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty,
The One who is and who was and who is to come,
Because You have taken Your great power and
reigned.

<sup>18</sup> The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged,

And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints,

And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth."

<sup>19</sup> Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake and great hail. (Revelation 11:1-19 NKJV)

# Insights

In 20:1-3 an angel captures the dragon, Apollyon, locks him in the abyss, and chains and seals him till a thousand years pass. Although Messiah reigns, sin still dominates human nature. His worshipers are in the temple, but sinners are on the outside. *The holy city shall they tread underfoot forty and two months.* (11:2b) The rebels in 11:18 stirred God's wrath in chapter 8. In 9 the worldwide revolt continues, and Gog rises to destroy Jerusalem.

9:1-11: An angel falls from heaven with **a key** to unlock the pit and release the devil at the fifth trumpet. The rebels resist the Lord, even in Jerusalem, till **the end at the last trump** in 11:15. After 20:7-10 reveals the wrath of God against Gog and Magog, the dragon's second death sends the deceiver to his interminable end in the lake of fire. 11:18 reveals the prophetic revolt after

Christ reigns: *The nations were angry* and refused to repent (in 9:20-21), justifying the wrath unleashed against them. A thousand years before, the beast and his prophet were destroyed, and the devil was locked in a pit. After the thousand-year reign of Jesus the King, sinners incite a revolution, and He orders seven angels with trumpets to send His wrath against the insurrectionists. The devil is released from the pit at the fifth trumpet (in 20:2-3). The revolt continues to the last day at the last trump. (1 Cor. 15:51-54) As time ends, Satan is thrown into the lake of fire, the second death.

2 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? <sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, 3 Let us break their bands asunder and cast away their cords from us. 4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the LORD shall have them in derision. <sup>5</sup> Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. 6 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. 7 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. <sup>8</sup> Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. 9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. 10 Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. 11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him. (Ps. 2:1-12) [note repeated prophecies]

The events of chapter 11 don't appear till after the thousand years. The trumpets begin at the seventh seal in chapter 8. In 9 we see why: an attempted coup against the Messiah of Israel:

<sup>20</sup> But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. <sup>21</sup> And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts. (Rev. 9:20-21 NKJV; cf. Rev. 20:7-15)

#### The Seventieth Week

During the revolt, two prophets judge the nations for forty-two biblical months, or 1,260 days. It's the last half of Daniel's **seventieth week** (in Dan. 9:27). Saints and sinners are all judged by their works (in 11:18) on **the last day** (in Jn. 6:39-54, p. 239).

The two witnesses are two anointed ones of two olive trees that stand before the Lord (in Zec. 4:14). The two witnesses are also two candlesticks, shining in the dark; the anointing feeds their flames.

The destroyer who rose out of the earth with his locusts slays the witnesses, but death can't keep them down. The breath of God raises them to life and calls them up to heaven. Astonished, the idolaters watch as God gathers the armies to Jerusalem. Their revolt ends when God destroys the destroyers. (in 11:18).

**Chapter 20** retells it all: Satan is locked in the abyss; Jesus reigns for a thousand years; Satan is released; Gog and Magog surround the city; Satan is destroyed, and Judgment Day arrives.

The **first half of Daniel's seventieth week** preceded the thousand years. The beast had *authority to continue for forty-two months*, 1,260 days, in Rev. 13:5—not the 1,290 days (in Dan. 12:11), likely the hour of Antiochus. Before the **first half of the seventieth week** ended, its firstfruits led its martyrs, ascending to the Lord with the survivors. His wrath fell till He returned to destroy the beast, his prophet, and the armies in Armageddon and to lock the dragon in the abyss for a thousand years.

At the end of a thousand years of peace on earth, rebels rise against the King, and His trumpeters go forth. The **first woe** is at **the fifth trumpet** and Satan is loosed (in 9:1-2, 11). At **the sixth trumpet**, two witnesses judge the rebels for 1,260 days **in the second part of its woe, the latter half of Daniel's seventieth week.** Satan kills them, but they rise to life again. A great earthquake shakes the city. The **second woe** is past (in 11:14).

Rev. 9:1-2, 11; 11:7 reveal Satan's release from the pit; he rises as the Destroyer. The **last half of the seventieth week** is in the **latter part of the second woe**. As it ends the devil kills the prophets, but they ascend to God. **At the last trump**, he's hurled into the lake of fire (in 20:10), destroyed when **the last judgment** begins at the great white throne (in 20:11; cf. 11:18).

<sup>22</sup> With pestilence and bloodshed I will enter into judgment with him, and I will rain upon him and his hordes and the many peoples who are with him torrential <u>rains</u> and <u>hailstones</u>, fire and <u>sulfur</u>. (Ezk. 38:22 ESV)

<sup>7</sup> Now when the thousand years have expired, <u>Satan will be released</u> from his prison <sup>8</sup> and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, <u>to gather them together</u> to battle, whose number *is* as the sand of the sea. <sup>9</sup> They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. <u>And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them</u>. (Rev. 20:7-9 NKJV)

Gog and Magog represent the nations of which Gog is chief. At the end their influence covers the earth. Encircling Jerusalem in Ezekiel 38, they are not slain by the sword of His mouth, but by fire, sulfur, and hail from heaven when time ends **on the last day**. There are no burial grounds or eagles to feast on the dead. Things come to a quick conclusion at the end of time.

11:17 is literally, *Thou hast taken thy great power and didst* <u>reign</u> (YLT), <u>not have begun to reign</u>. The devil is released at the fifth trumpet. At the seventh trumpet, both saints and sinners are judged and death is destroyed (in 1 Cor. 15:52, 54). In 20:10-15 the dead are judged after the thousand years; so the trumpets sound after He reigns. [KJV has hast reigned; ZGE, didst reign.]

The **last trump** hails the **third woe**: fire, hail, and sulfur destroy the armies in Armageddon (in Ezk. 38:22, above). The dragon is destroyed. The Sanctuary in heaven reveals the ark of the covenant. Heaven and earth disappear, and space is gone (in 20:11). Saints and sinners rise before Yeshua on the great white throne (in 11:18). [It sets on a *bema*, its platform.] In judgment one is condemned or justified. The judge decides each case based on his wisdom, the facts, the laws, and perhaps grace.

## **About Judgment**

<sup>42</sup> And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and sensible steward, whom his master will put in charge of his servants, to give them their rations at the proper time? <sup>43</sup> Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes. <sup>44</sup> Truly I say to you that he will

put him in charge of all his possessions. <sup>45</sup> But if that slave says in his heart, 'My master will be a long time incoming,' and begins to beat the slaves, *both* men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk; <sup>46</sup> the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect *him* and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces, and assign him a place with the unbelievers. <sup>47</sup> And that slave who knew his master's will and did not get ready or act in accord with his will, will receive many lashes, <sup>48</sup> but the one who did not know *it*, and committed deeds worthy of a flogging, will receive but few. From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more. (Luke 12:42-48 NASB)

<sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. <sup>11</sup> Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; (2 Cor. 5:10-11a; cf. Rev. 20:11-15)

<sup>24</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does <u>not come into judgment</u>, but has passed from death to life. (John 5:24 ESV)

In the previous passage (John 5:24), most Bibles translate the Greek word *krisis* as judgment, but in some versions it is *will not be condemned*. In the *Wycliffe Bible*, it is *cometh not into doom*. In *King James Version*, it is *shall not come into condemnation*. Literally, however, condemnation is *katakrima*, not *krisis*.

We presume krisis is adverse judgment, as at times it is. We think of Paul, who wrote, <u>We must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ</u>. <sup>11</sup> For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. <sup>12</sup> So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. (Rom. 14:10b-12) That is true for Paul and his contemporaries, as it is for nearly everyone. [Gr.: Krisis is translated, "judgment."] We might be surprised, but we should expect it. All who love darkness are condemned, but whoever practices living in the light is saved (in Jn. 3:19-21). We won't be lost in the shameful nakedness of our sins if we clothe ourselves with His holiness.

#### The Three Resurrections

Jesus introduced two resurrections that escape the judgment, saying, He that heareth my word and believeth on him that sent me hath everlasting life and shall not come into [krisis]; but is passed from death unto life.

- 1.) Saying, *the hour <u>now</u>* is, He predicted His own resurrection: the elect who heard His voice and believed the Father rose after He had risen. These great heroes rose apart from judgment. (Mat. 27:52-53; cf. Heb. 11-12:1) Their lives were epics.
- 2.) And He said, the hour <u>is coming</u>: Immediately after the tribulation ... His angels gather the elect (in Mat. 24:29-31; 1 Thes. 4:15-16). They <u>hear His voice and live</u>. I saw the souls of them that were beheaded .. who had not worshipped the beast ... and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. (See Rev. 20:4b) They are passed from death to life [apart from judgment].
- 3.) Finally He said, <u>And he has given him power to execute judgment</u>, because he is the Son of Man. ... The rest of the dead will hear His voice and rise to be judged when all confess Jesus Christ is Lord. (Rom. 14:11; cf. Rev. 11:18; 20:5; 1 Pet. 4:5) Listen:
  - **1–2.)** <sup>24</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. <u>He does not come into judgment</u>, but has passed from death to life. <sup>25</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, <u>an hour is coming</u>, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. <sup>26</sup> For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. (Jn. 5:24-26 ESV)
  - **3.)** <sup>27</sup> And he has given Him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. <sup>28</sup> Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming in which <u>all who are in the tombs will hear his voice</u> <sup>29</sup> and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment. (Jn. 5:27-29 ESV) [Judgment can be "condemnation."]

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. <sup>24</sup> Then *cometh* the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall

have put down all rule and authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For he must reign, till he hath put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy *that* shall be destroyed *is* death. <sup>27</sup> For he hath put all things under his feet." But when he saith all things are put under *him, it is* manifest that he is excepted which did put all things under him. <sup>28</sup> And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all. (1 Cor. 15:22-28)

There are three resurrections, but only one judgment, on the last day at the last trumpet (in 11:18-19; cf. 20:7-15). Some feared the dead wouldn't rise, but Paul revealed that supernatural laws govern nature and the resurrection of the dead:

<sup>41</sup> There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. <sup>42</sup> So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: <sup>43</sup> It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: <sup>44</sup> It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. (1 Cor. 15:41-44)

Our bodies will be like Jesus' body but will vary in glory as stars do, some outshining others.

<sup>14</sup> Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. <sup>15</sup> For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. <sup>16</sup> I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. (Rev. 22:14-16)

<sup>11</sup> "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. <u>He who overcomes</u> shall not be hurt by the second death." (Rev. 2:11 NKJV)

Enoch did not come into judgment; neither did Moses nor Elijah. They passed from death to life. The judgments of God are perfect, and His ways are hidden. (See Gen. 5:24; Mat. 17:3)

<sup>5</sup> <u>He who overcomes</u> shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life, but

I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. <sup>6</sup> "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." (Rev. 3:5-6 NKJV)

Spirits are waiting under the altar. Paul wrote, For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: if so be that being clothed, we shall not be found naked. (2 Cor. 5:2-3) We wait for new bodies, dwellings that are eternal: for we also who are in the tabernacle do groan, being burdened, seeing we wish not to unclothe ourselves, but to clothe ourselves, that the mortal may be swallowed up of the life. (2 Cor. 5:4 YLT) How do we clothe ourselves? by seeking His Kingdom and His righteousness.

<sup>26</sup> And above the firmament over their heads *was* the likeness of a throne, in appearance like a sapphire stone; on the likeness of the throne *was* a likeness with the appearance of a man high above it. <sup>27</sup> Also from the appearance of His waist and upward I saw, as it were, the color of amber with the appearance of fire all around within it; and from the appearance of His waist and downward I saw, as it were, the appearance of fire with brightness all around. <sup>28</sup> Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so *was* the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD.

So when I saw *it*, I fell on my face, and I heard a voice of One speaking. (Ezk. 1:26-28 NKJV)

Had they believed, they would not have sinned in the desert. By faith we partake in His righteousness as new creatures, living

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> As it is said,

<sup>&</sup>quot;Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? <sup>17</sup> And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? <sup>18</sup> And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? <sup>19</sup> So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief. (Heb. 3:15-19 ESV)

in the divine nature of His Spirit, not after the material nature of the flesh. He told us if we don't hate our lives, we can't be His disciples. We follow Christ by giving up our selfish wills to do the will of God. He loves us who love Him but chose us long before we were free to choose Him. (Receive Romans 9.)

While reading Romans 6-8, we should believe in the power of the risen Christ who lives to deliver us from our sins. The crux of our faith is in our surrender to the Spirit by faith in His words. ... the just will live by his faith. (Hab. 2:4b) It's how we live. As we mature we test ourselves and don't look for faults in others.

And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. (1 Pet. 4:8) Obeying Him we prove we love God, and by His love, we love others.

Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, ""Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?"
Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.
Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me. (Jn. 14:22-24 ESV)

 $^{23}$  May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.  $^{24}$  The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it. (1 Thes. 5:23-24 NIV)

The vast number of saints from ages past are judged **on the last day** at the great white throne.

<sup>18</sup> The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth."
(Rev. 11:18 NKJV)

#### The Last Trump!

At the **last trump**, Gog the man of Satan, entices the earth by Magog as Babylon had done till her destruction. Christ proves the sin in sinners who refuse to repent. In the best conditions, no

one seeks God—not one. (Rom. 3:10-11; Phil. 2:12-16) Fire falls from above, and Satan is cast into a lake of fire on **the last day**:

<sup>11</sup> Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. ... (Rev. 20:11-12a NKJV)

In 20:5 the rest of the dead rise after the thousand years at the great white throne where Jesus judges humankind. The rest of the dead, i.e., all who will have died but are not yet risen—the living and the dead, saints and sinners—are judged on the last day in 11:18. We all have our salvation to work out and our own changes to embrace. Some stumble for their purification at the end, but God is faithful to deliver us from evil. (Dan. 12:35)

<sup>2</sup> Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. (Dan. 12:2 NIV)

Without partiality losses and rewards are given to saints and rejection and wrath to sinners and hypocrites. Its day reveals the choices we've made and the things we've done by faith when we rise to eternal life in degrees of glory. Judgments and rewards, sorrows and joys, regrets and comforts follow our works whether by the flesh or by the Spirit. When Paul said we must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ, he referred to the last trump:

<sup>50</sup> Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. <sup>51</sup> Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we 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 has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." (1 Cor. 15:50-54 NKJV)

<sup>55</sup> "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

<sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>58</sup> Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. (1 Cor. 15:55-58 ESV)

<sup>24</sup> The sins of some people are conspicuous, going before them to judgment, but the sins of others appear later. <sup>25</sup> So also good works are conspicuous, and even those that are not cannot remain hidden.

(1 Tim. 5:24-25 ESV)

<sup>17</sup> Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. ... <sup>24</sup> Ye see that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. (James 2:17, 24; cf. Rom. 8)

<sup>11</sup> Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. <sup>13</sup> And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one *of them* according to their deeds. <sup>14</sup> Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. <sup>15</sup> And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. (Rev. 20:11-15 NASB)

<sup>44</sup> "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. (Mat. 13:44 NKJV)

Christ is the Man who found the treasure in the field and bought the whole field just for the treasure in it. The world is the field, and we are its treasure. He is patient and kind toward us, but is not willing that any of us should perish, having chosen us for sanctification by faith in the truth before the foundations of the world:

<sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to [No believer should perish: Jn. 3:16.] repentance.

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

<sup>11</sup> Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy con-

versation and godliness,

12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

<sup>13</sup> Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

<sup>14</sup> Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. (2 Pet. 3:9-14)

The objective is to value time as men do their money since how we invest our lives matters most. Living by faith, we surrender all to Christ as He does to the Father. And we believe the Father who declared the new covenant, beginning in Genesis. The passage prophesies the end of time at the last judgment on the great day of the Lord when heaven and earth are destroyed, making way for new heavens and a new earth. (above) Near the last trump, things rush to the end with no intervals between them. (10:6) 2 Pet. 3:11-12 refers to the last day when the elements melt and disappear. The earth and the heavens dissolve by fire; there is no place for them—all of space is gone. Christ is high up on the judgment throne, and we are very small.

On that day, many who are first will be last, and the last, first. Many who are exalted will be diminished, and those who seem least significant will be exalted. Only that which is spiritual remains forever. It exceeds all the riches of this world and is more exuberating than carnal minds can imagine. Where there is love, there is life, and where there is life, there is Jesus.

All who trust in this world are disillusioned and disappointed at the end, but faith in the words of God guide us throughout our

lives. Life with the Savior speaks volumes of answered prayers and fulfilled hopes, leading to everlasting joy. Faith in false gods leads to destruction. Faith in the Savior proves He is alive from the dead by the life of His Spirit sent to us. By faith in Him alone we are gaining victories over all adversities and oppositions, even over all spiritual battles in this world. Outwardly, we're aging while inwardly, He renews us day by day. We win because He won and reveals Himself to us by His Word and His Spirit.

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. (Heb. 11:1-3 ESV)