

UNVEILED!

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

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The Ancient Secrets of Daniel & The Revelation of Jesus Christ

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The Revelation of Jesus Christ

CHAPTER 14

14 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

² And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:

³ And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

⁴ These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

⁵ And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

⁶ And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

⁷ Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

⁸ And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

⁹ And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

¹⁰ The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

¹¹ And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

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¹² Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

¹³ And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from hence forth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

¹⁴ And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.

¹⁵ And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.

¹⁶ And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.

¹⁷ And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.

¹⁸ And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.

¹⁹ And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

²⁰ And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs. (Revelation 14:1-20) [1600 fur. = 200 mi./322 km]

Insights

Revelation 13 ends with the identity number of the beast. After the tribulation, Jesus takes up the elect before His wrath at the sixth seal. Chapter 7 follows the sixth seal with its winds held back for the male virgins to be sealed first. Faultless before the throne, they are the firstfruits who ascend after the beheaded martyrs rise from their graves (in 20:4-5):

7 And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. **2** **And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God:**

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and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, ³Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.
(Rev. 7:1-3)

The angel in 14:6 is *another angel* after the one in chapter 7; they connect. The martyrs are tagged in 6:11 at **the fifth seal**. In chapter 7 the virgins are sealed before the winds of **the sixth seal** are loosed to shake the powers of the heavens (in 6:12; 14:14). Then the sun turns black and the moon, red; and Jesus appears **at the right hand of glory on a cloud** to raise the chosen martyrs from their graves. (Mat. 24:29-30) The firstfruits ascend, leading the martyrs together with the elect who survive the tribulation. ⁷ shows the virgins, being sealed before the sixth seal. Chapter 14 reports their presence in heaven, worshipping the Lamb together.

⁶And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, (Rev. 14:6) [before the tribulation]

Two prophets call the world to repent and to believe in Jesus Christ, warning people of the wrath to come. (14:6-12) The third prophet warns the world of God's wrath against all who take the mark or worship the beast or his image [at the fifth seal].

Jesus rose, *the firstfruits of them that slept*, leading the elect who rose to enter Jerusalem and appear to many Jews (in Mat. 27:52-3). When He comes seated in glory, the firstfruits of Israel, male virgins like Christ, lead the elect to Him in the air:

¹² Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness! ...

¹⁵ For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what *will* their acceptance *be* but life from the dead? ... ²⁵ For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

(Rom. 11:12, 15, 25 NKJV)

Yeshua comes for the chosen ones at the first harvest of Sukkot (in 14:13-16). The beheaded martyrs of the great tribulation

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rise. Together with the saints who survive, having refused the beast, his image, and his mark, they ascend to meet Jesus on the cloud (in 14:14). They were mentioned to others who'd died and were under the altar at the fifth seal (in 6:11). After His wrath is removed from the Sanctuary, they return to earth with Him for the marriage supper of the Lamb (in 19:7-9, 11-16; cf. 20:4-6).

The elect martyrs rise from death. [Gr.: *anistemi*, "stand up"] The firstfruits who are last to be sealed are first to ascend with the chosen martyrs who are caught up with survivors to meet the Lord in the air. [Gr.: *anabaino*, "go up"] Its survivors remain in heaven: *so shall we ever be with the Lord. (1 Thes. 4:14)*

Chapter 14 has two harvests (in 14:14-20): Jesus sits on His throne on a cloud (in 6:16; cf. 14:14) and gathers His elect (in Mat. 24:31). Others are gathered by the mark for the winepress. (14:19)

After His bowls of wrath in 16, Yeshua returns to earth with the 144,000 and the elect martyrs to reign. (14:1; 19:11-16; 20:4-6) ... *them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him. (1 Thes. 4:14) ... they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. (Rev. 20:4c)*

Another Abomination

The abuse of the Jews by Antiochus IV in 168-165 BC was foretold four hundred years ahead of time. (Dan. 8:24) Jesus spoke of a vast passage of events before another abomination is in the temple, alluding to its place in Jerusalem. *After that tribulation, He comes [parousia, "nearness"] on a cloud* to gather His elect from the four corners of the earth. (1 Thes. 4:15-17; Mk. 13:24-27)

The Roman general Titus destroyed the temple in 70 AD, not as Antiochus "Epiphanes," who demanded worship and set up an idol, desecrating the temple. No Roman general ever demanded worship as Antiochus had done; it would have cost him his life.

Caesar Hadrian set up a statue of Jupiter in a temple built for Venus in Palestina, but that was not the "holy place," which had been leveled. The enormity of the holocaust exceeded the Judean butchery, and the world could have been destroyed in 1945, but the temple was absent, and the Jews were still scattered.

The tribulation will be the worst time new covenant saints have ever known, but its days are shortened. The elect who endure to the end, not yielding to the beast or his mark, ascend to Jesus in the air before the first bowl of His wrath (in 14:17-20).

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¹² I saw when the Lamb opened the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake. The sun became as black as sackcloth made of goat's hair, and the full moon became like blood. ¹³ The stars of heaven fell to the earth like a fig tree drops unripe figs when shaken by a great wind.

¹⁴ The heaven ripped apart like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved from their places.

¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the military commanders and the rich and the mighty and everyone—slave and free—hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains. ¹⁶ And they tell the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us, and hide us from the face of the One seated on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb. ¹⁷ For the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”

(Rev. 6:12-17 TLV)

The Shortcut

The heavens are shaken. Islands and mountains are moved; immediately after the tribulation, the elect rise from the dead and are changed into His likeness. Its trials are harsh, but His wrath falls on our enemies. *God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.* (See 1 Thes. 5:9)

¹⁶ 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 Thes. 4:16-18) [Gr.: *anistemi* means “to stand up, get up, or arise.” This happens at the first resurrection in 20:4-6.]

¹⁴ Then the LORD will be seen over them,
And His arrow will go forth like lightning.
The Lord GOD will blow the trumpet.
And go with whirlwinds from the south.

(Zec. 9:14 NKJV)

Yeshua comes with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and the trumpet of God. Michael the archangel is the prince of Israel, sent for their ascension. (Dan. 10:21) He also ministers to

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the saints of Israel on behalf of God. At the **trumpet of God**, His angels catch us up. **This is** not the last trump, which is one of seven at the end. The day and hour are hid, but the season is not. Only fools say they know the day or hour; not even Jesus knew that! But He died on Passover and rose on the Day of Firstfruits. This tells us the feasts are for seasons and signs, but no one can know when Jesus will come; the calendars were changed!

It's time to apply our trials against the nature of our flesh in preparation for the tribulation preceding the first resurrection and its saints' ascension. After His indignation Jesus returns to reign with the elect martyrs and 144,000 virgins. They return riding like lightning on white horses, flashing across the skies:

²⁶ "Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, He is in the inner rooms!' do not believe it. ²⁷ For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ²⁸ For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together. (Mat. 24:26-28 NKJV)

After He comes on a cloud to take up the elect, those who are left behind will think He returned though He's with the elect in heaven till the last bowl of wrath has left the Sanctuary in chapters 14–16. They won't correctly divide the Word. Before Yeshua returns with His armies, Babylon is utterly decimated. He returns to destroy the armies in Armageddon, and even eagles eat their flesh, a sign that fulfills the prophecy of His return.

The living who are worthy are caught up before the wrath and may not return but remain in the presence of God: *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.* (1 Thes. 4:17) Not having died, we ascend to heaven; not bowing a knee to the beast, we confess Jesus is Lord and do not suffer the judgment. (See Rev. 2:8b-11)

After we who are elect martyrs rise to life, we ascend to the Lord in the air (Mat. 24:29-31) but return to reign for a thousand years with Jesus, bypassing the judgment. (20:5; 7:13-17; 13:11-18; 14:9-16) Note the distinction between martyrs and survivors.

One out of two are short of oil, not filled with the Spirit, not yielded to His will. Half are unprepared for His coming and are left behind. One of two are taken and one of two, left behind.

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Certain of teachings that shun God's words, we argue with vain opinions. Our leaders say we can never be perfect. Although people set purity aside, the Word is clear:

³ For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. (Rom. 8:3-4 NIV)

If our minds are set on this world as sinners are, we won't be ready to meet Him when He comes on a cloud. If our thoughts are set on its foods, pleasures, or possessions, we're living in the nature of the flesh. If we're proud of our positions, discontent, ambitious, or envious of others, we're carnal. (1 Cor. 2:15-3:3)

If we press for the goal of our high calling of God in Christ, He prepares us to meet Him, leaving everything and everyone behind. The Spirit performs the impossible: His righteousness in us raises us out of sin to live by the same Spirit that raised Him to life. *If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.* (Rom. 8:9b) *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.* (Rom. 8:14) *He must increase, but I must decrease.* (Jn. 3:30) We live by the Spirit if we die by the cross.

When the sun turns black and the moon, red, and powers in the heavens are shaken, look up! Jesus comes on a cloud. *Every eye sees Him* when we're caught up to meet Jesus at *the great trumpet of God*. It's not a secret. He foretold it ahead of time.

We are saved by grace through faith, not works, but James 2:26 says *faith without works is dead*. In Romans 8 Paul agrees. Jesus knows our works in chapters 2 and 3. (Rev. 21:5-8, 27; 22:14-15) We are His workmanship; our works are not our own.

⁶ For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. ⁷ Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed, can be. ⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. (Rom. 8:6-8 NKJV)

If we live in sin or refuse to forgive, we're in the unbelief of the flesh. If we profess the faith but live for this world, we're left behind. (1Thes. 4:13-18; Lk.21:25-36) The Lord said, *pray that ye*

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may be able to escape—not the persecution that perfects the saints, but His indignation against the world when He comes to gather His elect to Himself. The context is in Lk. 21:25-36:

³⁴ “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”
(Lk. 21:34-36 NIV; cf. 21:25-36)

Mysterious Messengers

Four angels hold back the winds while others swiftly seal the male virgins of Israel in chapter 7. Before the winds shake the heavens, the word goes out to refuse the mark though it costs our lives (in 14:9-12). The dragon, a prophet, and a beast demand the deaths of their opponents, but saints keep the faith and endure to the end (in 13:5-17). The pending rapture is soon past. Then in the passion of His justice, God sends His wrath:

⁷ And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸ I tell you, he will see that they get justice and quickly. ... (Lk. 18:7-8a) [the fifth seal]

¹³ In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory. (Eph. 1:13-14 NASB) [the hope]

¹² So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. (Rom. 8:12-14 ESV)

The last hour of the age began as the gospel went forth from space with its warnings (in 14:6-7). Then Babylon was declared morally fallen past the point of return (in 14:8). The harlot was a marked woman, a corrupt city.

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1.) ⁶ And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, ⁷ Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. (Rev. 14:6-7)

At the right time in history, Billy Graham was a herald who obeyed his calling. His brother heard him preach at a young age and said, “He preached loud ... so loud he didn’t need a microphone or any amplification. ... You could hear him a quarter mile away!” His mother warned him, “Son, you can’t preach so loud. You’ll scare people away!” ¹⁶³ But his stentorian voice would reach the world, mostly by radio and television.

Saints have given their lives to propagate the good news of salvation, hiking from village to village, mountain to mountain, and valley to valley, taking the gospel to sinners and baptizing. Even so, the sign is a strong voice in the signal from heaven.

2.) ⁸ And another angel followed, saying, “Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.” (Rev. 14:8 NKJV) [She’s judged in 16 and 18.]

David Wilkerson was a pastor in NYC who warned the city of her coming judgment. ¹⁶⁴ His book *The Vision* foresaw the city destroyed. Jonathan Cahn wrote a book based on the historical facts of that city. *The Harbinger* reveals its prophetic presence in the Scriptures. ¹⁶⁵

3.) ⁹ And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, ¹⁰ the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: (Rev. 14:9-10)

A third messenger warns multitudes to reject the beast and his mark, for God will condemn anyone who accepts the number, the mark, or the beast. We must redeem the time, not entertain ourselves with wasteful living. Seeking His Kingdom and His

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righteousness should be all that's on our minds and in our hearts, knowing the time is short.

By books, discs, and recordings, the messages might remain in the time of wrath to tell those who are left behind, even Israel, "Repent and keep the faith!" Although His fury encircles them and hope seems gone, His Word endures: repent and come out of Babylon forever—pray for Jerusalem—Yeshua will return!

Two Autumn Harvests

Martyrs cry out from under the altar at the fifth seal but are exhorted to be patient. Others must be killed as they were. The firstfruits are sealed before the tribulation ends. **The sixth seal** breaks *after the tribulation* at His coming to gather the chosen ones; its signs are telling. (Mat. 24:29-31; 14:14-16)

¹² I saw when the Lamb opened the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake. The sun became as black as sackcloth made of goat's hair, and the full moon became like blood. ¹³ The stars of heaven fell to the earth like a fig tree drops unripe figs when shaken by a great wind. ¹⁴ The heaven ripped apart like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved from their places. (Rev. 6:12-14 TLV)

Stunned by His Presence, men plead for an escape. Had they repented and lived for the Savior, it wouldn't have ended this way. Lot left Sodom and brimstone fell. Noah's family was in an ark; its door shut, and the flood came. Mockers resist miracles but will see Jesus on the throne before His wrath. He opens the **sixth seal** as the tribulation ends to gather believers to Himself.

¹⁷ Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. ¹⁸ And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe." (Rev. 14:17-18) – the sickle of His wrath

Six angels pour the wrath of God from six bowls while the beast musters the nations' armies against the Lamb to fulfill the prophecy: *And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself and magnify himself above every god, and*

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shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished for that that is determined shall be done. (Dan. 11:36; cf. Is. 66:14b, p. 222)

At last God recalls Babylon, and the city falls into the sea at the **seventh bowl**. Then Yeshua returns with His armies against the nations in Armageddon, turning it into a graveyard. Angels cast the beast and false prophet into the lake of fire, ending the wrath when the devil is locked in the abyss. At last the Messiah judges the nations with equity.

¹³ “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴ Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. (Mat. 7:13-14 NKJV)

His disciples, apostles, and prophets were killed, living by faith to lay hold of life. They died for their love of His goodness.

¹⁰ “Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. (Rev. 2:10 NKJV)

Whether we support His nation or turn against Israel, Christ wins her in the end. Though all nations stand against them, the world can't destroy the Jews. He punished them for His Name's sake but favors them for His promises to the fathers. (Dan. 7:18; cf. Gen. 17:5-6; Rom. 4:16-18)

A Great Tribulation

Since they hate the truth that shines its light on darkness, the world adores the beast. (13:7) When a nation accepts Babylon, Christians suffer for righteousness. If we are weak, God gives us strength according to our faith. Nothing overcomes Christ in us.

False teachers and false prophets draw crowds by miracles and wonders even though miracles and wonders are for today. By delivering only half the gospel, however, teachers have often deceived the elect. Most of us have believed lies. Lies about Israel; lies about practicing sin. But God is not mocked; what we sow we reap. We carry a cross to follow Jesus Christ or don't follow Him at all. He can use anyone for His purposes, even an

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apostate church, to fulfill His prophecies, which are unavoidable though their time is in the Father's hands.

Leaders have had their own motives from noble to nefarious; men are moved by thoughts and impulses, but God calls us to believe His every word. At times translators err by interpreting instead of translating; it's warfare for them too.

Satan himself fulfills the words of God while attempting to shut them up. In days like these, the apostles wrote about trials:

⁷ These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though tried by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

(1 Pet. 1:7-9 TLV)

¹⁰ “And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son. (Zec. 12:10) [The Days of Awe foretell this.]

The earth shakes and tsunamis pound its shores. Mountains move and islands disappear. *Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: (Rev. 1:7a)* Even from their graves, they'll see Him on a cloud:

¹⁶ And they tell the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us, and hide us from the face of the One seated on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb. ¹⁷ For the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?” (Rev. 6:16-17 TLV) [The sixth seal has seven bowls of wrath.]

Faith proves itself in our most adverse circumstances. When we can't understand, tenacious faith outlasts the tests sent to humble us and turn us from our own ways to do the will of God:

¹⁹ ... They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. ²⁰ But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. ... ²¹ ... Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and

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Antioch, ²² strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,” they said. (Acts 14:19b-20a, 21b-22 NIV)

³² And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. ³⁵ Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. ³⁶ Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— ³⁸ the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

³⁹ These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, ⁴⁰ since God had planned something better for us, so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

(Heb. 11:32-40 NIV), and the *Tree of Life Version* continues, 12 Therefore since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also get rid of every weight and entangling sin. Let us run with endurance the race set before us, ² focusing on *Yeshua*, the initiator and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him, He endured the cross, disregarding its shame; and He has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of God. (Heb. 12:1-2)

We overcome by trusting Jesus. The battle is His; its victory, ours. We're tried by fire, not just by the normal tests of life:

¹² Beloved, think it not strange, concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as if some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, in as much as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. (1 Pet. 4:12-13)

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³³ Those who are wise among the people will give understanding to many, yet they will die by sword and flame, and be captured and plundered for a time. ³⁴ When defeated, they will be helped by some, but many others will join them insincerely. ³⁵ Some of the wise will fall so that they may be refined, purified, and cleansed until the time of the end, for it will still come at the appointed time. (Dan. 11: 33-35 HCSB)

His perfect will is done through us when we practice living by faith as Abraham did, entrusting himself to God, believing in His words. It took time; he learned as he lived. We can do this.

⁷ He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. ⁸ But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.” (Rev. 21:7-8 NKJV)

We had done the same things but are saved by grace through faith, yet we’ve claimed to have turned to Him by our own will.

¹⁸ In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.” (Gen. 22:18 NASB) – Abraham feared and obeyed.

False teachers convince us we are righteous apart from good works, as if faith isn’t substantive. Have we risked eternity for a false teaching? The way to life is difficult and narrow.

³ Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father. ⁴ I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, ⁵ because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.” (Gen. 26:3-5 ESV)

But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God. (Jn. 3:21)

¹² Who can understand *his* errors? Cleanse thou me from secret *faults*. ¹³ Keep back thy servant also from

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presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer. (Ps. 19:12-14)

⁷ And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? ⁸ I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth? (Lk. 18:7-8; cf. Rev. 6:9-10)

In 1917, the Balfour Declaration offered a Jewish state. In June 1967 the Jews took Jerusalem's Old City. December 6, 2017: President Donald J. Trump officially recognized the city as the capital of Israel.¹⁶⁶ The events were each fifty years apart like the Year of Jubilee every fifty years when the people's debts are cancelled, and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family. (Lev. 25:10b)

In 2015 the UN celebrated its 70th anniversary with President Obama opening its morning session.¹⁶⁷ In 2018 the U.S. Embassy moved to Jerusalem on Israel's 70th anniversary.¹⁶⁸ Revelation is the story about a war between two cities: Mystery Babylon and Jerusalem, each with a king.

⁹ The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders,¹⁰ and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

¹¹ Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false,¹² in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. (2 Thes. 2:9-12 ESV)

¹⁶ The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel. (Joel 3:16)

When these things begin to come to pass, then look up and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. (Lk. 21:28):

³⁰ "I will show wonders in the heavens
and on the earth,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.

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³¹ The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and dreadful
day of the LORD.

³² And everyone who calls
on the name of the LORD will be saved;
for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem
there will be deliverance,
as the LORD has said,
among the survivors
whom the LORD calls. (Jl. 2:30-32 NIV)

² And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was coming from the east. And the sound of his coming was like the sound of many waters, and the earth shone with his glory. ... ⁴ As the glory of the LORD entered the temple by the gate facing east, ⁵ the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the temple.

⁶ While the man was standing beside me, I heard one speaking to me out of the temple, ⁷ and he said to me, "Son of man, this is the place of my throne and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the people of Israel forever. And the house of Israel shall no more defile my holy name, neither they, nor their kings, by their whoring and by the dead bodies of their kings at their high places, (Ezk. 43:2, 4-7 ESV)

Whoever believes that God only blesses us, or that trouble is only from the devil will reconsider if they hope to love the truth. In the *Revelation of Jesus Christ*, angels pour out His bowls of wrath and later blow their trumpets for His indignation against the earth. The Lamb breaks the seals and sends hurricanes, famines, floods, and pestilence: judgments against the world and He is good. He scourges His own (in Heb. 12:6-11) and He is good. He returns to destroy multitudes and He is good. He reigns by a rod of iron and yet is good for ever and ever. This calls for endurance, obedience, and the faith of Jesus (in 13:10; 14:12) ... *and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. (Is. 9:6b)*

Our destiny isn't based on what we've done for Him, but on what He's done through us. We'll prepare for His coming by

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loving one another, emptied of ourselves, filled with Christ, and willing to die for His name's sake. We are His servants, or we are not His who sends the trials as well as the blessings:

¹³ When I shut up the heavens, so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people,¹⁴ if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. (2 Chron. 7:13-14 ESV) [Pestilence = fatal epidemics.]

One of the dragon's chief princes rules as Gog *in the uttermost parts of the north*. In respect to Israel, Russia is remotely north of the Black Sea. When hunting for passages with words to connect prophecies, we exclude those that are irrelevant or don't fit. Ezekiel 38 follows the Kingdom, but 37 and 39 precede it:

39 "And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog and say, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal.² And I will turn you about and drive you forward, and bring you up from the uttermost parts of the north, and lead you against the mountains of Israel.³ Then I will strike your bow from your left hand, and will make your arrows drop out of your right hand.⁴ You shall fall on the mountains of Israel, you and all your hordes and the peoples who are with you. I will give you to birds of prey of every sort and to the beasts of the field to be devoured.⁵ You shall fall in the open field, for I have spoken, declares the Lord GOD.⁶ I will send fire on Magog and on those who dwell securely in the coastlands, and they shall know that I am the LORD.

⁷ "And my holy name I will make known in the midst of my people Israel, and I will not let my holy name be profaned anymore. And the nations shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.⁸ Behold, it is coming and it will be brought about, declares the Lord GOD. That is the day of which I have spoken.

⁹ "Then those who dwell in the cities of Israel will go out and make fires of the weapons and burn them, shields and bucklers, bow and arrows, clubs and spears; and they will make fires of them for seven years,¹⁰ so that

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they will not need to take wood out of the field or cut down any out of the forests, for they will make their fires of the weapons. They will seize the spoil of those who despoiled them, and plunder those who plundered them, declares the Lord GOD.

¹¹“On that day I will give to Gog a place for burial in Israel, the Valley of the Travelers, east of the sea. It will block the travelers, for there Gog and all his multitude will be buried. It will be called the Valley of Hamon-gog. ¹²For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them, in order to cleanse the land. ...

¹⁷“As for you, son of man, thus says the Lord God: Speak to the birds of every sort and to all beasts of the field: ‘Assemble and come, gather from all around to the sacrificial feast that I am preparing for you, a great sacrificial feast on the mountains of Israel, and you shall eat flesh and drink blood. ...

²¹“And I will set my glory among the nations, and all the nations shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid on them. ²²The house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God, from that day forward. ²³And the nations shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity, because they dealt so treacherously with me that I hid my face from them and gave them into the hand of their adversaries, and they all fell by the sword.

... ²⁶They shall forget their shame and all the treachery they have practiced against me, when they dwell securely in their land with none to make them afraid, ²⁷when I have brought them back from the peoples and gathered them from their enemies’ lands, and through them have vindicated my holiness in the sight of many nations.

(Ezk. 39:1-12, 17, 21-23, 26-27 ESV)

The keys that place Ezekiel 39 before Messiah’s Kingdom are these: the reason the Jews were scattered (vs. 7); their return to the land; melting weapons for plowshares (also in Is. 2:3-4; Mic. 4:2-3); the burial of the dead; *birds of prey of every sort*, (even eagles). And deaths by the sword of the Lord—the Word of His mouth (in Rev. 19:15, 21). These are clustered prophecies and are premillennial. There’s no need for these at the end of time.