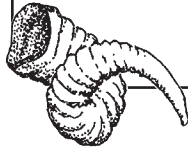


**The LORD's *Shofar* Shout
At The Rapture**



by B. R. Hicks

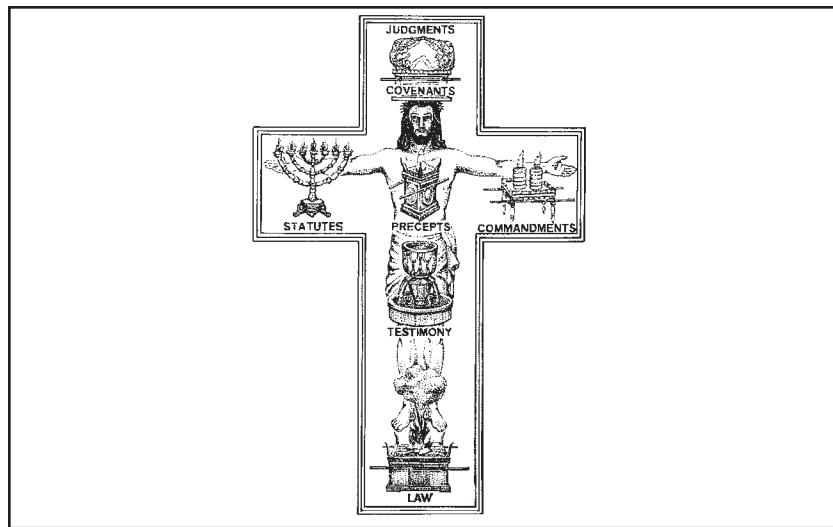
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Preface

God, the Master Teacher, uses figures, types, shadows, parables, metaphors, and allegories throughout His Word in order to illustrate divine Truth. For example, when the children of Israel were in the wilderness and needed a way of approach to and communion with a Holy God, He provided the Mosaic Tabernacle, which was a picture, a shadow, a type of the Son of God, the LORD Jesus Christ.

Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; (Hebrew 9:9).



The first Tabernacle, known as the Mosaic Tabernacle, was only a shadow for that time to help people receive a *prophetic vision* of the Stature and Ministry of the second, greater, and more perfect Tabernacle, the Personal Tabernacle of the Body of God's only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, Who shone with such brightness

and glory that He caused the shadows of the first Tabernacle to flee and His Truth to stand revealed as the illuminating splendour of the noonday sun.

Because the Mosaic Tabernacle was to be a figure, an outlined shape of the Stature of Jesus Christ, God instructed Moses, four different times, to build the Tabernacle after the pattern that was shown to him in the mount.

But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, **by a greater and more perfect tabernacle**, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; (Hebrews 9:11).

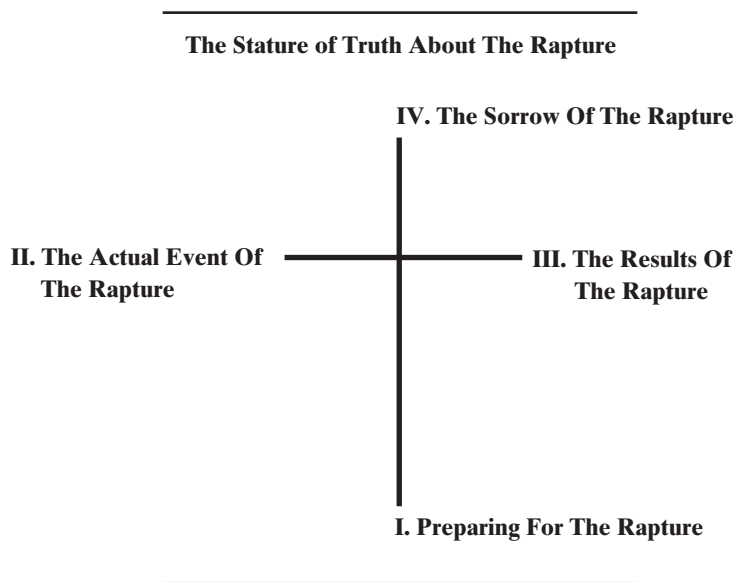
The Body or Tabernacle that the Holy Ghost conceived as He overshadowed the blessed Virgin Mary was a new fabric, a new order of building that was infinitely superior to the earthly structure. Since the Mosaic Tabernacle was a divinely given blueprint or outline of the Stature of the Son of God, it becomes a guiding light to reveal to our hearts the Truth of how to grow up unto the measure of the Fullness of Christ.

Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, **unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:** (Ephesians 4:13).

Since the Mosaic Tabernacle is a picture of the Son of God, in Whom is hidden all the treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge, we may expect the Wisdom and Knowledge of all other Scripture to fit together with it. The whole Bible is a beautiful revelation of the LORD Jesus Christ; therefore, God is able to say that *all* Scripture is profitable.

All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and ***is* profitable** for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: (II Timothy 3:16,17).

The Stature, depicted by the four points of the Cross* in the Mosaic Tabernacle, is profitable to us because it points out the spiritual experiences that we will know as we grow up into spiritual maturity in Jesus Christ. Not only is the Old Testament Tabernacle laid out in the form of a Cross, but God also uses the Stature of the Cross to reveal the Stature of Truth of His Holy Word. As one diligently and prayerfully studies the Written Word of God, he or she discovers that God has divided the Truth of His revealed Word according to the four points of the Cross of Jesus Christ. The four main points of the subject of the Rapture, for instance, fit around the four points of the Cross.



This book has been written in obedience to Jesus Christ's command to share the quickened Truths He so graciously has placed in my heart. When we share His Word, the Lord has promised that it will bless the hearts of those who hear it. The prayerful desire and motive of my heart is that each person who reads this book will receive a new vision and greater love for the blessed LORD Jesus Christ and find, within their hearts, a desire to put on their Wedding Garments of Light and Truth and be ready for His soon Return.

— The Author

Introduction To The Study Of The Rapture

CAUGHT AWAY! What glorious hope! What burning longing for those who have denied *self* and paid the price to follow Him. But, what groping! What utter despair! What sheer hopelessness for the wailing multitudes left behind when the Rapture takes place!

What is the Rapture? Will every Christian believer be in the Rapture? How does a person prepare for the Rapture? When will this event take place? What will be the results of this phenomenal happening? What follows the Rapture on God's calendar of events?

These are questions that people need answers to today! God's clock marks the hours allotted to man in the measured amount of space that God calls Time, and the hands on His Spiritual Clock are pointing to the last hours man has left. Sometime during the last hour, the Rapture will take place. It could happen at any time!

God's Holy Word is not only a revelation of His Son, Jesus, but it is also a prophetic Message to man so that each person might be prepared in his heart either to meet his Creator at Death or to be caught up with Jesus when He comes in the Clouds to snatch away all overcomers who are watching and waiting for His Return.

Man is a spirit, soul, and body. God's Purpose in resurrecting a believer's body is to reward it for its righteous labours in cooperating with the believer's spirit and soul while he has done God's Will during his lifetime on Earth. A Christian's body cooperates with his spirit and soul in praying, praising, worshipping, and studying God's Word, which helps the spirit and soul to grow in Grace, Knowledge, and the Stature of the LORD Jesus Christ. Therefore, at the Rapture, the believer's body will be rewarded by being given Resurrection Glory, if the believer has been an overcomer and has died before the LORD's Return in the Clouds, or it will be rewarded by Translation Glory, if the believing overcomer is still

alive at the Rapture when all the overcomers are caught up to meet the LORD in the air. At the Rapture, the degree of glory awarded the overcomers will be according to the measure of Christ that the spirit and soul have attained during a person's journey through life on Earth. The Rapture of the resurrected and translated overcomers proves the faithful nature of God's just retribution.

The word *Rapture* is used to describe the "catching away" of the resurrected believers and the "translated" (changed) believers at the Coming of the LORD Jesus Christ in the air. The LORD Jesus Christ does not come to the Earth on this occasion. He appears in the air to Rapture or "catch away" those who have been counted worthy to have their bodies raised from the dead, plus those who are alive and are counted worthy to have their bodies changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. The resurrected ones and the changed ones will be endowed with spiritual bodies so that they can be "caught up," or raptured, to meet the LORD in the air.

The Hebrew word for *caught away* or rapture is *lah-kagh*, meaning to be seized or snatched away, to be taken away, to be caught away.

When Jesus comes and catches away His prepared Bride and all who will be in the Wedding Party, this world will be visited with a time of tribulation such as it has never known. The depth of God's Wrath will be poured down on this old Earth in vehement Judgment. All the bombs, missiles, rockets, and destructive devices ever conceived by man will appear as mere toys. Never has there been a time like this, nor will there ever be again, when God's fierce Wrath turns loose His vengeance upon a wicked and rebellious people. Judgment of hail and fire, mingled with blood, lightning, and thunder, will fall violently upon this Earth. Judgment of earthquakes and sore plagues of God's Fury will plunge upon the Earth with such severity that man will cry for death but to no avail. This dark time of intense tribulation, reserved for the Wrath of God and the Lamb, is near — even at the door. How we need to sound forth this urgent message: "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh! Go ye out to meet him!"

In order to escape this time of terrible tribulation, a person must prepare, or he will not be ready for the Rapture. The aim of this book is to help believers be prepared for this great event.

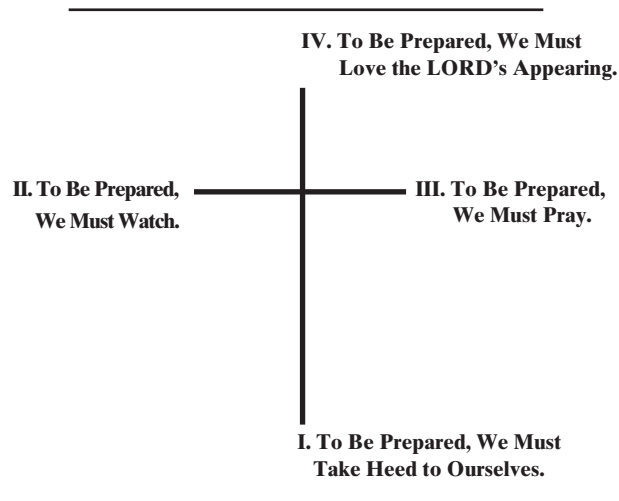
Chapter One

Preparing For The Rapture

Believers cannot wait until the last minute before the Coming of the LORD Jesus Christ and expect to be ready to go with Him. Rather, Christians must make preparation well in advance for this momentous event.

In order to escape the great Tribulation that precedes the LORD's Return to the Earth to set up His Millennial Reign with His Bride, believers must be prepared to meet Him in the air, when He comes for His saints who are living overcoming lives. These overcomers will be the LORD's Bride and those who make up the Wedding Party.

To learn how to prepare for the LORD's Return in the air, we must turn to God's Word because it gives us a Stature of Truth that outlines the four things we must do to be prepared for His Coming.



And **take heed to yourselves**, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and *so* that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. **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).

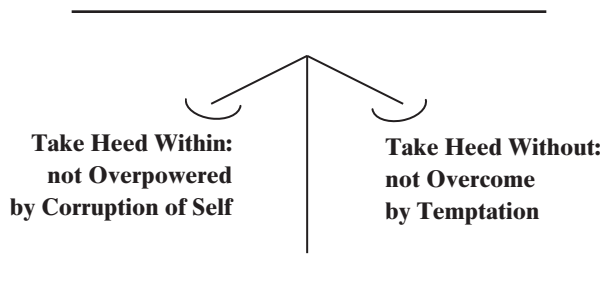
Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but **unto all them also that love his appearing** (II Timothy 4:8).

The word *preparation* means to be ready beforehand; the act of preparing or fitting beforehand for any special purpose, use, service, or condition; making ready or fit; the state of being prepared; anything made or prepared by a special process.

To be ready to meet Jesus is the greatest preparation we have to make in Time and Eternity. God's Word gives us some definite conditions we must meet and some specific things we must do to be ready to meet Him in the Rapture.

I. To Be Prepared, We Must Take Heed to Ourselves.

If we are taking heed to ourselves, we will not be overcome with temptation and overpowered by our own corruption from within.



We enter into an unsafe condition the minute we relax our guard from within and without. When we are relaxed, we enter into a state of false security. Dangers ever lurk *within our hearts* and *without in the world* to prevent us from being ready for the Rapture. If we purpose to be ready for the Rapture, it is our personal responsibility to *take heed to ourselves* and not to *someone else*. If we are ready, then for us the LORD's Coming will not be a panic and a horror of destruction, but it will be a glorious construction of a spiritual temple or body for the eternal abode of our spirit and soul.

Our biggest enemy is *self*, which continually works and connives for two things in this life: our own will and our own pleasurable satisfaction. Jesus said that whosoever will follow Him must *deny* himself (Luke 9:23). If we refuse to take heed to our own *self*, spiritual heart trouble will inevitably result. When this subtle disease creeps in, we become interested in three things: surfeiting, drunkenness, and cares of this life. These are conditions that we must avoid in order to be prepared.

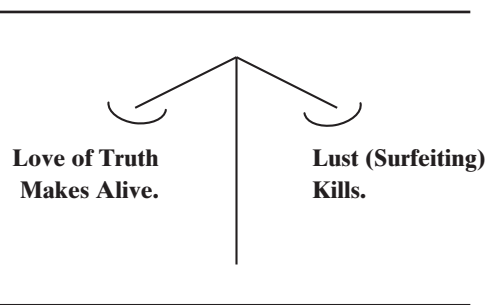
A. Surfeiting Will Keep Us from Being Prepared for the Rapture.

The first condition that we must meet if we are to be prepared for Jesus' Coming is not to be overcome by surfeiting. The word *surfeit* means to overburden; to weigh down; to feed to excess so as to overload and oppress the stomach and damage the functions of one's physical system; to overfeed so as to produce sickness or nausea; to fill to satiety or disgust; excess in eating and drinking; eating an excessively gluttonous meal, which overloads the stomach and damages the digestion.

Many people go to premature graves because they fill their stomachs with more food than they need; thus, they oppress their systems. When this is their habit, they miss what God has allotted them in this present world.

Besides dulling their senses by overeating, many Christians cannot watch in the Word of God and prayer because they have

a surfeit of sleep that makes their eyelids droop. Surfeiting injures the *self* because it is excessive indulgence. When we pamper the *self* with all kinds of delicacies, finally reaching the point of surfeiting, we destroy the power of the soul and spirit to study and pray. Surfeiting makes one feel ill at ease and inferior. Lust (surfeiting) kills, but love of the Truth makes alive.



People sometimes feed their natural man to excess in an attempt to satisfy their celestial soul's hunger for the Truth of God's Word. Just consider this fact: Overcharging a car's battery can destroy it and make the car inoperable. The same Principle applies to our hearts when they are *overcharged* (bursting) with surfeiting (excessive eating and drinking). Even while we are on our knees praying, our hearts can be overcharged with thoughts of food. This proves how the lust for food makes us halfhearted when we need to spend time in seeking the spiritual things of the LORD. We must deny the *self* in us and refuse to allow our hearts to be overcharged by surfeiting. God created our hearts for Himself and for His Word, His *Torah*. Therefore, He desires to fill them with His Word and the Power of His Spirit. We need to take heed that our hearts are not overcharged with surfeiting, or the day of His Return will come upon us unawares.

Because of the dangers of corruption within and the dangers of temptation without, every person should strive daily to lay aside anything that is a weight, anything that will hinder a person's speed

in his spiritual race. Every person should be trying to separate himself from anyone who would hinder him from walking in the Light of the LORD's Truth. Nothing is more important than being prepared for the glorious day of the LORD's Return in the air. Never again will the overcoming saints of God have to suffer strife, envy, malice, jealousy, and resistance to the Truth. They will be forever with the LORD! To be with Christ Jesus will bring peace, joy, and bliss forevermore. Only, then, will man know what true happiness is.

A prepared believer will not miss the glorious event of the Rapture because he will have obeyed the clear instructions in God's Word that have told him what to do. Jesus Himself exhorted His followers to take heed to *self* by not overcharging oneself with surfeiting.

The expression *take heed* means to exercise care, attention, caution, careful observation of self. We must pay attention to ourselves in order to protect, guard, and defend ourselves against surfeiting because it will prevent us from being awake and alert to the Spirit and Word of God. A person must be aware of the condition of his own *self* if he is to overcome his faults and failings.

Outward temptation joined to inward corruption constrains the *self* to feed continually on the visible faults and failures of others, while ignoring its own invisible corruptions. This causes spiritual indigestion and brings on heart disease in both the natural and spiritual realms. *Self* condemns the sins of others while condoning its own sin. But Jesus, Who knew man's proclivity for self-justification, said, "Take heed to *yourself*." Jesus said that if we follow Him, we would have to practice self-denial. This means denying *self* the easy road of self-gratification; it means taking a hard look at what really motivates *self*. Man's motive should be to please his Creator and Saviour.

To refuse to take heed to the real condition of *self* means that spiritual heart trouble will inevitably kill a person. Never can an unheedful person be ready for the Rapture! Neither can he stay alive spiritually. An improper, excessive spiritual diet will clog the spiritual heart, just as surely as the excessive and wrong natural diet will clog man's heart of flesh. A Christian needs to watch for the

symptoms of spiritual heart disease so that he can change his way of living. Jesus listed the main symptoms of this disease so that everyone can be aware of his true condition. God's Word is a mirror to show a reflection of a person's true *self*.

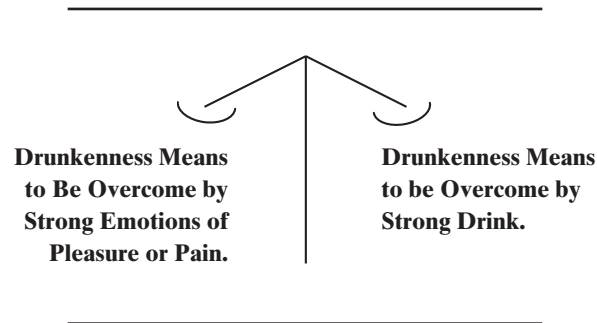
The first symptom of spiritual heart disease is being overcharged with surfeiting in both the natural and spiritual realms. Surfeiting in the natural realm causes a person to experience headaches and seizures of pain in the stomach. When surfeiting is practiced in the spiritual realm, it causes one constantly to feed on the faults and failures of others. Surfeiting in the spiritual realm provokes a spirit of surfeiting in the natural realm and vice versa. When man's spiritual heart is overcharged, burdened, weighted down, and bursting with the surfeiting of criticisms, accusations, complainings, murmurings, judging, rebuking, reproving, tongue lashings, railings, rantings, fussing, and quarrels, he cannot think right, feel right, nor act right. His lack of control over his spiritual diet will cause him to be excessive in his natural appetites. The person who wants to please Jesus must take heed to his eating and drinking habits in both the natural and spiritual realms. A follower of Christ must deny the *self* and refuse to allow his heart to be overcharged with seeking the satisfaction of carnal things.

Lucifer uses all of our human weaknesses to draw our attention away from our God. Wise Christians will exercise all diligence to control their natural habits so that they do not interfere with their spiritual habits.

God meant for man's heart to be "charged" with longing for Him, not for food and drink and other excesses. A person's thoughts, feelings, and actions are manifestations of what is in his heart. No one can be ready for the day of Jesus' Return if he does not take heed to *himself*. A sick, overcharged spiritual heart ultimately will lead to spiritual death and will cause a person to be unprepared for the day of the Rapture.

B. Drunkenness Will Keep Us from Being Prepared for the Rapture.

Jesus said we are to take heed to drunkenness. To be *drunken* means not only to be overcome by strong drink but also strong emotions.



The person who overindulges himself with alcoholic beverages becomes intoxicated, inebriated, and stupefied. His excitement carries him beyond normal measures, and if he continues to drink, he eventually will act like a madman and, finally, he will lie motionless as a dead man. Man's reasoning and coordination becomes deranged when he is drunk in the natural realm. Likewise, when man's bowels in the spiritual realm are filled with painful woes and his mind is intoxicated with emotion, he is unable to reason with the Truth. His heart becomes dead; his mind rages; and his mouth raves in its drunken condition. When the proud mind becomes drunk on prosperity, it forgets past sufferings of poverty and behaves like a mad tyrant. Pleasurable, emotional drunkenness puts the heart to sleep and causes it to become insensitive to the conviction of God's Spirit and Word. When a person is emotionally drunk, his heart cannot feel the Truth, nor can his mouth speak the Truth.

A person's mind becomes stupefied when he drinks natural alcohol to excess. Therefore, his senses become dulled and ineffectual. In the spiritual realm, there are many people who are just as drunk emotionally in their minds as though they actually had been

drinking an intoxicating liquor. There are different kinds and various degrees of drunkenness. Many foods and drinks (such as sweets, starches, coffee, tea, and soft drinks) produce an alcoholic effect in the body. They produce the same intoxicated feeling in the head as liquor. Fasting and prayer are the remedy for this natural and spiritual ailment of intoxication. Some people who want to bypass the remedy and, yet, appear to be spiritual will say, "The LORD did not tell me to *fast* and pray; He told me to *watch* and pray." Remember, Jesus said to take heed to *overeating* and *drinking* before He spoke of *watching*. If a person does not deal with his problem of overeating and drinking, he will be in no condition to watch for the LORD's Return, which we are commanded to do.

Being emotionally drunk on love of people, places, or things makes a person feel no need to study and pray, daily, before the LORD. Uncontrolled emotions dull the senses so that a person cannot reason logically. For example, if a man becomes drunk on lustful emotions, he becomes dulled to all sense of responsibility toward his home, his spouse, and his children; he behaves with the same intoxicated indifference as the drunk in the gutter. Being drunk on envy can drive a person to say and do devastating things. Being drunk on strong drink, food, or on strong emotions is not going to let a person's mind be aware of the crucial spiritual things in life. The Christian needs a clear head to reason, to study God's Word, and to pray in order to be prepared for the day of the Rapture. The only way to achieve this is to fast on a regular basis, in some form, and to some degree.*

C. The Cares of This Life Will Keep Us from Being Prepared for the Rapture.

Jesus Christ warned us to take heed about the cares of this life and not let them overcome us to the point that we neglect

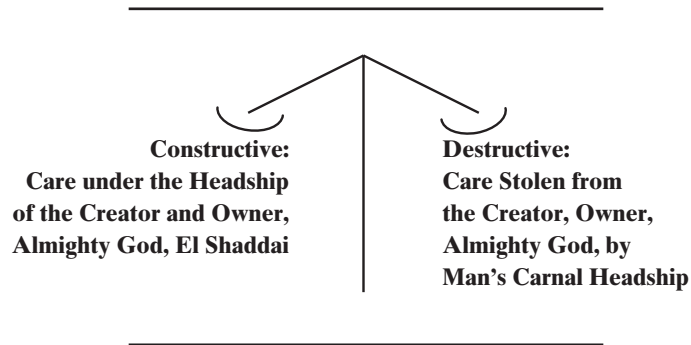
* B. R. Hicks, *The Rewards Of Fasting* (Jeffersonville, Indiana: Christ Gospel Churches Int'l, Inc.) 1983.

our spiritual life. Being overburdened with life's cares is also a symptom of spiritual heart disease. The word *care* means grief, distress, worry, anxiety, solicitude, to part, to share. Care is the object of one's regard in solicitude. Care respects the past, present, and future. We live in a world of diversity of cares. Our solicitude and anxiety make us live greatly concerned for our present and future welfare in this world. Our solicitude and anxiety constrain us to care about what we do not have and also about who is absent from us. To look ahead to the end of many things in this life makes us solicitous and anxious. We are anxious to avoid the evil, painful things in this life. Parents' care provoke them to have an increasing solicitude for the welfare of their children, both naturally and spiritually, and they experience many anxious thoughts for their care.

As human beings, we feel care for anything that is the object of our exertions, and our thoughts dwell on our cares. Things that have gained our attention provoke us to care. Things on which we set some value and on which we bestow some affection cause us to use our energy in caring.

Care is altogether an active principle in one's life. The careful man leaves no means untried in the pursuit of the object of his desire. Care motivates one to actual endeavours. Care is the opposite of negligence. The person who cares is willing and glad to see others exert themselves to help. Care is opposite to indifference. Care includes both responsibility and management (regulation and order). Care comprehends personal labour and employs a person's time in menial occupations. Care recognizes responsibility in matters of trust and confidence.

As long as care is under the rulership of the Creator, Owner, and Master, the LORD God, it is a marvelous, necessary, and vital principle of life. However, when we rob God of His Headship over the vital principle called "care" and take it outside of God's governing Fence, it becomes wildly destructive.



When man has stolen the vital principle of care and has taken it outside of God's governing Fence, he becomes so obsessed with the many cares of this life that he has no time to care for his spiritual vineyard and his spiritual garden. The cares of this life are like vipers; they fill the heart with their poison of irritableness, anger, frustration, impatience, disgust, touchiness, sensitivity, ill-temperedness, huffiness, peevishness, tenseness, fretfulness, hyper-critical attitudes, easily offended attitudes, gloominess, snarling, moodiness, snappishness, fidgeting, waspishness, cantankerousness, sulkiness, sullenness, quick temperedness, crossness, annoyance, grumpiness, grouchiness, and resentfulness until the heart has little joy left in life.

When one's heart is filled with this noxious poison, it spreads until it permeates a person's whole world of working relationship with others. Thus, it is evident why Jesus warned us to take heed to the cares of this world so that we keep them inside His governing Fence. If we do not heed Jesus' warning, the cares of life will cause our hearts to be overcharged with fretting and worrying about working to acquire material possessions for today and tomorrow until we forget the LORD's Coming. The cares of life outside of God's Fence will continually distract us from personal time in God's Word and prayer. The cares and responsibilities of this life are like a sponge that is ever ready to soak up the time that belongs to God for the study of His Word, for prayer, for praise, for faithful

attendance in LORD's House. The fears, anxieties, and worries of this life prevent a person from watching for the LORD's Coming.

One way to know that the heart is unprepared for the day of the LORD's Coming is when it is constantly filled with fear and worry about earthly, carnal things. God's Word commands us to "[S]eek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). A person who is heedful and always watches for the LORD's Coming will put the LORD Jesus Christ first in his heart and life by seeking God's Kingdom, first, and by bringing his cares inside God's governing Fence.

The cares of this life will overpower our minds and cause our hearts to be consumed with *things* so that we forget to spend time alone with Jesus Christ. Unless we establish the right priorities in the beginning of our Christian life by putting *Christ first* and *things second*, we will become so overcharged with the cares of this life that our senses will become too dull to perceive God's spiritual things. When we give God priority in our lives, we seek Him regardless of the obstacles in our way; we seek Him in the midst of our most adverse circumstances.

Some ministers fail to put the Kingdom of God first in their personal lives. They become so overcharged with the cares and duties of the ministry that they do not take time to wait on God. When they go to their prayer closets, they allow the problems of the ministry and the church to press them into total absorption with others' needs. By allowing others' needs to take precedence over the needs of their own personal hearts and lives, they become empty and dry and suffer a "burnout," which can be crucial enough to make them leave the ministry. Ministers must learn to empty their hearts of others' cares by laying their problems at Jesus' Feet so that they can seek Him for themselves. In so doing, they put the government of God's Word back on Christ's Shoulders. This can be done only as a person brings his cares *inside* of God's governmental Fence. If ministers will assume the care of their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ, first, the LORD Jesus Christ will assume the governmental care of the ministry.

We should never be so overcharged with cares and with so many things to do that we have no time to wait on God for ourselves. Let us *take heed* and not be overcharged with *surfeiting* and *drunkenness* or so overcome with the *cares of this life* that the day of the LORD's Coming catches us in a snare, a trap, and we are left behind!

II. To Be Prepared, We Must Watch.

Jesus' second admonition to the wise was this: "Watch, ye therefore...." The word *watch* means to be sleepless, to keep awake, to continue without sleep, to keep vigil, to be attentive, to be circumspect or vigilant, to keep close observation, to notice carefully, to act as a watchman, guard or sentinel, to look forward with expectation, to wait, to remain awake, to give attendance, assistance or the like, to keep carefully and constantly in view or under supervision, to keep a sharp lookout over or on, to keep an eye on, to observe with vigilance and care, to keep something awake, as a hawk, for the purpose of exhausting it in order to tame it, to guard from error, danger, or slipping.

In Jesus' exhortation to watch, He did not refer to natural sleep, but to spiritual dullness of the heart. When the heart is full of carnal things, it is foolish, heavy, sluggish, and without life, energy, or spirit. A dull heart is asleep spiritually and is insensible to the shortness of time in this life. A dull man easily misunderstands even the greatest Biblical Truths. A dull heart does not feel the joy and delight of God's Revealed Word. When the heart is asleep, the mind is unaware of and half-hearted about spiritual things. A sleeping heart is sad, melancholy, depressed, and gloomy. It is cheerless and uninterested.

The opposite is true of the heart that is awake and watching for the LORD's Coming. It is full of Spirit, Word, and Christ's exhilarating Life. The heart that is awake and watching burns brightly with God's Revealed Word.

How can we know when our hearts and minds are awake and watching for the Coming of the LORD? The Book of Romans, chapter thirteen, lists four primary signs that prove when we are watching: We will be awake; we will be casting off the works of

darkness; we will be walking honestly in the day; and we will be making no provision to satisfy the lusts of the flesh.

A. To Watch, We Must Awake out of Sleep.

If we are watching, we are *awake*. We cannot watch if we are asleep.

And that, knowing the time, that **now it is high time to awake out of sleep:** for now *is* our salvation nearer than when we believed (Romans 13:11).

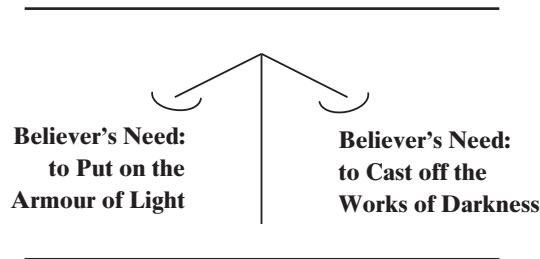
The first thing we must do is *to awake out of sleep from sin*. In the natural realm, man sleeps best in the nighttime, when it is dark. Likewise, in the spiritual realm, sin lures man into the darkness of night and lulls him to sleep in the cradle of carnal security. When spiritual sleep overtakes the heart, it becomes slothful and negligent of its spiritual duties in the Word and prayer.

We *must* awake out of the sinful conditions that exist in our lives. The following conditions will keep us from being ready: living in the darkness of the present world; carnal slothfulness and negligence of spiritual duties; feelings of security that make us feel everything is all right when it is not; a spiritually dead attitude toward the Word and prayer; disinterest in the eternal welfare of our own souls and the rewards that God has for them; lack of interest in the spiritual welfare of other souls. If we are awake, we will be filled with the bright, shining Light of God's Word, and we will be watching for all of these attitudes when they crop up, plus we will deal with them quickly. When we are awake, we constantly burn with a desire for and the expectation of the LORD's Return. This is proof that the Sun of Righteousness has arisen in our hearts.

It is a new day! There is much work to do. We must arise. As Christians see the LORD's imminent Return, they also are aware of the perilous times of the day. There are enemies and snares on every hand. Being awake is the first sign that a person is fulfilling God's command to watch.

B. To Watch, We Must Cast off the Works of Darkness.

If we are watching for the Rapture, we will dress properly for our walk in the daylight by first undressing and putting off our night clothes of darkness. Then, we can put on our day clothes of Light.



The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light (Romans 13:12).

Darkness is foreign to God's Nature. The word *darkness* means misery, ignorance, imperfection, sin. These are things that cloak a person in darkness. They are like garments and clouds that come between a person and the Light of the Sun of Righteousness, Jesus Christ. They act as shields to keep our understanding veiled and darkened. If our hearts are to be like Jesus, we must take off our cloak of darkness. By using the Blood of Christ and the revealed Light of His Word, we must cast off our ignorance, misery, and sin.

Many times people would rather remain in their ignorance than to come to the Light because the Light will reveal their unChristlike attitudes and errors to which they cling. God is faithful to place each of us in situations to show us our sinful thoughts and attitudes that hide in the darkness of our minds. Of course, our carnal human nature will try to get us to draw the cloak of darkness tightly about ourselves, while we endeavour to put the blame for our bad thoughts and attitudes on the Devil,

on our family, or on our brothers and sisters in Christ. Our carnal nature loves its cloak of darkness and finds it fits so comfortably over the flesh, just as old shoes fit comfortably on our feet.

God's Word says, in so many words, "It is time for us to rip off our cloak of darkness so that we may be able to watch for the Coming of the LORD." As sincere Christians, we must *watch* for opportunities to discard our cloaks of ignorance, misery, imperfections, and sins. Sometimes God puts Light before us, but we refuse it because it does not come in a way that pleases us. If we are watching for our flesh to manifest itself, as a hawk watches for its prey, we can exhaust it and tame it by bringing it to the Light of Christ. Thus, we can cast off the works of darkness.

We cannot put on Light until we first cast off darkness. Light will not fellowship darkness. So it is imperative that we watch because it is the Light of the Truth that will transform us into the Image of Jesus Christ. It takes the Blood of Jesus, the Fire of the Holy Ghost, and the Waters of His Name, Death, and Life to transform us into His Likeness, His Image, and His Stature.*

God's Word uses clothes as pictures of deeds, habits, thoughts, and feelings. When the LORD says to cast off *cloaks of darkness*, He means to cast off the *deeds* and *thoughts of ignorance, misery, and woe* that conceal themselves in the secret chambers of our hearts and minds and prevent our continual watching for the LORD.

If we want to be prepared for Jesus' Return, we must abhor and detest ignorance and its accompanying sins for the enemies they are. We need to cease letting ignorance of the Truth lead to indulgence in sin and error, lest the door of the Rapture be closed to us at the LORD's Coming. We must watch so that we will not be left behind to go through the awesome Tribulation Period, when the Antichrist will rule this world .

When we are awake and watching, we will not be filling our minds with the things someone else is doing in secret and undercover.

* B. R. Hicks, *Precious Gem In The Tabernacle* (Jeffersonville, Indiana: Christ Gospel Churches Int'l., Inc.) 1961.

Gossiping is one way of fellowshipping darkness. If we continue to gossip, darkness will start bearing fruit inside of us. Then, this will be our condition: We will become miserable, lose our desire to pray and our spiritual appetite for the Word; finally, we will lose our joy and feel like sitting down and quitting our spiritual race. Christian believers are *in* the world, but they are not *of* the world. We do not have to fellowship the darkness of this world if we do not want to. We give ourselves to whatever we want.

One sure way of settling into a sound spiritual sleep is to continue fellowshipping darkness. Darkness will lull us into a cozy sleep, and there will be nothing inside of us that even will desire to stand up and fellowship the Light. Jesus cannot awaken anyone if he chooses to sleep. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus tried three times to awaken the Disciples, but they refused to be awakened. Finally, Jesus told them to “sleep on.” He was not speaking of just a physical sleep but also of a spiritual sleep. The Disciples possessed this weakness all the way from the Garden of Gethsemane to the Cross. Being spiritually asleep caused the Disciples to miss many lessons they could have learned had they been spiritually awake.

If we put off the garments of the night, then we can dress up for the day in an Armour of Light. The Armour of Light to which the Scriptures refer is made up of deeds of Truth and Love. Christians are soldiers in the midst of a constant warfare with darkness; therefore, as Christians, we need an Armour of Light. Without our Armour, as soldiers of Jesus, we are undressed and unarmed against the temptations and assaults from the present evil world.

We need to put on the LORD Jesus Christ, Who is Light, Life, and Love. Love is the Image of God in the soul because God is Love. Love fulfills the *Torah*. Love works no harm to its neighbours. Love fills the heart with the radiance of joy, happiness, beauty, and harmony. Love is the fullness of the Light of all Truth. Love is perfection.

We need to put on Christ’s Justification, Righteousness, Grace, and Sanctification. Jesus Christ was ever awake in His earthly days to watch for His Heavenly Father’s Will. We, too, need to put on Christ, daily, by studying God’s Word and praying. If we are faithful to seek the LORD, He will watch over us with His Armour of Light,

Life, and Love and keep us until He Comes in the air to catch us away. Christ's Armour of Light protects us against Lucifer's Darkness, Death, and the hate of this present evil world.

Having Christ's Armour of Light is the second witness that we are watching.

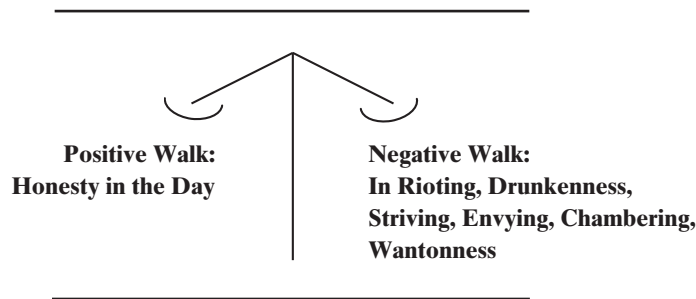
C. To Watch, We Must Walk Honestly in the Day.

If we are watching for the Rapture, we will be walking honestly in the day. Remember, in his letter to the saints at Rome, the Apostle Paul gave them the following admonishment:

And that, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep: for now *is* our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. **Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying** (Romans 13:11-13).

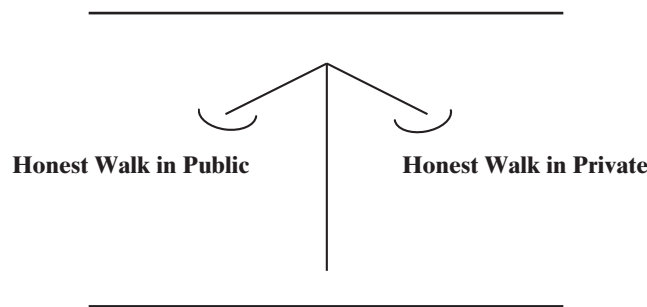
The word *walk* means to roll; to toss oneself about; to rove about; move about; to advance by alternate steps; to set one foot before the other; to go or travel on foot; to ramble; to live, to act, and to behave in any particular manner; to conduct oneself in pursuit of a particular course of life; to be stirring; and to go abroad.

God's Word describes man's positive and negative walk.



If a person is clothed with the Light of Truth and Love, it is easy to walk honestly in the light of day. People who walk in the darkness of night — in rioting, drunkenness, chambering, wantonness, strife, and envy — prostrate their minds to the deceitful pleasures of hate and error. To walk honestly in the Light is to choose against rioting or wild, loose, extravagant revelry, unrestrained, disturbing conduct of quarreling, disputing and striving; it means refraining from walking in drunkenness.

The word *honestly* means to deal fairly, frankly, and openly in an honourable, upright manner. The LORD Jesus Christ did not intend for us to walk only in private with our beautiful Garments of Light, but we are to walk also in public. He wants us to be moving *Lighthouses* for Him. An honest walk, privately and publicly, is the noblest Work of Jesus Christ our hearts. An honest, upright walk before man witnesses to the LORD God's claim on our souls as Creator, Owner, and Master of our existence. To walk honestly in the day is the realm of highest Wisdom, and it reveals that the soul has chosen the glorious *Garments of Light*, as opposed to the *rags* of darkness.



When we walk honestly in the Light, we refrain from indulging in lewd or loose speech, actions, or dissipated behaviour. By walking in the Light, we avoid unrestrained indulgence of our natural appetites or impulses. The child of Light voids the sporting games of licentiousness and lasciviousness.

Walking in the Light includes avoiding the darkness of striving for superiority over our fellowman. Light removes all angry contention and discord. Light repels and removes the darkness of envy in our souls so that we can walk honestly and uprightly.

In the natural realm, if a man is hungry and does not feed his body, for whatever reason, his hunger will cause his body to start feeding on its own juices and moistures; ultimately, the person will die if proper substance is not ministered to the body from without. In the spiritual realm, envy is illegitimate hunger. Envy devours our souls' spiritual moisture because it infects us with feelings of discontent over others' prosperity, success, or good fortune. Spiritual Death is the speedy consequence if our souls do not stop feeding on their own spiritual moisture and start feeding on the moisture of God's Word and Spirit. When we walk honestly in the Light, we refuse to allow the envious hunger of darkness to destroy the spiritual moisture in our souls.

We cannot walk in the darkness of adultery, illegal cohabitation, incontinence, licentiousness, and lasciviousness and walk honestly in the Light. It is impossible to do both at the same time. Lascivious thoughts and affections lead a person to read lascivious books and cause him to choose songs whose words carry sexual connotations. This, in turn, leads a person to indulge in lascivious looks, words, gestures, and all kinds of dalliance or amorous play that ultimately leads to transgression of the sacred laws of chastity. Walking honestly in the Light of God's Truth constrains us to shun the darkness of all these evil things.

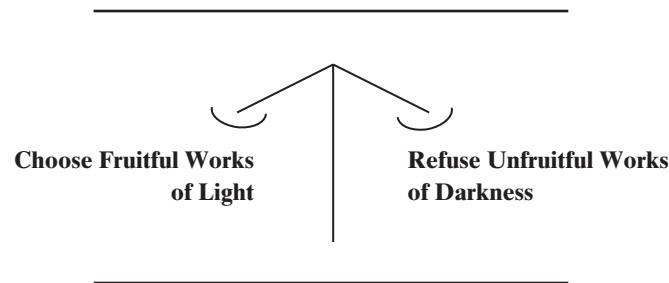
In his Epistle to the Ephesians, Paul said the following:

For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye light* in the Lord: walk as children of light: (Ephesians 5:8).

At one time, even though we may be believers now, we were bound up in the kingdom of darkness. Then, after we became a believer in the Redeeming Blood of the Lamb, we were translated into God's Kingdom of Light. Even after being redeemed

from the curse of sin and Death, as believers, we must shed our garments of darkness and ignorance because they do not belong to the Kingdom of Light. Thereafter, we must walk in the Light as children of Light.

And **have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness**, but rather reprove *them*. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret (Ephesians 5:11,12).



The pernicious disease of darkness causes our minds and hearts to become deaf, blind, and paralyzed to the hearing of Truth, the seeing of Truth, and to the feeling of Truth. The precious, peaceful, and humble Christ does not find the deafness, blindness, and paralysis of His followers becoming. The glorious Light of Truth can heal our emotional blindness of mind and hardness of heart so that we can be aware of the soon Coming of our LORD.

In order to be faithful in watching for the Coming of the LORD Jesus, we personally must be aware of the negative forces of darkness in our own carnal hearts and ask Jesus Christ to remove them so that we can walk honestly in the Light of Truth.

The Apostle Paul also admonished believers to *walk honestly* toward them that are without (I Thessalonians 4:12). When Christians are walking honestly in the Light, and they see someone miss God's Will, they will remain humble and not joy over another

person's failure. The Christian's honesty will remind him that he is not where he is spiritually because of his own greatness, but he is there by God's Grace and Mercy.

The following acts on our part are witnesses that we are *watching* for the Coming of the LORD: (1) being awake, (2) casting off the works of darkness and putting on the Armour of Light, and (3) walking in the Light. Last, we must not provide for our fleshly lusts.

D. To Watch, We Must Make no Provision for the Flesh to Fulfill the Lusts Thereof.

If we are successful in doing what is necessary *to watch* for the LORD's Coming, we will make no provision for the lust of the flesh. If our minds and hearts are consumed with inordinate care in providing for the desires of our bodies, we will neglect the care of our own souls. God's Word considers indulging ourselves in every irregular concern for the whims of our physical desires as gratifying our lust.

And they tempted God in their heart by asking meat for their lust (Psalm 78:18).

In their wilderness journey, some of God's people doubted Him, and this resulted in their constant murmuring. They asked for food because they thought God would not provide for their needs without their great clamour. They asked because of their own craving or out of their lust to satisfy themselves. Their motive for asking was not because they desired strength to walk honestly in the Light of the *Torah*. Their lustful desire for food was so that they could consume it all on their own selfish pleasure and satisfaction. Their desire was to take the food (life of the creation) in order to have strength and energy to do their own wills.

God's Purpose in sacrificing lower levels of life for man's energy and strength is so that man can take the lower levels of life and join them to God's Word and Will by using the strength and energy derived from eating them to study God's Word and obey God's Will.

God demands that the necessities of bread and meat be granted to meet our physical needs so that we can study God's Word and obey God's Will. But the lust of the flesh is not gratified in this way, for its purpose is not to join the lower levels of plant and animal life to the highest form of Life in Christ Jesus. The lower levels of life can be joined to the highest form of Life only through man's obedience. If we are watching for the LORD's Coming, we will not be making provision to fulfill the lusts of our flesh.

*This I say then, **Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh** (Galatians 5:16).*

Being ready for the Rapture is not a trivial, easy matter. We must heed what the Apostle Paul said when he wrote to the Christians in Rome: "Make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof" (Romans 13:14). To make *provision* means to foresee and to take foresight. If our hearts and minds are continually concerned with precautionary measures of how we are going to satisfy ourselves and how we are going to do our own will, we will never be ready for the Rapture. We cannot be busy accumulating a storehouse of plots and plans for our own barbarous satisfactions and, at the same time, be filled with our Creator and Owner's Master Plan. We must be awake and watching for every opportunity to lay hold of the LORD's provisions that will make us ready for the Rapture.

III. To Be Prepared, We Must Pray.

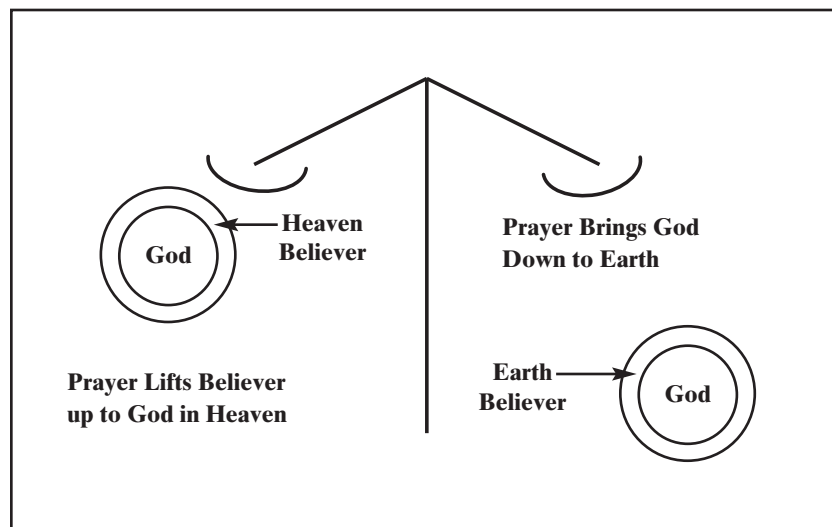
Jesus said: "[A]nd pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."

Prayer has three forms: asking prayer, intercessory prayer, and travailing prayer. *Asking Prayer* is a sincere, sensible, affectionate pouring out of our hearts to God, through Christ, in our own understanding. Prayer is not a forceful way of overcoming God's *reluctance*

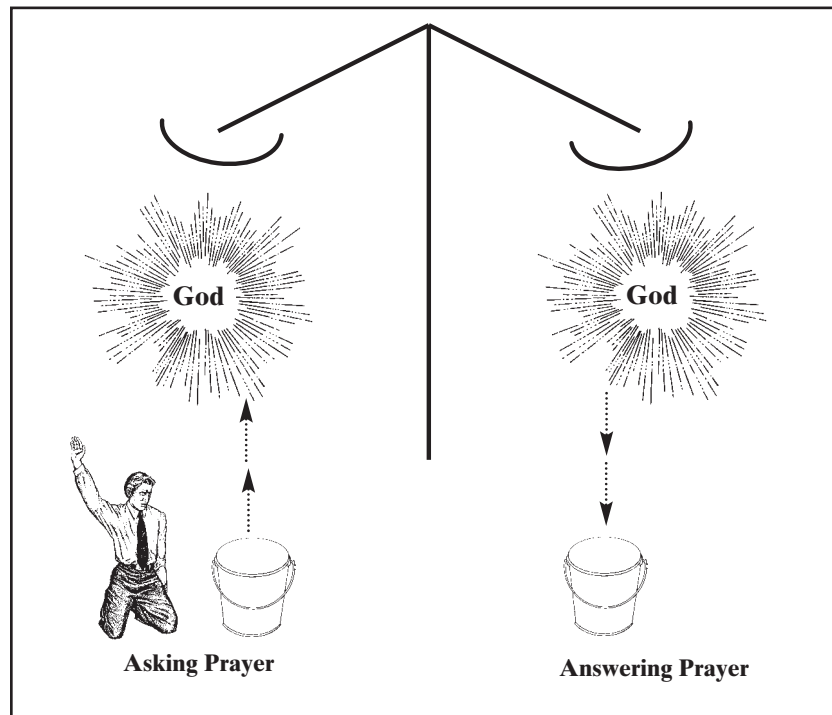
to give us every good and perfect thing that we have need of. Rather, prayer is for laying hold of God's highest and most perfect *willingness* to bless us. God's Ears are not deaf to our prayers except when our hearts are either dumb or lustful. We must not imagine we can go to the Throne of Grace with our *tongues* and leave our *hearts* behind. God wants to see our hearts and, then, hear our tongues. Prayer produces the feeling of earnestness and helplessness in a soul who is sincere before the LORD.

Prayers that are holy, humble, believing, penitent, and preserving, will always prevail before God's Throne of Grace, according to His divine, infinite Wisdom. Prayer is asking for Christ's divine Nature, which is Love, Faith, Patience, and Hope. The Heavenly Father answers by sending us to His Son's Cross or to the furnace of affliction for the purging out of the dross and tin of our own corrupt nature. Prayer is for learning what is best for us.

God teaches us His Truth by withholding all the evil things we ask for that would destroy us. On one side of the Scales, prayer lifts us up to God in Heaven. On the other side of the Scales, prayer brings God down from Heaven to Earth.



A few moments of prayer can change our hearts from a state of sad hopelessness to a new realm of joyful faith and hope. Therefore, it is impossible to prepare for the LORD's Coming without prayer. Fervent prayer opens God's Throne Room and looses streams of Glory that rush down to the praying soul. Our asking prayers and God's answers to our prayers are like two buckets in a well. While our bucket of requests ascend to God, His answers are descending to us in another bucket.



Prayer is for recognizing, in humble adoration, the Greatness of Almighty God. Prayer is acknowledging, by grateful thanksgiving, the Righteousness and Goodness of God's Rulership in our lives. The foregoing are some small and finite descriptions of *asking prayer*.

The second form of prayer is *intercessory prayer* in the Holy Ghost, and the third form of prayer is *travailing prayer* in the Holy Ghost.*

Prayer means to beg as binding oneself. In other words, when we pray or beg God to awaken us and give us the spiritual things we need, we are binding ourselves in total commitment to God's Will so that God can answer our prayers. God answers prayer by giving us things that will help us to do His Will.

The Holy Ghost awakens us spiritually so that we can go to God in prayer. However, if we do not pray with total commitment, we again will fall asleep spiritually. Then, with a drowsy, sleepy spirit, God's Word will not provoke or touch us inside because we will be spiritually asleep.

Because the Disciples were asleep in both the natural realm and the spiritual realm, they could not perceive Jesus' Words. Consequently, they missed the only opportunity of Time and Eternity to see Jesus sweat drops of Blood for them and the whole world, as He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane.

We need to awaken; then, we need to pray in order to stay awake. Praying was the third command that Jesus gave when He listed the ways to prepare for His Return. He said to take heed, to watch, and to pray always.

Praying always means all the while; without intermission; when opportunity presents itself; at stated and other convenient times; on all occasions; for a very lengthened period; forever; during life; while one lives; in all ways; at all going; at all times. As long as we have breath, we are to pray, praise, and offer thanksgiving to the LORD in everything. We need to commit ourselves to God in prayer, daily, so that He can prepare our hearts for the Rapture.

* B. R. Hicks, *Secrets To Spiritual Growth* (Jeffersonville, Indiana: Christ Gospel Churches Int'l, Inc.) 1980.

IV. To Be Prepared, We Must Love the LORD's Appearing.

The Apostle Paul gave the Christian believer the fourth necessary condition to meet in order to be ready to meet the LORD Jesus Christ in the air, which is to love His Appearing.

Paul is a perfect example of one who loved the Truth that Jesus would reappear. Before his death, Paul gave a beautiful testimony about the kind of life he had lived for Christ. He told about four beautiful experiences in his life that revealed his love for the LORD Jesus Christ's Reappearing. He testified to: (1) his readiness to be offered as a martyr, (2) his good fight for the Gospel's sake, (3) his finishing of his spiritual course, and (4) his guarding of the faith.

For **I am now ready to be offered**, and the time of my departure is at hand. **I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:** Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and **not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing** (II Timothy 4:6-8).

The wonderful Word that the LORD revealed to Paul shows that all Christians can share in the precious reward of righteousness if they love His Appearing. We, too, can have a crown of righteousness if we learn to love Jesus so much that we love His Appearing.

A. To Love the LORD's Appearing, We Must Be Ready to Be Offered for Christ's Sake.

Paul was ready to be offered as a martyr for Christ's sake because he looked forward to the LORD's Appearing. Paul was ready to be killed as a martyr, ready to be sacrificed, ready to use his body as an offering for Christ's sake.

Paul was prepared to die a martyr's death because, in living, he already was a martyr in love and loyalty to Jesus. He had lived always ready to be poured out as a drink offering unto the LORD.

He was always ready to be sacrificed; he was always ready to use his life as an offering for Jesus. Paul continually watched for the personal Coming of the LORD. He saw Jesus' Coming as a release for himself from the imprisonment of this world and as a journey into the enjoyments of his Heavenly Home.

Beloved, we must be willing to offer our bodies as living sacrifices, or we will not continue to grow in Christ Jesus. When the LORD puts us in a place that our bodies have to suffer a little strain for the Glory of God, how do we react? The Apostle Paul is the perfect example of how a Christian should react. He was ready to be offered — to lose his life's blood if necessary. As he approached Death, Paul was totally committed to Christ. He was glad to lay down his life, physically, because his daily experience with Christ was one of dying spiritually. Being committed for life or Death to Jesus made it easy for him to make one final commitment to His Creator. He had been hungry; he had fasted; he had been shipwrecked and had suffered many things for the cause of Christ and God's Word. Through his sufferings, Paul already had poured himself out for the saints of God, in order to encourage, comfort, and console them.

We will not be ready for a martyr's death until we are willing to let God make us a whole burnt offering, as it were, by wringing out our life's blood, day by day. With this kind of daily love for Jesus, our hearts will be filled with love and longing for His Appearing in whatever way it comes (by Death or the Rapture) and at any time.

B. To Love the LORD's Appearing, We Must Fight a Good Fight.

Paul's faithfulness to war for Christ's sake and for the Truth's sake also proved his love for the LORD Jesus Christ's Appearing. The Apostle Paul said that he had fought a good fight; he had suffered the hardship, adversities, struggles, and troubles of warfare for Christ's sake and for the Gospel's sake.

Although Paul was bound in Rome, he had been a mighty conqueror and had gained glorious victory over the powers of

darkness in his faithfulness in making the Truth of God's Word known wherever he was. As Paul looked back on his life and remembered how God had miraculously used him to make the Truth known to every creature under Heaven, he experienced great comfort and cheerfulness.

If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and **be not moved away from the hope of the gospel**, which ye have heard, **and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven**; whereof I Paul am made a minister; (Colossians 1:23).

Paul's fight had been great and painful, but the pleasure of his glorious victory had made it a good fight.

When we fight a good fight, we live in joyful anticipation of the day we can see our precious LORD and hear Him say, "Well done, good and faithful soldier."

We will not love Jesus' Appearing if we are not fighting a good fight in the spiritual realm. Serving Christ is a continual warfare. We have to fight to stay awake, fight to press on, fight to keep our eyes on Jesus, fight to grow into the Fullness of Christ's mature Spiritual Stature, and fight to make the Truth known to others. We must be faithful in our fightings so that, if Christ were to come today, assurance and confidence would fill our hearts with joyful anticipation — not fear and uncertainty. Paul testified that he had fought the difficulties of warfare and had overcome and carried the glorious Gospel of the exalted Redeemer to the *whole world*. A faithful Christian soldier loves the Appearing of the "General" of his army. Paul loved the Appearing of his Saviour.

C. To Love the LORD's Appearing, We Must Finish Our Course.

Paul had finished his course in this world, and it made his love for the LORD's Coming shine even brighter.

In the Hebrew Bible, the word for *course* is *may-rotés*. Written in the feminine gender, *may-rotés* means a race; a trial of speed; the act of racing; to make haste; a courier; a royal messenger; to chase away; to guard. The *course* that we must run in this life is a feminine race for the Bride of Christ; it is a trial by speed. This temporal life is very short; it is a trial that God gives to us in order to see if we can run quickly enough and far enough spiritually to obtain the Prize of being in Christ's Bride.

Paul ran in his spiritual race for two reasons: he ran first for his own personal growth and to obtain the Prize for himself; second, he ran for the sake of the ministry that God had committed unto him. Paul not only ran the race for himself, but he also served as a courier and a royal messenger for Christ. As a royal messenger for Christ, Paul was responsible for many precious souls joining him in the race. When Paul had finished his personal race and had obtained the Prize, the Bride of Christ, he was filled with joyful longing to see His Bridegroom, the LORD Jesus Christ.

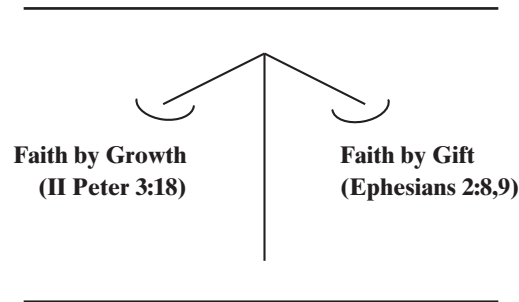
The life of every Christian is not only a warfare; it is also a race for the Prize of the Bride of Christ. Paul said, "I have accomplished God's Will for me in this life; I have finished my course; I have completed the race in both my personal spiritual growth and in my ministry for Christ. Now, I am waiting for the Wedding Supper, for the Return of the Bridegroom." God's Will was the *course* for Paul's life, and he had run his race well. He had won the race and was loving the LORD's Promise of His Appearing and longing for its fulfillment.

If we have not finished our course, we still have need to prepare for the LORD's Coming. If we are preparing by running in the race, we will finish our race with joy, confidence, and love for His Appearing.

D. To Love the LORD's Appearing, We Must Keep the Faith.

Paul's love for the LORD's Appearing caused him to guard the faith. The word for *faith* in the Hebrew Bible is *em-oo-naw*,

which means firmness, security, fidelity, Truth, verily. Paul had kept the doctrine of Salvation by faith, and he had kept the doctrine of growing in Grace and Faith.



There is a *gift* of faith that God gives us with our Salvation, and without this gift of faith, we would be lost.

There also is a good faith that comes by growth in the Word of God, and this kind of faith produces Spiritual Stature. Both types of faith come the same way. They come by hearing the Word of God, receiving it, and allowing God to quicken it to our hearts. Faith comes as we put on the Light of the Word.

In paraphrased terms, Paul said this in the preceding verses: “I have kept the faith. I have kept the Light of the Salvation of the Word; I have kept the revelation of firmness, security, and fidelity of the Word that has caused me to grow spiritually. I have run my course according to the blueprint of God’s Master Plan. I have kept every new sunbeam of Light of His Truth. I have cherished it, obeyed it, and walked in it. During in my *course* in life, while I was fighting to grow up in the Stature of Christ, I did it in a legitimate way, according to the Light of the Word of God. Henceforth, because I have done this, a crown of righteousness is laid up for me. Because I have loved, prepared myself for, and longed for His Appearing, I have confidence that He will come for me and take me to my reward.”

For Paul, his was a good course, a good fight, a good warfare, a good victory, and a good faith! It can be for us, too. A crown is laid up for all who love, prepare themselves for, and long for the LORD Jesus Christ's Appearing.

All who are in Christ's Bride will have loved, prepared themselves for, and longed for the Bridegroom's Coming. The Bride will have taken heed to herself. Her heart will not have been overcharged with surfeiting, with drunkenness, and with the cares of this life. She will have been watching by staying awake spiritually. She will have put off the night clothes of darkness (ignorance, misery, imperfections) and will have put on the Garments of Linen and Light (deeds of Truth and Love). She will have walked honestly in the Light of the Word and made no provisions for the lust of the flesh. She will have been praying always and loving the Promise of His Appearing in the Clouds.

Clearly, Jesus has warned the people of today of His Coming and told them that He will come for those who are prepared. He said that the day of His Return would come as a snare or a trap that would be sprung upon *all* the people on the Earth. From His Words, it is obvious that only those who listen to His warning and prepare (by taking heed to self, watching, praying, and loving His Appearing) will escape the snare. Many will be taken unaware, as animals roaming through a forest are unmindful of the hunter's hidden trap and are taken unaware.

God does not treat men as hunters treat animals. He tries to reach their understanding and reasoning, so He warns those who will listen and heed His Word. Jesus' Words to the wise are these: "*Take heed to yourselves*"; "*Watch ye therefore, and Pray always*"; "*Love My Appearing.*"

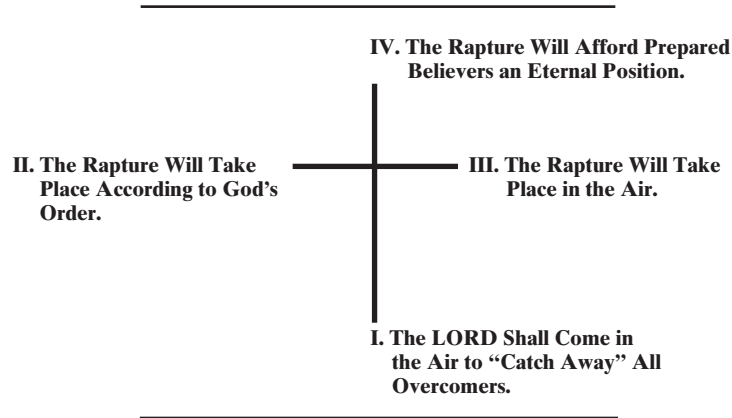
Chapter Two

The Actual Event Of The Rapture

The “Catching Away” of saints who have died as overcomers and of the saints who are prepared for the LORD’s Coming and are alive on the Earth is the next event on God’s Spiritual Calendar. The Apostle Paul described this in his letter to the saints at Thessalonica.

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: 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 (I Thessalonians 4:16,17).

These verses present a Stature of Truth that outlines the event of the Rapture:



I. The LORD Shall Come in the Air to “Catch Away” All Overcomers.

At the time of the Rapture, the LORD shall appear in His personal Presence. He shall come with a Shout, with His Archangel, and with His Trumpet to resurrect overcomers who have already died and to change those overcomers who are still alive on the Earth so that they can meet Him in the air in their glorified bodies.

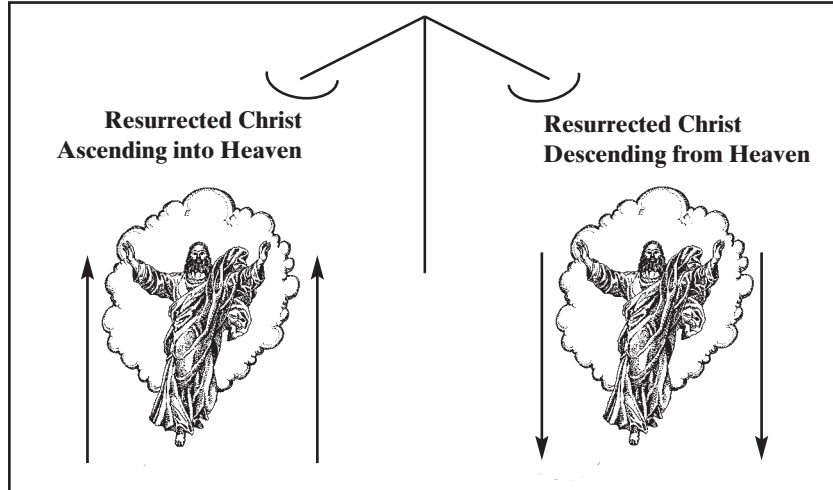
A. The LORD Shall Come in His Personal Presence.

The LORD will not send an Angel to catch away His waiting Bride and the overcomers who make up the Wedding party; He Himself shall come in His Resurrected, Glorified Body.

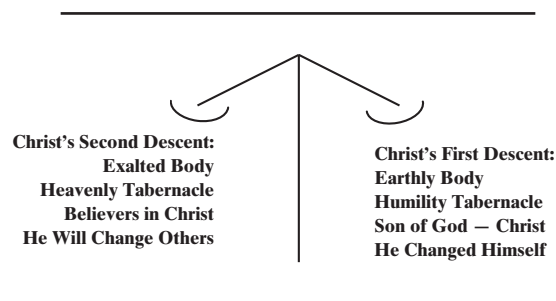
The Resurrected LORD personally *ascended* into Heaven with His Glorified Body, and He personally will *descend* from Heaven with His same Glorified Body to catch away the Bride and the Wedding Party.

And when he had spoken these things, **while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.** And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? **this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven** (Acts 1:9-11).

(See drawing on following page.)



The LORD's descent at the Rapture will be different from His descent to Earth at the time of His birth. When Jesus Christ *descended* from Heaven and came to Earth the first time, He came in humiliation; He exchanged His Heavenly Garments of Glory for the outward humility form and fashion of a man; and He tabernacled among men. The second time He descends from Heaven will be when He appears in the air at the Rapture. At this time, He will be present in His Glory, Majesty, and Power to exchange the mortal bodies of the dead in Christ for resurrected, immortal bodies, and to change the mortal bodies of the prepared, living saints into translated, immortal bodies.



The LORD's glorious personal Presence at the Rapture will raise the dead in Christ and instantly change all believers who have prepared themselves and, thus, are counted worthy to be changed.

Jesus is going to appear personally in the *Resurrection Glory of His Father* and in *His own Glory*. If we have made preparation and are ready, we will see the LORD of Glory Whom we have loved and served. If we are alive and are prepared for His Coming, we shall be changed by the Glory of the LORD. If we have died as overcomers, we will be resurrected from the dead by His Glory. If we have been faithful to deny ourselves and crucify our flesh, we will look upon His glorious, wonderful Face. The fact that we have been misunderstood and persecuted or that we have suffered will be unimportant at this moment, for we shall see HIM! This is the important thing: getting one glimpse of His dear Face shall make us know, in reality, that the suffering is not worthy to be compared to His Glory.

The LORD Himself shall descend! What a moment overcomers will experience when their waiting is over and they get to be in His Presence. How wonderful to see the LORD and to look upon His precious Face. Such a great and marvelous privilege is worth living for and worth dying for. (How I long to see Him and tell Him, in person, how much I love Him and appreciate His dying for me.) The LORD's great Love caused Him to die, to go to Death and Hell, but He arose again by the Glory of His Father on the third day after His Death and burial. (Romans 6:4). Then, the Resurrected Christ raised His precious Blood (John 10:17,18) and took It into Heaven and placed It upon the Mercy Seat of God's Throne for our redemption — our atonement. Because our sins have been forgiven and because we faithfully have served Him, we shall live forever with Him.

The Death of prepared saints will not prevent them from being resurrected by Christ's Glory and Power at the Rapture because the dead in Christ shall be raised and given glorified, immortal bodies. Those who are alive in their mortal bodies and who are prepared will have their bodies changed into immortal, glorified bodies. Then, they will magnify Him face to Face! A thousand tongues

can never praise the LORD sufficiently for His glorious Grace and His wonderful Resurrection Power.

The LORD Himself is coming back in Person, with His Father's Glory and His own Glory, to catch away the prepared saints, the overcomers, whether they be dead or alive!

B. The LORD Shall Descend from Heaven with a Shout.

When the LORD personally descends from Heaven to catch away the waiting overcomers, He will come with a Shout!

The word for *shout* in the Hebrew Bible is *teruah*, a feminine word that means to cry, to scream, to yell, and to call. In order to understand the secret of the *teruah* Shout that the LORD Jesus Christ will make at the Rapture, we first must study about this kind of Shout as it was used in the shadows and types in the Old Testament dispensation. And, for complete understanding, we must also study the LORD Jesus Christ's own personal experience when He was raised from the dead by the Glory of His Heavenly Father, in the New Testament dispensation. The personal Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the perfect example of how the resurrection of dead saints who were overcomers and how the translation of living saints who are overcomers will be accomplished.

1. The Shadow and Type of the LORD's Secret *Teruah* Shout Is Found in the Old Testament.

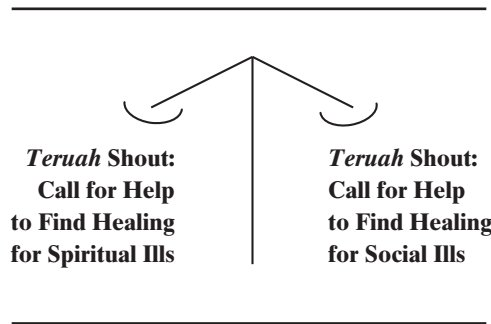
The kind of shout (*teruah* — cry, scream, yell, call) that Jesus will give at the Rapture has its origin in the Old Testament. God gave us many examples of the use of the word *shout* (*teruah*), in the types and shadows of the Old Testament so that we would be able to understand clearly its fulfillment in Christ's Resurrection by His Father's Glory and also at His Coming when He catches away living and dead overcomers.

The *teruah* shout was His children's cry to God when they needed His help. It was a signal scream for God actively to intervene

when Israel was experiencing times of invasion, danger, and distress. The *teruah* shout was God's people's call to Him when they needed Him actively to alter their existing situations and circumstances. The *teruah* shout was a signal to release all persons and possessions out of their slavery and strange attachments of bondage and to restore them to freedom so that they could fulfill the Purpose of the LORD God, their Creator, Owner, and Master. The *teruah* shout was a far-reaching call for *change*. When the *teruah* shout came in the Name of the LORD God, it changed social conditions, abolished the servitude of man, and reestablished the lost possessions of man, according to God's original Will.

Israel's *teruah* shout was their acknowledgment of the LORD God as their real Owner, Master, and Director. The *teruah* shout brought the LORD God into Israel's life, afresh and anew, to guide her and to protect her possessions. The *teruah* shout, given in the seventh month as commanded by the LORD, was Israel's call to engage in a spiritual warfare to fight against everything that the LORD God considered an enemy to their moral freedom and their spiritual health. The *teruah* shout was a call to the LORD God for Him to come as their "General" to support, sustain, and assist them in their great spiritual battle for moral freedom and spiritual health. There could be no moral freedom and spiritual health in Israel when some of the sons of Israel had waxed poor, had lost their possessions, and had become servants to some of the other sons of Israel.

Through His *Torah*, the LORD God provided Laws for the healing of the spiritual condition and the social conditions when the Nation of Israel degenerated into a sick state. Therefore, when the Nation of Israel had become sick, she was to give a *teruah* shout that was a call for God's help because she needed Him to assist her in returning to Him and to His moral purity. The *teruah* shout was a signal from God's children that they needed His help in seeking His spiritual treasures, afresh and anew, and that they needed His help in giving up everything that was displeasing and disagreeable to His Holy Will. The *teruah* shout was a call to God, from Israel, for help in healing her spiritual and social ills.



When Israel needed God's help in her spiritual warfare against all the immoral enemies that oppressed her and interfered with her obedience to God's Holy *Torah*, she gave a *teruah* shout to God.

In order to fight the immoral enemies of disobedience, we must judge our past behaviour and pass the judgment of death upon all thoughts, feelings, and actions that displease the LORD God and His Son, Jesus Christ. The LORD God, the Creator, Owner, and Master, has the complete right to say what displeases Him.

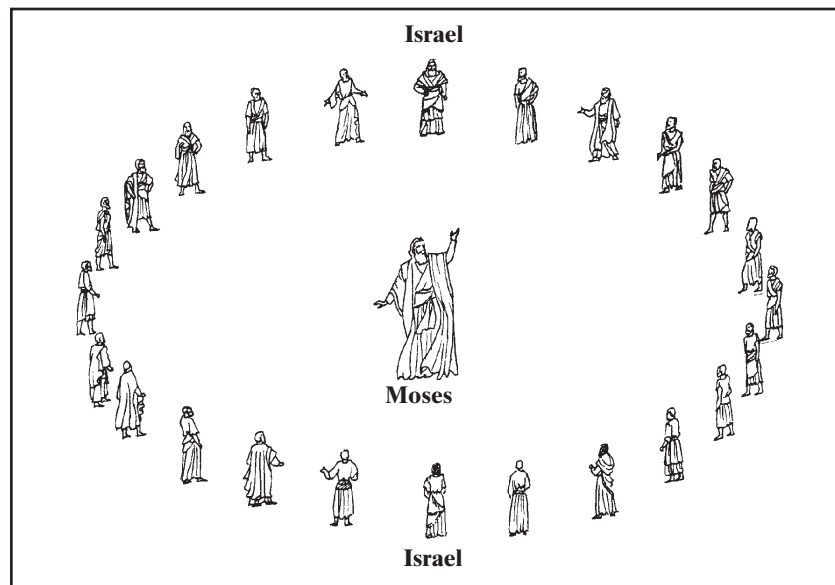
The *teruah* shout was also a call for Israel to take a retrospective look at their past life and, then, with their newly found freedom, choose to return to God and reform their ways. The *teruah* shout brought Israel back to God, Who cleansed and forgave her spiritual sins and her social sins. Israel's newly found moral freedom, which came after she had been cleansed and forgiven, helped her to reform or amend and correct her sinful ways so that she would not slip back into her old ways. When the Nation of Israel obeyed the Law of the *teruah* shout, she kept herself continually cleansed of spiritual ills and social ills.

In the Book of Numbers, God revealed how the *teruah* shout commenced with a *tekiah* sound and concluded with a *tekiah* sound. The *teruah* and the *tekiah* were different sounds that were made by either wind instruments or the human voice.

The Hebrew word *tekiah* means to bring something energetically into something else, to ram home, to thrust into, to sink, to

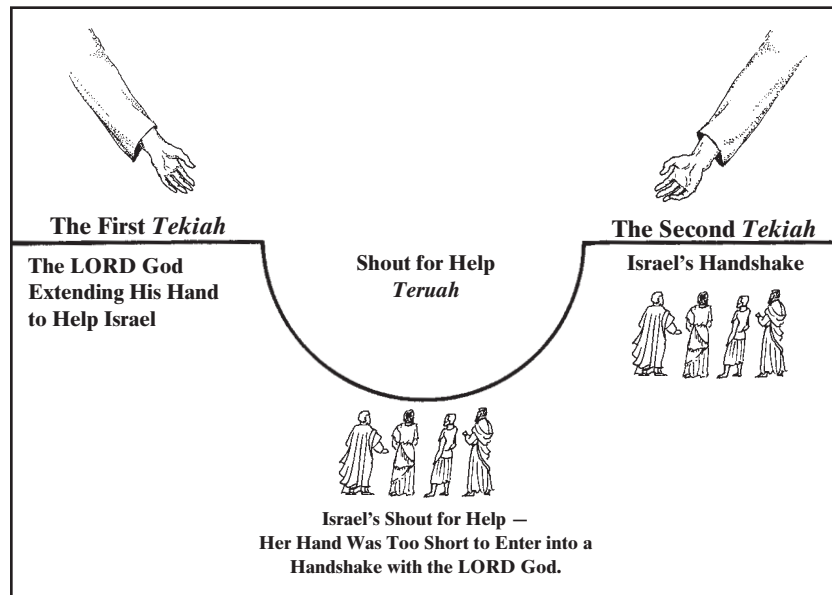
plunge into. The complete *tekiah* sound was also used to symbolize the binding of an agreement made by shaking hands, which was as a sign of assurance and confirmation of a future transaction. A handshake demonstrated, symbolically, the binding of a new, permanent relationship. In a larger sense, the *tekiah* that heralded agreement took place when one person thrust his hand, permanently, into the hand of another.

The *tekiah sound* was the prolonged blowing through a wind instrument that produced a long, sustained, unbroken note that called the hearer and held his attention. The first long sounds of the *tekiah* called the people to encircle Moses and put all their attention on him. At the first *tekiah* call, Israel hurried to Moses to receive his orders for them.



The *tekiah* sound was the result of forceful and prolonged blowing of a column of air into a wind instrument for the purpose of deeply penetrating the ear. The prolonged *tekiah* sound symbolized the using of all of one's energy to devote the power of one's hand in

helping another person. This was demonstrated in the common handshake that had its origin in the *tekiah* Principle. In the ceremony of the handshake, each hand promised to use all its energy and power to enter into the service of the other person involved in the handshake. Therefore, the first and second *tekiah* sounds in Israel symbolized God's entering into a *handshake* with Israel.



The LORD God sounded the first *tekiah*, as it were, as a demonstration of His willingness to help Israel change her circumstances, conditions, and places of abode. Israel realized her need for help in entering into the total commitment of a “handshaking” promise with the LORD God, so she signaled God with a *teruah* shout for help. The LORD God heard Israel and lengthened her spiritual arm and hand, while He extended His Arm and Hand so that they could join together in a “handshaking” promise. God promised to use all the Energy and Power of His Hand to change Israel’s impossible circumstances, and Israel promised to use all the energy and power of her hand to be obedient and cooperative with God’s Will.

The first *tekiah* sound summoned Israel to God and to God's visible leader, Moses, so that she would be in a position to look to God and His leader for instructions and to make her freshly aware of her helplessness. This prepared the way for her to sound forth her *teruah* shout for help.

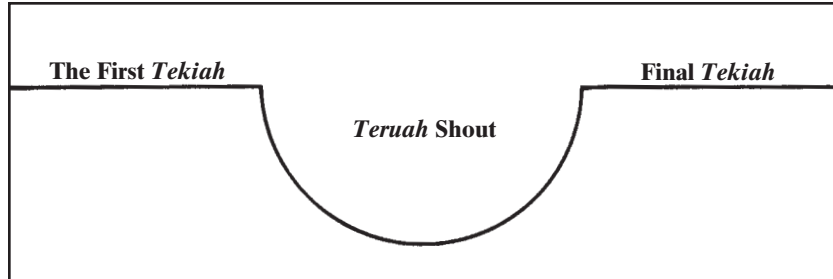
The *teruah* sound was a broken, trembling sound of staccato notes. The *teruah* was several small, short blasts that sounded out broken, agitated notes of alarm; it was a signal to break camp. The sound of the *teruah* shout could be made with the human voice, with man-made wind instruments, or with the Trumpet made by God. The *teruah* sound was a notice to bustle, to speed up activity.

Studying Israel's experience in the wilderness with the *tekiah-teruah-tekiah* Principle will help us understand just what these sounds meant to God's people.

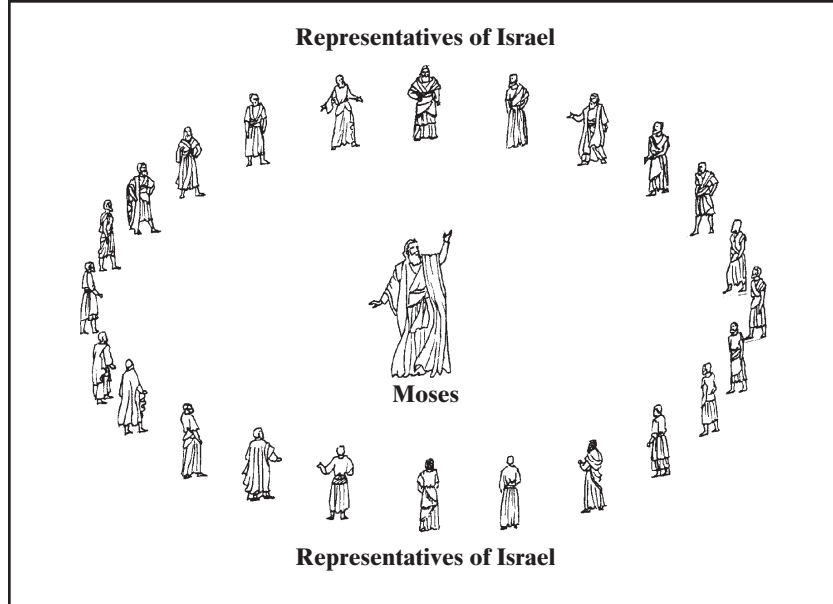
a. In the Wilderness, Israel Experienced the *Tekiah-Teruah-Tekiah* Principle.

Invisible Spiritual Truth accompanied the visible demonstration of the *tekiah-teruah-tekiah* sounds, even under the shadow and type. Without the beautiful pictures and demonstrations that God used under the shadow and type in the Old Testament, we would remain ignorant of their fulfillment through the Life of the LORD Jesus Christ in the New Testament.

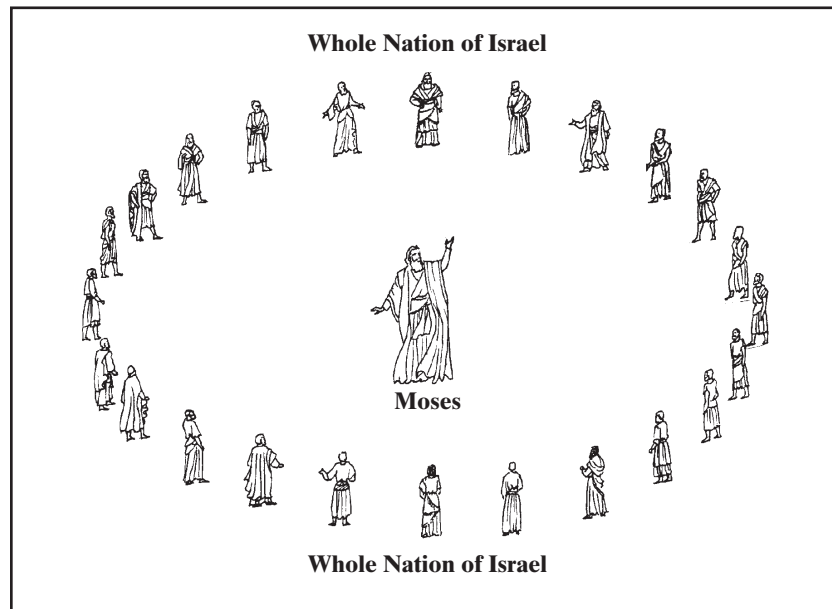
And when they shall blow with them, all the assembly shall assemble themselves to thee at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And if they blow *but* with **one trumpet**, then **the princes**, *which are* heads of the thousands of Israel, **shall gather themselves unto thee.** **When ye blow an alarm**, then **the camps** that lie on the east parts **shall go forward.** **When ye blow an alarm the second time**, then **the camps** that lie on the south side **shall take their journey:** they shall blow an alarm for their journeys (Numbers 10:3-6).



The tenth chapter of Numbers records God’s command to Moses to make two silver trumpets that would be used to blow the same *tekiah–teruah–tekiah* order. The silver trumpets, then, were man-made. When the Priests in Israel blew the *first* silver trumpet with the long *tekiah* sound, *the representatives* of the Nation of Israel, *the leaders* of thousands, gathered together to form a national wheel of unity around Moses, the mediator. They were to fix their eyes on Moses and hear the LORD God, the King of Israel, Who would give them His commands through Moses.

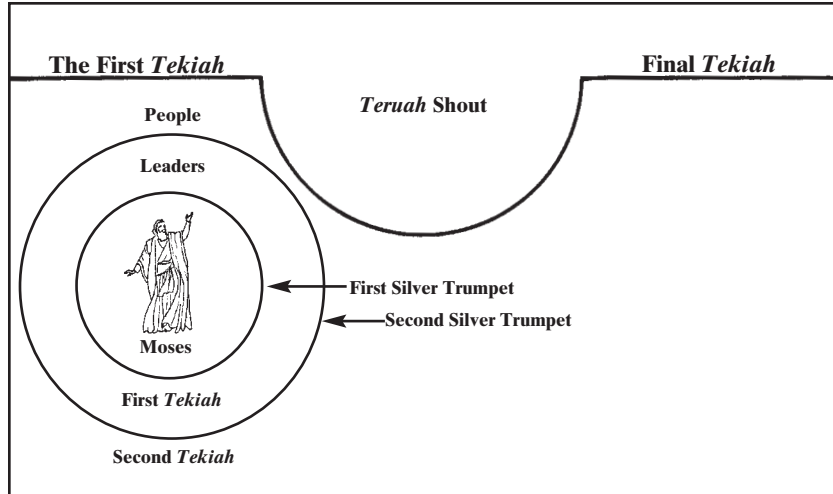


When the Priests in Israel blew the *second* silver trumpet with the same long, continuous sound of the first *tekiah*, every individual in *the whole nation* were to gather around Moses, the mediator, and fix their eyes and attention on him so that they could hear Moses speak the LORD God's Mind and Will to them.

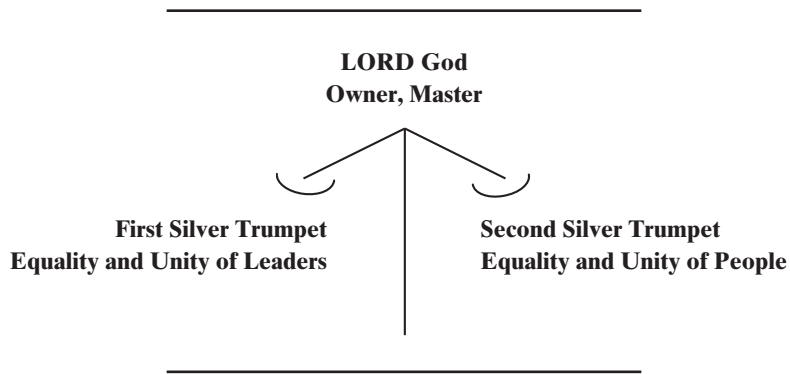


The *two* silver trumpets were each to be hammered out of one piece of metal. These two trumpets pictured the unity and also the quality of the "Caller" and the "called." The similarity of the silver trumpets pictured the equality and harmony displayed on God's *Tiphereth* Wheel of Unity between the LORD God, the leaders, and the people.

(See drawing on following page.)



Each person, whether he is a leader or a common person, is of equal worth to the LORD God.

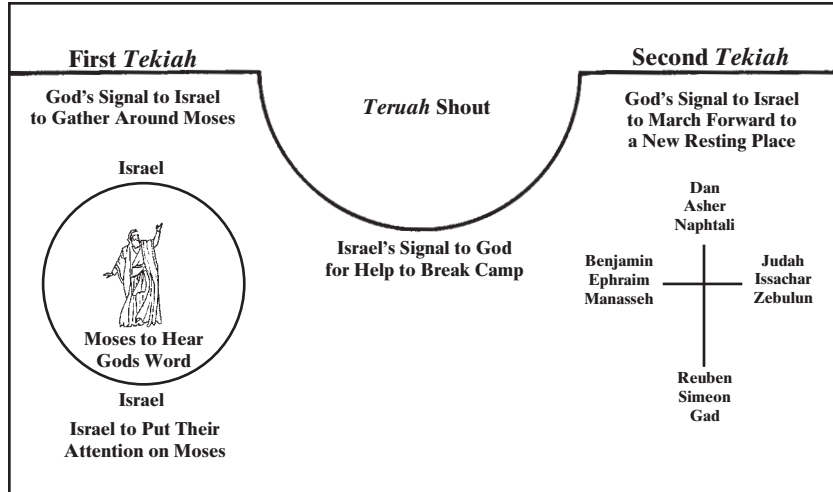


Immediately following the blowing of the *tekiah* sound, two short notes of the *teruah* sound were blown on the silver trumpets. This was Israel's command to break camp in the wilderness. Thus, Israel was informed by the signal of the first *tekiah* sound to gather together around Moses. Then, came the sound of the *teruah*

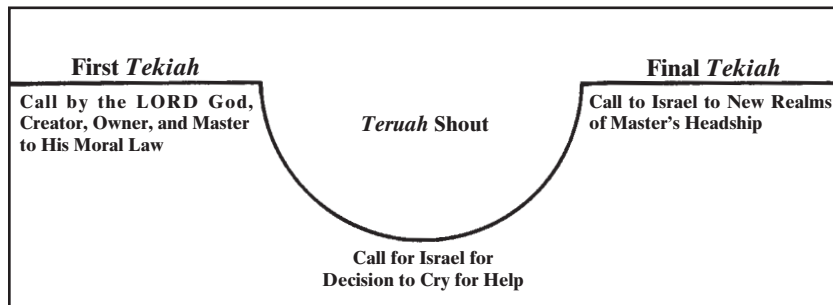
from the silver trumpets, which was a *teruah* shout to God for help in breaking camp on time. When Israel received the sound and the command to break camp, she had to be ready in a short time to follow the Cloud and Fire to a new resting place in the wilderness. It was impossible for this great company of people to get ready and break camp without the LORD God's miraculous help.

When Israel shouted to the LORD, she personally joined the *teruah* shout to the *teruah* sound of the silver trumpets. When the second *tekiah* sounded, God and Israel went hand in hand, as it were, to Israel's new resting place. Thus, when the people of Israel packed up their belongings in the wilderness, and the second and final long, sustained sounds of the *tekiah* were blown, she moved forward in a new "handshaking" experience with God, while being led by the Cloud and Fire to her new resting place.

The first long sounds of the *tekiah* preceded the short sounds of the *teruah* shout; then, the *teruah* was concluded by the long sounds of the final *tekiah*. Remember, when the first long sounds of the *tekiah* were blown in Israel, it was a summons for her to gather around Moses and listen to God's Law so that she could hear what pleased God and what displeased Him; and she was to listen to what God's Holy Will was for her. The *teruah* call was Israel's cry to God for help so that she would be empowered to break away from all things that displeased God. When Israel broke camp and moved to a new place in the wilderness, in the natural realm, it was a visible demonstration that she was spiritually breaking away, in the spiritual realm, from all her old ways, habits, thoughts, feelings, and deeds that had displeased the LORD God, her Owner and Master. The Israelites were to tear themselves away from all strange and foreign attachments that they might have made to the flesh, the world, and the Devil. They were to separate themselves from any small breath that estranged them from their LORD God, their Creator, Owner, and Master so that they could leave every worthless thing behind. Israel was to give up *everything* in her mode and manner of life that was displeasing to the LORD's Holy Will.



The final *tekiah* sound led Israel on a humility Way that God chose and directed so that she could find new paths of moral freedom and a new resting place. In Israel's new resting place, she was to find new surrenders to the LORD God, a new unity, and new harmony with Him. Thus, Israel was blessed with the LORD God's holy Favour.



Individuals in Israel willingly followed God's blueprint in both the natural and spiritual realms, and they found each new encampment to be a resting place. In their new resting places, they experienced new

attitudes of peace, joy, and faith, and a new vision of Canaan's Land. There were other individuals in Israel who unwillingly followed both the natural and spiritual *tekiah-teruah-tekiah* order. Their unwillingness produced new attitudes of hostility, dissatisfaction, distrust in God and in His leaders, and caused them to embrace a new carnal vision of Egypt as their supposed resting place. Those with unwilling hearts found unrest, agitation, and unhappiness in God's humility Way and resting places in the wilderness.

Now, let us note some occasions on which Israel used the *teruah* shout or sound *after* she had arrived in Canaan's Land.

b. The Shout of the King Is a *Teruah* Shout.

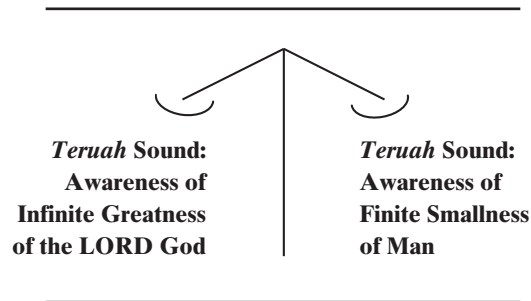
When Israel was in the wilderness, there was another occasion on which the *teruah* shout was given. When Balaam, the Prophet of Balak, was prophesying Israel's blessing from God, he said that the shout (the *teruah*) of the king was in the midst of her.

He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel: **the LORD his God is with him, and the shout of a king is among them** (Numbers 23:21).

The LORD God was and always is among His people when He hears their *teruah* shout or cry for help. The LORD God is the Source of all existence. He is the Creator and Owner of Heaven and Earth, as well as the Governor, Guide, and Ruler over Heaven and Earth. The LORD God is the Leader of Israel's fate and destiny.

The *teruah* sound stirred up deep feelings of humility within the Israelites' hearts and made them realize their finite smallness and the LORD God's infinite Greatness.

(See scales on following page.)



When Israel's ears, in both the natural and spiritual realms, were open to the *teruah* sound in their midst, they continually bowed their knees in homage to the LORD God and gave a *teruah* shout or cry to Him as their King, entreating Him for help. As long as God heard Israel's *teruah* cry for help, He remained their Sovereign King, guarding and guiding them in the affairs of the nation. When God no longer heard Israel's *teruah* shout (cry) and no longer saw her give Him homage by bowing her knees, He took away His guarding Fence and His guiding Hand, which resulted in Israel's being taken captive by her enemies.

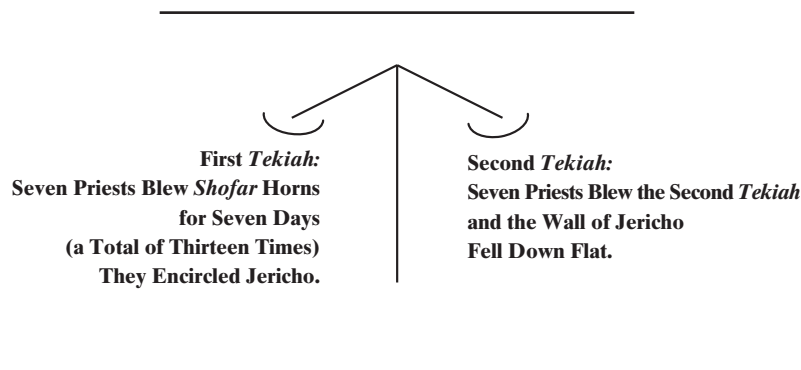
The *teruah* sound always had power to constrain the LORD God to lengthen His Arm and extend His helping Hand to Israel. But when Israel silenced her *teruah* sounds, the LORD's Arm and Hand appeared too short to save.

Behold, **the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save**; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:
But **your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear** (Isaiah 59:1,2).

**c. Joshua Took Jericho by Using God's
Tekiah–Teruah–Tekiah Principle.**

Joshua's conquest of the city of Jericho is another example, under the shadow and type, of God's use of the *tekiah-teruah-tekiah* Principle. Jericho was the first walled city that the children of Israel conquered in Canaan's Land. Joshua's marvelous victory would not have been possible had he not wisely instructed the Priests and the people to practice the *tekiah-teruah-tekiah* Principle. When this sound went up, the wall of Jericho fell down flat, and the people marched straight in and took the city.

And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of ram's horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets. And it shall come to pass, that when they **make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat**, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him.... So the people shouted when *the priests* blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city. (Joshua 6:4,5,20).



The LORD God, the Creator, Owner, and Master, gave Israel His divine Plan for the miraculous capture of the city of Jericho. Her victory at Jericho proved two things to Israel: first, their King was with them; and, second, they would not be able to possess the land by their own strength. Before Moses died, he had warned them to remain humble and to remember that God was the One Who would give them Canaan's Land.

Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;... **And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth** (Deuteronomy 8:14,17).

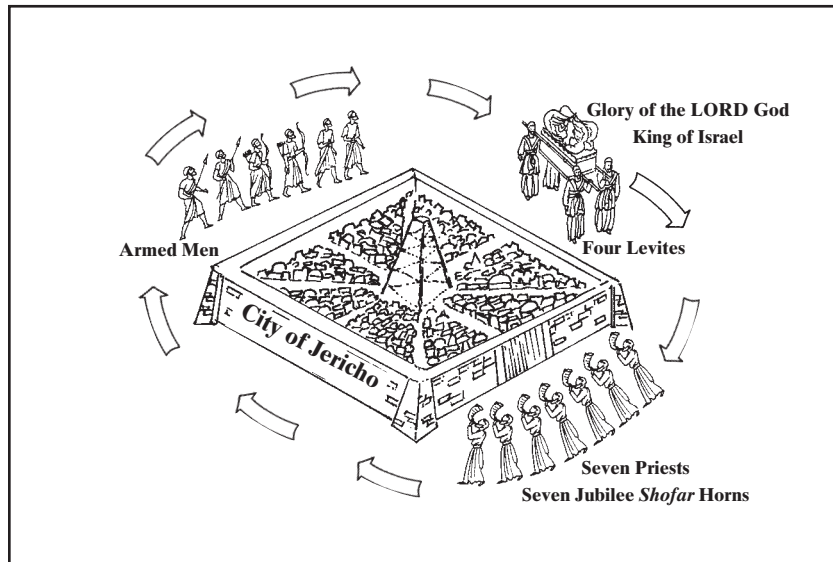
The LORD God warned Israel against succumbing to pride and arrogance because such is the beginning of forgetfulness of God. When one *remembers* that the LORD God is the Creator, Owner, and Master, he has to bow in humility before Him.

God warned Israel that, in her abundance, independence, and happiness in Canaan's Land, she must not forget her former state of hopelessness. She had been a slave in Egypt before He delivered her, and she was also in a state of helplessness when He led her during her wanderings in the wilderness.



God had a good Purpose in asking Israel to remember His miraculous Power that had delivered her from hopeless slavery in Egypt and His miraculous Power that had delivered her from helpless hunger by feeding her in the wilderness. If Israel had kept remembering God's miraculous Power in Egypt and in the wilderness, her faith would have been strengthened to believe that God's miraculous Power would help her possess Canaan's Land.

God's divine Plan for conquering Jericho called for a miraculous act on His part. The miracle was accomplished through the blowing of the first *tekiah*, the shout of the *teruah*, and the blowing of the second *tekiah*. God's Plan called for Israel to circle the city of Jericho thirteen times — once each day for six days and seven times on the seventh day. God's Plan called for a special order for those who marched around Jericho. Armed men were to lead the circle of marchers. Seven Priests, carrying seven *shofar* Jubilee horns were to follow the marchers and blow the first *tekiah* call. Four Levites, carrying the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD were to follow the seven Priests. (The Glory of the LORD God, Israel's King, rested upon the Ark.) Then, the people were to come in the rearward, following the Ark.



The LORD God, the King, was in the midst of His people, Israel. After Israel had circled the city of Jericho thirteen times, and after the Priests had completed blowing the first *tekiah* sounds on the *shofar* horns, the people shouted their *teruah* call for help to the LORD God. Then, the seven Priests blew the second *tekiah* sounds, and the wall fell down flat. Israel's army did not have to scale the wall; it fell down flat, opposite the army, so that every man went straight before him and took the city.

Archaeological research has proven that the Scriptures literally describe what happened at Jericho. Modern excavations have revealed that the wall of Jericho was not breached; it *sank down* into the ground, as if from the effect of an earthquake. At Jericho, God made a visible demonstration of His miraculous, victorious Power. When the first *tekiah* was blown, followed by the shout of the *teruah* and the blowing of the second *tekiah*, *which all happened according to God's Will*, the miraculous, victorious Power of the LORD God was loosed, and victory was won.

d. In Canaan's Land, Israel Had an Experience with the *Tekiah–Teruah–Tekiah* Principle.

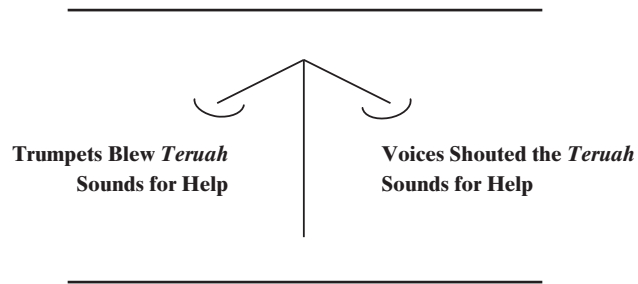
The LORD instituted the Feast of Trumpets* to be celebrated the first day of the seventh month of every year. This was to be a yearly Sabbath, a day of rest from physical work.

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, **In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation.** Ye shall do no servile work *therein*: but ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD (Leviticus 23:23-25).

At the time of the new moon, on the first day of the seventh month, Israel began to blow the *teruah* trumpet's sound at sunrise

* B. R. Hicks, *The Seven Feasts of Israel* (Jeffersonville, Indiana: Christ Gospel Churches Int'l., Inc.) 1985.

and continued blowing it until sunset. The people accompanied the *teruah* trumpet's sounds with their *teruah* shout unto God for help in breaking away from old habits and attitudes so that they could enter into a new place of rest with a new attitude and a new spiritual vision, such as they had experienced in the wilderness.



God ordained that Israel continue the same spiritual experience in Canaan's Land that she had begun in the wilderness.

Although Israel celebrated Jubilee every fiftieth year, in the natural realm, the *teruah* shout called Israel to a new *spiritual* Jubilee every year so that she could experience new moral freedom. The *teruah* shout was a call to Israel to regain her spiritual treasures that God had given her at Mount Sinai; it was a spiritual signal to break away from the old spiritual camp, to leave all her old ideas and opinions, old habits, and old sins for which her heart longed because she had been so attached to them. But these things grieved the LORD God, and they were things of which He disapproved. The *teruah* shout was a call to move to a new resting place in the LORD God, their Master and Owner.

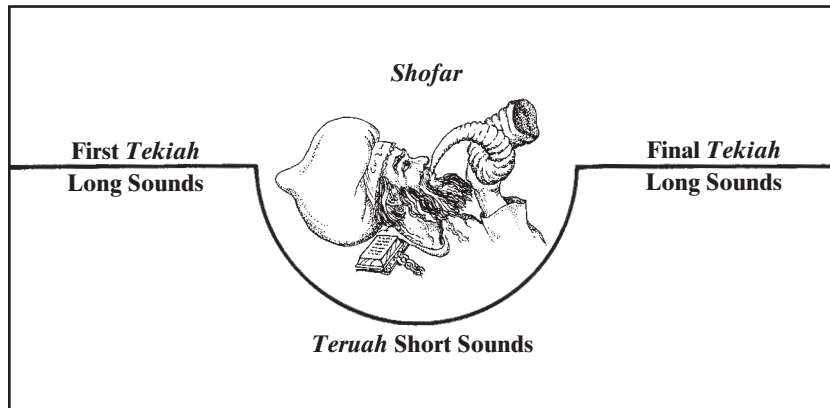
The Feast of Trumpets marked the beginning of Israel's civil year. God intended that Israel break camp, as it were, from the old year and enter into the new year with her hand in God's Hand. God wanted a new "handshake" between Himself and Israel every year. As Israel's Owner and Master, God desired to reassure her of all the energy, power, and support of His Hand that He willingly extended to help her do His Will, and He wanted all the energy,

power, and support of Israel's hand in a promise of humility obedience to Him as her Owner and the Master of her fate and destiny.

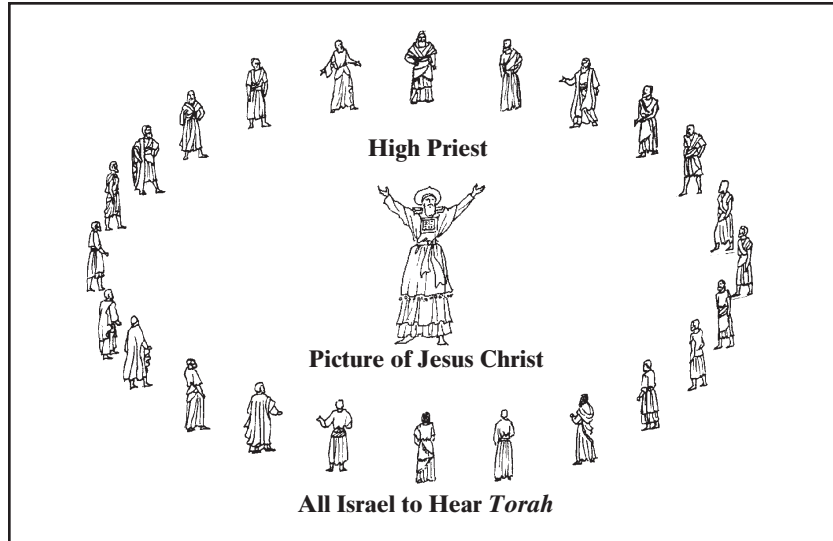
The power of the *teruah* trumpet and the *teruah* shout of God's people in the Year of Jubilee was special.

Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the day of atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land (Leviticus 25:9).

The Old Testament Scriptures offer definite Keys of Knowledge to help us understand Jesus Christ's personal resurrection in the New Testament dispensation, as well as the resurrection and translation of saints at the Rapture, which is soon to come.

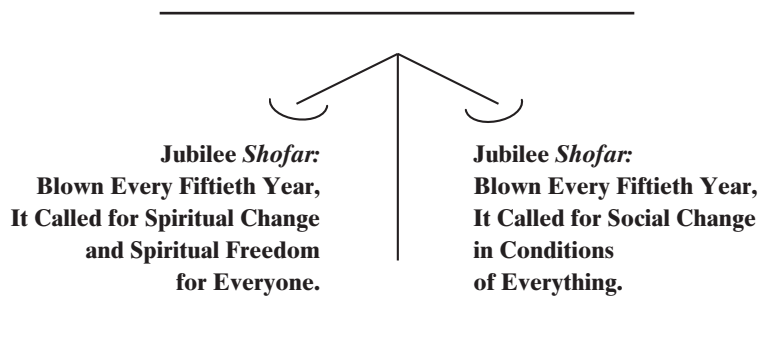


The blowing of the *tekiah-teruah-tekiah* sounds on the *shofar* horn ushered in the year of Jubilee, which began on the Day of Atonement. The sounds of the first *tekiah*, blown on the *shofar* horn, was a call from God, Israel's King, that summoned all Israel, from wherever she was scattered throughout the land, to gather and hear His *Torah*, His Law, all over again.

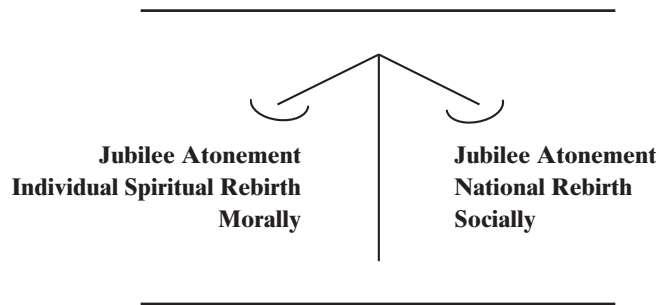


This was a new call to everyone and everything to bring them back to the LORD God and remind them that He was the Owner and Master of everyone and everything. In the space of fifty years, everyone and everything would have become ensnared, entangled, and shackled, to some degree, by social bondage and inequality.

In the fiftieth year or during the *Jubilee* Atonement, God demanded from Israel a new Unity and Oneness of Relationship not only with Himself but also with each other.



New Unity and Oneness had to be achieved in two ways: by bringing *everyone* back to purity of heart and mind and to the fear of the LORD; and by bringing *everything* back to pure and peaceful social conditions. This included returning to every person the original possessions allotted to them by the LORD God when Joshua had divided the land according to God's Perfect Will. The Jubilee Atonement was a special time of Israel's rebirth as a nation, both morally and socially.



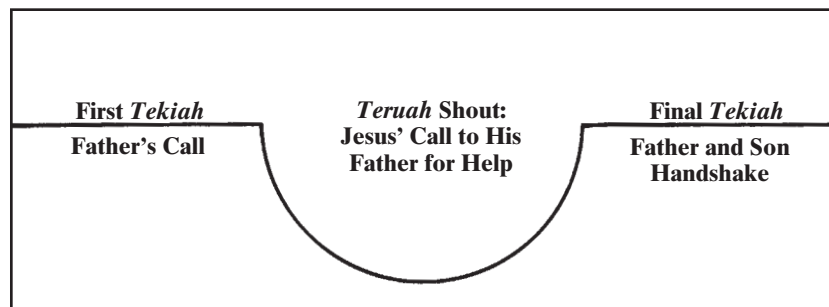
Jubilee Atonement was a time of individual, spiritual moral freedom and national social freedom. As the true Owner of the land, God returned the land to the original tribe to which He had allotted the land. The LORD, as the Master of each person, released all slaves from their earthly masters into complete liberty and the freedom of His Perfect Will. The LORD God washed the masters' and the slaves' individual souls with the cleansing, sanctifying blood of Atonement. God forgave their sins toward Him and toward each other. The sins of tyranny and oppression of the masters were forgiven on the Day of Atonement in the Year of Jubilee. The sins of rebellion and disobedience of the slaves were also forgiven. Therefore, through the Jubilee Atonement, Israel could enter into a new, individual, *moral* rebirth and into a new, national, *social* rebirth.

This Jubilee rebirth into purity and holiness could only be achieved as each individual gave his *teruah* shout to God for help in

changing spiritually so that he could experience a new individual rebirth, as it were, and enter into new spiritual freedom through the Jubilee Atonement. The *teruah* shout to God for help also brought social change through the Jubilee Atonement and caused the wealthy to reinstate the poor to their lost inheritances and possessions and to return all slaves to their original freedom.

Many more examples of the *tekiah-teruah-tekiah* Principle can be found in the Scriptures. However, these Scriptures are sufficient Keys to enlighten us and give us better understanding of the *teruah* Shout as it foreshadows the personal Resurrection of Jesus Christ and the Rapture of the overcoming saints, when Jesus Christ shall give His *teruah* Shout when He appears in the air to catch away His Bride and the Wedding Party.

2. The *Tekiah-Teruah-Tekiah* Shouts Were Given at Jesus Christ's Personal Resurrection from the Dead.



As previously stated, in between the long sound of the first *tekiah* and the long sound of the second *tekiah* came the *teruah* shout. This was a Principle of God's Working that He established for the Nation of Israel. Had she not followed God's Command of how the sounds should be given, God would not have responded to her call for help. Although the first and second *tekiah* sounds are not always mentioned in the Scripture when the word *teruah* (shout) is used, once we understand God's Principle, we know that

when the *teruah* shout is mentioned, it has to be accompanied by the sounds of the first and second *tekiah*.

Many Old Testament Scriptures prophesied Jesus Christ's descent into Death and Hell and His ascension out of Death and Hell (II Samuel 22:1-51; Psalm 18:1-50; 24:7-10; 68:18; 47:5-8). The study of these and other Scriptures, show that Jesus' understanding and use of the Power of the *tekiah-teruah-tekiah* Principle was what called to the Father when the Father came to resurrect His Son out of Death and Hell.

God is gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet. Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises. For *God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding.* God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness (Psalm 47:5-8).

When Jesus Christ died upon the Cross, He gave His Spirit into the Hands of His Heavenly Father.

And **when Jesus had cried with a loud voice**, he said, Father, **into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost** (Luke 23:46).

At Death, the Body of Jesus went to the grave.

This man went unto Pilate, and **begged the body of Jesus.** And he **took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulchre** that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid (Luke 23:52,53).

When He died, Jesus' Soul went to Hell as a sin offering; in Hell, He offered Himself as a substitute for sinful mankind.

Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put *him* to grief: when **thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin**, he

shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand (Isaiah 53:10).

For **thou wilt not leave my soul in hell**; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption (Psalm 16:10).

Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; **He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell**, neither his flesh did see corruption. **This Jesus hath God raised up**, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, **The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, Until I make thy foes thy footstool**. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that **God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ** (Acts 2:30-36).

These Scriptures confirm that Jesus's Soul descended into Death and Hell in the place of sinful man. Then, at the end of the third day, Jesus Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's Glory.

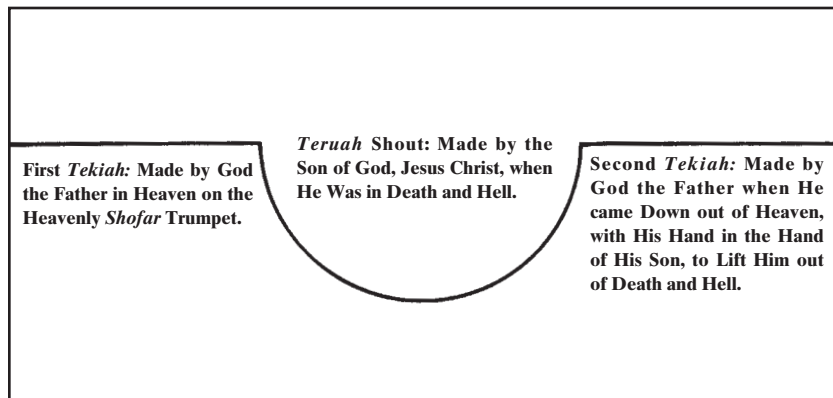
For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that **Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures**; And that **he was buried**, and that **he rose again the third day according to the scriptures**: (I Corinthians 15:3,4).

Therefore **we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life** (Romans 6:4).

These Scriptures confirm that Jesus Christ spent three days and three nights in Death and Hell; then, the Glory of God the Father resurrected Him.

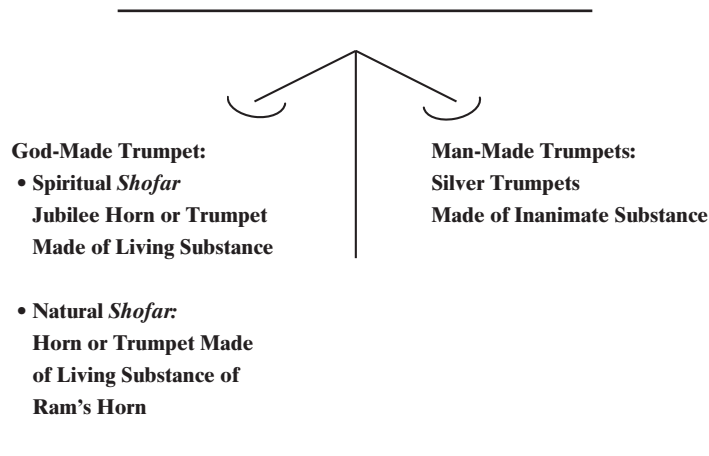
God is gone up with a shout [teruah], the LORD with the sound of a trumpet [shofar] (Psalm 47:5).

Although the first and second *tekiah* Sounds are not especially mentioned in this verse, we know by God's Word that the *tekiah-teruah-tekiah* Principle was working in this instance because the LORD's *teruah* Shout was always surrounded by the *tekiah* Sounds.



This verse in the Forty-seventh Psalm confirms that God the Son came up out of Death and Hell with a *teruah* Shout and with a *shofar* Trumpet. The *shofar* was another kind of Trumpet besides the silver trumpet: the *shofar* Trumpet was God-made and the silver trumpets were man-made.

(See scales on following page.)



The spiritual *shofar* Jubilee Horn is formed of the Living Substance of the Tetragrammaton Name of the *LORD*. This was the Horn or Trumpet that God brought down to Mount Sinai when He gave Israel His *Torah*. The awesome sound of the *LORD* God's Holy "Horn-Name" caused Israel to flee away from the mountain. In their fear, they begged Moses to go talk with God in their place because the Power and Holiness of His Name was frightful.

God gave Israel the natural *shofar* rams' horns, which He had created out of natural, living substance, to be a symbol of the spiritual *shofar* Jubilee Horn of His Holy Name. When Israel blew the natural *shofar* horn in God's Will, it moved God to blow the Horn of His Name in the spiritual realm, which released the miracle-working Power of His Holy Name.

This, then, was what happened at the battle of Jericho to bring them victory: Israel blew her *shofar* Jubilee rams' horns thirteen times in seven days, and it was accompanied by the *teruah* shout; thus, the Power of God's spiritual *shofar* "Horn-Name" (*LORD*) was released from Heaven. This miracle-working Name of the *LORD* sent a special earthquake under the wall of the city that caused the wall to sink down flat, which made it level with the ground on which it formerly stood.

The awesome sound of the Spiritual *shofar* Horn of the LORD God's Name always causes His Creation to flee away from the majesty of His High and Holy Name.

Yea, he sent out his arrows, and scattered them; and he shot out lightnings, and discomfited them. Then the channels of waters were seen, and the foundations of the world were discovered at thy rebuke, **O LORD, at the blast of the breath of thy nostrils** (Psalm 18:14,15).

God the Father counted the days, hours, and minutes that His beloved Son was in Hell and Death, and when the exact moment arrived to resurrect His Son, God signaled Him down in Death and Hell with the first *tekiah* call from the Spiritual *shofar* Horn of His awesome Name.

God the Son recognized His Father's Holy Name and its Sound, so He gave a *teruah* Shout to His Father, calling for His help to bring Him up out of Death and Hell.

The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid. The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me. **In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears** (Psalm 18:4-6).

When God the Father heard the Son's *teruah* Shout, He blew the second *tekiah* Sound of His awesome Name and descended from Heaven.

Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken, because he was wroth. There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it. **He bowed the heavens also, and came down:** and

darkness *was* under his feet. **And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: yea, he did fly upon the wings of the wind** (Psalm 18:7-10).

God the Father placed His Hand in His Son's Hand and lifted Him out of Death and Hell.

He sent from above, he took me, he drew me out of many waters. He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them which hated me: for they were too strong for me. They prevented me in the day of my calamity: but the LORD was my stay. **He brought me forth also into a large place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me.** The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me (Psalm 18:16-20).

Just as Israel fled from the awesome Sound of the "Horn-Name" of the LORD at Mount Sinai, so did the Creation flee from the awesome Sound of the Name of the LORD at Jesus Christ's resurrection.

The LORD thundered from heaven, and the most High uttered his voice. And he sent out arrows, and scattered them; lightning, and discomfited them. **And the channels of the sea appeared, the foundations of the world were discovered, at the rebuking of the LORD,** at the blast of the breath of his nostrils (II Samuel 22:14-16).

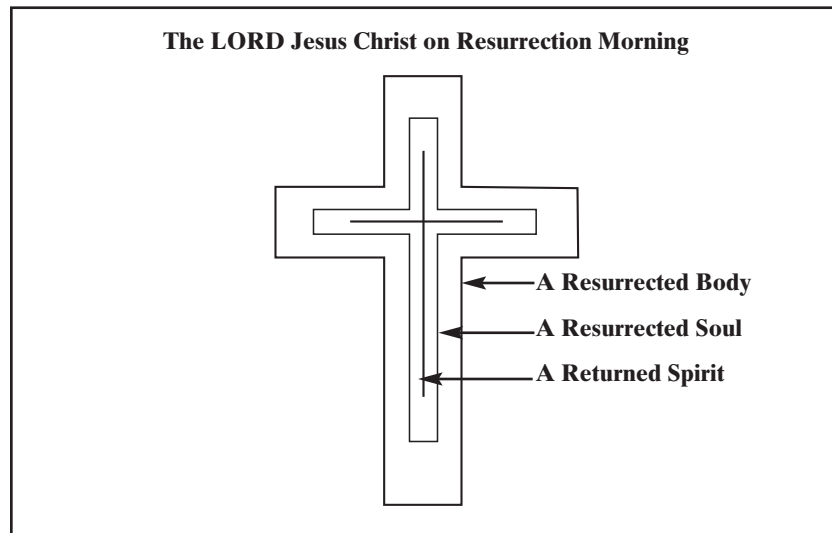
In this scene there was none left of the Creation to stand with Lucifer because all the rest of Creation had fled away, which left Lucifer exposed as a finite creature before the LORD God, his Owner and Master. Lucifer had to fall in fright and terror, into the depths of Death and Hell, and the Keys of Death and Hell dropped from his filthy fingers. Then, God the Son picked up the

Keys of Death and Hell in one hand and placed His other Hand in an eternal “Handshake” with God the Father. This is the reason that Jesus now has All Power in Heaven and in Earth.

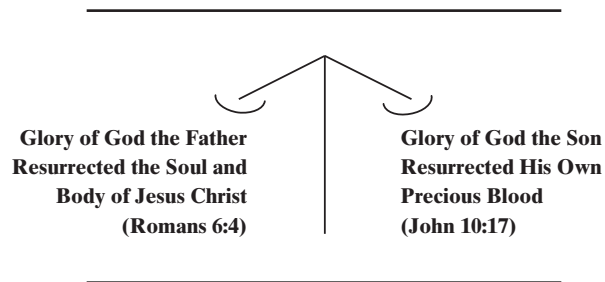
And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth
(Matthew 28:18).

God the Father has pledged all the eternal Energy and Power of His Hand to His Son, and the Son has promised all the Energy and Power of His Hand in eternal obedience to His Father’s Holy Name.

Jesus Christ came up out of Death and Hell by His Father’s Power and Glory. After God the Father had filled Jesus Christ’s Body with His Resurrection Glory, He took the Spirit that He had brought back with Him and the Soul that He had lifted out of Death and Hell and placed them in a new, resurrected Body or Tabernacle that He had brought out of the tomb. Thus, on Resurrection Morning, the LORD Jesus Christ stood up with a *Resurrected Body*, a *Resurrected Soul*, and a *Returned Spirit*.



The LORD Jesus Christ stood up as a conquering King, having spoiled principalities and powers. After God the Father had resurrected Jesus Christ's Soul and Body and had reunited His Spirit with His Soul and His Body, Jesus Christ resurrected His Blood, which He used for the atonement of mankind.



God the Father had Resurrection Life in Himself, and He gave His Son Power to have Resurrection Life in Himself.

For as **the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;** (John 5:26).

Jesus said unto her, **I am the resurrection, and the life:** he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: (John 11:25).

The Son could not use His eternal Resurrection Life to resurrect His shed Blood until the Father had used His Resurrection Life to resurrect His Son's Soul and Body. This is why Jesus could not strengthen Himself in the Garden, even when He saw His Life's Blood dropping to the ground. He trusted God and waited for His Father to send strength for His Body.

Jesus Christ testified that there was Life in His Blood. He said that He would lay down His Life (Blood) and that He would take up His Life (Blood) again.

I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us *his* flesh to eat? Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. **Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day** (John 6:51-54).

As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and **I lay down my life for the sheep...** Therefore doth my Father love me, because **I lay down my life, that I might take it again** (John 10:15,17).

These Scriptures prove that the resurrection of the Soul, Body, and Blood of Jesus Christ was a unified Work between the Father's Glory and the Son's Glory, just as the first *tekiah* Sound, the *teruah* Shout, and the second *tekiah* Sound were a Unified Work.

After Jesus Christ had risen from the dead, He led captivity captive.

Thou hast ascended on high, **thou hast led captivity captive:** thou hast received gifts for men; yea, *for* the rebellious also, that the LORD God might dwell *among them* (Psalm 68:18).

Wherefore he saith, **When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.** (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? **He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.**) (Ephesians 4:8-10).

After the glorious Resurrection Power of the Father and the glorious Resurrection Power of the Son had been joined in an eternal Union, the Son then led the overcoming saints of the Old Testament out of Paradise, where they had been held captive by Lucifer and Death. The LORD Jesus Christ took Lucifer's captives (the overcoming saints) and made them His eternal captives and led them up to Heaven.

And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many (Matthew 27:52,53).

The overcoming saints, whom Jesus brought up with him out of Paradise, appeared to many and witnessed about the Resurrection Power of the Father and the Son.

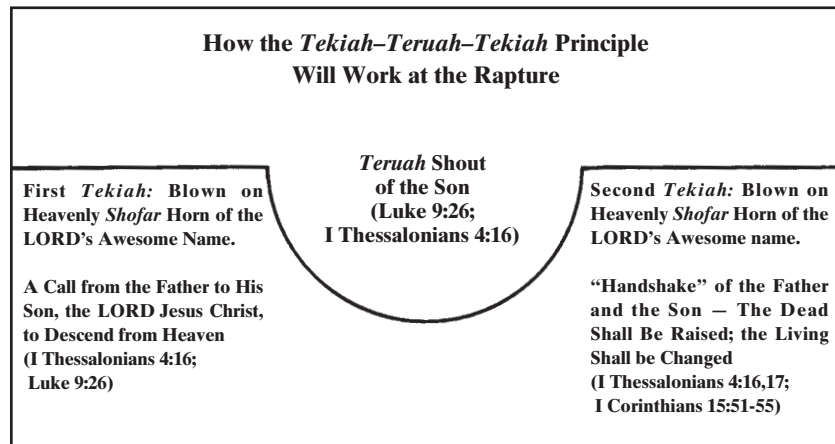
The Son's *teruah* Shout and the Father's first and second *tekiah* Sounds brought up the Son of God from the dead. Now, He is our Mediator, High Priest, Ark of the Covenant, and Mercy Seat.

At the time of the Rapture, the LORD Jesus Christ will descend out of Heaven in the same manner in which He ascended into Heaven. He *ascended* with the Glory of the Father and with His own Glory; He will *descend* with the Glory of the Father and with His own Glory.

Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, **why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven** (Acts 1:11).

If we have no other Scriptures to confirm Christ's *manner of return*, we know from the Promise, here in the Book of Acts, that He will return with His *teruah Shout* and with His Father's *tekiah Sounds* from the Spiritual *shofar* of His awesome Name.

It took the Father and Son's unified Work of Resurrection to raise the Son's Soul, Body, and Blood. It also will take the Father's and the Son's unified Work of Resurrection to raise from the dead the saints who have died as overcomers and to change the living, overcoming saints at the Rapture.



The Spiritual *shofar* Trumpet of the LORD's awesome Name will give the signal Sound of the first *tekiah* of God's Son, which will indicate that it is time for Him to descend in order to gather around Him, in the air, all the dead and living saints who were and are overcomers, just as all the people of Israel assembled themselves around Moses in order to receive God's new Commands of the *Torah*.

The Son of God will give His *teruah* Shout — His Call for His Father's help, and His Father will hear and send His Glory to resurrect the bodies of dead overcomers and change the bodies of living overcomers so that they can meet Jesus in the air. God the Father will resurrect the bodies of the dead overcomers and change the bodies of the living overcomers, and their bodies will be swallowed up in the Father's Resurrection Glory. At the same time, the Son of God will resurrect the blood of the dead overcomers and change the blood of the living overcomers. The blood of all the resurrected and changed saints who are overcomers will be

swallowed up in the Resurrected Glory of the Son of God. This is why the LORD Jesus Christ must return in the Glory of the Father and in His own Glory.

C. The Archangel Michael Shall Accompany the LORD at His Appearing.

Michael and his Angels who overcame Lucifer in Heaven will be given the honour and the privilege of returning with the LORD at the Rapture.

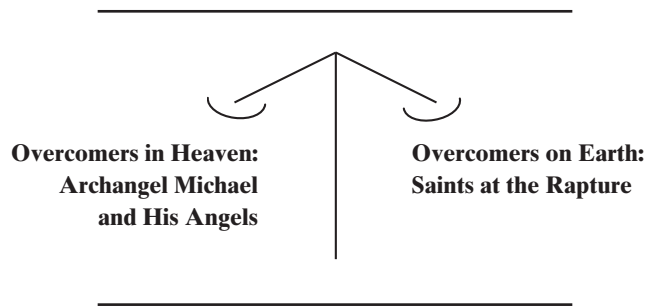
For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when **he shall come in his own glory, and in *his* Father's, and of the holy angels** (Luke 9:26).

Although there may be other Archangels, Michael is the only one mentioned in the Word of God, so we can assume that the Archangel at the Rapture will be Michael.

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: 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 (I Thessalonians 4:16,17).

The word *archangel* means to be first in rank. Verse thirteen in chapter ten of the Book of Daniel lists Michael as being one of the Chief Princes in the angelic realm. The Angels in Heaven had a season of being tested and tried by Lucifer, and some of them, among whom were Michael and his Angels, overcame Lucifer in the Heavens.

Likewise, Lucifer has tested and tried mankind on Earth, and some of the sons of men have overcome him on Earth. Among these overcomers will be the saints at the Rapture, when Jesus Christ comes again.



The Book of Jude teaches us that the Archangel Michael is a warrior, a Commander-in-Chief of God's Angelic Army. God sent Michael to fight the powers of darkness when Moses' body was resurrected because the Scriptures say that the Devil disputed with Michael about giving up Moses' body. (We know that Moses was resurrected in advance because he stood with Jesus and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration.) The Devil, who still held the Keys of Death and Hell (since Jesus had not yet died and been resurrected) did not want to give up Moses's body in advance. But God is the Sovereign Owner and Master of the Devil, so He controls him in any way He chooses.

Because the Devil fought over Moses' body, we know that he will also put up a real battle when the living saints are Raptured and overcomers who have already died are resurrected. The LORD Jesus Christ will bring with Him His Commander-in-Chief, the Archangel Michael, and his Angelic Army. Michael and his Army will drive back Lucifer and his army so that a clean, holy place can be established in the air for the meeting of the Bridegroom and Bride and the Wedding Party. For this present time, Lucifer is the Prince of the Power of the Air.

Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, **according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:** (Ephesians 2:2).

The air has been defiled by Lucifer, but on Resurrection Morning, the Archangel Michael and his Angels will drive back Lucifer and sanctify the air.

The twelfth chapter of the Book of Revelation discloses that, just after the Rapture and just before the beginning of the Tribulation, there will be war in Heaven. Michael and his Angels will war in the Heavens with Lucifer and his angels. Once and for all, Michael shall prevail and overcome Lucifer and his angels in the Heavens. (Since his fall from Heaven, Lucifer has been known as Satan, Devil, Serpent, and Dragon.) Lucifer shall be cast out of Heaven into the Earth, where the LORD Jesus Christ ultimately will defeat him. God will have *complete* victory over Lucifer, both in Heaven and Earth — for the Angels in Heaven and for the saints on Earth.

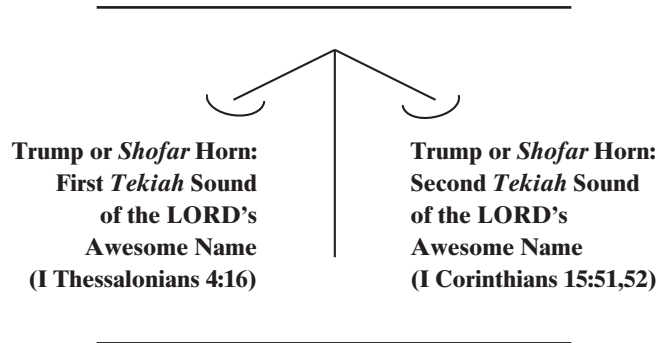
Beloved, the LORD Jesus Christ will personally appear. He will appear with a *teruah* Shout, and He will appear with the voice of the Archangel.

D. The Sound of the Trumpet or *Shofar* Horn Shall Accompany the LORD's Appearing.

God's Word also tells us that Jesus Christ will appear with the Sound of the *shofar* Trumpet. What a glorious time is in store for the overcomers when the LORD raises them from the dead and changes those who are still living! "For the trumpet shall sound!" When this Sound goes forth, the day will have arrived for the LORD Jesus Christ to rapture the saints who have overcome Lucifer during their walk on this Earth. When He comes, He will be accompanied by the Sound of the Last Trumpet or *Shofar* Horn of the awesome Name of the LORD.

Behold, I shew you a mystery; **We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,** In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: **for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed** (I Corinthians 15:51,52).

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: (I Thessalonians 4:16).

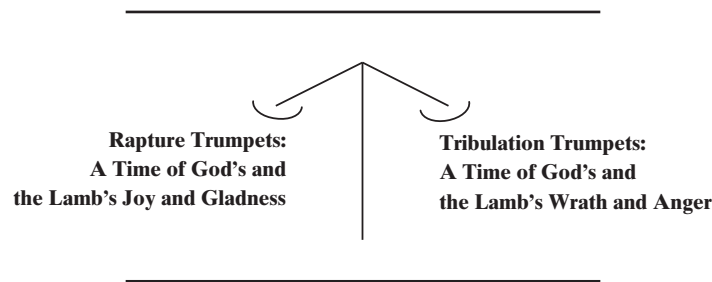


When Bible scholars try to make the Trumpets that sound at the Rapture be a part of the seven Trumpets of Judgment that will sound during the Tribulation, they are in error. The different Trumpets form entirely different sets of Spiritual Principles and are in no way connected.

After the LORD Jesus Christ has given His *teruah* Shout to His Father, calling for His help at the Rapture, the Father will blow the second *tekiah* Sound of His awesome Name. The Father will join the Glory of His Resurrection Power for the body to the Glory of the Son's Resurrection Power for the blood. Thus, the dead shall be raised, and the living shall be changed. The Hebrew New Testament states clearly that this "Rapture" Trumpet is the *shofar* Horn. This will *not* be an earthly ram's horn because the Sound of this Trumpet

will be brought out of Heaven. The Hebrew Scriptures also state that this Last Trumpet Sound is a *tekiah*, which is the second *tekiah* that attaches to the *teruah* Shout. How great and accurate is the Word of God, and what a glorious privilege is ours to be able to understand what God has said to us!

Jesus is coming with the *teruah* Shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the first *tekiah* Call of God and the second *tekiah* of the Last Trump. Also, some people teach that the Last Trump, mentioned in these Scriptures, is the *last* Judgment Trumpet sounded in the Tribulation Period. They say that the Tribulation will last seven years* and that believers will go through three-and-one-half years of the Tribulation Period before the Rapture takes place. This is not true! The Tribulation Judgments refer to the “wrath of God and the Lamb,” which will be poured out on the Earth. The Tribulation Judgments have nothing to do with the saints who have prepared themselves for the glorious and joyful Coming of LORD Jesus Christ in the air.



The two silver trumpets in the tenth chapter of the Book of Numbers were used for three things: to call together the assembly; to begin the journeying of the tribes; and to call the sacrifices to God's remembrance.

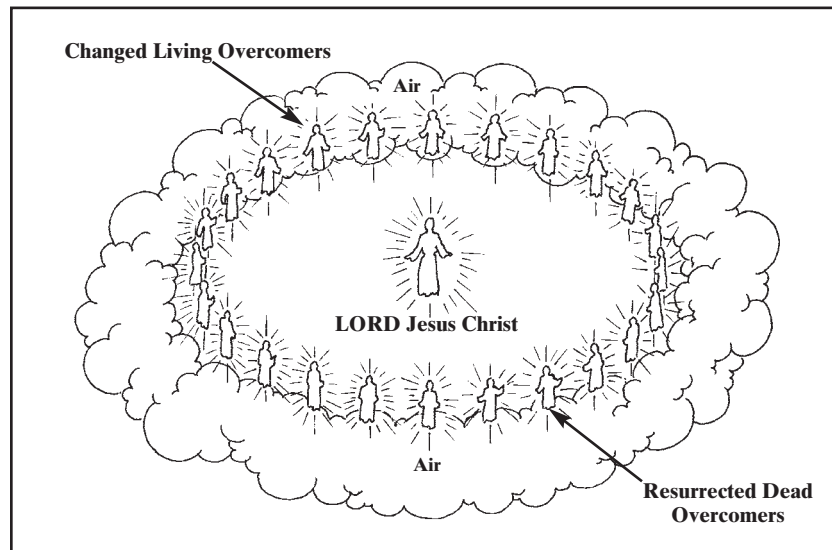
* See B. R. Hicks, *God's Revelation To Daniel About His Day And The End-Time* (Jeffersonville, Indiana: Christ Gospel Churches Int'l, Inc.) 1985, for the revelation of the length of the Tribulation Period.

Silver is used in the Word of God to picture redemption. The silver trumpets were blown when the blood sacrifices were offered in the Old Testament, which pictured Jesus Christ's Redemptive Trumpet Voice, as He called to His Father's remembrance the Blood Covenant made at Calvary's Cross (Revelation 1:10-18).

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and What thou seest, write in a book, and send *it* unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea. **And I turned to see the voice that spake with me.** And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks *one* like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and *his* hairs *were* white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes *were* as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance *was* as the sun shineth in his strength. **And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I *am* he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death** (Revelation 1:10-18).

The silver trumpets, which pictured the LORD Jesus Christ's Redemptive Trumpet Voice, called together the assembly of God's earthly Bride, Israel, and gave the signal for her to continue on her journey to earthly Canaan's Land. His same Trumpet Voice will call His Bride and the Wedding Party together at the Rapture and will give the signal Call for her to continue on her journey to Heavenly Canaan's Land.

After the Resurrection, which will be a Unified Work of the Father and the Son, the LORD Jesus Christ will utter the first Silver Trumpet Call of His Redemptive Voice and gather the overcoming saints around Him in the air.



At the sound of the second Silver Trumpet Call of the Redemptive Voice of the LORD Jesus Christ, the raptured and resurrected saints will begin their journey into the Heavens, toward Heavenly Canaan's Land.

Beloved, will YOU be ready? When He blows the Trumpet, will YOU be one of that glorious number who will ascend triumphantly to meet Jesus in the air? Or will you be left behind to go through the Tribulation Period?

The actual event of the Rapture will be marked, first of all, by the *Appearing* of the LORD. There are four aspects to His Appearing: He personally will appear; He will be accompanied by Michael the Archangel; and He will be accompanied by the *tekiah* Calls of the *shofar* Trumpet of the awesome Name of the Father and the Silver Trumpets of the Redemptive Voice of the LORD Jesus Christ.

II. The Rapture Will Take Place According to God's Order.

At the actual event of the Rapture, the *order* of the Resurrection will be established. God is an orderly God. He arranges and disposes in an orderly and methodical manner, according to both His Master Plan and His Holy Will. God's Word is organized in an orderly arrangement. God's "Law of Order" demands a harmonious relationship between all parts of His Creation; naturally, then, God has a normal, orderly course of action for the Rapture.

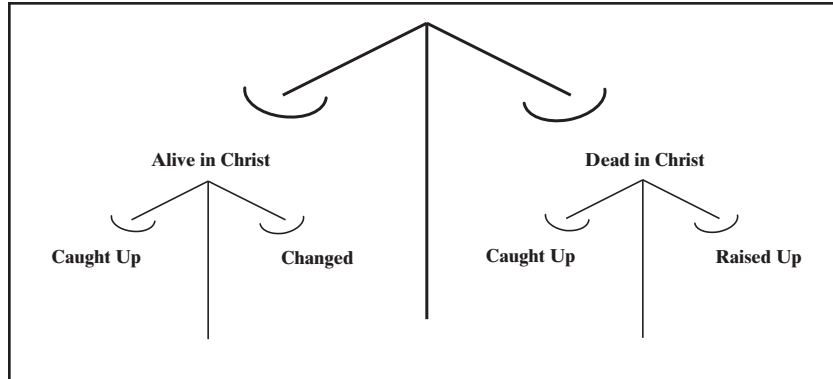
The Rapture will take place in the following order: the dead in Christ shall rise first; the overcomers who are alive and remain will be changed; then, both groups shall be caught up together in the Clouds to meet the LORD in the air, and so shall they ever be with the LORD.

A. First, the Dead in Christ Shall Be Resurrected.

God will raise the dead, first, because their bodies will have suffered greater humiliation. God has ordained that before honour is bestowed, there must be humility. "The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility" (Proverbs 15:33). Prior to the Resurrection, God's divine Order will have taken some bodies by the way of Death and the grave to be devoured by worms and left to lie in humility dust. The LORD will honour them, first, in the Resurrection because their spirits and souls will have suffered more, having been *unclothed* by reason of being separated from their bodies.

B. Second, Those Who Are Alive and Remain Shall Be Changed.

Those who are alive and who have remained faithful until the time of the Rapture shall escape the humiliation of having their souls and spirits left in an unclothed state. Their mortal bodies shall be *changed* by being swallowed up by the Unified Resurrection Glory of the Father and the Son.



The ones who are dead in Christ shall experience a double portion of God's "up-Glory" because of their humiliation. The ones who are alive in Christ shall be changed and then caught up.

III. The Rapture Will Take Place in the Air.

The actual event of the Rapture will happen in an appointed place. Jesus will not come to the Earth at the Rapture, but He shall appear in the air to catch away a *prepared* people who will join Him in the air.

Lest we miss this most important event, we should be willing to lay aside all things and all people that would hinder us from walking in the Light of the Truth when it comes to our hearts. We must be prepared for that glorious day if we plan to be a part of the Wedding Party that will be caught up into the air to meet Jesus Christ at the Rapture.

IV. The Rapture Will Afford Prepared Believers an Eternal Position.

God's Word gives us one last point about the actual event of the Rapture: it discloses the position the Rapture will afford prepared believers. Believers who are counted worthy to be in the Rapture will be granted an eternal position in the LORD's Presence. For

each overcoming believer, the LORD will have a very special position that will depend on the place to which he has grown in Spiritual Stature. Every believer's state, rank, or standing in Eternity will be granted according to his degree of spiritual growth in Christ Jesus.

Never again will believers have to suffer strife, envy, malice, jealousy, and resistance to the Truth because they will be removed from a temporal, earthly position to an eternal Heavenly position.

Chapter Three

The Results Of The Rapture

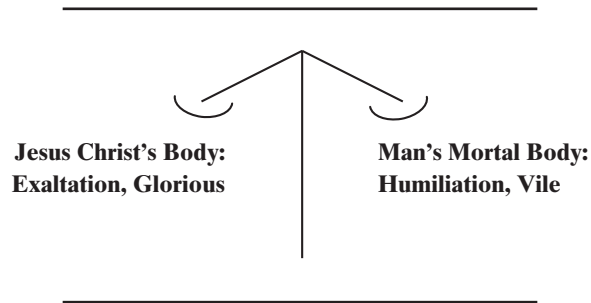
The great consequences and effects of the Resurrection at the time of the Rapture will reveal the four main distinctions between the different Glories of the Celestial Garments of the resurrected saints, and all present will see the logical outcome of those who have surrendered to Jesus Christ while they were on Earth. Revealed to all will be the calm, correct, truthful results in the lives of those who have been overcomers through Christ Jesus.

For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also **we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body**, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself (Philippians 3:20,21).

There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial *is* one, and the *glory* of the terrestrial *is* another. **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 (I Corinthians 15:40,41).

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, **when he shall appear, we shall be like him;** for we shall see him as he is (I John 3:2).

The foregoing verses confirm that we shall be *changed*, and we will be like Jesus in that we will have glorified Bodies that will be full of the Father's Glory and the Son's Glory.



The present state of our mortal bodies is one of vile humiliation. However, originally, we were formed from the dust of the Earth and curiously wrought by God's Wisdom and Power. He breathed His Breath into man's body and caused it to become a glorious Body. But when sin entered into man's body, it became vile, wretched, base, and low. The mortal body was infected with iniquity and became unclean. As a result, man's mortal body is exposed to sickness and destined to Death. It does not matter how much we try to hide the condition of the mortal body (by dressing the body in elaborate, fancy garments and disgraceful vanities of this present world), the vile body will always reveal itself in the end.

God does not intend for the vileness of the body to last. It is unparalleled madness to think that when our mortal bodies die their existence ends. For both the saint and the sinner, Death is only the prelude to Eternity.

At the Rapture, the bodies of the overcoming saints will be changed like unto Christ's glorious Body. The coarse and gross earthliness of the body shall be removed, and it shall be changed into a Light-filled, buoyant Body, free from Earth's gravity. The LORD's glorified Body is Harmless, Holy, and Undeiled with sin. Overcomers' vile bodies will be changed into holy Bodies that will be able to enter into the LORD's Holy Presence in Heaven. The LORD's Body is alive and immortal forever more. Likewise, overcomers' Bodies will be changed into immortal Bodies. The immortal

LORD and Saviour will then reign over an immortal people. Never again shall those who are overcomers have to live in mean, despicable bodies, for they shall be changed.

At the Rapture, overcomers' resurrected, terrestrial bodies will be clothed in Celestial Bodies of Glory; however, their Celestial Bodies will be different in their degrees of Glory, just as the stars, moon, and sun shine with different degrees of glory-light. For example, as viewed from Earth, the sun is the brightest of all celestial lights, while the moon is the second greatest light. The stars in the Heavens also differ in brilliance and glory. God's Word says, "So also is the resurrection of the dead" (I Corinthians 15:42).

God made a distinction when He created the flesh or bodies of mankind, beasts, fish, and birds (I Corinthians 15:39). Each of these four classes of creatures were created with suitable bodies because their statures were different sizes and their habitats were different, and both circumstances called for special bodies. Likewise, in the spiritual realm, God will create a suitable Body of Glory for each degree of Spiritual Stature in Christ Jesus. These glorified Bodies will be worn as Garments over saints' resurrected, terrestrial bodies and be suitable for the places in which believers will eternally dwell.

There will be differences in the resurrected Glories of the dead at the Rapture. Some resurrected, terrestrial bodies will be clothed with Glory that will shine as little stars or perhaps great stars. Others will be clothed with Glory that will shine as the moon. The Bride of Christ, who will have attained the *Full* Stature of Jesus Christ, will be clothed with Glory that will shine as the sun.

The Bride is the one who, during her lifetime on Earth, was not ashamed of the Word of Truth from the Bridegroom and who accepted suffering for the Truth. The Bride is the one who will not have drawn back, but who will have kept marching on in all the Truth that God has put before her until she has grown up into Christ's Full Stature. Thus, the Bride will be rewarded with the privilege of wearing a Dress of "Sun Glory" at the Rapture. The results of the Rapture will be a clear, distinct revelation of the four different degrees of Glory found in Christ's Full Stature.

In the Resurrection and at the Rapture, no one will be able to hide his achievement in Christ Jesus. The believers' celestial Glory-Dress will reveal plainly what they have attained in their Stature of spiritual growth.

Chapter Four

The Sorrow Of The Rapture

There will be a sad, lamentable side to the Rapture, for Christians who miss the Rapture will feel the mental pain from the evil experience of having missed the LORD's personal Presence when He has Come in the air. Men's feelings of uneasiness and pain, which will arise in their hearts from the lost opportunity of meeting Jesus in the air, will be overwhelming. Following the Rapture, the regret, sadness, and grief that men will experience will be unparalleled. When the LORD appears, many will be left sorrowful, unless they lay aside the heavy weights and the binding sins that so easily beset them and begin right now to run in the spiritual race for Christ. Many Christians are being lulled into false security. They think they are ready to meet Jesus, but their hearts are overcharged with surfeiting, drunkenness, and the cares of this life, so the LORD's Return will come upon them unawares.

Other Christians, besides the Bride, will be ready for the LORD Jesus Christ's Return. Just as there are others at a natural wedding besides the Bride, other believers will make up the Wedding Party and be caught away with the Bride. For instance, there will be bridesmaids and guests at the Wedding Supper. The virgins mentioned in the Forty-fifth Psalm are the bridesmaids. In an eastern wedding, the virgins are the bridesmaids. Queen Esther, who was a type and shadow of Christ's Bride, was accompanied by virgins or bridesmaids as she went into the king's presence. All these different classes of believers will be at the Wedding of the Bridegroom, Jesus Christ, and His Bride.

The twenty-fifth chapter of the Book of Matthew records the story of the ten virgins. All the virgins slept, even the wise ones, until the Bridegroom was at the door. The Bride was the one

who awakened the virgins; otherwise, even the wise ones would have missed the Wedding. The LORD Jesus Christ's Bride will be awake; she will be watching for every opportunity to dress herself in her Wedding Garments.

A person cannot be ready if he is asleep. He must watch — watch to see what must be taken off; watch to see what must be put on in every situation and circumstance. Now is a time of *undressing* and *dressing*; it is a time of ridding ourselves of our unChristlike thoughts, feelings, and actions, and a time of putting on His Nature of Love, Light, and Life. However, watching can be done only as Jesus opens our eyes; then, we can really see. The night is far spent. Christians must prepare if they are to escape what will come upon the world after the Resurrection of the dead and the Rapture of the living saints have taken place.

Sorrow will come to those who refuse to heed God's warning and instructions. Not everyone will be counted worthy to escape from this world when Jesus comes to catch away the prepared ones; therefore, many will be left behind.

Many of God's people spend little time with Jesus in the Word and in prayer in a secret place; consequently, they are making little preparation to watch for the LORD's Coming. Hence, that day will come upon them unawares. Remember, there was some time involved before God sent the flood, but He took only a moment to shut the door of the ark. Likewise, when Jesus Himself shuts the door on the day of His Coming in the air, when He catches away His Bride and the overcomers in the Wedding Party, it will be quick and final!

The LORD God has suffered long and has waited patiently for almost two thousand years, while this evil world has blasphemed and rejected His Son, the LORD Jesus Christ. However, the LORD Himself will shut the door at the Rapture—in a moment—in the twinkling of an eye—and it will be final! The desperate, but late, plea of the five foolish virgins will be rejected. The door will be shut.

What sorrow for those who had the opportunity to prepare themselves, but who failed to avail themselves of their privilege. How sad for those who had the Light of how to prepare, but who

stubbornly refused to take heed to the Light of God's Word. How sad for those who chose the fleeting pleasures and temporal gains of this life, rather than the Eternal Riches and Treasures that Jesus gives. How sad for those who chose the world for their satisfaction. The LORD will leave them *behind and below* with their choices.

What chaos all nations will be cast into at the LORD's Coming! Imagine an airplane pilot or a bus driver being suddenly snatched away or a loved one taken in a flash from the home, the table, or the bed. What sorrow to look up and see only a pile of clothes where a precious loved one, who had loved and served God with all his heart, had been sitting. Beloved, it is going to happen according to the Word of God. The day of His Appearing is at hand, yes, even at the door.

Dearly beloved friend, how is it with you? Are you ready for Jesus Christ's Coming in the Clouds? Have you made the necessary preparation? God pleads with you in His Word and with His Spirit to take heed that your heart not be overcharged with surfeiting, drunkenness, and the cares of this life so *that* day will not come upon you like a thief in the night. Watch and pray and long for His Coming so that you may be counted worthy to escape all the things that shall come to pass. Someday you will stand before the Son of Man. Pray that it will be as an overcoming saint who, while on this Earth, totally committed his life to God.

What hope the Rapture is for those who are prepared! But, what sorrow the Rapture will be for those who are left, for they will be the ones who will go through the period of the greatest Tribulation the world has ever known. Jesus is the only hope for mankind. Do you know Him? Are you ready for the RAPTURE?

It is easy to be stirred in our emotions when we read about the nearness of the Rapture and the importance of being properly prepared. However, an emotional response to the theory of God's Word is not enough to assure us of being counted worthy to be caught away to meet Jesus Christ when He appears in the air. We must make a cold choice out of our rational reasoning to obey what God's Word has said we must do in order to be ready. We must take

heed to our *self* by not being overcharged with surfeiting, drunkenness, and the cares of this life. We also must watch and pray and love His Appearing in order to be prepared for His Return.

The actual event of the Rapture will be a grand and glorious experience for all those who are prepared for that day. The LORD Jesus Christ personally shall appear in the air. He shall descend with a Shout; He shall be accompanied by the Archangel Michael; and He shall be accompanied by the Trumpet Sound of the *shofar* Horn of the LORD's Holy Name.

Because God is an orderly God, He has ordained a special order for the resurrection that will occur at the time of the Rapture. The dead in Christ shall be resurrected first. Then those who are alive and who have remained faithful unto the Appearing of the LORD shall be changed, in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye. At the last *tekiah* Sound of the Trumpet Horn, the resurrected ones and the changed ones shall be gathered, and they shall ascend together to meet the LORD in the air. Those who are counted worthy to be caught away to meet the LORD at the time of the Rapture will have an eternal position in the LORD's Presence.

As a result of the Rapture, the overcomers will be rewarded with a resurrected, glorified body that will reflect the degree of Spiritual Stature each individual has attained in Jesus Christ. Some believers will shine with Star Glory; some will shine with Moon Glory; and the Bride of the LORD Jesus Christ will shine with Sun Glory because she will have attained Jesus Christ's mature Full Spiritual Stature.

The Rapture will mean sorrow to those who miss it. Believers who fail to make the proper preparation will be left to go through the Tribulation Period that is coming upon the entire world. Certainly, if we are wise, we will heed God's warning and start making the necessary preparation so that we can be ready to meet Jesus Christ in the air and escape that awful time.

Believers everywhere must strive to be *prepared for the Rapture!* Christ will come without warning for those who are ready. Do not miss your chance to go with the LORD in the air!

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