

News—Mark of Beast—Place of Safety

Fred R. Coulter—July 26, 2014

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath services!

The news is a bit shocking. Remember the video that we included with Kenneth Copeland and Tony Palmer? Tony Palmer was killed in a motorcycle accident. Everyone who believes in conspiracies are thinking subterfuge had taken place. That may be, that may not be. How can we look at this? He was really the ideal one to bring in the Protestants big time. Now he's gone. Copeland will step in, maybe, that's probably a good suggestion. He better get rid of his motorcycle, though. This can go two ways:

1. it can set back the speed of the Protestants coming back to Rome
2. it could speed it up

If you have a dead hero, you can have a lot of people rally around a dead hero. We'll have to see what happens.

I think it's interesting that all of this about the *Secrets of the Vatican* [<http://video.pbs.org/video/2365187642/>] have come out just when right at the beginning they're making a push to bring the Protestants back. What this does, that removes the deception that the Catholics are not as bad as they have been told about. It actually shows they are really worse. We'll have to see how that goes. I don't know if they are going to have some kind of thing here at the Vatican concerning it, but they probably will.

I've got a whole stack of stuff:

on the economy: [The Chaos is Planned—Rob Kirby](#)
(usawatchdog.com/the-chaos-is-planned-rob-kirby/)

We will get into that a little later. Let me just say this. All of the financial advisors, even those who are talking about gold and silver—gold and silver will have its day here soon. However, *none* of them are talking about *the mark of the beast*. So, even though they have all these things that they can bring out, they are going to fall short, because they don't understand what's coming after that.

We are going to play a less-than two-minute video, which shows how they are advancing toward *the mark of the beast* even more.

Remember the one I did with the tattoo, a few years ago, and five or six years ago it was the Digital Angel, the little rice chip-size inserted. Now they are advancing along. I want you to see this. We're going to put it on the video.

(pause)

[No fumbling, just tap, say Moto X tattoo all-stars \(w/Video\)](#)

(<http://techxplore.com/news/2014-07-fumbling-moto-tattoo-all-stars-video.html>)

In the last forty years we have not changed how we unlock our devices, even though their usage has significantly increased. An average user unlocks their phone 39 times a day and it takes them 2.3 seconds every time they do so. It is so cumbersome that more than 50% of users do not lock their phones exposing their personal data to theft.

So we started working on making it easier for people to unlock their phones. Your phone is personal to you. So how you access it should be personalized to yourself. Last year we launched Skip, a wearable clip to unlock your (inaudible). Now we are excited about a new wearable. It's a digital tattoo from VivaLnk.

We're working with Motorola to make a digital tattoo. It is easy to put on and lasts for five days. Whether you take a shower or exercise, you don't have to worry about it, it goes where you go. The combinable material from Flexible Electronics Industry with a leading edge (inaudible) who makes an ultra-thin digital tattoo that is so comfortable that you barely notice.

We also work very closely with top designers in the world, including (inaudible) to make a tattoo that looks beautiful and is easy to use. No fumbling, no typing, just tap.

This technology, right now, is designed to lock and unlock your cell phone with just a touch, but that is another step forward to the *mark of the beast*. That technology then can be used, and it's going to end up that the *mark of the beast* will encompass that ***all those who have it have given up their free will.***

[Are You Ready for Sharia Law?](#)

It lists all the Muslims who are in the government in high places.

They are developing eastern nations coming west toward Europe. They are talking about setting up the new 'silk road.' South Korea has put money into it, so has China. There are going to be two routes for the 'silk road.'

1. there's the northern one coming through Kazakhstan
2. there's the southern one that comes through Afghanistan and on through Iran over to Iraq and then into the Mediterranean area

They already have the basis for the highway completed from China all the way. Only it's going to be a bigger highway. They don't know they're going to build a highway for 200-million (army).

Faith groups have to choose between faith and government. It starts out this way: If you do not hire the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender), you can't have federal contracts. I think there will be another lawsuit for religious exemption for that. It will be interesting to see what will happen.

Then here's another article concerning transhumanism:

ARTIFICIAL PARADISE AND THE NEW MAN: MANKIND AT THE FINAL TURNING POINT by Paul McGuire,
June 23, 2014
(<http://newswithviews.com/McGuire/paul217.htm>)

The Human Race has arrived at its final turning point, one from which there is no turning back.

Then there are ten plagues hitting America, as well as the transhumanism. Then there are warnings:

- watch out for bombs in malls
- the thing in the Ukraine is the prelude to World War III

All of those are covered in Matt. 24. Isn't it interesting that in the end days we're spending more time in Revelation than almost any other book—over and over again, and repeatedly over and over again.

Revelation 12:9: "And the great dragon was cast out, the ancient serpent who is called the Devil and Satan, who is deceiving the whole world; he was cast down to the earth, and his angels were cast down with him."

We know we have the first fulfillment of that with the rebellion against God. Here in Rev. 12 we know that there is another one that's going to happen that way. 1-John 5 says that the whole world is in the power of the wicked one. Eph. 2 declares him to be 'the prince of the power of the air.' He has spiritual power that 'works in the children of disobedience.'

As we watch the things unfold in the book of Revelation, and how things are happening today, I think we're going to be surprised how the situation is with transhumanism, *the mark of the beast*, and so forth.

Let's understand that Satan operates much differently than a lot of people think. He comes in time of distress with a benefit. So, guess what's going to be the benefit? Notice Luke 4—here is the temptation of Jesus Christ. He was at His lowest, His weakest, and Satan comes with *benefits*. Satan comes very *persuasively*.

Look at the mess of ObamaCare; perfect example. 'We're going to help you. We're going to give you subsidies.' They say that you can have income up to four times the poverty level, which gets you up into the \$90,000/year level. Now what has happened? It's so confused that it's a giant mess.

'Oh, we're going to protect the nation. We're going to have Homeland Security. What a benefit that will be.' Now they protect nothing.

'Oh, we're going to give you a benefit. We're actually going to increase the food supply by genetically engineering various kinds of foods.' So, now most of the grains that people eat are deadly. So Satan like to come along and give a benefit.

Same way in religion and Protestantism. 'Oh, if you accept Jesus and you belong to a church, you will be in the rapture and I'm going to give you a benefit that you won't have to go through the Great Tribulation. Isn't that wonderful?' There are many of those.

Luke 4:1: "And Jesus, filled with *the* Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness *For* forty days to be tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing in those days; and after they had come to an end, He hungered" (vs 1-2). Now imagine how hungry He was.

I think there was one year we had Day of Atonement, someone nearby and maybe it was a bakery or something, was baking bread and we could smell it. 'Brethren, we're here to afflict our souls.' All of this sort of thing and everyone was smelling that fresh-baked bread. Think about Jesus.

Verse 3: "Then the devil said to Him... [I have a benefit for You] ...'If You are *the* Son of God, command that this stone become bread.'" Jesus could do that. It's not a matter if you can do something. It's a matter of should you do it, and if you do it, who then is your God? *Not everything that we think of as human beings that is good, is necessarily from God!*

Verse 4: "But Jesus answered him, saying, 'It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word of God.'"

Sidebar: I have been reading William Tyndale's *The Obedience of a Christian Man*, written in 1527_{A.D.} He has everything right on.

- we need to love the Law of God
- we need to hate sin
- We need not look to things that are benefits, because lies come with them
- we need to yield to God and His Holy Spirit

Also he said that when the nation has an evil king, you know what his answer was? Wasn't because you had a bad election, it's *because the people are wicked, and need to repent!* Everything we preached on, he knew that, almost 500 years ago.

Verse 5: "Then the devil led Him up into a high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time."

'I'm going to give You a benefit. Jesus, You don't need to suffer through all of this hunger and all of this. You know You're going to inherit the world. Well, I have it right now, so I'm going to give it to You now. I just have one simple little thing that you need to do. Since You're so hungry, it would be very easy to do!'

Verse 6: "And the devil said to Him, 'I will give You all this authority, and the glory of them *all*; for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I desire.'" Jesus avoided the mistake that Abraham's wife made, which was, 'Lord, let's help along Your prophecy, since I haven't had any children. I'll give my handmaid to Abraham.' *No!* You're not going to help along any promises of God, or prophecies of God, if you try and help God do it *your* way.

Here's the catch, because you don't know what you're doing when that happens. When you do something like that, though it was forgivable for Sarah, you are saying that God is not true to His Word. Jesus was given all the kingdoms of the world *after* He had His ministry in the flesh, *after* that He was the Savior, *after* that He was resurrected. Satan said, 'All right, there's just one little thing. It's really not much.'

Verse 7: "Therefore, if You will worship me in *my* presence, all things shall be Yours." Remember, Satan works in increments and compromise. If Jesus had done that, who would He have obeyed? *Satan, instead of God!*

Notice in all of these cases, human nature would look for *middle ground, compromise*. 'Let's talk about the things we agree on.' Because Satan always does this:

1. theses—the way things are
2. anti-theses—a change to make it different
3. synthesis—the compromise to put it together

Verse 8: "But Jesus answered *and* said to him, 'Get behind Me, Satan; for it is written, "You shall worship *the* Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve.'" That's not saying Satan is going to worship God. He is saying to Himself, the Word of God as a man, that 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.' That's what He is saying. If Jesus would have worshiped Satan, if He would have made the bread, Satan would have won the battle. Then there's one last temptation here:

Verse 9: "Then he led Him to Jerusalem and set Him upon the edge of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, cast Yourself down from here; For it is written... ['I'm a good boy, I quote Scripture'] ..."He shall give His angels charge concerning You to keep You; And in *their* hands they shall bear You up lest You strike Your foot against a stone.'" But Jesus answered *and* said to him, 'It is *clearly* stated... [this is, again, to Himself as a man] ..."You shall not tempt *the* Lord your God'" (vs 9-12).

We're going to see a lot of benefits come along. *A lot of them!*

Mark of the Beast

Let's begin to look at *the mark of the beast*. When you compromise, you always take the middle ground. Satan is the one who occupies that. We need to understand it, because we're going to get into the *mark of the beast* and the convenience of it. It's going to be just like that little video that we saw. 'Oh, it's so easy and it's a benefit for you. You can unlock your phone without having to take two seconds to unlock it with your number code. Isn't that wonderful?' We're going to find out that the things they're going to do is going to end up being total control when *the mark of the beast* comes.

Let's read about the Church at Philadelphia. Everyone wants to be a Philadelphian and everyone thinks that if they are Philadelphian, they are going to escape to *a place of safety*. We all, at one time or other years back, believed that—didn't we? *Yes, indeed!* The truth is this, God knows who the Philadelphians are. Today, it's not the majority, and it's certainly not all the Protestants who think they are going to wafted off in a rapture.

Revelation 3:7: "And to the angel of the Church in Philadelphia, write: 'These things says the Holy One, the one Who *is* true; the one Who has the key of David, Who opens and no one shuts, and Who shuts and no one opens.'" This tells you that when you wait on God you don't help Him along with your own ideas, with your own ways.

Verse 8: "I know your works.... [we're all judged on our works, not our good intentions]

...Behold I have set before you an open door, and no one has the power to shut it because you have a little strength, and have kept My Word, and have not denied My name.” That means you do exactly as Jesus said. ‘Live by every word of God,’ that’s what He said. If He would have worshiped Satan, He would have denied the Father. We don’t go out and do things in the name of God that are *our* ideas.

Sidebar: Give you a little example. Remember when there was the great apostle of the Church of God, who announced that he was going to go to all the kings of the earth and bring the Gospel to them. His fellow traveler, his advisor who was an accountant, who was really not with the Church at all, and persuaded the Church to buy its way into see these so-called kings with Steuben crystal and gold things. On his deathbed he confessed, ‘God never opened a single door. We kicked it in with money.’ What happened to the Church because they assumed to do things to speed along the prophecies of God?

Verse 9: “Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who proclaim themselves to be Jews... [true Christians] ...and are not, but do lie— behold, I will cause them to come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. Because you have kept the word of My patience... [or patiently kept My Word] ...I also will keep you from the **time of temptation...**” (vs 9-10). That is not the Tribulation. That’s why we’re including the sermon I did some time ago, *The Temptation to Try the Whole World*. Look at what this temptation is.

“...which *is* about to come upon the whole world to try those who dwell on the earth” (v 10). That is a worldwide event. That is different than the Tribulation. This comes before the Tribulation.

It is true, there is coming a great economic collapse. When that happens, *all banks will fail!* I suppose they will revive it with money, supposedly gold-backed money and digital money, and so forth. That will work for a while. Just like one report that I have, that I get all the time. It’s called the Jackass Report (jackassreport.wordpress.com/). He berates all the deceit of the Brits and the Americans and the Europeans concerning the banking system, and so forth. He touts how good the Russians and the Chinese are with their gold and they are going to set up a whole new gold system. Guess what they just discovered? *The Chinese are using the same methods that all the dirty bankers in the West are using, and have used, concerning gold!*

How do they do it? *You have a store of gold here, and someone owns it!* Then they come in and say, ‘I want a loan backed by this gold.’ All right, that is a hypothecation. It’s to guarantee you’ll pay back the loan. What the Chinese have been doing is putting hypothecation on the same gold, over and

over and over again, so they are doing the same thing to where they have so much debt against the gold that it cannot cover but a fraction of the debt.

Speculation: We don’t know exactly how it’s going to come about, but when it comes about, it’s going to be quite a thing. Everything is going to change. When that happens in America—and it’s going to—you better be ready, because what used to cost \$1 will now cost \$10.

Give you a little example. The other day I went into McDonald’s, and when I was traveling up to Fairfield early in the morning on the Sabbath Day I would stop at McDonald’s in Fremont and I would get a side of scrambled eggs and a senior coffee. That would cost me \$1.08. Now, in the time where there’s no emergency, I went into McDonald’s and I ordered a side of scrambled eggs and a senior coffee. I couldn’t believe the price. I couldn’t understand what she was saying—\$3.02! I opened up the little container that the eggs were in and it wasn’t more than one egg and the coffee was bitter. So I’ve sworn off McDonald’s for a long time.

But multiply that by ten and that’s what we’ll be looking at. So word to the wise, you better have something in store.

Here’s what’s going to happen, because all the events in Eastern Europe are going to force the Europeans to defend themselves without the help of America. They are going to need a leader to do it. It’s going to help Europe strengthen itself. Because the last thing that the Germans want to do is be in league with the Russians, because they still remember what the Russians did to Eastern Germany, and when they came and took Berlin.

There’s going to have to come this man, the whole system. Europe then will end up being the leading one of the ten areas of the world that are coming in the economic system. We need to understand this:

Revelation 13:4: “And they worshiped the dragon...” Stop and think a minute. How many people worship Satan today? You think, ‘Oh, Satanic worship. We don’t have that today.’ If Satan controls the entertainment, and you like all of that and that’s the idol in your mind. If he controls all the banks. If he controls the governments. If he controls the food supply.

“...And they worshiped the beast, saying, ‘Who *is* like the beast?...’” (v 4). He got his authority from Satan! Remember what Satan said to Jesus? ‘*If You will worship me as god, I will give You all this authority, because it’s mine to give.*’

“...who gave *his* authority to the beast...” (v 4). They’re all going to be Satan-worshippers, but

they will look like the best people in the world, because they are going to save the world from the chaos that has happened, the coming chaos; then it will be past tense, and this man will rise up and save everything. You get a benefit from Satan.

Can you think of a Scripture that ties in with that kind scenario? *'When they shall say peace and prosperity, or peace and safety, then sudden destruction comes upon them'* (1-Thes.5). Can you say today that the world has peace? *Nowhere!* That day has not yet arrived. But it will arrive, because of this.

Verse 4: "...And they worshiped the beast, saying, 'Who *is* like the beast?... [who goes into the temple of God saying he is God] ...Who has the power to make war against him?'" Then he'll have all the control of war-making machinery, that's how they have peace.

Verse 5: "And a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies was given to him; and authority was given to him to continue *for* forty-two months.... [after the deadly wound was healed] ...And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, and His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.... [notice the power that was given]: ...And he was given *power* to make war against the saints, and to overcome them; and he was given authority over every tribe and language and nation" (vs 5-7). Remember *the temptation* coming upon the whole earth.

Verse 8: "And all who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from *the* foundation of *the* world." It is going to look so great that the whole world is going to embrace him, worship him, laud him. They will have the means to know everyone everywhere and will control them through what is coming after that.

Verse 9: "If anyone has an ear, let him hear.... [you *really* listen to the Word of God] ... If anyone gathers *into* captivity, he shall go into captivity. If anyone kills with *the* sword, he must be killed with *the* sword...." That's a warning: *don't get involved in the politics of this and don't try and defend yourself because of this! If God does not defend you at this point, it is not His will to do so!* Otherwise, how are you going to have martyrs.

"...Here is the endurance and the faith of the saints... [they don't do that] ...And I saw another beast rising out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, but spoke like a dragon" (vs 10-11). Here comes the great false prophet. Of course, he's going to bring *benefits*. Of course, he's going to have magnificent things that he can do.

Verse 12: "And he exercises all the authority of the first beast before him..." [What was that authority? *Over every tribe and language, and so forth!*] ...and he causes the earth and those who dwell therein to worship the first beast..." Idolatry is the name of the system. If you want to read some things against idolatry, you need to read some of the things that William Tyndale wrote about idolatry, and the popes, the friars, the bishops and all the things that they did.

"...whose deadly wound was healed. And he performs great wonders..." (vs 12-13). Think about the generation we have now. 'Whoa, if there's a miracle, it must be of God.'

"...so that he even causes fire to come down to the earth from heaven in the sight of men. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by means of the wonders that were given to him to perform in the sight of the beast, saying to those who dwell on the earth that they should make an image for the beast, which had the wound by the sword, yet, was alive" (vs 13-14).

That doesn't mean each one has to make one, but someone's going to be in production for these, and so people will buy them. They will have it.

Notice this great miracle, v 15: "And he was given *power* to give life to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast also could speak; and he causes everyone who will not worship the image of the beast to be killed." So, you have idolatry as one of *the temptations*.

Verse 16: "And he... [the first beast] ...causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free and the bond, to receive a mark in their right hands, or in their foreheads." That's going to come. When I cover some of the transhumanism, that's all part of it. Right now they already have that going.

Verse 17: "So that no one may have the ability to buy and sell unless he has the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name."

I want you to *stop and think* today and ask yourself: How long will you last if you can't buy and sell? Think of all your activities. We're all involved in buying and selling, everything that you do.

- the food you eat
- the water you drink
- the transportation you use
- the house you live in
- *Everything!*

That is the *second great temptation!*

So combined, it's *worshipping the beast and receiving the mark of the beast*. That's the *temptation*, because when they say 'peace and safety' and you can get everything you need, but 'look, it's just a little tattoo, you'll be able to get food.' The same temptation that came to Jesus, exactly! 'You can buy food. You don't want your children to die—do you?'

What was Abraham's thought? *God can raise him from the dead! You can't live on in Satan's world and not pay the penalty* when this comes along.

(go to the next track)

Let's see if we can get sort of a timeline on these by sequence of events. You can't set a time because we don't know the time.

Let's understand this: *God always gives a warning before the event happens!* What we have with these three angels—Rev. 14—is they have to occur just before the enforcement of the *mark of the beast*.

Speculation: The enforcement of the *mark of the beast*, along with the pushing of the King of the South toward the King of the North, is probably the beginning of the Tribulation.

Revelation 14:6: "And I saw another angel flying in *the* midst of heaven, having *the* everlasting gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and language and people." Exactly how that's going to be done, we don't know. But this means that every nation is going to hear it, and it's going to be to every people, and it's going to be in a language they can understand.

No one can say, 'This is a warning from a man. He may be wrong.' *This is going to be a warning from an angel of God! That's never wrong.*

Verse 7: "Saying with a loud voice, 'Fear God, and give glory to Him, because the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him Who made the heaven, and the earth, and *the* sea, and *the* fountains of waters.' Then another angel followed, saying, 'The great city Babylon is fallen, is fallen... [God always gives a warning before it happens] ...because of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, *which* she has given all nations to drink.' And a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, 'If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives *the* mark in his forehead or in his hand, He shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed undiluted in the cup of His wrath; and he shall be tormented in fire and brimstone in the sight of the Holy angels, and of the

Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends into the ages of eternity..." (vs 7-11).

Not that they will be tormented; they'll be burned up. This is the smoke that ascends into the ages of eternity. Once that smoke is up out of the atmosphere of the earth, and gets into outer space, it just keeps going and going.

"...and those who worship the beast and his image, and all who receive the mark of his name, have no rest day and night.' Here is *the* patience of the saints; here *are* the ones who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus" (vs 11-12)—following right after these three.

So this tells you the ones who are the saints, they keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus Christ. We'll tie that together in Rev. 12 in just a minute.

Verse 13: "And I heard a voice from heaven say to me, 'Write: **Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from this time forward....**' That means those who refuse *the mark of the beast*. It doesn't say they'll all be taken to a place of safety. That's a different situation. It says they die. There will be some in a place of safety and we will examine that in just a minute, because we need to understand two things to counteract the rapture:

1. there is a place of safety
2. it's not for the many

You have to understand the order of the resurrection and the timing of that in order to know that they confuse the two of them.

"...Yes, says the Spirit, so that they may rest from their labors; and their works follow them" (v 13).

Speculation: Let's see that we can probably say pretty securely that at the time Satan is cast down from heaven and he goes after the Church, persecutes the Church, that is the beginning of the Tribulation. Persecution will start because *the saints refuse the mark of the beast!* They are given strength to overcome the temptation that has come upon the whole world: *the mark of the beast* for every human being.

Revelation 12:9: "...and his angels were cast down with him. And I heard a great voice in heaven say, 'Now has come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of His Christ because the accuser of our brethren has been cast down, who accuses them day and night before our God'" (vs 9-10). That ties right in with the three angels' messages and ties right in with "...Write: **Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from this time forward....**"

Verse 11: “But they overcame him through the blood of the Lamb, and through the word of their testimony...” They are going to give a witness that ‘it doesn’t matter what you do to us, Christ is going to resurrect us.’

“...and they loved not their lives unto death.... [obviously, they are not in a place of safety] ...Therefore, rejoice you heavens and those who dwell in them. Woe to those who inhabit the earth and the sea! For the Devil has come down to you, having great wrath *because* he knows that he has *only* a short time” (vs 11-12). What is Satan’s object at that time? *Go after all of those who refuse to worship him!*

Verse 13: “And when the dragon saw that he was cast down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who had brought forth the man-Child.”

Remember this. Look back at what happened with the Jews during WWII. How did it happen with the Jews?

- they were separated out and propagandized against
- they had to identify themselves with the yellow star
- they were propagandized again as to the lowest people on earth
- all the German people were seduced by that deception into believing what they were told

Then they came after them with a satanic benefit: ‘If you want to live, we will give you land in the east where it will be all yours.’ What they did, they actually gave them cash. They told them, ‘This is for your trip.’ They helped them with their baggage and their luggage. The Jews actually believed that they were going to go someplace where they could be peaceable and away from all of the persecution.

This is what’s going to happen to the Christians. Everyone is going to have to take a stand for Christ, right here. To keep us from that time of temptation, may require our lives. Probably will, because if you don’t take the *mark of the beast*, you’re going to be killed. So, here’s the persecution. The persecution comes before the martyrdom, just like it did with the Jews who were shipped off into eastern Europe.

Verse 13: “And when the dragon saw that he was cast down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who had brought forth the man-Child. And two wings of a great eagle were given to the woman, so that she might fly to her place in the wilderness, where she is nourished *for* a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. And the serpent cast water out of his mouth as a river, so that he might cause her *to be* carried away by the flood.

But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth, and swallowed up the river that the dragon had cast out of his mouth” (vs 13-16).

Notice carefully v 17: “Then the dragon was furious with the woman and went to make war with the rest of her seed, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” Not all escape martyrdom. And they were killed, just like it says in Rev. 13.

Place of Safety

Let’s talk about and see the difference between going to a place of safety, as identified here. Rev. 12:14 cannot be a rapture. Why? *It is a taking to a place of safety, but it’s not a rapture to heaven!* Show me one Scripture in the Bible that describes God’s heaven as a wilderness. Wilderness is *on the earth*, because who helped the woman? The angels in heaven? *NO! The earth!* They are not going to heaven in a rapture. They are going to a place on earth that is called *a wilderness*.

We don’t know exactly where that is. So anyone who says they know where it is, and they don’t go there, they’re going to be disappointed. Everyone who gets there, who does not know where it is, will know where it is when they arrive, if they get there. So it’s simple.

Sidebar: Years ago, because the Church made that an idol in its mind that the Church is going to go into a place of safety, that people had their little ‘Petra box,’ because they thought it was Petra, over in Jordan. Even one of the branch Churches of God tried to buy Petra from the Jordanian government, so they could guarantee that they could say that, ‘We have the place of safety; we own it.’ You can’t help God’s prophecies along. Probably what would happen, the government of Jordan would cancel the deed at the last minute. Got to have a little humor as this is pretty heavy stuff.

So, this is on the earth. Why are some people taken to a place in a wilderness on the earth so that they will not die? They may be very fine and very obedient to God, probably are. Probably very faithful. God is the One Who is going to do the selecting, because God knows the heart and it’s going to be done according as God chooses. Why are some kept alive? Because some are more righteous than others? *No!*

Matthew 16:13: “Now after coming into the parts of Caesarea Philippi, Jesus questioned His disciples, saying, ‘Whom do men declare Me, the Son of man, to be?’ And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist...’” (vs 13-14). There were rumors going around. Did they have false answers back then, too? Thinking they knew who He was? *Yes!*

“...and others, Elijah; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.’ He said to them, ‘But you, whom do you declare Me to be?’ Then Simon Peter answered *and* said, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God’” (vs 14-16). This also tells us one thing. Do you think of a couple of verses in John 6? How about John 14? ‘*None can come to the Father except through Me!*’ You don’t know the true Jesus until God reveals it through His Word, and calls you.

Verse 17: “And Jesus answered *and* said to him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jona... [son of Jona] ...for flesh and blood did not reveal *it* to you, but My Father, Who *is* in heaven.” Because anything we know or understand about the Word of God and the true meaning of it, comes from God. If it doesn’t come from God, and we claim it comes from God, then we set ourselves up in place of God, or in place of Christ.

Verse 18: “And I say also to you, that you are Peter...”—which in the Greek—‘petros’—means a little stone, a little rock. Jonathan draws plans for houses. Can you build a house on a little rock? No, the foundation will cover the whole thing.

“...but upon this Rock...” (v 18)—which means the ‘petra’ *the large, great stone*, which is Christ Himself

“...I will build My Church, and the gates of the grave shall not prevail against it” (v 18)—which means the Church would never die out.

At this time in history, with we’re reading about in the book of Revelation that all of those who have the Spirit of God are going to be persecuted and killed and the only way to fulfill that promise of Christ is to have some go to a *place of safety*. That’s it.

There will be some of those there who may not be totally converted at that time. Here’s the message to those who dwell in Jerusalem—Matt. 24. There is coming an event that’s going to take place, which did not take place at the destruction of the temple in 70_{A.D.}

Matthew 24:15: “Therefore, when you see... [that’s for us today] ...the abomination of desolation, which was spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the Holy place...” {Note 2-Thes. 2}

John inserted in here, because he didn’t understand it. Jesus did not say the words in the parenthetical statement. John wrote that there, inspired insertion: “...(the one who reads, let him understand)” (v 15). Because he knew this was coming down in time.

Verse 16: “Then let those who are Judea flee into the mountains.”—that’s east. So, there will be a

lot of Jews who will escape. That’s in addition to the ones of the Church being taken there. You have two classes of people:

1. the Jews who escape
2. the Church

Now let’s see the instruction here that He gives, v 17: “Let the one *who* is on the housetop not come down to take anything out of his house... [so much for your ‘Petra box’] ...and let the one *who* is in the field not go back to take his garments. But woe to those *women* who are expecting a child, and to those who are nursing infants in those days! And pray that your flight be not in *the* winter, nor on *the* Sabbath; for then shall there be Great Tribulation... [that’s when it starts] ...such as has not been from *the* beginning of the world until this time, nor ever shall be *again*” (vs 17-21).

But what about those who go? Let’s come to Luke 17. Let’s look at something very interesting here. This talks about those who go to a place of safety. Part of the thing with the rapture is that there is going to be a voice heard only by those who are Christians, and when they hear that voice, they are going to be raptured up into heaven. At that time, millions of people will mysteriously leave the world. There will be car crashes, plane crashes, all kinds of disasters take place because so many people will be taken up in the rapture. That’s not how it’s going to work.

Luke 17:20: “Now, when the Pharisees demanded *of Him* when the Kingdom of God would come...” They wanted to be in the political machinery of it. The thing they didn’t like about Jesus was He never came to them. When He did, He corrected them vociferously. {note Luke 7 & 11}

“...He answered them and said, ‘The Kingdom of God does not come with observation.... [it comes when God determines it’s going to come] ...Neither shall they say, “Behold, *it is* here!”...’” (vs 20-21). Which they will say it, but that is say it with meaning that it’s actually there.

“...Or, “Behold, *it is* there!” For behold, the Kingdom of God is *standing* in the midst of you” (v 21). That’s the meaning of it, Jesus Himself. Of course, He spoke this in such a way they wouldn’t understand it, because they didn’t believe Him anyway.

Can you imagine them scratching their heads after that. Because, ‘how can this Man be the Kingdom of God when He came from Galilee?’ They didn’t check the chronology. He was born in Bethlehem, just like the prophecy said.

Verse 22: “Then He said to the disciples, ‘*The* days will come when you shall desire to see

one of the days of the Son of man, and shall not see *it*. And they shall say to you, “Look here,” or, “Look there.” Do not go, neither follow *them*.... [because here is how Christ is going to come]: ...For as the light of day, whose light shines from *one end* under heaven to the *other end* under heaven, so also shall the Son of man be in His day” (vs 22-24). That’s when His coming is going to be. But what is going to happen next is what’s going to take place before that occurs. But first, that’s what He said.

Verse 25: “But first it is necessary *for* Him to suffer many things and to be rejected by this generation. Now as it was in the days of Noah, so also shall it be in the days of the Son of man. They were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day *that* Noah went into the ark, and the Flood came and destroyed *them* all. And it was the same way in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building” (vs 25-28).

Speculation: Probably had same-sex marriage there, too

Verse 29: “But on the day *that* Lot went out from Sodom, it rained fire and sulfur from heaven and destroyed *them* all. This *is* how it shall be in the day *that* the Son of man is revealed” (vs 29-30). He still didn’t clarify it—did He? What is the revelation of the Son of man? Is it going to be when the Tribulation starts? Probably, because that’s the first thing that starts all the rest of it coming.

It talks about Lot; that’s how it’s going to be, v 31: “In that day, let not the one who is on the housetop, and his goods in the house, come down to take them away; and likewise, let not the one who is in the field return to the things behind. Remember Lot’s wife. Whoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whoever shall lose *his life* shall preserve it. I tell you, in that night...” (vs 31-34).

Now He comes to something entirely different than just fleeing to the mountains, “...there shall be two in one bed; one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. Two *women* shall be grinding together; one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. Two men shall be in the field; one shall be taken, and the other shall be left” (vs 34-36).

What are they doing? *They are doing their ordinary things!* This has to tie in with when Satan is cast down, and then there are those who are taken to a place of safety. God makes the choice.

What do we also have? If you look at it from God’s point of view, looking down on the earth, we have in one place *night*. We have in another place grinding together; that’s generally early in the morning. We have another place working in the

field; that’s in the daytime. S, this is giving us a worldwide perspective.

- some are taken at night
- some are taken in the morning
- some are taken in the daytime

That means those who are taken will all be taken at once. There may be some who think they are going to go, that they’re not going to go. That is being taken to a place of safety.

This is the closest that you can get to a rapture, but it is not a rapture in the sense that it’s taught by Protestants. This is to the *few* that God selects. Who that will be, we don’t know. But after they are taken, God strengthens the ones who remain with strength, because they know that they have to give a testimony unto death. When that happens, God will give whoever it is the strength to do it. You will know by that time all the events that are taking place.

Let’s look at 2-Thess. 4, because here is where they get a lot of confusion concerning a rapture. However, let’s understand that we need to look at the way that it is written. This happens many, many times in the Bible. It tells you a summary of everything first. Then it gives you the details after that. It’s not a double sequencing of things. It is a summary first; then the details.

1-Thessalonians 4:13: “But I do not wish you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep... [that is died in Christ] ...that you be not grieved, even as others, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, in exactly the same way also, those who have fallen asleep in Jesus will God bring with Him.” (vs 13-14).

Now it sounds like they are in heaven if you stop right there, but they are not. Why? *Because Christ the Firstfruits; those who are Christ’s at His coming* (1-Cor. 15). They’re not in heaven. You have to put together:

- the resurrection
- the Sea of Glass
- meeting Christ in the air

This Scripture is not definitive; it’s a summary.

Now then, he begins to explain it in v 15: “For this we say to you by *the Word of the Lord*, that we who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall in no wise precede those who have fallen asleep.” Which tells you that if you believe in a rapture, the resurrection will take place before you’re raptured if you’re alive. So, it’s a contradictory belief, a deception with a subtle manipulations of Scriptures.

Verse 16: “Because the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with *a* shout of command, with *the* voice of an archangel and with *the* trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first.” That’s not a rapture. There is *one* trumpet. It’s not trumpets. It’s the 7th trumpet. This is when this will take place:

Revelation 11:15: “Then the seventh angel sounded *his* trumpet; and *there* were great voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and His Christ, and He shall reign into the ages of eternity.’ And the twenty-four elders, who sit before God on their thrones, fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying, ‘We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, Who is, and Who was, and Who *is* to come; for You have taken *to Yourself* Your great power, and have reigned, for the nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time for the dead to be judged, and to give reward to Your servants the prophets, and to the saints... [all of those in the first resurrection] ...and to *all* those who fear Your name, the small and the great; and to destroy those who destroy the earth” (vs 15-18). That’s *the* trumpet.

They have everything out of sequence. Because if you say that you are going to hear the voice of God, ‘Come up here,’ and you will be wafted up into heaven. It’s totally out of sequence there. This is talking about the resurrection.

1-Thessalonians 4:17: “Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in *the* clouds for *the* meeting with the Lord in *the* air; and so shall we always be with *the* Lord.” That projects out into all eternity.

The meeting is going to be on the Sea of Glass. We’ve already covered that with Pentecost. That’s going to be quite a thing!

This does not teach a rapture. No one is going to go to meet Christ in the air *until the trumpet has been sounded and the dead first will rise!* Those who are alive will be ‘changed in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye, at the last trump’ and we shall be changed at that time.

Those who are alive, that transformation is going to constitute an instant death and resurrection, because the physical body will be gone. You will have a spiritual body to replace it, even though it’s built on the foundation of the physical body. The old body is dead!

Scriptural References:

- 1) Revelation 12:9
- 2) Luke 4:1-12
- 3) Revelation 3:7-10
- 4) Revelation 13:4-17

- 5) Revelation 14:6-13
- 6) Revelation 12:9-17
- 7) Matthew 16:13-18
- 8) Matthew 24:15-21
- 9) Luke 17:20-36
- 10) 1-Thessalonians 4:13-16
- 11) Revelation 11:15-18
- 12) 1-Thessalonians 4:17

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- 1-John 5
- Ephesians 2
- 1-Thessalonians 5
- John 6; 14
- 2-Thessalonians 2
- Luke 7, 11
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