

# **Why Is the Rapture PreTrib?**

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## What is PreTrib?

PreTrib is short for “before the tribulation”, which is the tribulation Jesus spoke of in **Matthew 24 (KJV):21** For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

And Daniel spoke of this time as well in **Daniel 12 (KJV):1** And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

This time of trouble is unique in that it “never was since there was a nation even to that same time”, as in Daniel 12:1, “nor ever shall be”, as in Matthew 24:21.

But the “Pre” or before relates to the rapture. That is, the rapture is not in the middle of the tribulation, or after this time of tribulation, but before this time of tribulation. Why the rapture is before the tribulation is what we shall now show.

## 70 Weeks for Israel

The prophet Daniel had read of the judgment of God upon Israel in **Jeremiah 25 (KJV):8** Therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts; Because ye have not heard my words, 9 Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the Lord, and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations. 10 Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones, and the light of the candle. 11 And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. 12 And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the Lord, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations. 13 And I will bring upon that land all my words which I have pronounced against it, even all that is written in this book, which Jeremiah hath prophesied against all the nations.

Now Daniel was taken to Babylon in 606 B.C., and in the first year of Darius, the king of the Medes, which would have been about 538 B.C., Daniel began to seek the Lord as to when the 70 years captivity would end, as we read in **Daniel 9 (KJV):1** In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, which was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans; 2 In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem. 3 And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:

And the angel Gabriel was sent by God to answer his prayer, as we read in **Daniel 9 (KJV):21** Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the

vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. 22 And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding. 23 At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision. 24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. 25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. 26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. 27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

So in verse 25, “from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks”, that is, 69 weeks shall be from the command to restore and to rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince.

And in verse 26, “after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off”, and then “the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary”. Messiah was “cut off” in 30 A.D., approximately, and Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D.

So there is evidently a gap between the 69<sup>th</sup> week when Messiah was “cut off”, and the 70<sup>th</sup> week. We only know that 69 of the 70 weeks have elapsed since Messiah was “cut off”.

The final week of the 70 is then referred to in verse 27. “And he”, the “prince that shall come” in verse 26, “shall confirm the covenant with many for one week” in verse 27. The “many” refers to many of the Jews, but not all, who will accept the covenant with the Antichrist. A remnant of the Jews will be saved.

Then “in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate”, which speaks of the “abomination of desolation” that Jesus prophesied of in **Matthew 24 (KJV):15** When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

## The Gap Before the 70<sup>th</sup> Week

This final week of the 70 weeks refers to the time when Antichrist will come. So there is a gap between the 69th and the 70th week. Jesus also spoke of this gap, as we read in **Luke 21 (KJV):20** And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. 21 Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter

thereinto. 22 For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. 23 But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. 24 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

Jerusalem was “compassed with armies” and destroyed in 70 A.D. And there has been “wrath upon this people”, the Jews, and they have fallen “by the edge of the sword”, and “led away captive into all nations” since then, but the “times of the Gentiles” are closer to being fulfilled, as Israel has again become a nation. And so “blindness in part” has happened to Israel, as we read in **Romans 11 (KJV):**25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.

The gap then relates to the time of the Church where Jew and Gentile are one, and the “fullness of the Gentiles” is coming into the kingdom of God. But when the fullness of the Gentiles has come in, then the Church will be raptured, and God will again deal with Israel in the final 70th week. This time is known as “Jacob’s trouble”, as we read in **Jeremiah 30 (KJV):**1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying, 2 Thus speaketh the Lord God of Israel, saying, Write thee all the words that I have spoken unto thee in a book. 3 For, lo, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the Lord: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it. 4 And these are the words that the Lord spake concerning Israel and concerning Judah. 5 For thus saith the Lord; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. 6 Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness? 7 Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it. 8 For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him: 9 But they shall serve the Lord their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them.

## He Who Now Restrains

Now we know that Antichrist will not come until it is time, that is, until it is God’s time, as we read in **2 Thessalonians 2 (NASB):**1 Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, regarding the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, 2 that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit, or a message, or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. 3 No one is to deceive you in any way! For it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. 5 Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? 6 And you know what restrains him now, so that he will be revealed in his time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is removed.

8 Then that lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will eliminate with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; 9 that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and false signs and wonders, 10 and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not accept the love of the truth so as to be saved.

“He who now restrains” in verse 7 is the Holy Spirit who is present in the Church. When “He is removed”, the Antichrist will be revealed, and the 7 years of tribulation will begin. And He, the Holy Spirit, will be removed at the rapture.

The word “rapture” is from the Latin word, *rapturo*, which is a translation of the Greek word, **ἁρπάζω** (pronounced *harpadzo*), meaning “caught up”, as we read in context in **1 Thessalonians 4 (KJV):**13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Paul also describes this in **1 Corinthians 15 (KJV):**51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 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. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

This is the first resurrection, as we read in **Revelation 20 (KJV):**5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Then we will return with the rest of the first resurrection saints to heaven with the Lord while the final 70<sup>th</sup> week of tribulation is going on in the earth.

This will also be in fulfillment of the prophecy to the church in Philadelphia in **Revelation 3 (KJV):**10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

## Israel in the Tribulation

Now the Antichrist will make a covenant with many in Israel at the beginning of the week, but in the middle of the week he will cause the “sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate”, as we read again in **Daniel 9 (KJV):**27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of

abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

That is, he will declare himself to be God in the holy place, the temple, as Jesus revealed in **Matthew 24 (KJV):15** When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: 17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: 18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. 19 And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! 20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: 21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

And the remnant of Israel, when they see the “abomination of desolation” in the holy place, will flee, as we read in **Revelation 12 (KJV):1** And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: 2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. 3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. 4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. 5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. 6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

That this woman is Israel is revealed by the symbolism of the sun, moon, and stars in Joseph’s dream, as we read in **Genesis 37 (KJV):9** And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. 10 And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth? 11 And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.

Then, the fact that “she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne”, is the final proof that “she” is Israel, for the “man child” can be no other than Christ.

So Israel will have a “place prepared of God” for “a thousand two hundred and threescore days”, or 1260 days, or 3½ years, the last half of the tribulation week. This half will be the great tribulation when Satan is cast out of heaven and restricted to the earth, as we read in **Revelation 12 (KJV):13** And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. 14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. 15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. 16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. 17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman,

and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

## The Church and Israel

In the Church there is neither Jew nor Greek, as we read in **Galatians 3 (KJV):27** For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

And in **Colossians 3 (KJV):9** Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; 10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: 11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

The Church is the body of Christ, as we read in **Ephesians 1 (KJV):22** And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.

But the nation of Israel is composed of Jews. Currently, if a Jew accepts Christ, he is baptized into Christ, and into the body of Christ, as we read in **1 Corinthians 12 (KJV):13** For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

Seventy weeks are determined upon the people of Israel. So for God to again deal with Israel as a nation, the Church must be removed. This will happen at the rapture. Then God will try Israel as silver, as we read in **Ezekiel 22 (KJV):19** Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Because ye are all become dross, behold, therefore I will gather you into the midst of Jerusalem. 20 As they gather silver, and brass, and iron, and lead, and tin, into the midst of the furnace, to blow the fire upon it, to melt it; so will I gather you in mine anger and in my fury, and I will leave you there, and melt you. 21 Yea, I will gather you, and blow upon you in the fire of my wrath, and ye shall be melted in the midst thereof. 22 As silver is melted in the midst of the furnace, so shall ye be melted in the midst thereof; and ye shall know that I the Lord have poured out my fury upon you.

And in **Zechariah 13 (KJV):7** Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the Lord of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones. 8 And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. 9 And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The Lord is my God.

This will be the time of Jacob's trouble, as we read again in **Jeremiah 30 (KJV):5** For thus saith the Lord; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. 6 Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness? 7 Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it. 8 For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord of hosts, that I will break his yoke

from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him: 9 But they shall serve the Lord their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them.

And Israel will look on Him whom they pierced, as we read in **Zechariah 12 (KJV):10** And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

And Israel will be saved in one day, as we read in **Isaiah 66 (KJV):5** Hear the word of the Lord, ye that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the Lord be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed. 6 A voice of noise from the city, a voice from the temple, a voice of the Lord that rendereth recompence to his enemies. 7 Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child. 8 Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.

Then Israel will be the head of the nations, as God promised in **Deuteronomy 28 (KJV):13** And the Lord shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the Lord thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them:

And the law shall go forth from Jerusalem, as we read in **Micah 4 (KJV):2** And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

And Christ will rule the nations, as we read in **Revelation 12 (KJV):5** And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

And in **Revelation 19 (KJV):15** And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

Jesus will reign as King of kings in Jerusalem during the millennium. And the saints will reign with Him, as we read in **Revelation 2 (KJV):26** And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: 27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

## The Revelation of Christ

In his book Future Events, Part 1, Dr. Albert Grimes writes the following concerning the Rapture and the Revelation of Christ:

“In order to understand all that takes place at the Second Coming of Christ, we must first understand that the Second Coming of Christ covers a certain period of time. Just as the Lord

was thirty-three and a half years upon the earth at His first coming, and three main events took place, His Birth, His Death, His Resurrection, so in His Second Coming, there is a definite period of time covered. It covers a period of seven years, and there are two main events which will take place. The First event is the Rapture of the Saints. The Second event is the Revelation of Christ.

Scripture Explains These Two Events:

The Lord speaks of the first event as, "Receiving us unto Himself." John 14:3, "I will come again and receive you unto myself." Paul speaks of it as our gathering together unto Him. 2 Thessalonians 2:1, "Now we beseech you brethren by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him." Paul also calls it the Redemption of our Bodies. Romans 8:23, "And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body."

Paul also refers to it as the time when the restraining power of the Holy Spirit will be taken away. 2 Thessalonians 2:7, "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work; only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way." The "He" is the Holy Spirit in the Church. Paul refers also to this event as our being caught up to meet the Lord in the air. 1 Thessalonians 4:17, "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air." It is this first event that is called the "Rapture of the Church."

The Word, "Rapture":

The word, "Rapture", is not found in the Bible, but it comes from the Latin Vulgate Version of the Bible, where the words caught up in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 are translated, "RAPTURO", in the Latin, which means, "caught up". Thus the Rapture of the Saints is speaking of the time when the Saints shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air.

The Revelation of Christ:

This event takes place seven years after the Rapture. Christ Himself describes it as the "Son of Man Coming with Power and Great Glory." Matthew 24:30, "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven; and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." Paul speaks of it as the revelation of Christ. 2 Thessalonians 1:7, "And to you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels." Jude speaks of this event as the Lord coming with ten thousands of His saints. Jude 14, "And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints." Zechariah the Prophet speaks of it as the day when Christ's feet shall stand upon the Mount of Olives. Zechariah 14:4, "And his feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives."

A period of time between these two events is pointed out in scripture:

First, the redemption of our bodies takes place at the Rapture. Romans 8:23, "waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body." Then our manifestation as Sons takes place at

the Revelation of Christ. Romans 8:19, “For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.” We are Raptured first, then revealed as Sons afterwards at the Revelation. In the Rapture the restraining power of the Holy Spirit is taken out of this world. 2 Thessalonians 2:6,7, “And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time (that “he” is the Antichrist). 7 for the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth (restraineth) will let (will continue to restrain) until he be taken out of the way (speaking of the Holy Spirit in the Church).”

So at the Rapture the Holy Spirit is taken out of this world, and the tribulation begins. At the end of the Tribulation, the power of the Antichrist will be destroyed by the Revelation of Christ. 2 Thessalonians 2:8,9, “And then shall that wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: 9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan...” The Lord Himself states that His Revelation comes after the Tribulation. Matthew 24:29,30, “Immediately after the tribulation of those days...30...and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”

So between the Rapture and the Revelation, the Tribulation will take place on the earth.

What will take place in the heavens during the seven years in which the Tribulation is taking place on earth?

At the time of the Rapture, the saints are caught up to meet the Lord in the air. 1 Thessalonians 4:17, “Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” After this event in heaven we will receive our rewards for service. Luke 14:13,14, “But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: 14 And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the Just,” states the time of the rewarding. Then the event spoken of in 2 Corinthians 5:10, “For we must all appear before the Judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”

After this rewarding for service, we will have been made ready for the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, which will also take place in heaven. Revelation 19:7, “Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.” After this marriage is completed in heaven, the Bride with Christ will come down to earth in the Revelation. The word, “Revelation” means the unveiling of Christ to the world. So the time period of seven years between these two events, the Rapture and the Revelation, is taken up with the tribulation upon the earth, and the Judgment Seat, and Marriage Supper in heaven.” <http://www.theriskofchrist.com/grimes/book10.pdf>

## **In Summary**

In summary, God is taking a people out of the Gentiles in the time of the Church age, and when the fullness of the Gentiles has come in, then God will again deal with Israel. The tribulation will be the time of Jacob’s trouble when God will bring Israel to a national

repentance. God has promised to never forget Israel, and He will make a new covenant with Israel, as we read in **Jeremiah 31 (KJV):**31 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: 32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: 33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. 35 Thus saith the Lord, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The Lord of hosts is his name: 36 If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the Lord, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever. 37 Thus saith the Lord; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the Lord.

Israel will not cease from being a nation before the Lord, and His covenant cannot be broken, as we read also in **Jeremiah 33 (KJV):**19 And the word of the Lord came unto Jeremiah, saying, 20 Thus saith the Lord; If ye can break my covenant of the day, and my covenant of the night, and that there should not be day and night in their season; 21 Then may also my covenant be broken with David my servant, that he should not have a son to reign upon his throne; and with the Levites the priests, my ministers. 22 As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured: so will I multiply the seed of David my servant, and the Levites that minister unto me. 23 Moreover the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, saying, 24 Considerest thou not what this people have spoken, saying, The two families which the Lord hath chosen, he hath even cast them off? thus they have despised my people, that they should be no more a nation before them. 25 Thus saith the Lord; If my covenant be not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth; 26 Then will I cast away the seed of Jacob and David my servant, so that I will not take any of his seed to be rulers over the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: for I will cause their captivity to return, and have mercy on them.

God will fulfill His promises to Israel in the tribulation week of seven years, and the Church will watch from heaven. God has a plan for the Church, and a plan for Israel. The Church has been a witness to all nations. When the Church is gone in the rapture, a 144,000 Israelites will be chosen, and sealed to be a witness to the world, as we read in **Revelation 7 (KJV):**1 And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. 2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, 3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. 4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children

of Israel.

The results of their witness is then revealed in **Revelation 7 (KJV):9** After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; 10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. 11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, 12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. 13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? 14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

The 144,000 Israelites will witness to the world, and “a great multitude which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues” will be saved as a result of their witness.

We in the Church are now the people of God, as we read in **1 Peter 2 (KJV):9** But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light; 10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

We are a “holy nation, a peculiar people”, but we are not the nation of Israel. Though we are not the nation of Israel, we will all be the people of God in the Kingdom of God by our faith in Jesus Christ, as Jesus taught in **John 3 (KJV):1** There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: 2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. 3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. 4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? 5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. 8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

Israel as a nation will be brought to faith in Jesus Christ during the tribulation, and the nation of Israel will be born again in one day, as we read again in **Isaiah 66 (KJV):8** Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.

Jesus taught us to pray in **Matthew 6 (KJV):9** After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10 Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

When Jesus comes and sets up His kingdom on earth after the tribulation, He will rule with a rod of iron because sin will still be present in the nations. But after the millennium, the

thousand year reign of Christ, there will be one final rebellion, and then God will make the earth and the heaven new, as we read in **Revelation 20 (KJV)**:7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, 8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. 9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. 10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

And in **Revelation 21 (KJV)**:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

There will be no more death because there will be no more sin. Hallelujah!