

When You See
all These Things
Where Will Christ Be?

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By Robert G. Theophilus

THIS BOOKLET IS NOT TO BE SOLD. The information provided is for the benefit of former members of the congregations of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), and of current and prospective members of God's Church.

Where will Christ be when end-time events are taking place in the world? Will He be in the desert or in a secret chamber? The Bible says that “wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together.” What is the meaning of this enigmatic verse?

Preamble

Please Note: All comments in brackets [] or in parentheses () as well as highlighted text (bolded and/or in blue) are from the author of this study. Bible quotations are in maroon.

I think it is essential to clarify the question of the “Holy Spirit” before we begin this study. If we say that who or what is the “Holy Spirit” is the question that needs to be answered, we are starting from the assumption that there exists such a being as the Holy Spirit and that it is a separate and distinct being from God and the Word. The question which should be asked is who are the beings the Bible tell us are holy, whose composition is spirit and who have existed eternally? Either the Bible plainly tells us who are the separate and distinct beings that existed from all eternity who created all things (spirit beings and the material universe) or we have no way of getting an answer to our question.

The Holy Spirits of the God Family

The Bible tells us in Gen 1:1 that:

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

The Hebrew word translated “God” is “Eloheem” which is the plural form of “Eloah which means “God”. The word “Eloheem” refers to “gods.” It is a uniplural noun like family, group, team, etc. In the beginning, there was therefore more than one God being in existence but how many were there?

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In the beginning when God created the heaven and the earth there was God and there was another being with God who was also God, the Word. How can these two beings both be God; isn't that impossible?

The word God indicates the kind of existence of these 2 beings: their nature is to be God in the same way that all human beings have the same human nature. However, having the same nature does not mean that all human beings constitute a single being; indeed, they are all separate and distinct beings with their own personalities. God and the Word have in common the same nature or, level and type of existence, but they are separate and distinct beings just like all human beings who have the same human nature are separate and distinct beings.

God the Father

We read in the Bible that God became a father when the Word became flesh (Phi 2:5-8) by being born of woman after having been conceived in the virgin Mary by the holy spirit being called God (Luke 1:35). God from that point on became God the Father and the Word, who was born as the flesh-and-blood Jesus of Nazareth became God's Son or the Son of God. He was both fully God (his father was God and fully human (his mother was the virgin Mary).

Jesus was God the Father's only begotten son at the time when He was conceived in Mary's womb but He was not to be the only one begotten of the Father. God the Father is the holy spirit being in the Godhead that calls men to salvation.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

Joh 18:9 That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou [God the Father] gavest me have I lost none.

1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

God the Word and Spokesman

The Bible term for being called is to be spiritually begotten by God the Father (1Pe 1:3). When we are begotten, we become a spiritual embryo that can be born again as a glorified spirit being with eternal life. Those begotten of the holy spirit God the Father who follow their calling are then able to come to the holy spirit being called the Word and Spokesman (John 6:44; 65; 18:9) who then teaches them. The glorified Jesus-Christ as God the Father's Word and Spokesman is the holy spirit being that works in the minds of God the Father's called and chosen ones.

Joh 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Jesus had to first be glorified for it to be possible for Christians to have access to the holy spirit called the Word and Spokesman because the glorified Christ is the holy spirit being who works in the minds of God's saints (John 14:17) in the same way that Satan is the evil spirit that works in the minds of the children of disobedience (Eph2:2).

Joh 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he [Christ] dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. [On the day of Pentecost, it would be in them and in all true Christians.]

Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, [Satan] the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

The holy spirit God the Father calls men and those who follow their calling are then taught by the holy spirit called the Word and God the Father's Spokesman.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

The Holy Ghost

The expression “Holy Ghost” used in the Bible is in error as there are no ghosts in the Godhead but rather 2 beings that are holy (John 17:11; Isa 6:3) and spirit (John 4:24).

Joh 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

Isa 6:3 And one cried unto another, and said, **Holy, holy, holy**, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

Joh 4:24 **God is a Spirit:** and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

These 2 God beings who are holy and spirit are the holy spirit beings of the God family who existed in the beginning at the creation of all things.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

And, the Word who was with God is before all things i.e., *nothing* existed before He created them whether made of spirit or matter.

Col 1:15 [Christ] Who is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of every creature:

Col 1:16 For by him [the Word who became Jesus-Christ] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

In the beginning before anything either physical or spiritual was created, there was God and the Word who existed before all things and no other being is mentioned as having existed with them. There is no bib-

lical evidence that there ever existed a third, separate and distinct personage in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit” who dwelt in eternity with God and the Word.

God is a Family

Throughout the Bible we can find many verses which clearly indicates the existence of family relations between God and the Word and God’s called, chosen and faithful.

Mat 11:27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

Mat 12:50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Joh 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

God is clearly a family in which many can be ultimately born again by a resurrection from the dead to eternal, glorified spirit life in God’s Kingdom.

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he [God’s Son] might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Col 1:18 And he [the glorified Christ] is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Christ was the first to be born again by a resurrection from the dead to be followed by many brethren.

Bible Writing Convention

The practice in the Bible has been to simply use the expression “the Holy Spirit” without indicating which God personage in the Godhead the expression represents. Over time, because of this practice, just about everybody has come to believe that the Holy Spirit is a separate and distinct God being in the Godhead but, there is no single verse or group of verses in the Bible that prove the existence of such a third being in the Godhead. The words “holy” and “spirit” are adjectives that describe the nature of

God the Father and of God the Word i.e., they are holy beings made of spirit.

Whenever we encounter the expressions the “Holy Spirit” or simply the “Holy Spirit” in the Bible we must look at the context to determine of which holy spirit being of the Godhead the Bible is talking about: the holy spirit, God the Father or the holy spirit, the Word and Spokesman.

The Word is the holy spirit being in the Godhead who carries out the instructions and wishes of the holy spirit, God. He is the faithful son who seeks to do his father’s will in all things. He is the member of the God family that did the work of creating the heaven and the earth, who ruled over ancient Israel through Moses and his human successors, He is the one who became a man who suffered and died to be God the Father’s perfect sacrifice for sin and make the salvation of mankind possible, etc. and He came to reveal the Father to those who follow the Father’s calling.

Making Things Clearer

In this study, when referring to God’s spirit who, depending on the circumstances can be the holy spirit personage called God the Father or the holy spirit personage called God the Word and Spokesman, I will not capitalize either of the adjectives “holy” and “spirit”. This is in order to not perpetuate the false impression in the minds of readers that there is a 3rd being in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit.” Instead, I will refer to either of the holy spirits in the God family as being God’s spirit without capitalizing the word “spirit” to make it plain that we are not referring to a third God being in the God family called the “Holy Spirit” but to one of the 2 God beings in the Godhead.

God’s family is presently made up of 2 holy spirit beings to which are to be added thousands and possibly millions of other holy spirit beings when God’s plan of salvation for mankind has reached its end. The saints that endure in the faith until the end of their natural human life, will be resurrected as individual holy spirit beings in God’s Kingdom when it is established.

There are two studies which you can read regarding what is the “Holy Spirit” and decide for yourself in light of the Bible-based evidence offered if such a being exists in the Godhead. These studies are: [What is the Holy Spirit? Cliff Notes Version](#) and [Who or What is the Holy Spirit?](#)

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As a long time member of God's Church, I like many others, have spent a lot of time reading and re-reading Mathew 24, the Olivet prophecy and trying to get as much understanding as I could out of it. Despite my best efforts, I remained puzzled about many of the things Christ was telling His disciples in answer to their questions of when the temple would be destroyed and when would be the time of His 2nd Coming.

In this study, I will focus on 2 points which we have all being interested in clarifying and these are:

- Who is the generation that will exist at the time when all the things spoken of by Christ to His disciples will occur signaling His imminent return? And, when will this generation be in existence.
- Where will Christ be during the time of the Great Tribulation? In the secret chambers, in the desert or some other place? Can we know for sure and does Christ tell us?

Let's get started and see what the Scriptures say on these matters.

Who is the Remnant Generation — And When Will It Exist?

One of the basic documents used in conducting this study is Lesson 36 of the 58 lesson Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course (AC BCC) which I quote to show what the church taught.

The relevant excerpts from the lesson are reproduced below. They show that the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) ministry taught that from the time it became possible for world destruction to be possible, something which they understood to correspond with the invention of the nuclear bomb, that the generation then alive (that would be us today) is the one that would see the events leading up to the 2nd Coming of Christ.

Let's first read the following excerpt from BCC 36 to see just what it is the ministry taught in the days of HWA regarding this matter. My comments are shown under the sub-heading: Robert G Theophilus Comments.

Excerpt from Lesson 36 Feast of Trumpets AC BCC (p. 4-5)

2. *When did Jesus say that God's coming Kingdom would be established?*

Wasn't it in a time of WORLD WAR? Mat. 24:3, 6-8.

Mat 24:3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

Mat 24:6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

Mat 24:7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

Mat 24:8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.

Robert G Theophilus Comments

In these verses of Mat 24, Christ is telling to His disciples the events that are to occur leading up to His 2nd Coming. He tells them that **in their days** they would hear of war and rumours of wars and they shall be famines, pestilences and earthquakes but the end is not yet. All these things are simply the beginning of sorrows. "The beginning of sorrows" is an expression used in reference to the time when a woman enters

into labour right on up to the time of birth.

Joh 16:21 A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world.

The coming of God's Kingdom is likened to the human birth process which is preceded by a time of sorrows or of pain and suffering that lead up to the birth of a new human being.

The increasing intensity of wars, famines, pestilences, false religion and earthquakes are the birth pains that will increase in intensity to reach their maximum at the time of the end leading to the birth in an instant of the spiritual nation making up the kingdom of God; the resurrection of God's saints at Christ's 2nd Coming.

Isa 66:8 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.

Zion here is all those who have been called, chosen and faithful and who as such are God's begotten children. They have been conceived (begotten) by the holy spirit God the Father and kept alive and growing by the spiritual food given them by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman as they studied God's holy Bible. They die the first death which is common to all mankind but they are sealed by the holy spirit God the Word for the resurrection. At Christ's Second Coming, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, they are all born by a resurrection from the dead to glorified, immortal spirit life. They are God's nation, Zion being born all at once.

The events called the "beginning of sorrows" would begin in their time and continue until the time of Christ's 2nd Coming in ever growing intensity reaching their highest point at the time of the events of the 7th seal of the book of Revelation, during the Lord's day, the time of the crisis of crises at the end.

See also Luke 21:31.

Luk 21:31 So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.

Robert G Theophilus Comments

Physical Israelites scattered among the Gentile nations are to go into captivity and only **10% of them** will be alive (Is 6: 11-13; Amos 5:3) to return to the Promised Land at the time Christ brings them back from their captivity in a 2nd exodus as in the days when their forefathers were freed from Egypt.

In the following verses from the book of Isaiah, Isaiah is being commissioned to go to Israel and to give them the following message.

Isa 6:9 And he **[God said to Isaiah]** said, Go, and tell this people, **[the ancient unconverted nation of Israel]** Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not.

Isa 6:10 Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.

Israel is to remain spiritually blind until the occurrence of the events mentioned in the following verses.

Isa 6:11 Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate,

Isa 6:12 And the LORD have removed men far away, and there be a great forsaking in the midst of the land.

Their spiritual blindness is to continue until the Great Tribulation has occurred.

Isa 6:13 But yet in it shall be **a tenth**, and it shall return, and shall be eaten: as a teil tree, and as an oak, whose substance is in them, when they cast their leaves: so the holy seed shall be the substance thereof.

Amo 5:3 For thus saith the Lord GOD; The city that went out by a thousand shall leave an hundred, and that which went forth by an hundred shall leave ten, to the house of Israel.

There will only be 10% of the physical descendants of Old Testament Israel left alive at the end of the Great Tribulation.

Isn't this time of World War to be the time when man FINALLY HAS THE POWER TO WIPE THE REMNANT – LAST GENERATION OF HUMAN LIFE FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH? Mat. 24:21-22.

Mat 24:21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Mat 24:22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

Robert G Theophilus Comments

The last or remnant generation would be those living during the events of the Great Tribulation and of the Lord's day during which the extermination of mankind would occur but for the 2nd Coming of Christ. It is **that** generation that would see the fulfillment at their highest level of intensity of **ALL** the things mentioned by Christ to His disciples in Matthew 24. The Great Tribulation is the great martyrdom of God's true saints and the time of the military conquest and captivity of the nations constituting end-time Israel. The time when **ALL** the things mentioned by Christ in Matthew 24 reach their greatest level of intensity is during the time of the Lord's Day. This is the time of the blowing of the 7 trumpets of the 7th seal of the Apocalypse. The 5th, 6th and 7th seal respectively are the 1st, 2nd and 3rd woes which has 7 vial plagues. The pouring out of the 7 vial plagues brings to an end God's time of wrath.

*3. Does Jesus promise to cut short this time of age-end trouble for the sake of a **SMALL GROUP** of people called "THE ELECT"? Mat. 24:22.*

Mat 24:22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

Robert G Theophilus Comments

The Tribulation is cut short for the elect's sake i.e., those who converted **during** the Great Tribulation which occurs **during** the Philadelphia Era. The Laodicean Era only begins after the events of the 6th seal, the heavenly signs. *Those coming to conversion during the Great Tribulation will therefore be Philadelphia Era saints.* They will not be protected from the events of the Great Tribulation as will be the Philadelphians who converted before the start of the Great Tribulation. The Laodicean Era Church will not be in the Great Tribulation contrarily to what the

numerous false churches of God are erroneously teaching. The book of Revelation makes it very clear that the Laodicean Era only starts [after](#) the events of the 6th seal and that the 5th seal is the Great Tribulation. This is fully covered in the following study which can be found on this Web site: [Laodicean Era Who and When?](#)

When will this happen? Mat. 24:33-35.

Mat 24:33 So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.

Mat 24:34 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.

Mat 24:35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

COMMENT: Jesus said that from the BEGINNING of the time when man could destroy all human life from the earth until His second coming would be NO MORE THAN ONE GENERATION!

Robert G Theophilus Comments

The writer of this AC BCC lesson says that this would be one generation (40 years} from the time of the creation of the atomic bomb which was in 1955 (see next paragraph of ACC BCC lesson below). That generation has ended as we are in 2017 and Christ has not returned. A generation (40 years as defined by the Bible (Num 32:13)) counted from 1955 brings us to 1995.

Num 32:13 And the LORD'S anger was kindled against Israel, and he made them wander in the wilderness [forty years](#), until all the [generation](#), that had done evil in the sight of the LORD, was consumed.

The Scriptures say it is those of that generation who see happening all the events mentioned by Christ as they reach their highest level of intensity which will not pass away till all these things be fulfilled.

Humanity has been seeing war, famines, and pestilence since and before the days of Christ and the apostles and Christ's 2nd Coming has not occurred. It is only when these events reach their highest level of intensity that all human life on earth would be threatened with destruction and that Christ's Second Coming would happen.

Man has not had the power to completely destroy life from the earth UNTIL 1955! Since that time the world has become an armed camp, bristling with the AWESOME weapons that can extinguish the flickering flame of man's civilization from the face of this planet! You are living in the VERY DAYS Jesus Christ spoke about — and unless THESE DAYS ARE SHORTENED NO FLESH WILL BE SAVED alive!!

It is YOUR generation — the world of TODAY — that will see the HORRIBLE END-TIME NUCLEAR WARS. THIS GENERATION WILL witness the LAST-MINUTE intervention by Jesus Christ when He returns in the POWER AND GLORY OF HIS KINGDOM.

Robert G Theophilus Comments

NO, we are not of that generation though we may be in the future; the creation of the atomic bomb is not the starting point for determining the generation that will not die until all be fulfilled as clearly demonstrated by the passage of time. It's now been over 40 years since the A-bomb came into existence; 40 years is a generation as defined by the Bible. If the discovery of the A-bomb is the point from which we are to count, then Christ would have returned by now.

However, Christ says it is the generation that sees the Great Tribulation and the events of the Lord's day, the period of time when war, famine, pestilence reach their highest point and would destroy all life on the earth but for the intervention of the returning Christ that is "this generation" that shall not pass away til all be fulfilled (Luke 21:32).

With the passage of time, we can see that the events spoken of in Matt 24:21-33 cannot be referring to humanity coming to the point where it would be destroyed but for Christ's 2nd Coming being one generation away from the time of the development of nuclear bombs. Had it been the case, Christ's return would have occurred some years ago.

These events are in our immediate future as is the generation that will not pass away till all be fulfilled.

End of excerpt

The Generation that Will not Pass Away till All is Fulfilled

As we have seen, there is a generation that will not die or pass away until all the events (false religion, war, famine, pestilence and earthquakes) mentioned by Christ reach their highest level of intensity

resulting in the extinction of mankind unless Christ returned to prevent it.

As Mr. Armstrong taught the Church, a prophesy from the time it is made continues to grow in intensity over time to reach its maximum during the Lord's Day.

So, knowing this, it is fairly easy to determine who is the generation that will not pass away before all these things be fulfilled, it is those humans that will be alive when all the events spoken of by Christ reach their maximum of intensity during the Lord's day. They will have lived through the Great Tribulation and the events of the Lord's day and will be alive at the end of all of it.

How far away are we from those days? For the time being, nobody knows.

Where will Christ be at the Time of the Great Tribulation?

This is something which is also covered in the verses of the Olivet prophecy of Matthew 24 however, as is usually the case, Christ speaks in such a way that it is impossible for the world to understand what He is really saying. However, those who have His spirit dwelling in them, who are able to put line upon line, precept upon precept and have the holy spirit God the Word teaching them knowledge can understand.

Isa 28:9 Whom shall he [\[God\]](#) teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. [\[You can find a full explanation of what it means to be weaned from the milk here: Are You Spiritually Mature?](#)

Isa 28:10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:

Isa 28:11 For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.

Let's read through the pertinent verses in Matthew 24 in which Christ states where He will be at the time when the events of the Great Tribulation are taking place.

Mat 24:1 And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple:

and his disciples came to *him* for to shew him the buildings of the temple.

Mat 24:2 And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? [the buildings of the temple] verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

The temple was destroyed by the Roman armies sent to put down the Jews' rebellion against Caesar after the passage of Christ in 70 AD. Then in Mat 24:3, we have Jesus now being on to the Mount of Olives where the disciples had 3 questions for Him.

Mat 24:3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? [the destruction of the temple] and what shall be the sign of thy coming, [His Second Coming to Israel] and of the end of the world? [the creation of the new heaven and of the new earth after the Great White Throne Judgment]

PLEASE NOTE

It is crucial that we keep in mind exactly what it was the disciples asked Jesus to be able to understand how Jesus answered their questions. He did so in a way that makes it hard to understand what He is saying unless one understands the time shifting that occurs in what Jesus tells them. Jesus omits to explain to them that some of the events He mentions in Mat 24: 6-7 (wars, rumors of war, famine, pestilence and persecution against true Christians) will be ongoing to reach their maximum intensity during the Lord's day some 2,000 years into their future while others would occur in their days (the destruction of Jerusalem and of the temple as per Mat 24: 15-20). With this in mind, let's go through Jesus' answer to His disciples and, to us today.

The main point of interest for us is determining where Christ will be when the events of the Great Tribulation have started, and men are saying that Christ is here and Christ is over there, etc. Christ tells His disciples where He and the Father will be in those days.

Let's start reading from verse 21.

Mat 24:21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. [The 5th seal great martyrdom of saints, the captivity

of end-time Israelites and the 7 trumpet plagues]

Mat 24:22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

Why will the time of the Great Tribulation be shortened for the elect's sake? The elect are those whom God has called and chosen and who are remaining faithful. Those who convert **before** the Great Tribulation and remain faithful will be provided a place of safety but there is no promised place of safety for those who convert **during** the Great Tribulation. They will be in it and because of them, God shortens the time of the Great Tribulation to prevent them from all being martyred.

Let's continue reading Mat 24.

Mat 24:23 Then [at the time of the Great Tribulation] if any man shall say unto you, [to true Christians alive in those days; the Bible does not speak to the world though at times it speaks about the world.] Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.

Mat 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

The great false prophet or the Pope that will be in office at the time when end-time events occur will make fire come down from the sky i.e., he will convince the world that he is a true representative of Christ as Elijah had convinced Israel in his confrontation with the priests of Baal (1Kings 18:38) that he was God's true representative to them. This religious figure that will be in office at the time when the Great Tribulation occurs will be the man of sin mentioned in 2 Thes 2.

2Th 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day [the time of Christ's 2nd Coming] shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

2Th 2:4 Who **opposeth** and exalteth [raises] himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he **as** God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

This great false religious leader thinks of himself as being God sitting in

God's temple and acts as though he has God's authority to define good and evil. And, he opposes and raised himself above all that is called God. This personage who heads up a great false religion will succeed in the end-time in convincing the nations that his church is God's one true Church founded by Christ.

Rev 13:13 And he [the leader of this great false religion] doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, [1Kings 18:20-40; 2Kings 1:10]

In 1 Kings 18:20-40, we have the story of Elijah's confrontation with the priests of Baal to prove once and for all to Israel who was the true God and who was His representative to them at that time, that is, himself. They both prepare the sacrifice of a bullock by fire but the fire that would consume the sacrifice had to come from God. The priests of Baal tried to get their god to have fire come down from heaven to consume their bullock sacrifice but they were never able to do so. Then Ezekiel prayed to the true God he represented and his bullock sacrifice was completely consumed by fire which came down from heaven proving that the God he represented was the one and only true God which they, Israel, should worship.

Having fire come down from heaven was the unmistakable sign to Israel that the God represented by Ezekiel is the true God.

During the Great Tribulation, the prophecy made by Christ that there would be false prophets, reaches its peak of intensity with the great false prophet, the man of sin, the woman that rides the beast, the great false church who controls the 7th and last revival of the holy roman empire will succeed in convincing the world that he is God's true representative on the earth and that what He preaches is the very truth of God.

This great false religious figure will have figuratively made fire come down from heaven as Elijah had actually done in that he succeeds in convincing the world that he is the true representative of God whose teachings all true Christians are to follow. As stated in the following verse of Rev 13, this great false prophet succeeds in deceiving the world.

Rev 13:14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

The deception by this false prophet leading this great false church began in the past and will grow to its maximum during the Great Tribulation.

This is the great false church which the Bible describes as being the great whore who rides the beast.

Rev 17:3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

A woman in Bible symbology represents a church. The beast this woman rides is the holy Roman Empire. This empire was to go through 7 revivals which is represented by the 7 heads on the beast; six revivals have already occurred with the final one to take place during the Great Tribulation.

Rev 17:4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

Rev 17:5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

This great false religion is the mother of harlots for out of it came many other religious group who protested its teachings, the Protestant churches of the world. She engendered other religious prostitutes i.e., religions that do not worship the true God.

Rev 17:6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

This great false church persecuted God's true saints and succeeded in putting many to death; she is drunk (full) with the blood of the saints.

A major point of importance that needs to be noted here is that these false Christs and prophets will be so convincing that they would deceive the very elect if **it were possible to do so** but the elect cannot be deceived about what is the truth of God. Were it possible for them to do so, Satan could thwart God's plan of salvation through his ability to deceive the whole world as he is presently doing. Once a person is called and chosen he can no longer be deceived about what is the truth; he can only turn away from the truth by a knowing and willful decision to do so.

Now continuing with our reading of Mat 24.

Mat 24:25 Behold, I have told you before. [to them and us today]

Mat 24:26 Wherefore if they [the false prophets who say they are true servants of God] shall say unto you, [truly converted Christians that will be alive at that time] Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, *he is* in the secret chambers; believe *it* not.

Mat 24:27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Christ upon His 2nd Coming will not be in any given location such as in secret chambers or in the desert as many will say after seeing the heavenly signs; His 2nd coming will be seen by all but it will not be generally understood that this is what is happening. Only God's called, chosen and faithful ones will know the meaning of the signs in the heaven.

So where will Christ be at the time of His 2nd Coming, the next verse tells us.

Mat 24:28 For wheresoever the carcase [a carcass is a body] is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

Who are these eagles?

Christ says He bore ancient Israel on eagles' wings (Ex 19:4).

Exo 19:4 Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.

He was that eagle mentioned in Ex 19:4 and so is the Father (Christ is in the Father and the Father in Christ (John 14:10).

Joh 14:10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

They are the eagles that will be where the carcass or body is i.e., the church which is the body of Christ.

Col 1:24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for *his body's* sake, which is *the church*:

So where will be Christ and God the Father at the time of Christ's 2nd Coming? Why, at the same place they said they would always be, with the Church, the body of Christ, the spiritual temple which they inhabit and

of which the individual members of God's Church are the living stones (1Pet 2:5).

1Pe 2:5 Ye also, as lively **[living]** stones, are built up a spiritual house, **[God's temple]** an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Christ told the apostles, and all true Christians who would be their spiritual descendants, that He would be with them always, EVEN unto the end of the world i.e., until the time of the end of God's plan of salvation.

Mat 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, **I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.** Amen.

It wil be no different in the end time during the Great Tribulation.

Since the death of HWA (January 1986) we are still not at the time when 5th and 6th seal events are happening or where wars, famine, pestilence, earthquakes have reached their maximum level of intensity as they will during the Great Tribulation.

As we have seen, Christ after His 2nd Coming will not be in the desert or in the secret chambers; He and His father will be where they have always been, in His spiritual temple which is God's Church, the body of Christ.

