



## ACCURATE BUILDING CONCEPTS RAPTURE – CUNNINGLY DEVISED FABLE

### **2 Pet 1:16**

*For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.(NKJ)*

The rapture is claimed to be the next greatest event in the journey of the church. This theory claims that all born again believers will be snatched from the earth by the secret coming of the Lord. Believers will then enjoy 7 years of celebration in heaven at the marriage supper of the Lamb and receive rewards for the labours. On earth there would be mass destruction as believers disappear from their position as automobile drivers and aircraft pilots etc. The earth will be thrust into great tribulation as the wrath of God is poured out on the unbelievers that are left behind. It is believed that during this period of 7 years of unparalleled suffering on the earth that the antichrist will make his appearance. Jesus will first come invisibly to snatch away all born again believers and after 7 years return with the believers to rule on the earth.

### **A. THE RAPTURE WAS NOT TAUGHT BY EARLY CHURCH.**

It emerged in the early 1800s.

Ribera, a Spanish Jesuit laid the foundation of futurism in about 1580. He proposed the idea of a future personal antichrist and that the reformers' view of the papacy as antichrist as being erroneous. From 1580 to 1830 the concept of an individual personal antichrist making his appearance in the future was the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church.

Emmanuel Lacunza another Jesuit priest taught the two comings of Jesus. His first coming would be secret to rapture the saints from the rule of the antichrist. This was in the early 1800s.

Edward Irving a Scottish preacher, influenced by Lacunza then taught the secret rapture. John Darby a leader of the Plymouth brethren, adopted the Jesuit teaching of the secret rapture and the antichrist and organized the teaching that came to be known as dispensationalism. The teaching of the secret rapture gained momentum from 1830. Others like Margaret Macdonald claimed to have seen visions of the rapture. Scofield adopted Darby's secret rapture theory and included this in the SCOFFIELD REFERENCE BIBLE as footnotes. From here the doctrine has spread into Pentecostal Christianity.

**THE RAPTURE DOCTRINE HAS ITS ROOTS IN ROMAN CATHOLICISM.**

### **B. SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: RAPTURE SCRIPTURES**

#### **1. ONE WILL BE TAKEN**

#### **Luke 17:35-36**

*35"Two women will be grinding together: the one will be taken and the other left.*

*36"Two men will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other left."(NKJ)*

Proponents of the rapture use this scripture to affirm that believers will be snatched from the earth and unbelievers will be left behind.  
Let's examine the context.

**Luke 17:26-36**

*26"And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man:  
27"They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.  
28"Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built;  
29"but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.  
30"Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.  
31"In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods are in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back.  
32"Remember Lot's wife.  
33"Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.  
34"I tell you, in that night there will be two men in one bed: the one will be taken and the other will be left.  
35"Two women will be grinding together: the one will be taken and the other left.  
36"Two men will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other left."(NKJ)*

*And as it was in the days of Noah*

*Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot*

*30"Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.*

Jesus states that the revelation of the Son of Man will be the same way (even so) as the days of Noah and Lot.

In the days of Noah – the wicked were taken – Noah and his family were left behind.  
In the days of Lot – the wicked were taken – Lot and his daughters were left behind.  
Thus at the coming of the Lord the wicked are taken and the righteous are left behind to inherit the earth.

**Mal 4:1-3**

*1"For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, and all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up," says the LORD of hosts, "That will leave them neither root nor branch.  
2But to you who fear My name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings; and you shall go out and grow fat like stall-fed calves.  
3You shall trample the wicked, for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day that I do this," says the LORD of hosts.(NKJ)*

**Ps 37:9-11**

*9For evildoers shall be cut off; but those who wait on the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.*

*10For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more; indeed, you will look carefully for his place, but it shall be no more.*

*11But the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.(NKJ)*

***Ps 37:20***

*But the wicked shall perish; and the enemies of the LORD, like the splendor of the meadows, shall vanish. Into smoke they shall vanish away.(NKJ)*

***Ps 37:29***

*The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell in it forever.(NKJ)*

**It is clear, the wicked shall perish and the righteous shall inherit the earth.**

***Matt 5:5***

*Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.(NKJ)*

**THE WICKED ARE REMOVED – THE RIGHTEOUS REMAIN:**

***Prov 2:21-22***

*21For the upright will dwell in the land, and the blameless will remain in it;*

*22But the wicked will be cut off from the earth, and the unfaithful will be uprooted from it.(NKJ)*

***Prov 10:30***

*The righteous will never be removed, but the wicked will not inhabit the earth.(NKJ)*

***Isa 13:9***

*Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and He will destroy its sinners from it.(NKJ)*

***II Th 2:8***

*And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.(NKJ)*

***Matt 24:39***

*39"and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.(NKJ)*

**Notice “the flood came and took them all away”**

***Luke 17:26-36***

*26"And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man:*

*27"They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.*

*28"Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built;*

*29"but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.*

**Luke indicates that the taking is “destroyed them all.”**

**GREEK WORD FOR TAKEN - ZODIATES**

*35"Two women will be grinding together: the one will be taken and the other left.*

*36"Two men will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other left."(NKJ)*

**“TAKEN” BY SPIROS ZODHIATES – MEANS TAKEN IN JUDGEMENT,PUNISHED.**

### 3880 PARALAMBANO

to take, receive. To take near, with, or to oneself, to receive to oneself.

To take to oneself, seize or take into one's possession.

In Matt. 24:40, 41; Luke 17:34, 35, PARALAMBANO in the pass. form is used as the opposite of APHIEMI (863), to let be. In these verses, those who are taken are not to be misconstrued as those whom the Lord favors, as if they were the same saints spoken of in 1 Thess. 4:17 who will be raptured ( HARPAZO[726], to seize, catch away, as if by force) to meet the Lord in the clouds. The verb PARALAMBANO ☪ in most cases indicates a demonstration in favor of the one taken, but not always. In Matt. 4:5, 8, it is used of Satan taking Jesus up to tempt Him. In John 19:16 it is used of taking Jesus to lead Him to the cross. The verb PARALAMBANO is to be contrasted in Matt. 24:40, 41 to AIRO (142), to take up and away. It is used to refer to those in the days of Noah who were taken away, not being favored but being punished, while Noah and his family were left intact. Therefore, in this passage in Matt. and the parallel passage in Luke, PARALAMBANO must not be equated to the believers who are to be raptured at the coming of the Lord for His saints. It refers rather to those who, as in the days of Noah, are taken to destruction. The others are left alone (APHIEMI) for the purpose of entering into the blessings of Christ's kingdom (identified by some as the Millennium) and the righteous rule of Christ upon earth.

1Zodhiates, Spiros, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary, New Testament*, (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers) 2000, c1992, c1993.

### GREEK WORD FOR LEFT – ZODIATES

35"Two women will be grinding together: the one will be taken and the other left.

36"Two men will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other left."(NKJ)

### “LEFT” BY SPIROS ZODHIATES – TO LET GO FREE, TO ESCAPE

#### 63. APHIEMI

to send. To send forth or away, let go from oneself. Used trans.:

(I) To dismiss, e.g., the multitudes (Matt. 13:36); of a wife, to put her away (1 Cor. 7:11–13). In Matt. 27:50, “he gave up the spirit” (a.t.), expired. See also Gen. 35:18. In Mark 15:37, “when Jesus let forth a loud cry” (a.t. [Sept.: Gen. 45:2]).

(II) To let go from one's power, possession, to let go free, let escape (Matt. 24:40, 41; Luke 17:34–36; Sept.: Prov. 4:13). Metaphorically, to let go from obligation toward oneself, to remit, e.g., a debt, offense, with the dat. of person (Matt. 18:27, 32, 35; Mark 11:25; Sept.: Deut. 15:2). Of sins, to remit the penalty of sins, i.e., to pardon, forgive, with the dat. of person, e.g., OPHEILEMATA (3783), debts, faults (Matt. 6:12); HAMARTIAS (266), sins (Matt. 9:2, 5, 6; 12:31; Mark 2:5, 7, 9, 10);

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**THUS IT IS THE RIGHTEOUS WHO ARE LEFT, WHO ESCAPE THE JUDGEMENT – WHO GO FREE.**

## THE TRUE CONTEXT OF MATT. 24.

The whole of Matt. 24 refers to the opening statements of Jesus. The context is the temple.

### *Matt 24:1-3*

*1 Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple.*

*2 And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down."*

*3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"(NKJ)*

The temple was the nucleus of worship. Jesus announced the destruction of the old order – the disciples knew nothing of his second coming at this stage. The sign of his coming was the sign of HIS COMING TO DESTROY THE TEMPLE – THIS WOULD BE THE END OF AGE OF THE OLD COVENANT – NOT END OF THE WORLD.

THE CONTEXT IS THE TEMPLE AND ITS DESTRUCTION.

The destruction of the temple was His coming in judgement. It was going to be like the days of Noah and Lot. Jesus warned his disciples that Jerusalem's siege by the Roman army would be the warning for the Christians to flee to the mountain.

### *Luke 21:20-21*

*20 "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near.*

*21 "Then let those in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her.(NKJ)*

### *Matt 24:15-19*

*15 "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand),*

*16 "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.*

*17 "Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house.*

*18 "And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes.*

*19 "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!(NKJ)*

The “abomination of desolation” is Jerusalem surrounded by armies.

Historically, when the Christians saw Jerusalem surrounded by the Roman armies they remembered Jesus’ prophecy and fled to the mountains.

In the ensuing tribulation the apostate Jews were killed(taken, destroyed). The Christians who fled to the mountains were left behind.

## 2. “CAUGHT UP”

### *1Thes 4:16-18*

*16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.*

*17Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.*

*18Therefore comfort one another with these words. (NKJ)*

The proponents of the rapture base their theory of believers vanishing on the words “caught up”. They believe that words “caught up” mean the upward snatching away of believers to meet the Lord in the clouds and then go to heaven.

The difficulty with this theory is that the earth is not flat, but round. If those on the north pole and the south pole were caught up literally, they would go in opposite directions – it would not be possible to meet. Furthermore, if you are on a plane at that time, and most planes fly above the clouds, if you were literally caught up you would not meet in the clouds – you would have to be caught down.

The plain sense does not make common sense.

Parallel scriptures have to be investigated.

**(THE DEAD IN CHRIST WILL RISE FIRST – THEIR BODIES WILL UNITE WITH THE SPIRITS OF THE SAINTS WHO COME WITH JESUS- ENOCH IN JUDE. THE SPIRITS COMING WITH JESUS ARE THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES. THE LIVING WILL BE TRANSLATED TO MEET IN THIS CLOUD AS A SINGLE COMPANY – IN THE AIR. THE IMMORTAL COMPANY CAN OPERATE ON THE EARTH OR IN THE AIR.)**

***1 Cor 15:51-55***

*51Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed--*

*52in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

*53For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

*54So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."*

*55"O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"(NKJ)*

Paul talks about the raising of the dead at the sound of the trumpet in 1 Thessalonians. Here again he talks about the raising of the dead at the last trumpet. Both the Thessalonian and Corinthian Scriptures therefore relate to the same event. At this event Paul says we shall be changed – this changing is our changing to immortality. Immortality is metaphorically designated by the words “caught up”. It is not a disappearance but the appearance of the believers in their glorified bodies. This appearance makes you a superior human being – with a glorified body – a body like Jesus (1John 3:2) –YOU ARE NOW CAUGHT UP.

**THE WHOLE OF CREATION IS WAITING FOR US TO APPEAR – NOT DISAPPEAR:**

***Rom 8:19-23***

*19For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.*

*20For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope;*

*21because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.*

*22For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.*

*23Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.(NKJ)*

**JESUS DID NOT PRAY FOR US TO BE SNATCHED AWAY.**

*John 17:15*

*"I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.(NKJ)*

### **3. THE MEETING**

*1Thes 4:16-18*

*16For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.*

*17Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.*

*18Therefore comfort one another with these words. (NKJ)*

**MEET (VERB), MEET WITH, MET (BY VINES)**

apantesis ^529^, 1 Thes. 4:17>. It is used in the papyri of a newly arriving magistrate. "It seems that the special idea of the word was the official welcome of a newly arrived dignitary" (Moulton, Greek Test. Gram. Vol. 1, p. 14).

(from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words)

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The meeting with the Lord is also not for the purpose of leaving the earth. The Greek word is used in the sense of official welcome. The church immortal will welcome the Lord Jesus to the earth. In Jewish culture the bride would go out to meet the bridegroom with the intent of welcoming him to her home. The bridegroom Christ does not come to whisk us to heaven, but stay with us - *And thus we shall always be with the Lord.*

### **4. ENOCH AND ELIJAH**

- ENOCH

*Gen 5:24*

*And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.(NKJ)*

*Heb 11:5*

*By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.(NKJ)*

Enoch walked righteously and was received by God without seeing death. He was translated into immortality. He was not found – he disappeared into God. He was translated over 600 years before the flood – the reason for the translation was not to escape the flood – the reason for the translation was his righteousness.

- ELIJAH

**II Ki 2:11-12**

*11Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.*

*12And Elisha saw it, and he cried out, "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen!" So he saw him no more. And he took hold of his own clothes and tore them into two pieces.(NKJ)*

Elijah went into the chariot of fire first before going into heaven – the invisible realm. He disappeared into the heavenly realm without dying like a natural man.

**BOTH DISAPPEARED INTO GOD WITHOUT SEEING DEATH.**

Both are used by dispensationalist to claim that the church will disappear.

1. But God is not restoring the tabernacle of Enoch or Elijah. He is restoring the **TABERNACLE OF DAVID. DAVID RULED IN THE MIDST OF HIS ENEMIES. HE DEMONSTRATED DOMINION. HE DID NOT DISAPPEAR. THE CHURCH IS CALLED TO RULE – THIS REFORMATION IS ABOUT THE KINGSHIP OF ALL BELIEVERS. WE HAVE RULING, NOT LEAVING ON OUR MINDS.**

**Luke 17:26-36**

*26"And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man:*

*27"They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.*

*28"Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built;*

*29"but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.*

2. **THE DAYS OF NOAH AND DAYS OF LOT ARE COMPARED TO THE DAYS OF THE SON OF MAN. NOTICE IT IS NOT THE DAYS OF ENOCH OR ELIJAH THAT IS COMPARED HERE. IN FACT ELIJAH FAILED TO EXERCISE HIS DOMINION OVER JEZEBEL – AND WAS TAKEN AWAY BY GOD BECAUSE OF HIS ESCAPIST MENTALITY.**

**5. JOHN**

**Rev 4:1-2**

*1After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."*

*2Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.(NKJ)*

Proponents of the rapture use this scripture to advocate the disappearance of the church on the basis of the trumpet sounding before John is caught up. The trumpet sounds many times – this does not mean a rapture takes place every time the trumpet sounds. Furthermore they argue that the church is not mentioned until Rev. 19:11 because she is caught up into heaven as symbolized by John’s caught up experience.

John’s experience is personal – caught up is a reference to the vision he was having – he was still on the island of Patmos. In fact the church is mentioned several times before Rev. 19:

*Rev 13:7*

*7It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.(NKJ)*

*Rev 13:10*

*10He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.(NKJ)*

*Rev 14:12*

*12Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.(NKJ)*

*Rev 17:6*

*6I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.(NKJ)*

**The saints are the church.**

*1 Cor 1:2*

*To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:(NKJ)*

## **6. HOUR OF TRIAL**

*Rev 3:10*

*"Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.(NKJ)*

## **WORLD**

*oikoumene* ^3625^, "the inhabited earth" (see EARTH, No. 2), is used (a) of the whole inhabited world, <Matt. 24:14; Luke 4:5; 21:26; Rom. 10:18; Heb. 1:6; Rev. 3:10; 16:14>; by metonymy, of its inhabitants, <Acts 17:31; Rev. 12:9>; (b) of the Roman Empire, the world as viewed by the writer or speaker, <Luke 2:1; Acts 11:28; 24:5>; by metonymy, of its inhabitants, <Acts 17:6; 19:27>; (c) the inhabited world in a coming age, <Heb. 2:5>.#

(from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words)

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**THIS IS A REFERENCE TO THE ROMAN EMPIRE.**

**THE HOUR OF TRIAL WAS THE TRIBULATION THAT WOULD COME UPON them from the oppressive ROMAN EMPIRE.**

**KEEP YOU**

**Christ did not promise to rapture them but to keep(guard) them.**

Christ is speaking to the Church in Philadelphia – historically this is relevant to Philadelphia – they were suffering governmental persecution, ostracism, boycotts etc.

**This hour of trial was soon to come.**

**The dwellers on the land are apostate Israel who were now pagans that God was going to remove from the land.**

**The hour of trial was the oppression by the Romans and apostate Jews to destroy Christians. Instead Rome and Israel would be destroyed.**

## **7. THE TWO WITNESSES**

### ***Rev 11:3-14***

*3"And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."*

*4These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth.*

*5And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner.*

*6These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.*

*7Now when they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.*

*8And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.*

*9Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves.*

*10And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.*

*11 Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.*

*12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them.*

*13 In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand men were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.*

*14 The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.(NKJ)*

- **FIRST WITNESS: OLD AND NEW COVENANT COMMUNITY(CHURCH)**

*Isa 43:9-11*

*9 Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled. Who among them can declare this, and show us former things? Let them bring out their witnesses, that they may be justified; or let them hear and say, "It is truth."*

*10 "You are My witnesses," says the LORD, "And My servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, nor shall there be after Me.*

*11, even I, am the LORD, and besides Me there is no savior.(NKJ)*

*Isa 41:8*

*8 "But you, Israel, are My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the descendants of Abraham My friend.(NKJ)*

*Isa 44:8*

*8 Do not fear, nor be afraid; have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one."(NKJ)*

*Acts 1:8*

*8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."(NKJ)*

The covenant community are the "called out ones" (church) both in the old and the new.

The Holy City is the whole covenant community pictured as the 12 gates (12 tribes – old covenant community) and the new covenant community pictured as the 12 foundations. We are not perfect without them.

*Heb 11:40*

*God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.(NKJ)*

This community is the witness seen through the ages through certain individuals:

Elijah – shutting the heavens.

Moses – turning the water to blood

They carry the fire of God's word in their mouths. This word does not return void.

No weapon formed against this called out company will prosper. The gates of hell will not triumph against this company.

- **SECOND WITNESS(THE LORD JESUS):**

*Rev 1:5*

*and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,(NKJ)*

**THE TWO WITNESSES ARE JESUS AND HIS CHURCH.**

**THE CHURCH IS IN HIM.**

**HE IS THE OLIVE TREE – THE ANOINTED ONE.**

**THE CHURCH IS ALSO THE OLIVE TREE – WE ARE HIS ANOINTED ONES.**

**HE IS THE LAMPSTAND – JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.**

**THE CHURCH IS THE LAMPSTAND – THE CHURCH IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.**

*7Now when they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.*

**THE DEVIL WAGED WAR AGAINST JESUS – TO KILL HIM. WHEN HE DIED WE DIED WITH HIM.**

*8And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.*

**The martyrs lay on the streets of Jerusalem. Jesus lay in a tomb in Jerusalem.**

***Matt 23:35***

*"that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.(NKJ)*

**WE HE LAID IN THE TOMB WE LAY WITH HIM - BURIED WITH HIM.**

*9Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves.*

***Ps 79:1-4***

*10 God, the nations have come into Your inheritance; your holy temple they have defiled; they have laid Jerusalem in heaps.*

*2The dead bodies of Your servants they have given as food for the birds of the heavens, the flesh of Your saints to the beasts of the earth.*

*3Their blood they have shed like water all around Jerusalem, and there was no one to bury them.*

*4We have become a reproach to our neighbors, a scorn and derision to those who are around us.(NKJ)*

**THE SAINTS OF OLD WERE NOT BURIED BUT LEFT FOR VULTURES AND WILD BEASTS AS OBJECTS OF DERISION – THAT THE PROMISED LAND HAD REJECTED THEM.**

**THREE AND HALF IS A SYMBOLIC REFERENCE TO A PERIOD OF TIME DURING WHICH THE WICKED TRIUMPH.**

**IT IS ALSO A SYMBOLIC REFERENCE TO THE 42<sup>ND</sup> GENERATION.  
NOTICE THE CONSTANT REFERENCE TO 42 MONTHS(1260 DAYS, 3 AND  
HALF YEARS, TIME, TIMES AND HALF A TIME, 3 AND A HALF DAYS –  
THE SHORTENING OF TIME)**

*10And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.*

**WHEN CHRIST WAS MOCKED THE CHURCH WAS MOCKED. WHEN THE CHURCH WAS MOCKED, CHRIST WAS MOCKED.**

***Luke 23:12***

*That very day Pilate and Herod became friends with each other, for previously they had been at enmity with each other.(NKJ)*

***Matt 27:27-31***

*27Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him.*

*28And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him.*

*29When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"*

*30Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head.*

*31And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified.(NKJ)*

*11Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.*

*12And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them.*

**WHEN CHRIST ROSE FROM THE DEAD, THE CHURCH ROSE FROM THE DEAD.**

***Acts 2:43***

*43Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.(NKJ)*

***Acts 5:11***

*So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.  
(NKJ)*

**WHEN CHRIST ASCENDED, THE ENTIRE CHURCH ASCENDED.**

***Eph 1:20-23***

*20which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,*

*21far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.*

22And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,  
23which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.(NKJ)

**Eph 2:5-7**

Seven when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),  
6and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,  
7that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.(NKJ)

**THE COMING UP HITHER IS NOT RAPTURE BUT THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH WHICH IS IN HIM.**

13In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand men were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.

14The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.(NKJ)

**THIS IS A REFERENCE TO THE HOLOCAUST OF AD 66-70 – ESPECIALLY TO THE EARLY PART OF THE DESTRUCTION WHERE APOSTATE ISRAEL WAS JUDGED.**

**8. THE MAN OF SIN**

**(THE MAN OF SIN IS DESTROYED AT THE COMING OF THE LORD).**

**UNVEILING THE FALSE DIMENSION - 2 THESSALONIANS 2**

**THE MAN OF SIN**

***II Th 2:1-3:18***

*1Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you,*

**THIS IS REFERENCE TO THE PHYSICAL RETURN OF JESUS.**

*2not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.*

*3Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,*

*4who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*

*5Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?*

*6And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time.*

*7For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until (He is taken out of the way.)*

*He be taken out of (the) way*

**He comes from the midst (is manifested).**

*He be taken*

1096 ginomai-

To appear

1) to become, that is, to come into existence, to begin to be, to receive being

2) to become, that is, to come to pass, to happen;

used of events

3) to arise, to appear in history, to come upon the stage;

used of men appearing in public

4) to be made, to be finished;

used of miracles, to be performed, to be wrought

5) to become, to be made

*Out*

1537 ek or ex-

out of, from, by, away from

*the way*

3319 mesos-

1) middle

2) the midst

3) in the midst of, amongst

Paraphrase

He will appear from the midst.

THE RESTRAINT IS REMOVED WHEN HE COMES FROM or appears from THE MIDST. WHERE 2 OR 3 ARE GATHERED CHRIST IS THERE. HE IS MANIFESTED – COMES INTO THE MIDST - WHEN THE WORD IS ACCURATELY DIVIDED. HIS COMING INTO THE MIDST UNVEILS THE FALSE DIMENSION. He restrains until he makes His appearance from the midst. Christ is the restrainer.

*Matt 18:20*

*"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."(NKJ)*

*8And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.*

THIS LAWLESS DIMENSION IS REVEALED BY THE PRESENCE IN HIS WORD BUT ONLY DESTROYED AT HIS LITERAL COMING WHICH IS THE CONTEXT OF THE WHOLE PASSAGE.

(THERE ARE 2 COMINGS IN THIS SCRIPTURE – HIS COMING FROM OUR MIDST AND HIS COMING TO THE CORPORATE CHURCH. HIS COMING FROM OUR MIDST IS THE MANIFEST PRESENCE AND HIS COMING TO THE CHURCH IS PHYSICAL.

*9The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,  
10and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.  
11And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,  
12that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.  
13But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,  
14to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
15Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.  
16Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace,  
17comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.*

**The man of sin or son of perdition or lawless one is a corporate man – THE FALSE CHURCH. THE TRUE CHURCH IS THE PERFECT MAN OF EPHESIANS 4.**

**The true and the false are co-existent realities. The wheat and the tares grow together.**

**The false dimension is the corporate community of false prophets, false apostles, false teachers, false brethren etc. This dimension is intermingled with the true. The corporate community of believers has the true and the false, the wheat and the tares. THE CORPORATE FALSE COMPANY – (TARES) ARE DESTROYED AT HIS COMING:**

*, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.*

**This false community is always exposed when the Lord arises from our midst, appears in our midst or manifests in our midst. This manifestation of his presence occurs when the bread is broken – the word of God is accurately divided. At this accurate division the false dimension is exposed. This also means that the true dimension is exposed at the same time.**

**Note the following:**

- **THE TWO ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS.**

***Luke 24:16-17***

***16But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him.***

***17And He said to them, "What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?"(NKJ)***

**Luke 24:30-31**

*30 Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.*

*31 Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. (NKJ)*

The restraint (blindness) is removed when the bread was broken. At this point revelation dawns - *they knew Him*

- **JUDAS THE SON OF PERDITION**

**John 13:21-32**

*21 When Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me."*

*22 Then the disciples looked at one another, perplexed about whom He spoke.*

*23 Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.*

*24 Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask who it was of whom He spoke.*

*25 Then, leaning back on Jesus' breast, he said to Him, "Lord, who is it?"*

*26 Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it." And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.*

*27 Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly."*

*28 But no one at the table knew for what reason He said this to him.*

*29 For some thought, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus had said to him, "Buy those things we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor.*

*30 Having received the piece of bread, he then went out immediately. And it was night.*

*31 So, when he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him.*

*32 "If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and glorify Him immediately. (NKJ)*

Judas, the son of perdition who is a picture of the false dimension, and the false community is revealed to the one who is closest to Jesus after the bread is broken.

After the breaking and the eating 3 things happened to Judas:

- **SATAN ENTERED HIM**
- **HE WENT OUT IMMEDIATELY**(cannot sit at fellowship with the true)
- **HE WENT OUT INTO THE NIGHT(DARKNESS)** -

Accurate exegesis, division of the word, exposes 3 things about those who are false:

- **THEY ARE AGENTS OF SATAN.**
- **THEY CANNOT FELLOWSHIP WITH THE TRUE**

**I Jn 2:19**

*They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us. (NKJ)*

- **THEY OPERATE IN DARKNESS**

**THIS SEPARATION OF THE TRUE AND FALSE OCCUR AT THE TIME BREAD IS BROKEN.**

**Matt 27:5**

*5Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.(NKJ)*

**Acts 1:18-20**

*18(Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out.*

*19And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akel Dama, that is, Field of Blood.)*

*20"For it is written in the book of Psalms: 'Let his dwelling place be desolate, and let no one live in it'; and, 'Let another take his office.'(NKJ)*

Judas' abdomen burst open and his entrails gushed out after he fell from hanging. This metaphorically signifies that he could not absorb the bread from his digestive system – the bread that he had eaten at the table of the Lord. The false dimension cannot become a part of the true.

## **CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FALSE DIMENSION.**

### **1. MAN OF SIN**

**SIN**

**THIS DIMENSION IS ASSOCIATED WITH SIN.**

**John 16:8-11**

*8"And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:*

*9"of sin, because they do not believe in Me;*

*10"of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;*

*11"of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.(NKJ)*

**THE SIN HERE IS THE REJECTION OF CHRIST. THE MAN OF SIN IS ANTI – CHRIST OR AGAINST CHRIST..**

**I Jn 2:18**

*Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.(NKJ)*

**I Jn 2:22-23**

*22Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.*

*23Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.(NKJ)*

**I Jn 4:2-3**

*2By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,*

*3and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.(NKJ)*

**II Jn 1:7**

*For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.(NKJ)*

### **2. LAWLESS ONE**

LAWLESSNESS OR WICKEDNESS ALSO CALLED LAWLESS ONE.  
CONTRARY TO THE WORD - E.G. THE WAY OF JEROBOAM.

### **3. PERDITION**

RUIN, LOSS OR WASTE.

THIS DIMENSION IS ASSOCIATED WITH RUIN, LOSS OR WASTE.

This is the JUDAS SPIRIT.

### **4. OPPOSES GOD**

*4who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*

OPPOSITE OR CONTRARY TO GOD.

THIS IS THE RELIGIOUS SPIRIT – TEACHES FOR DOCTRINE THE TRADITIONS OF MEN AND OPPOSES SENT MEN.

### **5. EXALTS HIMSELF ABOVE GOD**

*exalts himself above all that is called God*

THIS IS THE SPIRIT OF AMBITION – ABSALOM AND ADONIJAH, JEZEBEL AND THE TOWER OF BABEL.

#### ***Isa 14:13-18***

*13For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north;*

*14I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'*

*15Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit.*

*16"Those who see you will gaze at you, and consider you, saying: 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms,*

*17Who made the world as a wilderness and destroyed its cities, who did not open the house of his prisoners?'*

*18"All the kings of the nations, all of them, sleep in glory, everyone in his own house;(NKJ)*

#### ***Gen 11:2-4***

*2And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there.*

*3Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar.*

*4And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.".(NKJ)*

### **6. CLAIMS EQUALITY WITH GOD**

*he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*

THIS IS A KORAH OPERATING SYSTEM.

### **7. UNDER RESTRAINT**

Cannot be seen because of restraint by God. God does not want the wicked to come to the revelation of the false. They are under judgement because of their lawlessness. God allows them to choose this false dimension- they feel this is truth. This is their blind spot. They choose a lie. God gave them up to choose a lie. These are the tares planted by satan.

*John 9:39-41*

*39And Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind."*

*40Then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, "Are we blind also?"*

*41Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, 'We see.' Therefore your sin remains.(NKJ)*

### **8.WORKING OF SATAN – ENERGIZED BY SATAN**

*9The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,*

*10and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*

*Acts 8:9-10*

*9But there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced sorcery in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great,*

*10to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is the great power of God."(NKJ)*

*Acts 13:8-11*

*8But Elymas the sorcerer (for so his name is translated) withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith.*

*9Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him  
10and said, "O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord?*

*11"And now, indeed, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a time." And immediately a dark mist fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand.(NKJ)*

### **9.MANIFESTATION BASED-SIGNS, WONDERS AND MIRACLES.**

*9The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,*

*2 Tim 3:8-9*

*8Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith;*

*9but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.(NKJ)*

*Exod 8:18-19*

*18Now the magicians so worked with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not. So there were lice on man and beast.*

*19Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, just as the LORD had said.(NKJ)*

### **MANIFESTATIONS IN THE TRUE DIMENSION:**

*Acts 2:22*

*"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know--(NKJ)*

*Heb 2:4*

*God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?(NKJ)*

#### **10.UNRIGHTEOUS DECEPTION**

*10and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*

#### **11.UNDER STRONG DELUSION**

*11And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,*

#### **12.BELIEVE THE LIE**

**EZEKIEL 8 – THE TEMPLE ABOMINATIONS.**

**THE OLD PROPHET AND THE YOUNG PROPHET**

#### **13.CONDEMNED**

*II Th 2:12*

*12that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.(NKJ)*

#### **THIS ENTIRE DIMENSION IS WIPED OUT AT THE COMING OF THE LORD.**

*8And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.*

**IF WE ARE TO RULE, WE MUST DISCERN THE FALSE DIMENSION AND RULE OVER IT.**

**ABRAHAM RULED.**

**ISAAC RULED. HE HAD AN HUNDRED FOLD HARVEST IN PHILISTINE TERRITORY.**

**DANIEL RULED.**

**THE 3 HEBREW BOYS RULED IN BABYLON.**

**JOSEPH RULED.**

**YOU ARE SEATED WITH HIM IN HEAVENLY PLACES – YOU MUST RULE.**

#### **BIBLICAL PATTERN**

- 1. NOAH WENT THROUGH THE FLOOD – HE WAS NOT RAPTURED.**
- 2. JACOB WENT THROUGH THE PAIN OF UNCLE LABAN'S HOUSE**
- 3. JOSEPH WENT THROUGH PIT AND PRISON BONDAGE.**
- 4. SHADRACH, MESHACH AND ABEDNEGO WENT THROUGH THE FIRE.**
- 5. DANIEL WENT THROUGH THE LION'S DEN. THE WICKED WERE KILLED DANIEL SURVIVED.**
- 6. JOB WENT THROUGH TRIALS WITHOUT BEING RAPTURED.**
- 7. ISRAEL WENT THROUGH THE 10 PLAGUES WITHOUT BEING RAPTURED.**
- 8. PAUL WENT THROUGH MANY TRIBULATIONS WITHOUT BEING RAPTURED.**
- 9. JESUS WAS NOT RAPTURED PRIOR TO THE CROSS.**

*Acts 14:22*

22strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."(NKJ)

## C. SCRIPTURES THAT INDICATE THAT THERE IS NO RAPTURE

### 1. THE DESCENDING CITY.

#### **Rev 21:2-3**

2Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.(NKJ)

The Holy City is the New Jerusalem – the bride of Christ - **THE CHURCH.**

The church is descending out of God from heaven. The church is firstly located in God – not heaven. The church is continuously descending from the invisible to the visible. **IT IS DESCENDING – NOT ASCENDING.**

**REASON: WE ARE IN HIM IN HEAVEN ALREADY.**

- **CHOSEN IN HIM**

#### **Eph 1:3-4**

3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

4just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,(NKJ)

- **CRUCIFIED WITH HIM**

#### **Rom 6:5-6**

5For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,

6knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.(NKJ)

#### **Gal 2:20**

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.(NKJ)

- **BURIED WITH HIM**

#### **Rom 6:4**

4Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.(NKJ)

#### **Col 2:12**

12buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.(NKJ)

- **RAISED WITH HIM**

#### **Col 2:11-12**

*11In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,  
12buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.(NKJ)*

**Col 3:1**

*If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.(NKJ)*

- SEATED IN HIM

**Eph 2:4-6**

*4But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,(NKJ)*

- IN HIM WE LIVE AND MOVE

**Acts 17:28**

*"for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'*(NKJ)**

- WALK IN HIM

**Col 2:6**

*As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,(NKJ)*

- BUILT UP IN HIM

**Col 2:7**

*rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.(NKJ)*

- COMPLETE IN HIM

**Col 2:10**

*and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.(NKJ)*

- CIRCUMCISED IN HIM

**Col 2:11**

*In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,(NKJ)*

**WE ARE WITH HIM AND IN HIM.**

**HE IS IN HEAVEN.**

**THUS WE ARE IN HEAVEN.**

**Phil 3:20-21**

*20For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,*

*21who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself. (NKJ)*

**THUS THE CHURCH IS A DESCENDING REALITY – WE HAVE ALREADY ASCENDED.**

**WE ASCENDED WHEN HE ASCENDED.  
WE ARE ASCENDING – IN WORSHIP AND CONSECRATION.  
WE WILL ASCEND AT THE TIME OF PHYSICAL DEATH – THE SPIRIT  
WILL GO BACK TO GOD WHO GAVE IT.**

***Eccl 12:7***

*Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.(NKJ)*

**We have descended with Christ – when He descended.  
We are descending from the invisible to the visible – the holy City.  
We will descend:**

***Jude 1:14-15***

*14Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying,  
"Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints,  
15"to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their  
ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh  
things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."(NKJ)*

**THIS IS THE SECOND COMING.**

**AT HIS COMING THE SAINTS ARE IMMORTALIZED AND THE WICKED  
DESTROYED IN JUDGEMENT.**

***II Th 1:7-10***

*7and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from  
heaven with His mighty angels,  
8in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do  
not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
9These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord  
and from the glory of His power,  
10when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among  
all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.(NKJ)*

## **2. WHEAT AND TARES**

***Matt 13:24-30***

*24Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man  
who sowed good seed in his field;  
25"but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went  
his way.  
26"But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also  
appeared.  
27"So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed  
in your field? How then does it have tares?'  
28"He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want  
us then to go and gather them up?'  
29"But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with  
them.*

*30'Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn."(NKJ)*

***Matt 13:36-43***

*36Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field."*

*37He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.*

*38"The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one.*

*39"The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels.*

*40"Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age.*

*41"The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness,*

*42"and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.*

*43"Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!(NKJ)*

**Jesus interprets the parable.**

**The tares are the ones who offend (skandalon – draw others into sin and error, causes others to stumble), and practice lawlessness. These are the wicked ones. The wheat are the righteous. They will shine forth as the sun.**

**The separation occurs at the end of the age. Thus the wicked are burned in the fire and the righteous shine forth at the end of the age. This is a kingdom parable – there is no disappearance of the righteous, but a shining forth while the wicked are destroyed - taken in judgement. THE PRINCIPLE IS THAT AT MATURITY, THE RIGHTEOUS SHINE AND THE WICKED ARE DESTROYED. THE END OF A THING IS BETTER THAN ITS BEGINNING. THE GLORY OF THE LATTER HOUSE IS GREATER THAN THE GLORY OF THE FORMER HOUSE.**

**The parable of the dragnet conveys the same truth – the wicked shall be cut off.**

***Matt 13:47-50***

*47"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind,*

*48"which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away.*

*49"So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just,*

*50"and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."(NKJ)*

**3. WE ARE TO STAND – NOT FLY AWAY.**

**Eph 6:10-13**

*10Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.*

*11Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

*12For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

*13Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.(NKJ)*

**4. WE ARE TO OCCUPY.**

**Luke 19:13**

*"So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, 'Do business till I come.'(NKJ)*

**5. FOOTSTOOL THE ENEMY.**

**Heb 10:12-13**

*12But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,*

*13from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. (NKJ)*

**Eph 1:20-23**

*20which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,*

*21far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.*

*22And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,*

*23which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.(NKJ)*

**6. THE RIGHTEOUS WILL INHERIT THE EARTH**

**Ps 37:9-11**

*9For evildoers shall be cut off; but those who wait on the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.*

*10For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more; indeed, you will look carefully for his place, but it shall be no more.*

*11But the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.(NKJ)*

**Ps 37:29**

*The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell in it forever.(NKJ)*

**It is clear, the wicked shall perish and the righteous shall inherit the earth.**

**Matt 5:5**

*Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.(NKJ)*

**THE WICKED ARE REMOVED – THE RIGHTEOUS REMAIN:**

**Prov 2:21-22**

*21For the upright will dwell in the land, and the blameless will remain in it;*

*22But the wicked will be cut off from the earth, and the unfaithful will be uprooted from it.(NKJ)*

**Prov 10:30**

*The righteous will never be removed, but the wicked will not inhabit the earth.(NKJ)*

## 7. THE CHURCH IS TRIUMPHANT

**2 Cor 2:14**

*14Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.(NKJ)*

**Matt 16:18**

*"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.(NKJ)*

The glory of the latter house is greater than the glory of the former. The church though a remnant in every generation is shifting from glory to glory and strength to strength.

**THE RAPTURE DOCTRINE PRESENTS A WEAK, ESCAPIST CHURCH THAT JESUS COMES TO RESCUE FROM THE ANTICHRIST. THE TRIUMPHANT CHURCH.**