

The Day of YaHWeH



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And the development of the Church during that "Day".

Bible study by E. van den Worm

Revised, improved edition, January 2007

“The Day of YaHWeH” or “The Day of the Lord”.

Zephaniah 1:14-18

Authorized King James version:

"The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the Lord: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's wrath; but the whole land (better translation: the whole earth) shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land (better translation: on the earth)."

Revised Standard Version:

"The day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the mighty man cries aloud there. A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring distress on men, so that they shall walk like the blind, because they have sinned against the Lord; their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them on the day of the wrath of the Lord. In the fire of his jealous wrath, all the earth shall be consumed; for a full, yea, sudden end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth."

General note:

1. We generally have used the Amplified or King James Version of the Bible.
2. We have **frequently** added text between brackets in the Bible verses **to clarify the meaning of the Bible verses**.
3. In most cases where **he** or **him** is mentioned to point to **males** it also counts for **females**.
4. It is allowed to copy the study, on which way, when the source is mentioned.
5. If this study is a blessing for you, it's our wish that the message shall be passed on to others. We ask you in the first place to attend other people on our website. But you could also, as far as we are concerned, copy it (many times), and hand it out. A margin for profit is **not** allowed hereby. See note 4, above.

New make-over: January 2009

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Judgment-“Day”.

We form "**the generation of the last days**", living in the midst of great spiritual powers, which take shape and develop in this last phase of the "end of the ages". And it is so that we, by living in the midst of these and by the merciful workings of the Holy Spirit – as regards the prophetic statements referring to this ending of God's grace and efforts towards the sinful human race – shall receive more and more light (and thus insight, understanding). We shall then, by the practice of life and by the time wherein we live, as pardoned children of God, see and understand better everything about the end time.

And the closer we near the absolute end of God's period of mercy, the more perfect will be our vision of all this, by the light (and thus insight) of the Holy Spirit.

Let us therefore be guided completely by the written prophecies of Scripture, without a prejudiced heart; without any prejudice as a result of a conviction formed by the established ideas of people, however "wise" they may seem in our eyes; in order to, under the excellent guidance of the Holy Spirit, arrive at the real truths of the developments and powers, already prophesied many ages ago, with which we will be confronted, namely everything regarding the final acts (the events of the end time) of God's warring Church on earth, and her enemies of the last hour.

This short study of the developments with regard to the end of the world and the last judgment, in the light of what we see as the sincere approach of Scripture, will hopefully form a contribution to the achievement of a complete insight and explanation of God's prophetic Word regarding these last days. The Lord will certainly lead (the members of) His Church hereto, those that have a prayerful and thankful and wise heart.

What do we understand with “the Day of the Lord” or “the Day of JaHWeH”?

Zeph. 1:14-18 *already cited before (see page 2).*

Scripture understands herewith the time of God's judgements, which come over the sinful Church and world during the end time.

Scripture knows 3 sorts of divine judgements:

1. **Seal judgements**, by which 1/4th of mankind of 6 billion men (i.e. 1,5 billion people) die. These judgements are to bring Christians, who are fallen in sin and spiritual sleep to repent

Revelation 6:8b *“And power was given unto them over the fourth of the earth (i.e. 1,5 billion people), to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with (violent) death, and with the beasts of the earth.”*

1 Peter 4:17 *“For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God (i.e. the Church): and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?”*

2. **Trumpet judgements**, by which 1/3rd of the – after the seal judgement left – mankind of 4,5 billion men will die (also 1,5 billion people). These judgements are to bring the sinful **world** – the worldly-minded mankind, also the worldly-minded Christians – to repent.

Revelation 9:18 *“By these three (plagues) was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.”*

3. **Vial judgements**, by which finally the **whole anti christian world** will be killed.

Matt. 24:38-39 *“For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the (second) coming of the Son of man be.”*

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

The apostle John by the Holy Spirit was brought in his spirit into this end time.

Rev. 1:10a *“I (i.e. John) was in the Spirit on the Lord's day.”*

In this study only the seal judgement are treated.

Wherefore are these end time judgements?

Isaiah 26:9b *“...for when thy judgments are in the earth, we inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.”*

These final divine judgement come unexpected like the woe's of a pregnant woman, which come **suddenly**, with still shorter intervals, which are still increasing in violence.

1 Thess. 5:1-11 *“But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say,*

Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day (i.e. children of the heavenly Father): we are not of the night, nor of darkness (i.e. thus NO children of the satan¹). Therefore let us not (spiritually) sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do."

God's prophetic Word

2 Peter 1:19-21

Authorized King James Version:

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star (type of – the faith in – the Lord Jesus Christ) arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

Revised Standard Version:

"And we have the prophetic word made more sure. You will do well to pay attention to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by the impulse of man, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."

¹ We write the word satan not with a capital, as it is not a name, but a word meaning opponent or adversary, accuser.

I.

Satan's great attack in the last days.

Satan will initiate a **great spiritual attack** in the last days, because he knows, that he only has "a short time" (Revelation 12:12). We will discuss this five-fold attack point by point.

Firstly:

He will tempt young people to rebellion (aggression). First against their parents (many hate their parents); later on against police and government. He leads them to lawlessness, disorderly behavior and criminality; **to reject all discipline**, all standards, all "shoulds". This youth, which grows up with vandalism, soon will form the human race of the last days. Think of the Teddy boys, the Punkers, and the youth gangs. Also think of drug abuse, drug criminality and the drug prostitution of many young people, and of senseless violence (regularly with fatal results) in this end time! **A rebellious youth becomes a rebellious people** (Psalm 2:1-3). And, in the midst of these young people the Christian youth grows up, and many are corrupted!

Secondly:

We live in a period of welfare. **Satan tempts people to gain property and riches** (wealth), and to enrich themselves. One seeks money, whereby many act as if all means are allowed in order to reach this goal. Fraud, bank and cash register robberies, preying on people (kidnapping, hostage taking) for large sums of money, are increasing steadily, and this is an ominous sign! Also the "right" ways to get money, namely through work, are making big money these days. But the devil makes people money-crazy. One wants to earn more and more money, by way of strikes, but also through working overtime; husband and wife often also both work in order to satisfy the hunger for material possessions (James 5:1-6; Luke 17:28 b).

The expensive summer and/or winter vacations are also a sign of affluence, whereby passions are often indulged, especially during beach holidays. Not to mention sex-tourism, whereby especially children are abused by tourists. Many people walk around with big holiday dreams.

Unfortunately, many Christians are also filled with these idolatrous thoughts of affluence. They, too, crave (many) possessions and (great) wealth, and are tempted therewith (Luke 14:17-18; Revelation 3:14-17). Also many Christians, just as the worldly men, will become true materialists by the time "the Son of man will be revealed", and will think and live in Euros or in Dollars. **This is why there will be a coldness and half-heartedness in the Church of the end time** (the Laodician church; see Revelation 3:14-22), for God and Mammon (i.e. the god of money) cannot be served simultaneously (Matthew 6:24; 1 Timothy 6: 9-10); which is why Jesus is outside the heart of the "Laodician" (Revelation 3:20).

Thirdly:

Satan tempts people to an ever increasing worship of the sex and fertility goddesses (Venus, Aphrodite); the devil makes people sex-crazy by ever in-creasing nudity, and by talking about sex, even publicly, in a way as if discussing the preparation of a meal. Also by way of the increasing sex-clubs, sex shops, sex magazines and sex books, and (through the computer) on internet. But also through advertising (on TV and even in the street through large billboards), whereby sex is used as an eye catcher. Also by the increasingly obscene sex films in theatres (and on home videos or DVD), and at present also "simply" on the (TV) screen.

All this is the cause that people are easily tempted to free sex, group sex, homosexual sex, lesbian sex, and even to sex with children and animals! Because of all this adultery and fornication are increasingly thought normal by the masses (Leviticus 18).

More and more people are also addicted to pornography, hard porno as well as child porno, with all the consequences thereof. Rape (of adults and children), and incest, occur more and more frequently. We even hear, quite regularly, that (especially young) victims of this involuntary deed are murdered (often in a gruesome way)! It is often shocking to hear what people are capable of in order to satisfy their sexual cravings (lusts).

This spirit of sex and pleasure will also try and gain entrance **into the hearts of Christians**, and the experiencing of sex before marriage is considered normal more and more frequently among Christians. Because of this their hearts are filled more and more with these unholy things, and the relationship with God and Christ (namely the prayer life) is pushed to the background, or will soon be neglected (Matthew 24:38-39; Luke 14:19-20; 17:26-28 a).

Fourth:

The devil also tempts people to turn to alcohol, and (especially) the young people to **drugs**, because of the dark, difficult and hopeless last days. The devil also increases the lusts through other senses; these days one sees almost all families glued to the TV, in the evening hours, to watch exciting and immoral films! Present-day man also makes an idol of his stomach (Philippians 3:19; Romans 16:18).

Because of all these temptations the Christian's prayer life will decrease, and he/she will become cold and dry and will increasingly stay away from the congregational meetings.

Fifth:

Satan also tempts through false laborers! Especially in the last days (Matthew 24:4-5, 24). These laborers of darkness pretend to be "angels of light" (2 Corinthians 11:13-15). They are born "actors", they pretend. At first sight their behavior is not distinguishable from the real thing! They also know anointings, ministries and the drive to

labor, but their charisma (namely their spiritual attraction and/or persuasive power) then is from satan, and certainly not from the Love of God; they perform wonders, but from satan, who is the father of lies (Matthew 7:15-23; 2 Thessalonians 2:9); they pass on false prophecies (Matthew 24:11), and so mislead people by feeding the thought that God is with them, notwithstanding all contradictions in their lives. We are to test every laborer of God, whether he is of God (or: sent by God) (1 John 4:1).

These false laborers are part of the group of "the mystery of iniquity" (2 Thessalonians 2:7-9), to which also the "Great Whore" belongs, this is the political Babylonian global church of the last days (Revelation 17:1-15), and **from which the antichrist and the false prophet will arise**, who will persecute the true children of God (verse 6).

This group (or wing), who nevertheless call themselves Christians, is an abomination in God's eyes; wherefore, in God's Word, they are also indicated by the name "the overspreading of abominations" (Daniel 9:27). In the bible the antichrist is, amongst others, indicated by the name "the abomination of desolation" (Matthew 24:15), because he will be the destroyer of the sincere Christians, as well as the (insincere) name-Christians (the so-called "abominable wing") (Revelation 17:16-17; Revelation 18).

These misleading laborers (namely satan's workers, who pretend to be "christian") have already existed from the beginning of Christianity (1 John 2:18-20). In the bible they are also called "synagogues of satan" (Revelation 3:9). The bible also calls the Jews, who tempted the early Christians with their Judaic (i.e. legalistic) attitude, by this name (Revelation 2:9).

Let us therefore heed Peter's biblical advice:

1 Peter 5:8-9 *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may (read: can) devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world."* (Verse 9 translated more plainly: *But you can resist his attacks better if you put your trust firmly in the Lord, in faith, knowing that Christians the world over must suffer the same.*)

II.

God's "work plan".

The Book with the seven seals.

Revelation 5:1-5 *"And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book (a scroll) written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof."*

It is to John's, and other true children of God's, sorrow that the scroll (book) is sealed. But, what is this sealed book? It is **the Word of God**, which in many cases for the repentant person, especially those of the end times, still is a closed and sealed Book. **It contains God's mysteries of godliness**; namely **the hidden things of God**, which are meant for His Church of the last days. It concerns the developments God will let His Church go through in order to make her, in a relatively short time, into a **(perfect) Bride Church**. God also speaks therein of **the shaping of the Bride**, and of the last stages unto **the perfecting of the Bride**, that she be ready to marry the Lamb of God; but it also speaks of the judgments, that will go over the whole world.

This scroll therefore is **the Word of God**, wherein the prophecies of the end time and God's perfect plan with His Church, which will find its completion in the end time, at first are still sealed with seven seals, but soon will be revealed when all seals are broken (Revelation 10:7). This sevenfold seal of God's perfect will is satan's doing, who has always wanted to keep man from understanding God's will by polluting His Word with false deceptions of spirit and flesh, and by tempting sincere Christians to sin. This is why the opening of the seals of this Book are accompanied by the breaking through of His Spirit's power (the first opening), and judgments of God (the other six openings), ever increasing in force.

In 1 Timothy 3 verse 16 we read:

"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."

This **mystery of godliness** refers to **the Church**, for she must **be made righteous**; and who will be made perfect in these last days (made ready as the Bride of the Lamb). **It is this godliness** – namely God fully dwelling in and through the flesh (read: body, soul and spirit) of the true Christian – **which shall be revealed in the last days in a very special way.**

Revelation 5:6-14 *"And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts (literally: the "living creatures"), and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God² sent forth into all the earth. 7 And he (the Lamb) came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. 8 And when he (the Lamb) had taken the book, the four beasts (the "living creatures") and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them*

² See the study: **"The 7 Spirits of God and of the Lam of God"**, for FREE on www.endtime-messenger.com

harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. 9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; 10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. 11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts (the "living creatures") and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; 12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. 13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. 14 And the four beasts (the "living creatures") said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever."

Only the Lamb is worthy to open the book and to break its seals. The seals to be opened are one by one God's judgments over this world (the so-called "seal judgments"). These judgments will have their effect among God's children for their (complete) repentance and redemption from the many bonds and bondages, whereby God can heal His children, and lead them in all **godliness**, whereunto He has called them (Isaiah 26:9 b). When all seals are opened, and all these judgments are going over the world, then the Book is **open**, and God will be able to reveal His complete **fulfilling will** unto His people, that have been prepared hereto by His judgements; whereby God will be able to lead them herein.

The seal judgments, when opened, will develop in ever increasing measure in this sinful world of the end time. The trumpet and vial or vessel judgments, that will follow the seal judgments, are once-only actions of God's wrath.

The first seal judgement condemns the false teaching, the deceptive dogmas, the disfigurement of God's Word by flesh (man) and spirit (satanic teachings), and will restore **the true Word of God** in and by the power of the Holy Spirit. The following seal judgments form judgments of God over sin in this world of the last days.

I also should like to point out to you that these seals (with the judgments) will be opened by the Lamb. He, therefore, brings about these judgments.

Revelation 6:1-8 "And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts (literally: the "living creatures") saying, Come and see. And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he (the rider) that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer. And when he (the Lamb) had opened the second seal, I (John) heard the second beast say, Come and see. And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword. And when he (the Lamb) had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast (a "living creature") say, Come and see! And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts (the "living creatures") say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine (type of the true children of God). And when he (the Lamb) had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast (a "living creature") say, Come and see! And I looked, and behold a pale horse; and his name that sat on him was (violent) Death, and Hell followed with him (namely all the souls that were killed by him). And power was given unto them over the fourth of the earth (i.e. 1,5 billion people), to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with (violent) death, and with the beasts of the earth."

The first four seals are four horses with their riders, and they are introduced by the four heavenly "animals" (literally: the "living creatures"). The four "animals" and the twenty-four elders form groups of people, God "bought" with His blood "out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation" (Revelation 5:8-9). The four "animals" reveal, in particular, the four qualities of the Lord Jesus Christ:

- the Lion - the royalty of Jesus; He is King!
- the Calf - the servanthood of Jesus; He is the Lamb of God!
- the Man - the pure humanity of Jesus!
- the Eagle - the godliness of Jesus!

The first "animal" spoke with the thundering voice of God (Job 37:4-5). It is believed, that all four "animals" did this, as they are **full of God** (Revelation 4:6; 5:6).

What relationship is there between these four "animals" and the first four seal judgments? The four "animals" reveal Christ as God's light-bringing and healing Word, which is alive and powerful (Hebrews 4:12); and also as His redemptive judgments (chastisements); the first four judgments do this too. The judgments are seen as horses, these are spiritual powers God has released upon man, and on His children in particular (1 Peter 4:17; Jeremiah 25:29).

The first horse is white. And **white in God's Word is always the color of God's righteousness**. This white horse, therefore, represents **the power of God's Word and Spirit**, on which is seated the rider (the servant that brings God's true Word).

Some see in this white horse and its rider the power of the antichrist. In my opinion this opinion misses the biblical foundation, for to this rider is given a crown, which implies victory. And that victory is given him (i.e. the rider) in advance. After all, Jesus Christ did win the victory over sin (Hebrews 9:11-12 and 14-15; 2 Corinthians 2:14-16)! On the contrary, God made the antichrist take off his crown (hat) (Ezekiel 21:25-27).

The other three horses are powers of darkness, which God allows in this world according to a firm plan.

The first seal

The revealing, condemning and chastising Word of God shall in the end time be brought in all its **arousing power**.

Revelation 14:6 "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven (the Kingdom of heaven on earth, which is the Church) having the **everlasting Gospel** to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to **every** nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people."

Habakkuk 2:14 "For He will **fill the earth with the knowledge and the glory of YaHWeH** as the waters cover the bottom of the sea." (literal translation)

Yet the true insight and will of God in regard with His Word among the Christians will really break through not before God has poured out (the light of) His Holy Spirit upon all flesh.

Joel 2:28a "And it shall come to pass **afterward** (after the spiritual healing /restoration of the Church), that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh."

God anoints His servants of the last hour for this labor in great measure, with His Holy Spirit, and gives them light and knowledge of His true Word. Already introductory latter rain showers have fallen (type of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit), starting with the first years of the twentieth century; the so-called "Pentecostal revival" broke through then. In my opinion the first seal was opened then. **This rider on his white horse** is in my opinion a picture of **the forerunners (pioneers)** of the human spiritual army of the Lord, who in the end time will be anointed **to prepare the way** for His end time army, who shall labor **in the power of the Holy Spirit** during the **battle**, against the severe attacks of satan, attacks we already discussed in the former chapter. So the healing (restoration) of His Church will be brought about and many, yea **countless** (Rev, 7:9) people are then brought to Christ, notwithstanding satan's attacks, and satan's undermining powers in relation to the brotherhood (= the gathering [and especially the oneness in spirit] of believers in the fear and love of the God), and the Word of God among the true children of God, are stopped and defeated.

The bow in the hand of this rider tells us about his weapon; namely the Word of God (Psalm 7:12-13; Habakkuk 3:9; Lamentations 2:4; 3:12).

The war against satan was fought and won by Jesus on Calvary, finished and won by Him. Therefore this rider has no arrow (because this is a weapon of assault). He, himself, shares Jesus' victory, and gives, by the preaching of the Gospel, also his listeners – if they accept the preached word – a part in that victory.

After the Bride of God's Lamb has been clothed with divine **majesty** and **power**

- of the Father (pictured by the sun),
- of the son of God (pictured by the moon) and
- of the Holy Spirit (pictured by the 12 stars),

our Lord Jesus Christ in His function of Lord of hosts, as **Michael**, shall wage war against the 7 headed sin dragon, who keeps himself hidden within the Church members and through His human warriors, has victory within the **true part** of His Church.

Revelation 12:1 "And there appeared a great wonder in heaven (i.e. the kingdom of heaven here on earth, namely the Church); a woman (before: **the Bride**, but now she is **married to the Lamb**) clothed with the sun (type of the Father), and the moon (type of the blood covenant of the Son) under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars (type of the Holy Spirit)."

Revelation 12:3 "And there appeared another wonder in heaven (the kingdom of heaven here on earth: the Church); and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads."

Revelation 12:7-11 "And there was war in heaven (the kingdom of heaven here on earth: the Church): **Michael³** and his angels (the Lord Jesus and His servants) fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels (satan and his servants), And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven (the kingdom of heaven on earth: the Church). And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the devil, and satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth (image of the world of unrepented people; also that part of the church that did not repent), and his angels were cast out with him (out of the Church, the Body of Christ). And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren (and sisters) is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they (His true disciples, the "wise"-man in the Church) overcame him (i.e. satan) by the (faith in) blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony (whereby also others will share this victory); and they loved not their (earthly, sinful) lives unto the death (until their sinful life – already here on earth – has died off, by the purifying Fire of the Spirit, so that they may live without spot or wrinkle, faultless; see Ephesians 5:27)."

The second seal.

The opening thereof brings the violence of war into the world. In my opinion this seal was broken with the First World War (1914-1918). Peace has been taken away from the earth since then. With the passing of time we indeed see this violence of war fill the earth: "wars and rumors of war" (Matthew 24:6-7) nowadays reach our ears, and we, ourselves, will have to experience this.

Why does God allow wars and violence of war? In order to remove the worship of prosperity out of the heart and life of His children. He destroys money and property in order to have His children focus solely on Him, that His

³ Michael = Type of Jesus as the Lord of hosts, the Commander of God's army (the godly army of human workers and angels).

children will no longer lean on money, namely Mammon (i.e. the god of money and property), but solely on Him! Once we have learned to trust Him as an almighty Helper in our need, then He will bring us safely through this violence of war (Psalm 91:1-9).

The third seal

The opening thereof brings famines into the world. Many famines, the terrible pictures whereof we could see on TV regularly, are etched on our memories for good. Many will still follow these as a result of continual drought or too much rain, as well as of devastating germs that attack grains and other crops. These famines could also be caused by continual insect plagues; and they also could be the result of wars.

Why does God allow this third seal? Because many of God's children have made their belly (stomach) their idol (Romans 16:18; Philippians 3:19). If we do not worship this idol God will help us through. God's command to the third horse and its rider was: "Hurt not the oil and the wine!" **Oil and wine here represent the true children of God**, who are in His sanctuary (shelter). God could feed Elijah by way of raven with bread and meat (1 Kings 17:4-6), and later on by way of the measure of flour and oil in the cruse, which never ran out (verses 13-15). In a similar way He will be able to feed His true children and help them through a prevailing famine.

The fourth seal

The opening thereof brings violent death into the world in order to kill a fourth part of the human race by wars, famines, murders, pestilences and wild beasts. This satanic power will increasingly stir up aggression and the lust to kill in the world of the last days. Because of that lust to kill fear will come into the hearts of the people! Global-embracing epidemics (contagious, rapidly spreading diseases) shall also affect man.

Why does God allow this judgment to go over the human race? Because of the worship of the lusts of life, which people know in these end-times. The lust for sex, which reaches its height among present-day people; the pleasures of life people chase after; the lust for holidays, which is more and more indulged. These lusts of the flesh, because they have reached idolatrous proportions, will hinder the relationship with Christ and also the prayer life.

The first four seal judgments are intended to draw away the children of God from these idolatrous cravings and lusts, that they might repent (fully), turn away completely from all sin, and return (completely) to God. They (the judgments) are to teach God's children to take shelter in Him (see Psalm 91). They are to turn the attention of all of mankind off the earthly, off the material things and its lusts, and are to bring them to the point where they open their hearts unto Christ, and unto the glories of the godliness He offers us, especially in these last days. In this light we are to see the "compelling" of Luke 14:23. After all, **the Marriage of the Lamb will take place in these last days** (see Revelation 19:6-9). Because of these four judgments this will happen indeed, and His Bride (Church) learns to get ready for this.

The fifth seal

Revelation 6:9-11 "And when he (the Lamb) had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until (the number of) their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled."

The opening of this seal again brings persecution in our days, but then because of the faith and the labor in Christ. In countries, where communistic ideology reigns (reigned) this religious persecution has already begun. But also the essentially anti-Christian Islam is adopting an ever increasing aggressive attitude towards Christianity; this will also be done by the false church, the world church of the last days, in the so-called "Christian" countries (Revelation 17:1-15). So, the hatred against Christ, against God and His Anointed (i.e. His (true) Church) will flare up (Psalm 2:1-3) the world over, and the true Church of Christ will have to take in a hidden-church position.

Why has also this seal been systematically included by God in His work plan? God does this in order to separate the true children of God from the insincere (Matthew 3:12; 13:30; 13:49). The insincere Christians will, by this fan of God, be revealed and the "grain" (namely the sincere Christian) will be left, despite the troubles this fan will cause. In this way the "lukewarm" will be spat out of Christ's mouth (Revelation 3:16; Matthew 24:9-10), and so the true Church of Christ will remain, consisting of the Bride Church, typified by the imagery in Revelation 12:1-2, and by the "remnant of her seed" (Revelation 12:17). Later on the Bridegroom will branch off into

- the "male son" – these are those, which within (the group of) the Bride of the Lamb have grown into the perfect nature of Christ⁴, the 144,000 (Revelation 14:1-5; Isaiah 66:6-9) – and
- the other members of the Bride of the Lamb, who, although in the spiritual sense are already blameless, without spot or wrinkle (Ephesians 5:26-27), have not yet fully grown into the Christ-nature.

More on this later.

⁴ Jesus comes as groom for His – already on earth – cleansed bride. The wedding of the Lamb is a fact and **his wife** (before named the bride) **is then** (after the wedding) **pregnant** (see Rev. 12:2) **of the spiritual sons, the 144,000 who come forth from her** by the Holy Spirit Who dwells and works in them.

Opposite this true Church of Christ stands the "anti-bride", namely the false church, the world church of the last days, also called in the bible "Babylon the Great" (Revelation 16:9; 17:5; 18:2), "Mystery" (Revelation 17:5) or "the Great Whore" (Revelation 17:1; 19:2). This (false) church, which is led by satan, because she will also have political power, will, as we know, **persecute the true Church** (Revelation 7:6)!

It is only during the antichrist's reign, namely during the Great Tribulation, lasting 3.5 years, the remaining part of the Church (among which the so-called foolish virgins) will have to undergo her true "Calvary" by the murdering hand of the antichrist. But more on this, and on the "taken away" and the "hidden part" of the true Church later.

The sixth seal

Revelation 6:12-17 "And I beheld when he (the Lamb) had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places (through great earthquakes). And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand (before Him)?"

By the opening of the sixth seal the world will be brought into the era of the cataclysms (these are great natural disasters), who will increase, in number as well as in force, unto the end. Therefore mention is made in the last few lines of this part of the bible, of **the return of Christ as King and Judge**. For, by these ever increasing cataclysms the earth is also being prepared for her new task during the Millennium of Christ. After all, nature will be changed radically at the time of the Millennium (Zechariah 14:6-7; Isaiah 30:26). Therefore there will be tremendously severe earthquakes, yes, the whole earth will totter, be shaken back and forth (Isaiah 24:19-20; Matthew 24:7 b); and there will be heat waves (Revelation 16:8-9), tidal waves (Luke 21:25-26), etc.

However, this seal too will help the Lord to reach His objective with His Church, because the cataclysms, ever increasing in number and force, tell us of His fast approaching coming and they will make us live **in the fear of God** (Isaiah 26:9 b).

The seventh seal

Revelation 8:1-2 "And when he (the Lamb) had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets."

The opening of the seventh seal causes half an hour's silence in heaven, but it brings the seven trumpet judgments over the earth (and her inhabitants), judgments which, amongst others, will show a further development concerning the cataclysms (natural disasters, etc.).

What does this mysterious silence in heaven entail; why does one, as it were, hold his breath in heaven? This has to be caused by a very significant event on earth. In my opinion **the Marriage is then taking place on earth, and the Bridegroom, is invisibly, namely in and by the Holy Spirit, united with His Bride, the Church, for ever**. His wife then, because of the seal judgments, has prepared herself (spiritually), and has been given by the Holy Spirit the white robe of the righteousness of God, on account of this preparation (Revelation 19:7-8), after which the Great Succoth (i.e. the harvest feast) can (and will) begin, namely the Great Latter-Rain Revival, a revival in and by the power of the Holy Spirit, which will be **poured out** in the end times (Joel 2:23). And because of this Great Harvest of the end time many souls will still be won (Revelation 14:14-16; Joel 2:28-32; Luke 12:35-40; Matthew 24:14).

Revelation 8:3-5 "And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand. And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake."

After that wonderful, heavenly silence and the preparing of the seven trumpet angels, John saw another Angel, the Angel of prayer and worship. Who this Angel is, we can read in Romans 8:26. It is the Holy Spirit in His ministry of Interceder and Worshiper in and by the believer.

Here the saints pray; most certainly in connection to their ministry in the last Great Revival in that Latter-Rain period. The censer of the Angel is filled with fire from the altar. This is the heavenly altar, which can be compared with the altar for burnt offerings (type of the complete dying to the old life) in the Israelitic Tabernacle, and thus a reference to the (perfect) offer of Christ on Calvary. In other words, the prayers of the saints, together with their worship in and by the Holy Spirit, find their origin in the unsurpassed offer of the Lord Jesus Christ. Then the answer to those prayers is cast on the earth: voices on the one hand, and thunderclaps, lightning flashes, and earthquakes on the other. This means: on the one hand God's grace for those who have repented; and on the other, God's judgment over those, who have not been willing to repent. Here He works together with His servants and handmaidens in that great harvest (of souls) of the end time!

The opening of the seventh seal also reveals the contents of the Scroll. Now the initially closed (and thus uncomprehended) Book can be read and understood by all. Then God's "**mystery concerning the godliness of the last days**" will be a **clearly revealed and comprehensible matter for us** (Habakkuk 2:14)!

At present, we are immediately before the opening of the seventh seal; in my opinion the other six were already opened, and each seal judgment now has its own proceeding development. Soon the full mystery of God's godliness will be known to us, and we will no longer see "in a mirror as in a dark glass" (1 Corinthians 13:12), but then we shall see and comprehend the full will of God in all its clarity. To God be all glory!

III. The Body of Christ:

The developments of the Bride-Church in the last days.

The Pentecostal Revival around the years 1920-1930.

Thanks to the Pentecostal revival, which began in the beginning of the twentieth century and which still has its after-effects, we (fortunately) again have **Spirit-filled laborers of the Lord** today; this is something which has not been the case after the first Pentecost – at the apostle's time (see Acts 2:1-4), and the after-effects in the period thereafter.

This revival was the direct result of the opening of the first seal (Revelation 6:1-2), after which the white horse and its rider set out. **It is God's reviving power in and by the Holy Spirit**, we have called the "Pentecostal Movement" from the start. Firstly, because this movement (of the Holy Spirit) is of God, and secondly, because it came in the power and with the spiritual manifestations of the first Pentecost. Tongues, prophecy, prayer healings and the like occurred, and do occur again, in the lives of Christians; things of which they initially thought only occurred in the starting period of the Church.

A parable which clearly illustrates this Pentecostal-revival of these last days is the well-known parable of the ten virgins (Matt. 25:1-13). Wonderfully clear our Lord described in the parable the glorious (re)entry of the Holy Spirit in this end time-world: "**Then shall the Kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps and went forth to meet the bridegroom...**" (verse 1).

"Ten" is the biblical number of "fullness", of "wholeness", and stresses the "virginity", the "purity" of this group. The "oil", the "burning lamps", and the "going forth to meet the Bridegroom", clearly speak of **a time of great revival in and by the Holy Spirit**, during the revival of those days; the time, at which the Marriage of the Lamb was, and is, expected by the true people of God. These are the days when the "Maranatha, come soon Lord Jesus!" was, and is, heard repeatedly and clearly.

Unfortunately, the Pentecostal movement of this end time – by its lack of vigilance and by its inattentiveness and false spiritual insight – has lost much of its enthusiasm and passion of the starting time. Its inattentiveness is also expressed by the Lord in the fact, that only five of the ten (thus half) take oil in their vessels. This oil in their vessels or oil with them does not mean oil in reserve, as one thought at first, but of oil, namely the power of the Holy Spirit, for their **personal sanctification**; while oil in their lamps speaks of the power of the Holy Spirit in their witness towards others. The oil in their vessels therefore speak of a life which has its roots in the Holy Spirit; also in the period of spiritual decline which was to come thereafter. This time of (spiritual) decline is expressed in the parable of the "wise and foolish virgins" by the slumbering and the falling-asleep of **all!**

The great desertion (abandoning) of the last days.

We already dealt with this spiritual decline – immediately before the Lord's return – in the first chapter. It is caused by powers of satan, who aim for this spiritual decline, and which are typified in the bible book of Joel by "the palmerworm, the locust, the cankerworm and the caterpillar" (Joel 1:4), and by a "nation" (army) (verses 6-7). We can read about the spiritual decline after the Pentecostal revival at the beginning of the twentieth century, the eroding (hollowing out) of that which initially was so wonderful, in verses 8-20 of this chapter of Joel's. In the Song of Solomon 5:2-3 we can read that this slumbering even occurs in that part of the Church, which belongs to the Bride.

Nevertheless, also in periods of spiritual decline God has kept His 7000 faithful (1 Kings 19:14-18). These faithful form, in and by the power of the Holy Spirit, the army of Christ (like as many Elijah's), who fight each decline of Christian brotherhood (= the being together [and especially one in the Spirit] of believers, in the fear and love of God), and undermine **the true Word of God**. They are the seven "thunderclaps" that will **shake awake God's people** in the power of God, after "the Lion of Judah (type of Jesus as Victor) will have roared" (Revelation 10:3). They serve as many "sounding Boards" that pass on the "victory roar" of the Lion of Judah. In the parable of the ten virgins this "awakening", this general **(spiritual) awakening of God's Church** is described by the "midnight cry": "**Behold, the Bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet him!**" (Matthew 25:6).

Because of this, satan's, large-scale attack during the last days the Church mostly leads an **unconverted** spiritual life. Five out of the seven churches of Revelation 2 and 3 – who, together, form the Church of God in this world of the end time – thus some 70 percent, are told by Christ to **repent**, notwithstanding their human efforts. Because of this the Church as a whole has become lukewarm and close to disappearance. And when, presently, the large fan

of the Tribulation will also afflict the Church, this "chaff", when one does not repent, will be blown away and disappear (from the picture) of the Church. Therefore Christ "spued her out of His mouth" (Revelation 3:14-22). The (predicted) large falling away from Christ during the last days will then take place (Matthew 24:9-13; 2 Thessalonians 2:3). But in the place of the apostate church (members) a new people will be saved by the last, great revival.

The restoration of the Church.⁵

After the "midnight cry" the "wise, but also the foolish virgins" trim their lamps (Matthew 25:6-7). But only the "wise" part will know spiritual restoration. Then the testimonies of the wise part will be lively and powerful again; and the Bride (Church) will prepare herself to receive the "Bridal clothes" (Revelation 19:7-8); after which the latter rain (type of the **outpouring** of the Holy Spirit in the end time), with its wondrous workings, can begin (Joel 2:18-27). Then the doors – which lead to the Marriage feast – will be opened, for the (sincere) Christians from other denominations (Luke 14:2); but also for the new people (verse 23), who, under the pressure of the circumstances, will repent unto Christ and will receive the Bridal clothes. These "Bridal clothes" are required in order to enter in to this spiritual feast and to remain there (Matthew 22:11-13).

The declined Church (spiritually seen, of course) – by God's faithful, and the power of the Holy Spirit, and the breakthrough of God's true (i.e. eternal) Gospel (see Revelation 14:6) – will be **restored**. This restoration of the Church will take place before the beginning of the great Revival in this world. For this purpose the Christ, Who, in the Holy Spirit, returned unto His Church, and Who, through this same Holy Spirit, will take the leadership in **His own hand** in order to **lead the Church (members) unto the victory over (the power of) sin**. This is also the very first prophecy John received on Patmos (see Revelation 1). He took the seven stars (the leadership) in His own hand. This event was also prophesied by Paul in Ephesians 1:9-10. By "heaven and earth", in verse 10, is meant: all that will take place in the Church (heaven, namely the kingdom of heaven on earth), and in the world (the earth, namely the great worldwide Revival).

The 144,000 sealed.⁶

Revelation 7:1-8 “And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth (nl. satanic, destructive powers), that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east (picture of God's throne), having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. **And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.**

Of the tribe of	Juda	were sealed twelve thousand.
Of the tribe of	Reuben	were sealed twelve thousand.
Of the tribe of	Gad	were sealed twelve thousand.
Of the tribe of	Aser	were sealed twelve thousand.
Of the tribe of	Nephtalim	were sealed twelve thousand.
Of the tribe of	Manasses	were sealed twelve thousand.
Of the tribe of	Simeon	were sealed twelve thousand.
Of the tribe of	Levi	were sealed twelve thousand.
Of the tribe of	Issachar	were sealed twelve thousand.
Of the tribe of	Zabulon	were sealed twelve thousand.
Of the tribe of	Joseph (Ephraim)	were sealed twelve thousand.
Of the tribe of	Benjamin	were sealed twelve thousand.”

In this period the 144,000 of Christ will also be sealed: namely that part of the Bride that, by the Holy Spirit, will be **perfected (unto the Christ-nature) already here on earth**. In Scripture it is clearly stated where these chosen of God are drawn from; namely out of **the twelve tribes of the people of Israel**, with the exception of the tribe of **Dan** (Revelation 7:1-8).

Many groups, churches and denominations have declared **themselves** (on the basis of a.o. Romans 11:17) to being this chosen part of the Church of Christ, and say that they are the sealed, perfected Bride, the "144,000", and because of that fact it might be wise to join them!

But Christ chooses His 144,000 out of the tribes of Israel, out of **the twelve tribes of Israel**. Already in the Old Testament Israel was called the wife of God

(Isaiah 54:1-8), whom, indeed, He had to abandon once because of their disobedience unto Him, but whom He would adopt again later on. This re-adoption at the end of time is sung by many prophets: by a.o. Isaiah (54:1-8); Jeremiah (30:18-20; 31:3-4); Ezekiel (chapter 37; 39:25, 29; chapter 48); Hosea (3:4-5); Amos (9:11-15), and Obadiah (17-21). In the New Testament, too, it is mentioned, especially by Paul (Romans 11, especially in verse 15!).

Two tribes (namely Judah and Benjamin, but also many of Levi) continued to exist as "Jews", in spite of all pogroms (i.e. the persecution of Jews in Eastern Europe, and in the former Soviet Union), the holocaust (i.e. the

⁵ See the study: “*The Divine healing work in the Church of the end time*”, for FREE on www.endtime-messenger.com

⁶ See the study: “*Thou, people of Israel, wake up!*”, for FREE on www.endtime-messenger.com

intended general extermination, especially of the Jews, in the Second World War), and other kinds of oppression. Therefore the Jews, by the heavy pressure of circumstances, founded the state of "Israel" in the year 1948.

The other ten tribes, after their captivity in 721 BC, were deported to Assyria by the Assyrian kings Salmaneser V and Sargon II, and never returned to their own country. Therefore one speaks of the ten "lost" tribes. Some ethnologists (these are people that study the spreading/dispersion, the nature, the culture, etc. of (ancient) nations) maintain, that these ten tribes left Assyria at a later date, and, in the course of history, traveled, under different names, in a Northwestern direction to the coastal lands, where they spread. They are thought to be mentioned in historical books under names such as Scythians, Kimber, Celts, Gallians, Goths, Saxons and Anglicans. At present they are thought to be living especially in North-western Europe, and in America, without being aware themselves of being descendants of these ten "lost" tribes, which in the Bible are called "the House of Israel".

But God will, at the end of times, choose the chosen part of His Bride out of the twelve tribes of Israel. He shall clothe her with the full armor of God (i.e. the Power of God – Ephesians 6:10-20), and cleanse her, until she will have reached the spiritual status "without spot or wrinkle" (Ephesians 5:27), and put the perfect garment of the Christ-nature on her. This working, which will bring her spiritually to **"the perfect measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ"** (Ephesians 4:13), **will be perfected and finished by and after the Marriage of the Lamb. By the true union of Christ with His Bride (Church)**. After a period of spiritual "incubation", hidden in the "womb part" of the spiritual body of the Bride in her time of "pregnancy", the "little man", the "male child", namely the 144,000, will be born (Isaiah 66:6-9). This group is so named, because they – by grace, by their spiritual birth – have come to the spiritual status of "a perfect man" in Christ (Revelation 12:1-2 and 5; Ephesians 4:13), after that this group, by the spiritual birth, has distinguished itself from the body of the Bride of the Lamb.

At his (spiritual) birth, immediately after the (visible) revelation of this perfection on earth, the "little man" (the 144,000) is snatched away unto God and His throne (Revelation 12:5), because the dragon lies in wait for this group in order to devour it (Revelation 12:4); they form, together with the victors of the Church from our era (see Revelation 2 and 3), the "saviors" of Obadiah verse 21.

They are the ones the Holy Spirit has been able to lead into God's Holy of holies, in God's perfection, in His (spiritual) New Jerusalem, already here on earth. For, the square Holy of holies of the Israelitic Tabernacle is the type for the square City, the New Jerusalem, which in Revelation 21:9-10 is called "The Bride of Christ".

And (as is expounded further below) in Revelation 14:1-5 we see this perfected part of the "Bride of Christ", in her divine ministry, with Christ on and near the throne:

"And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Zion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:

And they sung as it were a new song before the throne (of God), and before the four beasts (literally: the "living creatures"), and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the first fruits unto God and to the Lamb.

*And in their mouth was found no guile: for **they are without fault** before the throne of God."*

Explanation of Revelation 14:1-5

Verse 1: Mount Zion in God's Word is another name for the Spiritual Sanctuary of God (Hebrews 12:22-24). Here we see the 144,000 united with their spiritual Head, the Lamb, while the Name (of the Lamb and that) of the Father is written on their foreheads (and their thinking and attention). Their actions and thinking are focused on the will of almighty God.

Verse 2: From them goes out a voice as of a thunderclap (**namely the judgment** of God), and of zither players (**namely of worship** unto Yahweh, the almighty Father-God) (John 4:23-24).

Verse 3a: They sang a **worship song** that no one, but them, knew.

Verse 3b: **They were bought from the earth.** They thus lived as inhabitants of the earth and belonged to another (namely satan), and were bought (ransomed) with the blood of the Lamb. This implies that they had a status of sinner(ship), before they were ransomed by that blood!

Verse 4a: **They are not stained by women, for they are virgins.** The literal translation says: "they are celibates", which means they had no sexual relation with women, or are in any case (now) **free** from sexual urges, like Paul (1 Corinthians 7:29), or e.g. by age. This is because sexuality – although established by God Himself, and in itself pure (Hebrews 13:4) – yet, in many cases stains man, because it tends to be idolized, as also money and wealth (the idol Mammon).

Verse 4b: They follow the Lamb, everywhere It goes, namely through **death and resurrection** (Luke 9:23-26; Romans 6:5).

Verse 5: **In their mouth was found no deceit, for they are blameless.** The literal translation speaks of "unblemished", "without spot or wrinkle".

The fact that we deal here with the actual Bride of Christ we perceive in the words: **"these are they which follow the Lamb, whithersoever it goeth"** (see verse 4), **for where the Bridegroom is, there the Bride is also; where the Head is, there also the body is.** Also the words from verse 3 –

"They sang a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts (literally: the "living creatures"), and the elders, and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty four thousand" – speak of the elect/chosen position of this group; even above that of the "four beasts" (the "living creatures") and that of the "elders", two different groups of saints (Revelation 5:8-10).

The Marriage of the Lamb and something about the Great Tribulation.

The Marriage of the Lamb is the great feast of unification of the Heavenly Bridegroom (Jesus), Who unites Himself, in and by the Holy Spirit, invisibly with the Church, His Bride in a general sense (Revelation 19:6-9; Matthew 25: 6 and 10; Joel 2:23-27). The period prior to that is the time of preparation unto the feast (Matthew 25:5-10, Luke 14:15-24). When the number of the Bride is full, and the Marriage begins, when the Bridegroom has come, the door to the Wedding is closed (Matthew 25:10). Note: this is not the door of grace, because that door will only be closed at the start of the Great Tribulation (Luke 13:24-28, Amos 8:11-14); it is the door unto participation in the Wedding itself. It goes without saying, that the Bride herself has access to this feast; and also the wedding guests. These are drawn from:

- **the Pentecostal movement:** the so-called "wise" part of the Pentecostal movement (see Acts 2:1-4; Matthew 25:10);
- **the Charismatics:** these are Christians from other religious denominations, who have sincerely repented (see Luke 14:21);
- **new people** which are converted (see Luke 14:23).

Spiritually seen these wedding guests are "the "Holy" part" of God's Church, while the Bride of Christ, of course also spiritually seen, are those who, already here on earth, have entered into "the Holy of Holies". Mention is made of these two "groups" in Revelation 11:1; they, namely, are in God's temple, in God's Holy Place.

And John had to measure this temple of God, this Holy Place; and also the (incense) altar and those that worship there. The incense altar, namely, is just before the Holy of Holies. Those that stood here, were, as it were, about to enter into the Holy of Holies. However, the Forecourt – which is formed by believers who have not yet entered "the Holy Place" and thus have not yet been born again of God; who in this life have not yet come unto the sanctification in and by the Holy Spirit – "is given unto the Gentiles (the antichrist)" during the Great Tribulation (Revelation 11:2). During the antichrist's reign they will (have to) die martyrs for Christ there. It is that part of the true Church of Christ, which has to go through the Great Tribulation (Revelation 7:9-17), and this part is without number (countless). The "foolish virgins" will also be among these, when they have repented. This part of the believers is also called: "the remnant of her (i.e. the Bride-church) seed". This "Forecourt part", together with the "Holy Place part" (these are the wedding guests), and the "Most Holy/Holy of Holies part (i.e. the Bride), forms the true Church of Christ, God's wheat, which He will store in His barn (Matthew 3:12), while the lukewarm church, the unrepentant part of it, forms the chaff which will be blown away by the fan of oppression and persecution.

During the Great Tribulation there will be no (new) conversions, because the door of grace for the gentiles is closed. Those, that have already repented, will be strengthened by God in order to courageously endure martyrdom. This is the Calvary of the Church of Christ in the end time, the greatest mass murder of all time, under the leadership of the antichrist (Revelation 7:9-17).

The restoration of the Church (continued)

When the Bridegroom has returned unto His Bride (the Church) there will first be a Wedding feast here on earth; in other words: He will clothe His Bride, the Church, with exceptionally great power, and He will baptize her with that "Latter rain" (type for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit).

We can read this in Joel 2:23-27:

*"Be glad then, ye children of Zion (type of the Church), and rejoice in the Lord (YaHWeH), your God: for He hath given you the former rain moderately (better: a teacher for righteousness⁷ – i.e. the Lord Jesus Christ, invisible in and by the Holy Spirit), and he will cause to come down for you the (spiritual) rain, the former Rain, and the latter Rain⁸ in the first month (as BEFORE⁹ – in the time of the first Church). And the floors (of your heart) shall be full of wheat (type of the divine food, God's true Word), and the fats shall overflow with wine and oil (type of the Holy Spirit). And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm (image of the demonic powers and misleading spirits in de Church), my great army which I sent among you. And ye shall eat (of the spiritual food which I give unto you) **in plenty**, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed. And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel (here: the Church), and that I am the Lord your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed."*

In relation to this also read Revelation 12:1 and Isaiah 60:1-3.

When the glorious Wedding feast has been celebrated, here on earth, there is work to be done again.

*Luke 12:35-38 "Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, **when he will return from the wedding**; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may*

⁷ See a.o. the Thompson Chain-Reference Bible.

⁸ The latter Rain = Type for the **outpouring** of the Holy Spirit **in the end time** – see Joel 2:23b en 28-29.

⁹ See a.o. the Thompson Chain-Reference Bible.

open unto him immediately. Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants."

These verses of Luke show us clearly, that the Marriage of the Lamb will be **here on earth**. For, immediately after the Wedding, He goes to His faithful (servants) who waited for Him in a night watch. These are earthly circumstances; a place where it is night, and where the enemy is to be watched. We can better understand these verses after reading John 4:31-38:

"In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat. But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of. Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him ought to eat? Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. Say not ye, there are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth. I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labor: other men labored, and ye are entered into their labors."

We see here what "sitting down" with Jesus means spiritually; it is namely **the receiving of instructions to the labor in Christ**.

This restoration of the sleeping Church (see Matthew 25:1-3) is strictly under the leadership of **the Lord of the Church Himself**. We may understand this from Ephesians 1:9-10:

"Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fullness of times (i.e. the end time) he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth, even in him."

We are told that **in the end time all** that is in heaven (meaning: the kingdom of heaven on earth, the Church), and that is on earth (the world) **will be taken into one hand, namely that of the Lord Jesus Christ**, the – in the Holy Spirit – returned Bridegroom.

We are told the same in Revelation 1:16. He will, after His return to the seven churches of the last days, take the seven stars (type of the leadership in all the work of the seven churches) in His right hand in order to lead the wise among them unto **victory** over (the powers of) sin, wherein they will still live at the time of His invisible coming (return), His coming in the Holy Spirit.

He shall declare war unto satan and (the powers of) sin in the Church. Then He shall act as Michael – God's Battle Angel; the Angel of the Blood covenant. We can read this in Revelation 12:7-11:

"And there was war in heaven (the kingdom of heaven on earth: the Church): Michael¹⁰ and his angels (the Lord Jesus and His servants) fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels (satan and his servants), And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven (the kingdom of heaven on earth: the Church). And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the devil, and satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth (image of those who did not repent; also in the Church), and his angels were cast out with him (out of the Church, the Body of Christ). And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren (and sisters) is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they (His true disciples, the "wise"-man in the Church) overcame him (i.e. satan) by the (faith in) blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony (whereby also others will share this victory); and they loved not their (earthly, sinful) lives unto the death (until their sinful life – already here on earth – has died off, by the purifying Fire of the Spirit, so that they may live without spot or wrinkle, faultless; see Ephesians 5:27)."

Then He shall come **with great Light of Spirit and Word** in the Church, **and reveal the sins**, hidden in the hearts of the church members; **and shake awake their consciences**. "...for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known." (Matthew 10:26) Then the wise believers will repent completely, and by doing so, by the blood of the Lamb, win the victory over the power of satan and sin in their hearts and lives (Revelation 12:11) – that is to say: if they do not love their own lives anymore – until they will have died completely to (the power of) sin (1 Peter 2:24; Revelation 12:11), and are willing to share their personal victory with others (Revelation 12:11). **Then the returned Lord of the Church can and will work on the worldwide revival.**

IV.

The new and last worldwide revival.

Joel 2:28-32 *"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will **pour out** my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids (literally: slaves, male and female; spiritually seen these are the least in the Church) in those days will I **pour out** my spirit. And I will hew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the Lord come. And it shall come to pass, that **whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered**: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in*

¹⁰ Michael = Type of Jesus as the Lord of hosts, the Commander of God's army (the godly army of human workers and angels).

the remnant whom the Lord shall call."

That this revival will be **worldwide**, we can deduct from the words: *"I will pour out my spirit upon **all flesh**".* Then God's light of Spirit and Word will come over **all flesh** (over all people), and will convict them of their sins. Then the wise among them will repent, but the foolish (who are unrepentant) will fall under God's fierce judgment of the last days (verse 30). We read here that this revival will take place at the time of great wars and atomic explosions ("pillars of smoke").

We also read in Revelation 14:14-16, that there will be a great revival in the last days:

*"And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, **Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.** And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped."*

In Isaiah 11:10-11 we read that this Revival will happen simultaneously with the return of all of Israel (thus all twelve tribes) out of the four corners of the world (Ezekiel 39:25-29). A return that will only really take place **after** the war of Gog and Magog (see Ezekiel 38:1-23; 39:1-24). At this return not a single person of the twelve tribes will be left behind in the world (see Ezekiel 38:28).

Isaiah 11:10-11 "And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse (type for Jesus as Redeemer and Savior), which shall stand for an ensign of the people, to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shin,,r, and from Hamath, and from the islands (better translated: coastlands) of the sea (hereby the ten "lost" tribes are indicated)."

Holland, the beginning of this Revival.

You may hear this for the first time, but this last Great Worldwide Revival, in my opinion, will **begin** in the Netherlands, yes, even in Rotterdam. Rotterdam, namely, is socially seen, the Gate to Europe, and, in my opinion, will be so spiritually as well. We shall prove this on the basis of God's Word. Let us begin and read what is written up in God's bible about God's **prophetic Word**:

2 Peter 1:19-21 "We have also a **more sure** word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star (type for – the faith in – the Lord Jesus Christ) arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that **no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.** For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but **holy men of god spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**"

On the basis of prophetic statements, I will now show why I maintain, that Holland (and especially Rotterdam) will form the door unto the great European, and later worldwide, revival.

Isaiah lived approx. 700 years before Christ, and Holland did not yet exist then. He prophesied in Isaiah 8:21-22 and 9:1-2 the following:

*"And they shall pass through it, hardly bestead and hungry: and it shall come to pass, that when they shall be hungry, they shall fret themselves, and curse their king and their God, and look upward. And they shall look unto the earth; and behold trouble and darkness, dimness of anguish; and they shall be driven to darkness. Nevertheless the dimness shall not be such as was in her vexation, when at the first (when they were exiled) he lightly **afflicted the land of Zebulun** and the land of Naphtali, and afterward (i.e. in the end time) did more grievously afflict her **by the way of the sea**, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations. The people that (because of their sins) walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined."*

Here Isaiah prophesied about the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali. Let us investigate what was prophesied (predicted) about Zebulun by Jacob, and later on by Moses.

Jacob predicted in Genesis 49:13:

"Zebulun shall dwell at the haven of the sea; and he shall be for an haven of ships; and his border shall be unto Zidon."

And Moses in Deuteronomy 33:18-19:

*"And of Zebulun he said, Rejoice, Zebulun, in thy **going out**; and, Issachar, in thy tents. They shall call the people unto the mountain; there they shall offer sacrifices of righteousness: for they shall suck of the abundance of the seas, and of treasures hid in the sand."*

Moses says here that Zebulun is to rejoice over "his going out", his exile by the king of Assyria, together with the nine other tribes of the "House of Israel". It also states that they shall live in a "haven of the sea", that they will live of the shipping and fishing industries, and of "treasures hid in the sand" (fossile fuel).

Both these prophecies clearly indicate Holland (the Netherlands). This is also maintained by several ethnologists (i.e. people who study the dispersion, the nature, the way of life, etc. of (ancient) people); namely that Zebulun has settled here in the lowlands. It also points to a period when the Netherlands is going through a very difficult time, economically and politically (Isaiah 8:21-22).

Let us also read Revelation 10:1-3:

*"And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: And he had in his hand a little book open: **and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth,** And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices."*

We see here the Angel of the Covenant (type of Jesus Christ as Redeemer and Savior) (compare Revelation 1:9-18) stand on a **coastal land**, and I am convinced that it is the Netherlands. As the Lion of Judah (type of Jesus as Victor), he utters **His victory roar**; a victory roar which is confirmed by the seven peals of thunder, God's victors on earth. In Isaiah 9:1 we read that this coming of the Lord, through the Holy Spirit, will bring a **great light** (in my opinion first of all in Holland), **and because of that great light there will be a strong conviction of sins, which will bring about a general repentance** (verses 2-6), just as happened in Nineveh at Jonah's preaching (chapter 3). The Lord will then be able to cleanse (the people of) the Netherlands, and wake them up (spiritually), that they might call the other nations unto the mountain of God's holiness (Deuteronomy 33:19), and the Great (worldwide) Revival will begin.

V.

The end of the great revival and the end of God's period of grace.

This revival most probably will last half a "year-week" (thus 3.5 years), and its end will also mean **the end of God's period of grace**. For in Revelation 10:5-7 it says:

*"And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, **that there should be time no longer:** But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets."*

The Angel (of the Blood Covenant, the Spirit of Jesus Christ) swore that then, namely when the seventh angel will have sounded, there would be no more time (of grace); that **the period of grace would be ended**; for the "pagan" world the Great Tribulation would then commence.

In Daniel 9:27 we read:

"And he (i.e. the Angel of the Blood Covenant, the Lord Jesus Christ, invisible in and by the Holy Spirit - see Mal. 3:1) shall confirm the covenant with many (by wisdom from the Teacher for righteousness - see Joel 2:23¹¹) for one (year) week (i.e. 7 years): and in the midst of the week (thus after 3.5 years) he shall cause the sacrifice (type of God's Lamb on Calvary) and the oblation (the anointed ministry of the Word by which many will come to the faith and get deeper knowledge of God's Word) to cease."

In other words: the period of grace **for the world** will cease after the first half of Daniel's yearweek. However, for all twelve tribes of Israel, who, by that time, will already have returned to Canaan, the period of grace will last the full yearweek. *"For I am with thee, saith the Lord, to save thee: **though I make a full end of all nations** whither I have scattered thee, **yet will I not make a full end of thee:** but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished."* (Jeremiah 30:11)

Luke 13:24-30 *"Strive to enter in at the strait (i.e. narrow) gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou has taught in our streets. But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out. And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God. And, behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last."*

The protection of the Bride of the Lamb.

The Bride is protected by the Lord in two ways. In Revelation 12:6 we read:

*"And the woman (before: **the Bride**, but now she is **married to the Lamb**) fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days (3.5 years)."*

And in Revelation 12:14-17 we read:

"And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time (i.e. 3.5 years), from the face of the serpent. And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the

¹¹ See a.o. the Thompson Chain-Reference Bible.

remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

Firstly:

The Bride receives "wings of a great eagle" in order to fly therewith to the desert, where she is "kept" and "fed" by God during the time of the Great Tribulation, which will last 3.5 years, and where she will even be "from the face of the serpent" (Revelation 12:6 and 14).

Secondly:

God opens the mouth of the earth to swallow up the "flood" – type of "people", "nations" and "tongues" (Revelation 17:15), which the antichrist will send after the woman. Most probably terribly severe cataclysms (natural disasters, etc.) will distract the attention of the world from the persecution of Christians.

When also this part of the Church will have escaped the antichrist, he will discharge all of his rage upon the "Forecourt part" of God's Church, namely on the "remnant of her seed" (Revelation 12:17). To this group belongs the "foolish" part of the Pentecostal movement, the so-called "foolish virgins" of Matthew 25. **During the Great Tribulation they will all have to die martyrs at the hand of the antichrist. Again, it will be the greatest mass murder of all time!** (Revelation 7:9-17; 11:1-2; 12:17; 13:7).

A third part of them, note: one third part, of the countless that will come through the Great Tribulation (Revelation 7:9-17), however, will be cast upon the earth by the tail of the dragon (Revelation 12:14 a), type of the false prophet (Isaiah 9:14). These will not be able to stand up to the pressure the antichrist will put upon them, and will in the end fall to him!

So the Great Tribulation has then become a fact!

VI.

The Great Tribulation and the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

For the Christian living in the world outside Canaan, the Great Tribulation will be a time of great fear/anxiety. For **Israel** this time of great anxiety will come at the end thereof, when **the battle of Armageddon** will develop, and the antichrist – aided by the whole world (the remaining, still living, godless people) – will try to sweep Israel off the map (of the world). In Daniel 12:1; Matthew 24:15-28; Mark 13:14-23, Luke 21:20-24 this great tribulation of Israel is seen by Jesus in the light of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Roman armies. For the Christian living in the world outside Israel this period will last **3,5 years**, the time the antichrist, besides the false prophet, receives from God to exercise his wicked reign in the world (Revelation 13:5). It is the second half of the yearweek of Daniel 9:27, where he is called the "destroyer" (Revelation 13:1-18; Matthew 24:15-26; 2 Thessalonians 2:7-10; Ezekiel 21:21-27). Originating from the ten horns of the restored Roman Empire (Daniel 7:8), he will develop in a very short time into a world dictator; perhaps by way of the war, which will start after the sounding of the sixth trump (Revelation 9:13-21), whereby one third part of humankind will be killed!

As already stated before, he will be the **mass murderer** of the (sincere) believers, who belong to the so-called "Forecourt part" of God's Church on earth, and also of the sanctified Christian, who does not yet belong to the Bride (the so-called "remnant of her seed" – see Revelation 11:1-2; Revelation 12:17) – during his (satanic) 3.5 year reign; but he will also destroy the "false church" (among whom the insincere name-Christians) (Revelation 17:16-17; 18:1-24; 19:1-5).

As we already know, the antichrist will be aided by the "false prophet" (Revelation 13:11-18) during his 3.5-year reign. During his reign the seventh, and also last, trump will be sounded. This trump will usher in the seven last vial or vessel judgments. And these vial judgments are as many cataclysms (natural disasters, etc.), which will strike the earth for the destruction of the anti-christian people living thereon (see Revelation 15 and 16)!

The Jews – who have returned to present-day Israel (former Palestine) (Matthew 24:32; Amos 9:14-15; Micah 4:6-7 a, Zephaniah 3:16-20; Isaiah 11:11-16; Jeremiah 23:7-8, Ezekiel 39:25-29) – **will once more receive grace during the 3,5 year reign of the antichrist**, the time of the Great Tribulation; as we already saw this will be when the period of 2,000 years of grace for the gentiles (pagans/unbelievers) will have just been closed (Luke 13:24-27; Amos 8:11-14; Jeremiah 30:11).

This period will be the second half of the 3.5 years of the last "yearweek", of which we can read in Daniel 9:24-27. In these last 3.5 years God will work through His two witnesses, namely Elijah and Moses. See Revelation 11:3-13 and Malachi 4:4-6. Then Moses as God's regent (i.e. someone who represents the (royal) government) will be lord on earth, and Elijah will be God's prophet. They are the two olive trees, namely the two representatives of Christ here on earth (Revelation 11:4). Because of their work, namely by casting down the antichrist's reign, and the false prophet, the Israelites will be spared the forced acceptance of the mark of the beast (Revelation 13:16-17). **By the (divine) work of these two witnesses the Jews, as a nation, will accept Christ as their Messiah at His return** (Zechariah 12:10-14).

Moses' dead body is snatched from satan's power, as lord of the dead, by Michael, the Angel of the Blood Covenant (Jude 9), and, just like Lazarus, is resurrected, after which he, just like Elijah, is taken up into heaven in order to, together with Elijah, live on earth again during the last 3.5 years. Moses was also seen by the apostles, together with Elijah, on the mount of transfiguration (Matthew 17:3).

Armageddon.

Towards the end of the last 3.5-year period the satanic "trinity" – namely the dragon, the beast and the false prophet – will do their utmost to gather the whole world (the remaining, still living, godless people) for an all-out war against God (Revelation 16:13-16)! The battle will be directed against (the inhabitants of) Israel, the only place on earth where there will still be believers, thus sincere children of God, alive. Thus, these also belong to the "remnant of the seed" of the Bride (Revelation 12:17), and which, therefore, were not saved/protected with the Bride (Revelation 12: 6, 14). This is also the place where the two witnesses – Moses and Elijah – are working for God. And as long as they are still empowered by God, **they will be invincible** (Revelation 11:5). However, when their witness will have been finished, they will no longer stand in God's power, and will be conquered by the antichrist and his (wicked) armies (Revelation 11:7-10). God will then raise them (again) from the dead, and will receive them unto Him (verses 11-13).

Towards this time Jesus, visible for everyone, will return in the body (His coming with the clouds – see Matthew 24:30); namely at the moment when half of Jerusalem will have been taken by the anti-Christian armies (Zechariah 12:9; 14:1-5; Revelation 19:11-21; Isaiah 63:1-6; Malachi 3:2 and 5; 4:1-3; Joel 3:11-16). Then, too, the moment will have come when the Mount of Olives will be split in two (Zechariah 14:4). **God will then judge the anti-Christian world** (Revelation 14:9-11). The antichrist and the false prophet (men, used by satan) will then be cast alive into the lake of fire. They will be the first people, who will end up there. The devil and his angels are spirits, and they will be cast in the "bottomless pit" first (Revelation 20:1-3) to stay imprisoned there during the one thousand years of Christ's Kingdom (of Peace) on earth.

The first resurrection:

"*At a point in time*" the Bride, which is kept in the wilderness (Revelation 12:6), together with the children of God in Israel, which are still alive, will be changed, and will meet Christ in the air to return, together with Him, to the earth. Jesus' **visible** return will be preceded by **the resurrection from the dead of all the righteous of God** (Revelation 20:4-6; 1 Corinthians 15:51-54); all, who, through the ages, passed away justified in Christ; whose spirits have been saved in the heavenly paradise. Thereafter all believers, which are still alive (in the Bride-church), and the still alive Israelites will, "*at a point in time*", be changed and receive **eternal bodies** (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17), after which they, together with the resurrected (from the dead) righteous (2 Thessalonians 1:10), will meet Christ in the air. Christ will then have returned **visibly** with His 144,000, the heavenly army (Revelation 19:14). These 144,000 were initially snatched away unto God and His throne (Revelation 12:5). See also Jude 14-15.

They will then return with Christ to the earth, where the terrible battle of Armageddon will be ended. After this Christ's Millennium of peace will begin.

VII.

The Millennium and the eternity thereafter.

The Millennium.

During the Millennium the earth will only be inhabited by children of God, and these will all have received resurrection bodies. All other (unbelieving, godless) people will have been killed at visible return of Jesus Christ (Revelation 14:9-11; 19:21). No flesh and blood shall inherit the Lord's Kingdom, and thus neither the Millennium (1 Corinthians 15:50).

During the Millennium there will be **a reign of love**, just like a (good) mother will "**reign**" in love over her children, serving them at the same time. See Isaiah 32:1; Psalm 45:17; Matthew 23:11; Mark 9:35; Luke 19:16-19; 1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 1:6; 5:10; 20:4.

Then there will be **priests and kings**, who will reign with Jesus in **love** (Christ as "King of kings" and "Lord of lords") and children of God, over whom this dominion will be. (There are namely crowned and not yet crowned in this Kingdom of God.)

Christ will be King of the earth (Psalm 2:6-8; 45:2-9; Isaiah 9:5-6; 32:1; Jeremiah 23:5 b-6; Zechariah 14:9).

He will share His throne with His Queen: with those that, by grace, in the last days reached the state of **fullness in Christ** on earth (Psalm 45:10-16; Revelation 3:21; 14:1-5).

We already pointed out the climatological changes (Isaiah 30:26; Zechariah 14:6-7).

Jerusalem will be the world's capital (Jeremiah 31:38-40; Isaiah 62:1-7; Zechariah 8:3).

There will be peace and justice on earth, the earthly paradise will be restored (Malachi 4:2; Isaiah 61:11).

Those of you who wish to read more on the Millennium I refer to my (earlier published) book: "*What Scripture teaches about the Millennium of King Jesus*".¹²

The second resurrection.

After the Millennium the second resurrection will take place (namely **the resurrection of the condemned** – see Revelation 20:5). Simultaneously, satan and his angels will be released from the abyss (i.e. the deep pit where they were imprisoned during the Millennium) (Revelation 20:1-3 and 7). Satan will then again tempt, inspire, and stir up the resurrected nations, who experienced the resurrection of the condemned, to attack God's children, but God will

¹² For FREE on www.endtime-messenger.com

send His fire of judgment over them, after that He would have taken away His own from this earth (Revelation 20:8-9). Then this whole earth will burn like a torch (2 Peter 3:10).

The eternal judgment.

Satan and his angels will then be condemned **eternally** to the lake of fire and brimstone, wherein the beast and the false prophet were already cast (Revelation 20:10). **God has not created man for eternal damnation** in this Johanna (better known as the hell, the place of eternal torment for satan and his hordes), but this place of doom was created for satan and his angels (Matthew 25:41). But godless and unrepentant man, who will only be resurrected at the "second resurrection", He will bring before His great white throne, where they will receive their just sentence unto this lake of fire and brimstone, together with satan and his hordes (Revelation 20:11-15; Matthew 25:31-46). **And God's judgment (sentence) is always justified, because God is righteous (just), and because He knows all things of every person, also the deepest thoughts and motives to do something or not.**

The new heaven and the new earth.

After the Millennium **God will create a new heaven and a new earth** for His saints, where they will **reign with God's eternal Son**. See Isaiah 65:17-25; 11:6-9; Revelation 21:1-8. On this new earth the New Jerusalem (i.e. the Bride) will descend from heaven (Revelation 21:9-27). **And the eternal river of living water, namely God's Holy Spirit, will flow through the whole of this New Creation of God, and will fill it forever and ever** (Revelation 22:1-5).

Amen!

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