

## END TIMES AS PICTURED IN THE FALL FEASTS

### Week 7– Where Are We Now?

Daniel's 70 week prophecy (Dan. 9:24-27) includes a gap between the 69<sup>th</sup> week and the 70<sup>th</sup> week. God's prophetic clock re: Israel stopped ticking after the 69<sup>th</sup> week, after Jesus presented Himself as Messiah the Prince (Sar Shalom [Isa. 9:6]) to Israel at His triumphal entry into Jerusalem and then was "cut off but not for Himself" (He was crucified). The nation of Israel has not trusted in Him as their Messiah. God's prophetic clock for Israel will begin ticking again at the start of the seven-year Tribulation, at the start of the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel, when God begins to purge Israel, preparing them for the Messiah at His Second Coming.

There is a gap between the 69<sup>th</sup> week and the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel's prophecy. What has happened in this gap? The Church has been established/birtherd.

### WHERE ARE WE NOW?

On the Feasts of the Lord chart you'll note that there are spring feasts and fall feasts. Time-wise there's a GAP in between the spring feasts and fall feasts. There are no Jewish feasts in the summer. However, something occurs in the summer that's noted in the OT; and it's noted in the chapter on the feasts in Lev. 23. It's HARVEST TIME.

*Lev. 23:22 - When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field when you reap, nor shall you gather any gleaning from your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the stranger: I am the LORD your God.*

The children of Israel were told not to clear the corners of the land at harvest time. By not clearing the corners they would provide for the poor (could be Jews and Gentiles) and the sojourners/foreigners – most definitely the Gentiles.

Harvest time occurs following the Feast of Weeks which we know as Pentecost. (See Feasts Chart) What occurred at Pentecost? The Church was born. The Church Age is in "harvest time."

The Church occupies a parenthetical period in the fulfillment of Israel's destiny (as displayed in the feasts that God gave to Israel). But, the Church has not been relegated to a parenthetical position (see Eph. 1:12; 2:6-7; 3:9-10; 5:25-27; Colossians 1:26-27) "A parenthesis? Like an afterthought in God's plan?" Some think that way. Nothing could be farther from the truth. *I will build My Church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it* (Matt. 16:18). AND, Gentile believers are told to provoke the Jew to jealousy (Rom. 11:11). Do you see that God has a plan for Israel and a plan for the Church? Do you see a distinction between Israel and the Church? Where is the true Church now? Where are Jewish and Gentile believers in Jesus at this current time? We are in Lev. 23:22. We are in the gap between the spring feasts and the fall feasts. Where are the summer feasts for Israel? There are none. It was harvest time. No feasts for Israel at this time. BUT Israel provided for the Gentiles (Lev. 23:22).

HARVEST TIME – Lev. 23:22 was a law that God gave the children of Israel to provide for the poor and the stranger. The poor could be poor Jewish people and poor Gentiles; the stranger/the foreigner was most definitely the Gentiles.

Isa. 56:6-8 - *Also the sons of the foreigner who join themselves to the LORD, to serve Him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be His servants— everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, and holds fast My covenant— <sup>7</sup> Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations. <sup>8</sup> The Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, says, “Yet I will gather to him others besides those who are gathered to him.*

God’s plan has ALWAYS been for the Jews and for the Gentiles: Gen. 12:3 – *I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*

God told Abraham that the Jewish people bless the world/would provide for the Gentiles. The Jewish people would serve as the channel through whom the Messiah would come. This is why Jesus told the Samaritan woman at the well that salvation is of the Jews? (John 4:22)

The true Church is God’s redemptive tool at this time. When our task is complete, God will catch us up at the Rapture of the Church to be with Him and the prophetic clock will once again begin ticking with God’s using Israel – the 144,000 and the two witnesses – as His redemptive tool during the Tribulation when Israel will be purified and a rebellious world will be judged. God continues to have a covenant with Israel (Rom. 9:4); however, Israel is not currently God’s redemptive tool. God is not using Israel to witness to the world of the one true God. YET – there is a witness in Israel of the one true God – the fact that Israel still exists! Israel’s continued existence speaks to God’s faithfulness!

Are there “gaps” noted in Scripture? The Bible attests to several gaps:

- We have the OT and the NT – with 430 years between the two testaments.
- We have a gap between the first and the second coming of Jesus.
- Jesus speaks of the gap between His first and second coming:

○ Isa. 61:1-2A - *The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me,*

*Because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; <sup>2</sup>To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God;*

○ Luke 4:16-21 - *So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. <sup>17</sup> And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: <sup>18</sup> “The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the*

brokenhearted to proclaim *liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed;* <sup>19</sup> *To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.”*

<sup>20</sup> *Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him.* <sup>21</sup> *And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”* What part of Isa. 61:1-2a did Jesus not read from the scroll? Why?

- Jesus continues to speak of this gap in Luke 19:11-13 (*And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; <sup>10</sup> for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”*) - <sup>11</sup> *Now as they heard these things, He spoke another parable, because He was near Jerusalem and because they thought the kingdom of God would appear immediately.* <sup>12</sup> *Therefore He said: “A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return.* <sup>13</sup> *So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, ‘Do business till I come.’”*

- Hosea 5:15 —*I will return again to My place till they acknowledge their offense. Then they will seek My face; in their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.* Of Whom is this speaking? “Till” indicates a space of time in between the actions.
- Zech 9:9-10 - *Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.* <sup>10</sup> *I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the horse from Jerusalem; the battle bow shall be cut off. He shall speak peace to the nations; His dominion shall be ‘from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.* Verse 9 speaks of Jesus’ first coming/triumphal entry. Verse 10 – He shall speak peace to the nations. His dominion shall be to the ends of the earth. Of what is this speaking?
- Matthew 23:37-39 - *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!* <sup>38</sup> *See! Your house is left to you desolate; <sup>39</sup> for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’”*

Almost 2,000 years have passed since the completion of Daniel’s 69<sup>th</sup> week. Jesus has fulfilled a staggering number of prophecies. Israel, as a nation, has yet to embrace Him as their Messiah. We are assured from Scripture that Jesus is coming again, and one day the remnant will both see and hear. I believe that the Tribulation is the last week of Daniel’s 70 week prophecy and the primary purpose is to ready the Jewish people for the Second Coming of the Messiah!

### Timing of the Rapture

We need to remember that our view must hinge on the Bible – not on how many people are in a certain camp. AND, if you are speaking with someone who believes in a view that you don’t, ask that person for their support of that view. Don’t second guess that their view encompasses all of the bullet points below. AND, please don’t break fellowship with someone who has a different view than yours re: the timing of the Rapture.

### Pre-Tribulational View

- The Rapture is believed to occur before the seven-year Tribulation comes upon the world, before God pours out His judgments on a rebellious world.
- The Church will not go through the Tribulation because:
  - I Thess. 5:9-10 – *For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>10</sup> who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.* Revelation 5 indicates that God’s wrath begins at the beginning of the seven-year Tribulation.
  - Rom. 8:1 - *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.* If we have placed our trust in Jesus for our salvation, our sin has been judged at the cross.
- There is a distinction between the Church and the nation of Israel in Scripture. God is dealing with two distinct programs for two distinct groups. NOTE: there is only ONE WAY of salvation throughout the Bible: by grace through faith in God’s revealed message which ALWAYS points to Jesus.
- The primary purpose of the Tribulation is to purge the nation of Israel and to prepare the nation for the Messiah.
- The Church has been told to watch and wait for Jesus; His coming is imminent (in progress; upon us; at any moment). The Church has not been told to look for signs.
- There is a distinction between the Rapture and the physical Second Coming of Jesus.
- The Church is not found on earth during the Tribulation in the book of Revelation.

### Post-Tribulational View

- The Rapture is believed to occur after the Tribulation comes upon the world. The Post-Trib view teaches that the Rapture and the Second Coming are facets of a single event which will occur at the end of the Tribulation when Christ returns.
- The Church will go through the Tribulation because:
  - The Church was promised persecution and tribulation (John 16:33). Yet, there are those who espouse Post-Trib who believe that the Church will be preserved and protected through the Tribulation while remaining on the earth.
  - The Church will go through the Tribulation because the Post-Trib view, for the most part, does not see the distinction between Israel and the Church. Because believers are noted in the Tribulation (144,000; the great multitude....), the Post-Trib view concludes that the Church is clearly seen at that time also.
  - Jesus’ return is not imminent. The Post-Trib view does not believe in an “any moment” return of Jesus. Emphasis, instead, is placed on signs that precede the Lord’s return.
  - The Rapture is a recent view that surfaced circa 1830. John Darby from the Plymouth Brethren denomination formulated the Pre-Trib view. The view came from a vision that Margaret MacDonald claimed to have. Some have said that she had the vision under demonic influence. It has been said that MacDonald’s “revelation” of the Rapture as a separate event from Jesus’ Second Coming was unheard of prior to 1830.

### Mid-Tribulational View

- The Rapture is believed to occur at the middle of the seven-year Tribulation after three and one-half years have elapsed.
  - The Church has been promised persecution and tribulation. Going through the first half of the Tribulation is, therefore, the calling of the Church.
    - The Church will experience the wrath of man and of Satan in the first half of the Tribulation but not the wrath of God in the second half.
  - During the last half of the Tribulation the greatest judgments are poured out on earth; the Church will be removed prior to the last half.
- Because dramatic events occur at the midpoint of the Tribulation, this must be the Rapture of the Church.
- The Mid-Trib view connects the Rapture with the sounding of the seventh trumpet in Rev. 10:7 and 11:15.
- Jesus' return is not imminent.

### Questions

Small group time: discuss the timing of the Rapture views. Based on what the Bible teaches, discuss each bullet point for each of the three views. **INDIVIDUALLY** determine if the bullet points underneath each view are valid or not – **BASED ON SCRIPTURE**.

Please don't arrive at a consensus viewpoint at each table.

### Homework

Begin to wrestle, from Scripture, with the question: Why will there be a Millennial Kingdom?

Remember: week 8 will feature our guest speaker