

# God's Prophetic Calendar of Redemption

## The Appointed Times and Feasts of the Lord

by  
Jim Sayles

The vast majority of Christian believers presume that the appointed times and feasts of the Lord, first given to Israel as shown in Leviticus 23, are not applicable to the New Testament church, because the required ritual celebration of these appointed times and feasts of the Lord relate only to Israel prior to the first advent of Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

This was required of them so that they would not miss the time of their visitation. Yet, in spite of their strict religious adherence to the required ritual celebration of the feasts of the Lord, the Israelites DID miss the time of their visitation as was clearly pointed out by the Lord Himself as He proclaimed the judgment of God upon them.

***“For the days will come upon you when your enemies will throw up a barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side, and they will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another,...(the sacking of Jerusalem and Diaspora of the Jews in 70AD)...because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.”*** Luke19:43,44 NASB (insert is the author's)

The first three appointed times of this calendar, Passover, Unleavened Bread, and Firstfruits were completely fulfilled through the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

What this demonstrates is that this is OUR specific, prophetic calendar of redemption, and, unless some future, separate redemptive covenant between God and Israel can be demonstrated in this calendar, it does NOT exist.

Likewise, unless the dispensational doctrine of a pre-tribulation “rapture” of church only saints can be demonstrated in this calendar it does NOT exist, which is the reason it is described as a “secret” (not disclosed in scripture) pre-tribulation “rapture.”

God's **appointed times** are His specific, immutable, God-appointed times for the redemption of fallen mankind in Christ from Adam forward to the last millennial saint.

To violate the deliberate prophetic purpose of God for this calendar is a serious error, and those of the present day church who have already violated it, just as the intensely religious Pharisees, Scribes, and Priests violated it at the first

advent of Jesus Christ, are, through their unrepentant actions, teaching false doctrine that will ultimately result in many believers being included in the Lord's prophetic warning after His disciples asked Him, "When will these things happen, and what will be the signs of your coming and of the end of the age?"

***And then shall many... (of My people)... be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the... (agape)... love of many shall wax cold. Matthew 24:10-12 KJV (inserts are the author's)***

This prophetic word of the Lord, of course, is denied by those who teach a pre-tribulation "rapture" of the church, though they cannot agree concerning whether or how this supposed "rapture" event complies with God's calendar for the redemption of fallen mankind in Christ.

Some Christian believers, particularly Messianic congregations, choose to celebrate the feasts of the Lord in part, but we are not required to celebrate them as an ordinance.

If we were required to celebrate them as some teach and practice, we would have to celebrate them on the specific days of the "abib" new moon Jewish calendar as indicated in scripture, and we would have to perform ALL of the sacrifices and offerings.

Likewise, those who believe that they are worshipping on the "Sabbath" by worshipping on Saturday are completely deceived. The "Sabbath" was, and still is, determined by the first new moon sighting after the "abib" (ripe barley grain) sighting in Israel. This is the month of Nisan, the month in which Passover, Unleavened Bread, and Firstfruits all occur. And this is followed each month thereafter by the first appearance of the new moon.

The Gregorian calendar established by the emperor of Rome, Constantine, and currently used by most of the world, cannot determine a true Sabbath.

Sunday, being the first day of the week, would indicate that Saturday is the 7<sup>th</sup> day, a Sabbath, but Saturday worshippers are merely choosing to worship on the day named after the Roman god, Saturn, the god of agriculture, not the true "Sabbath" established by God's calendar.

We may choose to celebrate the appointed times and feasts of the Lord, even in part, but we are not required to celebrate them. And we will celebrate them during both the millennial kingdom and the eternal age, but we are not required to celebrate them now.

Yet, the requirement to celebrate and memorialize the appointed times (for the redemption of a remnant elect of fallen mankind from Adam forward to the

last millennial saint) in pre-Christ Israel should convey to us just how important the revelatory understanding of the appointed times and feasts is for those upon whom the fulfillment of the ages has come, because this calendar demonstrating God's plan of redemption for the remnant elect of fallen mankind in Jesus Christ has been, and will be, fulfilled **exclusively** to spiritual, born-again Israel, the "Israel of God" in Christ.

***And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring...***(regardless of ethnicity)...***heirs...***(of covenant redemption)... ***according to the promise.***  
Galatians 3:29 NASB

This is **THE** prophetic calendar of God's plan of redemption in Christ, beginning with the crucifixion of Jesus Christ on Passover and ending with our eternal home in the New Jerusalem on the new earth after it has been renovated by spiritual fire.

This is also **THE** calendar for the fulfillment of God's only redemptive covenant, the covenant introduced through Moses, promised to **THE** "seed" of Abraham, Jesus of Nazareth, fulfilled to Him upon His resurrection (the fulfillment of "Firstfruits"), and ultimately fulfilled to all those who are, or will be, "in Christ," whether by faith or by God's sovereign "reckoning" from Adam forward.

For this reason any examination of God's covenant redemption or end times prophecy **MUST** be viewed in the light of God's calendar of redemption presented metaphorically, but precisely, in the appointed times and feasts of the Lord.

It is surprising, then, to discover that the most popular schools of end times prophetic eschatology today do not comply with this partially fulfilled calendar given to us for our revelatory understanding concerning things to come for the body of Christ.

Therefore, regardless of the authority of the one expounding on his/her theories concerning true worship, biblical prophecy, or any long-standing and popular **TRADITION** of interpretation, if it does not and cannot conform with the truth revealed in the detailed prophetic calendar the Father has provided in the appointed times and feasts of the Lord, those theories are in error and are likely to be heretical.

Likewise, we should note that if it was **NOT** important for the elect remnant of fallen mankind, which He has called "***the Israel of God,***" to have revelatory insight into true doctrine, including "things to come," He would not have given us the calendar to begin with. Nor would Satan have set up so many elaborate deceptions concerning them.

That Satan was successful in blinding the spiritual eyes of the Pharisees, the intellectual giants of Israel who were intimately acquainted with every written word concerning the Messiah, and with the intricate details of God's prophetic calendar for the redemption of fallen mankind in Christ, is historic fact. That he has been successful in blinding the spiritual eyes of many of the intellectual giants of spiritual Israel, the church, is also self-evident.

Yet, God took great care in providing us with a specific, detailed calendar of the appointed times for the redemption of fallen mankind in Christ.

But the interpretation of this calendar, like all biblical scripture, must be done with the revelatory guidance of the Spirit of truth who wrote it.

***Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you... (supernaturally)... into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you... (reveal)... things to come. John 16:13 KJV (insert and emphasis is the author's)***

The first new moon after the appearance of the "abib" (ripe barley heads) becomes the first day of the first month, Nisan, followed thereafter by each new moon, becoming that month's first Sabbath.

And, because the identification of the first and all subsequent Sabbaths depends on the barley "abib" and first appearance of the new moon, God's calendar resists identification by anything other than the annual observance of the "abib" followed by each monthly sighting of the new moon.

Thus any other calendar created by man cannot arbitrarily determine a true "Sabbath" day, and we recognize that this is both the sovereign and the eternal plan of God for the kingdom of God in Christ.

From the Exodus story, we can see that the *Pesach* lambs were slain and eaten on 14 Nisan, the day of Passover, beginning at twilight, following the appearance of a new moon, and ending on the following twilight. On 15 Nisan, the first day of Unleavened Bread (*Hag HaMatzah*), the people left Egypt; on 16 Nisan, Firstfruits, the children of Israel crossed the Red Sea; and 50 days after Passover, on the Feast of Weeks (*Shavuot*), or Pentecost, God gave the Torah (instruction or "Law") on Mount Sinai.

This is the historic prototype of the spring and summer feasts and appointed times, of which Jesus Christ, the Messiah, is now, and will be, the complete spiritual fulfillment.

The calendar of appointed times given to the Israelites after the historic events of the exodus perfectly matched the dates of their historic fulfillment, and, as we note, perfectly match the dates of their spiritual fulfillment.

That part of God’s calendar for the redemption of the elect remnant of mankind in Christ that has already been fulfilled, is, then, our assurance that the remainder of this calendar will also be fulfilled on the exact dates and in the exact manner that God has foreordained.

That part of the “appointed times” calendar that has been completed:

	14 Nisan “Passover”	15 Nisan “Unleavened Bread”	16 Nisan “Firstfruits”	6 Sivan “Pentecost”
<b>Natural Fulfillment</b>	<u>Pesach</u> lamb slain	left Egypt	crossed Red Sea	Law given on Mt. Sinai
<b>Spiritual Fulfillment</b>	Jesus crucified	Jesus sinless	Jesus resurrected (3 <sup>rd</sup> day)	Law written on our hearts (partial fulfillment)

I write this with the understanding that there are numerous intellectual interpretations of the details of this calendar without revelatory insight that are in disagreement with the revelatory truth contained in the same calendar. But for those who have ears to hear and eyes to see, God’s calendar of appointed times and feasts is an amazing confirmation of past, present, and future truth related to the redemption of a remnant elect of fallen mankind from Adam forward to the last millennial saint.

Any determination of true doctrine or of our prophetic future, then, **MUST** conform to this calendar.

The seven feasts include three seasons of celebration. The spring feasts are associated with the first harvest in ancient Israel, the barley harvest. Thus these appointed times and feasts are related to the “firstfruits” of the entire harvest, the spiritual fulfillment of which is Jesus Christ crucified, the “firstfruits” of the entire harvest. (1 Corinthians 15:20)

**Unleavened Bread** (spring) – barley harvest

Passover (*Pesach*) – 14 Nisan

Unleavened Bread (*Chag Hamotzi*) – 15-22 Nisan

Firstfruits (*Yom habikkurim*) – 16 Nisan

Pentecost is the summer feast associated with the wheat harvest. It is, therefore, no accident that Christians are metaphorically identified in scripture as “wheat” and those who are nominal believers participating in the religion, but not

regenerated by faith, are identified as “tares” (weeds that resemble wheat and occur in the midst of wheat). This feast is entirely associated with the New Testament body of Christ, spiritual, “**born again**” Israel, from the first fulfillment of Pentecost until the final fulfillment of Pentecost yet to come.

**Pentecost** (summer) – wheat harvest

Pentecost (*Shavu'ot*) – 6 Sivan

The season of Tabernacles includes the fall feasts, all of which occur in the Jewish calendar month of Tishri. These feasts are yet to be fulfilled, but the complete fulfillment of the spring feasts, and the partial fulfillment of the summer feast, all point to the future complete fulfillment of Pentecost, Trumpets, Atonement, and Tabernacles in the exact order, and on the exact days of the (“abib”) new moon calendar initially given by God to the Israelites.

**Tabernacles** (fall)

Trumpets (*Yom Teru'ah*) – 1 Tishri – the “last day” resurrection

Atonement (*Yom Kippur*) – 10 Tishri – the “great and terrible” day of the Lord

Tabernacles (*Sukkot*) – 15-22 Tishri – initially the millennial kingdom;  
ultimately the eternal kingdom

What we notice is that this calendar of the appointed times and feasts of the Lord is very specific. And it is seen throughout both the OT and the NT with numerous details by which the Spirit of truth can both reveal and confirm the prophetic intent of the Father through the Son.

With a revelatory understanding of this calendar, all arguments negating God’s intent to warn and prepare each generation for the time in which they are living, is demonstrated to be a lie.

What we see is that the miraculous events through which God delivered natural Israel from their bondage in Egypt were a foreshadowing of the spiritual fulfillment of those events to spiritual Israel, the church, made up of both Jews and Gentiles as “**one new man**” in Christ, with natural deliverance from bondage becoming spiritual deliverance from sin, and the external Law becoming the internal Law, the perfect will of God, written on our hearts through the indwelling presence of the promised Holy Spirit.

The spiritual fulfillment of Passover, Unleavened Bread, and Firstfruits are also the fulfillment of God’s covenant promise to THE “seed” of Abraham, Jesus of Nazareth, and to all those who are included in this covenant, both Jew and Gentile, by grace through faith, from Adam forward.

And, importantly, we see no promise or possibility of another future redemptive event specifically for national, ethnic Israel, because all of the covenant promises of God have been received and confirmed to THE “seed” of Abraham for whom they were always intended.

***Now to Abraham and his seed were the...(covenant)... promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. Galatians 3:16 KJV*** (insert is the author’s)

***There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Galatians 3:28,29 KJV***

Notice that the “heirs” of the promise of redemption are not based on Jewish ethnicity but on whether or not they are included in Christ.

Thus the old covenant, that could not redeem mankind, was fulfilled unto regeneration (salvation), and a New Covenant in Jesus Christ, the “seed” of Abraham, the Son of Man and the last Adam, was established to redeem the entire elect remnant of fallen mankind from Adam forward just as it was planned by God from before the foundations of the world.

A quote from “Jesus Christ Immutable” by **Charles Spurgeon** puts this succinctly:

***“These who saw Christ's day before it came, had a great difference as to what they knew, and perhaps in the same measure a difference as to what they enjoyed while on earth meditating upon Christ; but they were all washed in the same blood, all redeemed with the same ransom price, and made members of the same body. Israel in the covenant of grace is not natural Israel, but all Believers in all ages.”***

As it relates to the covenant, the most important event for us to consider concerning national, ethnic Israel is the ratification of the written Law (the old covenant) by all Israel, saying, ***“All the words which the LORD has spoken we will do.”*** (Exodus 24:3)

This covenant ratification spoken by all national, ethnic Israel committed the entire seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to perfect compliance with the Law, and, at that exact point in time the title-deed to, and final fulfillment of the promise, could only be received through perfect compliance with the Law by an Israelite.

After this ratification, which was fulfilled by the only “seed” of Abraham who was able to comply with all the covenant requirements, and for whom the

promises of God were always intended, every national, ethnic Jew who has been or will be included, has, and will, only be included on the basis of their grafting into the spiritual body of Christ, which includes both Jews and Gentiles as “**one new man**” in Christ, also identified as the “**Israel of God**.” (Gal. 6:16)

From the resurrection of Jesus Christ forward, then, national, ethnic Israel plays no part in the fulfillment of God’s redemptive plan apart from individual Jews being included in Christ by grace through faith, and the future of national, ethnic Israel is totally unrelated to God’s calendar of appointed times and feasts, although biblical prophecy does reveal future events that relate to unfulfilled promises and unfulfilled judgments from that time in which national, ethnic Israel still held the title-deed to the promises of God.

“Zionism” and its apostate daughter, “Dispensationalism,” the origin of the pre-tribulation “rapture” of church only saints, teaching that God’s covenant intent was, and still is, for national, ethnic Israel, is in direct contradiction of covenant intent of God, which is the **Israel of God** in Christ consisting of both Jew and Gentile as “**one new man**” in Him.

Our emotive attachment to the nation of Israel and to the natural brothers of our Lord is appropriate, but we must not pervert the understanding of God’s covenant intent on the basis of our emotive attraction for the land and people of Israel.

Any such perversion of the revelatory truth is a stumbling block for those other seeds of Abraham whom we intensely desire to be included in the “**Israel of God**” in Christ, and for those Christian believers who are expecting a pre-tribulation “rapture,” but will, instead, experience the God-ordained time of testing for the body of Christ, which includes the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> seal events of “**tribulation**.” (Matthew 24:9-13)

It is interesting to note that the Lord was crucified on 14 Nisan (Passover) at the same time that the *Pesach* lambs were being slaughtered all over Jerusalem, and on 16 Nisan (Firstfruits) the Lord was resurrected at the same time that the high priest, Caiaphas, was waving the barley sheaf (without leaven) at the altar in spite of the curtain between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies being torn from top to bottom as if by a giant sword.

This “firstfruits” offering of the entire harvest, then, symbolized the “**firstborn from among the dead**” (Col. 1:18) harvest of Jesus Christ as the firstfruits of all mankind to be raised from the dead.

Thus “Firstfruits” is the appointed time that the covenant first given to Abraham and his “seed” was fulfilled to Jesus of Nazareth, the “seed” of Abraham,

Son of God, Son of Man, and the “last Adam,” who fulfilled all the Law and the prophets, making it possible for an elect remnant of mankind, identified as spiritual Israel, the “*Israel of God*,” to be included as joint heirs in the eternal covenant of God through their faith and spiritual incorporation into Jesus Christ.

For that reason it is IMPORTANT that we confirm and acknowledge that there is **no other redemptive covenant** demonstrated anywhere in God’s calendar of appointed times. And if it cannot be demonstrated in God’s calendar of appointed times, it does NOT exist.

It is also important to understand that God has retained His sovereign right concerning His original covenant with Adam, to “reckon” (judge) anyone, from Adam forward, as “righteous” based on His sovereign election. All of the old testament saints are now included in the New Covenant in Christ on the basis of God’s sovereign election. (Eph. 4:8)

This also obviously includes those who do not have the ability or opportunity to choose, such as the unborn.

***For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. Romans 9:15 KJV***

Pentecost, the Feast of Weeks, is directly connected to Passover and Firstfruits in that this is the date upon which spiritual Israel, including both Jews and Gentiles as “one new man” in Christ, received the promised sealing of the Holy Spirit as a pledge of their complete redemption in Christ (inclusion as joint heirs in the covenant).

Most view the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost as the complete and total fulfillment of this particular appointed time, but the coming of the Holy Spirit was only the initiatory event of Pentecost, just as our sealing unto regeneration by the Holy Spirit at the moment of saving faith is the initiation of our redemption, but not the completion of it.

The coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost was the fulfillment of the Law being given on Sinai as the perfect Law was written on our hearts by the presence of the Holy Spirit, our Counselor and our spiritual conscience as promised in Ezekiel 36:26,27 KJV:

***A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.***

Pentecost is also the fulfillment of the spiritual kingdom of God coming to the earth with power. (Mark 9:1)

When Jesus walked among them prior to His crucifixion and resurrection He told them that the kingdom of God was “near.” Many interpret “near” as meaning the kingdom of God represented by Jesus Christ was literally and physically near them. But the kingdom of God in the earth from the initial fulfillment of Pentecost until the complete fulfillment of Pentecost is represented by the body of Christ.

The kingdom of God was “near” Israel in the prophetic fulfillment sense, not merely through the physical presence of Jesus Christ, but near them in the sense of time. And on Pentecost fifty days after the fulfillment of Passover the kingdom of God came upon the upper room believers with power.

***And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.*** Mark 9:1 KJV (emphasis is the author’s)

Pentecost is the middle event between the first three events and the last three events, yet to be fulfilled. Pentecost is, in reality, a feast to celebrate the redemptive plan of God in Christ as that plan is manifested in and through the “Israel of God” in Christ, which from the resurrection of Jesus Christ until the last day resurrection, is the *ekklesia* of Christ, the church.

Although our redemption was initiated on that first Pentecost, it will not be completed for the majority of the elect until the resurrection of living and dead saints on some future Feast of Trumpets, 1 Tishri, “last day” resurrection.

But there is another event that will take place on some future Pentecost prior to the last day resurrection fulfillment of the Feast of Trumpets.

The wave offering of two wheat loaves containing leaven, representing both Jews and Gentiles as a **firstfruits** offering of the **wheat harvest** has NOT been fulfilled, because to date, none from Adam forward have been fully redeemed (harvested), even though the dead in Christ are now in the heavenly presence and cannot, therefore, reject their faith in Christ.

Jesus Christ was the firstfruits of the entire harvest, represented by a barley sheaf (without leaven), but there will also be a firstfruits of the “wheat” harvest.

Some who are aware of this event believe it to be the pre-tribulation or mid-tribulation “rapture” so many western protestant believers are falsely expecting. Even that bastion of dispensational, pre-tribulation “rapture” theorists, Chuck Missler, the “Bible Answer Man,” has speculated that the “rapture” will take place

on some future “Pentecost” as opposed to the “Feast of Trumpets” as others have speculated.

But dispensationalism, espoused by Missler, who smugly says, “We’ll explain it on the way up,” is in denial of the fact that there is one, and only one, redemptive covenant, the covenant that scripture reveals, and God’s calendar of redemption confirms, was fulfilled to THE “seed” of Abraham, Jesus Christ, on 16 Nisan, the feast of “firstfruits,” two millennia ago.

Some have attempted to claim that the feast of atonement on 10 Tisri (“*the great and terrible day of the Lord*” Malachi 4:5), nine days after the “last day” resurrection of the saints of all time, will be a fulfillment of God’s original promise to Abraham and his “seeds,” i.e. national, ethnic Israel, even claiming that the church will then be grafted into that superior covenant.

But that day, the day of atonement that will follow nine days after the last day resurrection of the living and dead saints of all time, will be the glorious return of the Lord of Lords and King of Kings to destroy His enemies at Har-Mageddon, and the only men and women left alive at the end of that “*great and terrible day of the Lord*” will be those Jews and Gentiles (the “*survivors*” as recorded in Joel 2:32) who have not taken the covenant mark of the beast and have not persecuted spiritual Israel, the church.

In this regard we note that God’s covenant promise to Abraham, “*And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed*”... (Genesis 12:3 KJV)...no longer applies to national, ethnic Israel. This covenant promise now belongs to the only “seed” of Abraham to fulfill the Law and the prophets, and to those who are included in Him by faith, which is spiritual Israel, the Israel of God in Christ.

Those Jews and the rest of remnant mankind who remain as “*survivors*” will then be judged as “sheep,” and allowed to enter the millennial kingdom as natural, but regenerated men and women. And it will be these who populate the kingdom during the millennial reign of Jesus Christ.

NO additional covenant will be initiated at that time, neither to the Jews nor to the rest of mankind who enter into the millennial age as regenerated believers in Jesus Christ. THE one and only redemptive covenant is the covenant promised to Abraham and his “seed,” Jesus of Nazareth, and perfectly prophesied and illustrated by the appointed times and feasts of the Lord.

Barley is the first crop to be harvested in Israel, and the wheat harvest begins approximately fifty days later (i.e. “Pentecost”).

According to Revelation 7 and 14:1-5, the metaphorical 144,000 “virgins” (innocent before God because they are “in” Christ) from the twelve tribes of Israel

(spiritual Israel, the “*Israel of God*” in Christ) are sealed for protection on some future Pentecost immediately before the opening of the 7<sup>th</sup> seal, which is the beginning of three and a half years of “*great tribulation*.” And these are fully redeemed or “harvested” at that time.

*These...*(the metaphorical 144,000)... *were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits...*(of the wheat harvest)...*unto God and to the Lamb.*  
Revelation 14:4b KJV (inserts and emphasis is the author’s)

Jesus was resurrected as the “firstfruits” of the entire harvest, represented by a barley sheaf without leaven (sin), and scripture reveals that there will be a “firstfruits” of the wheat harvest, represented by two wheat loaves (i.e. Jew and Gentile as “one new man” in Christ) with leaven (sin), followed by the complete wheat harvest at the resurrection on the “last day” (1 Tishri).

The scene of this “firstfruits” of the wheat harvest is seen in Revelation 14 on spiritual Mount Zion before the last day resurrection, but these have not been removed from the earth. In Revelation 7 we see that the metaphorical 144,000 have been sealed for protection during the 7<sup>th</sup> seal events, which are the final 3.5 years of “*great tribulation*,” rather than being removed from the earth.

This sealing is on the foreheads (Rev. 7:3), and it is with the name of the Lord and the name of the Father (Rev. 14:1), the same sealing that the rest of the saints (the complete wheat harvest) of all time will receive at the last day resurrection on some future 1 Tishri.

Thus the sealing of the 144,000 does not, in any way, represent a resurrection of the living and dead who meet the Lord in the air. These are all living saints who are sealed for protection and for the completion of their redemption IN the world.

This is also the fulfillment of the Lord’s promise to the Philadelphian type of church and Philadelphian type of believer, (Revelation 3:10), and it is metaphorically illustrated by the woman clothed with the sun (initially national, ethnic Israel; now spiritual Israel, the “Israel of God” in Christ) who is carried by the “great eagle” (the Holy Spirit) to a place of protection in the “wilderness.”

“Wilderness” in this instance is not a physical place, but a place of untainted spiritual protection in the world.

The event of Nebuchadnezzar (as a type of the Antichrist) throwing the three Hebrew children, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into the fiery furnace for refusing to worship his golden statue as “god” is a foreshadowing of the greater event of the metaphorical 144,000, the perfection of spiritual Israel, being protected in the (spiritual, uncontaminated) wilderness during the fiery trials of “*great tribulation*” when the antichrist “man of sin,” ruler of “*Babylon the*

*great,*” will demand that all men worship him as “God” and “Messiah.” (This is an event that does not take place until the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> seal, the final seal of “*tribulation,*” immediately prior to the opening of the 7<sup>th</sup> and final seal introducing the time known as “*great tribulation.*”

In the former event the Lord was present with the Hebrew children in the fire. In the latter event the Lord will be present in complete fellowship with the metaphorical 144,000 in the fire of “*great tribulation,*” and this fully redeemed remnant of spiritual Israel at that time will be juxtaposed against the presence of the fullness of Satan in fulfillment of Ephesians 4:13 and Isaiah 59:19.

*...until we all attain oneness in the faith and in the comprehension of the [full and accurate] ... (personal relationship) ... knowledge of the Son of God, that [we might arrive] at really mature manhood (the completeness of personality which is nothing less than the standard height of Christ’s own perfection), the measure of the stature of the fullness of the Christ and the completeness found in Him. Ephesians 4:13 Amplified (emphasis is the author’s)*

*So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy... (Satan through the antichrist “man of sin”) ... shall come in like a flood... (of intense demonic deception) ... , the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard ... (the 144,000) ... against him. Isaiah 59:19 KJV (inserts are the author’s)*

The key to understanding this event requires the understanding that we are initiated into the redemptive process by the internal sealing of the Holy Spirit as a “deposit” or “guarantee” of our complete redemption, but any who reject their faith in Christ, for whatever reason, will lose this internal sealing of the Holy Spirit. And they cannot gain it back.

*That [Spirit] is the guarantee of our inheritance [the firstfruits, the pledge and foretaste, the down payment on our heritage], in anticipation of its full redemption and our acquiring [complete] possession of it--to the praise of His glory. Ephesians 1:14 Amplified (emphasis is the author’s)*

*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared... (sealed from the ability to receive revelatory truth from the Spirit of truth)...*

1 Timothy 4:1,2 KJV (insert is the author’s)

The doctrine of “once saved, always saved” or the eternal unconditional security of the believer hinders our acceptance of 1 Timothy 4:1,2, and will not be

explored further in this article except to quote the Lord Himself when He tells us that we must remain in Him through our active faith responses. (John 15:6)

Thus regeneration must be clearly understood as the initial start of a journey of faith, during which we are tested and tried, resulting in the completion of our ultimate redemption, which for all but the metaphorical 144,000 will take place on the last day resurrection, which is the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet of the 7<sup>th</sup> seal on 1 Tishri.

The fact that we have missed this future fulfillment of Pentecost in the past is consistent with Daniel 12:4 in which we are told that some parts of biblical prophecy and doctrine related to the end times have been “sealed,” meaning that the Holy Spirit who was sent to guide us into all truth will not guide us into this truth until the time of God’s choosing.

Therefore, because the seals are beginning to be progressively opened at this present time, I can only conclude that many who are alive today will witness and/or be a part of this astonishing event, hidden in part because we have believed the Pharisees of our faith whose theories about eschatological truth are incompatible with God’s own prophetic calendar and with the truth of our covenant relationship with the Father through His Son, Jesus Christ.

The sealing and complete redemption of the metaphorical 144,000 on some future Pentecost as “firstfruits unto God and the Lamb” will completely fulfill that part of this appointed time. Thus Pentecost, from first to last, is a celebration of God’s plan of redemption through the spiritual body of Christ.

The ultimate fulfillment of Pentecost will, then, take place immediately before the opening of the 7<sup>th</sup> seal and 3.5 years of “*great tribulation*” during which the 144,000, metaphorically representing MILLIONS of believers, will bring in the final harvest of an uncountable number of tribulation saints from every nation, tribe, and tongue in the face of the worst Satan can do through his beast kingdom.

This will infuriate Satan, who cannot harm the 144,000 company, also represented metaphorically as the “woman clothed with the sun,” and he will martyr the vast majority of the tribulation saints being brought to faith by the 144,000. Thus the 144,000 are a redemptive witness to the world of the fullness of Christ in the church, while the witness of the two prophets in Jerusalem is unrelated to redemption. Their witness is, instead, a witness in sackcloth and ashes of prophetic judgment upon the antichrist “man of sin” and the beast kingdom in general during the second woe of the final 3.5 years of “*great tribulation*” during which Jerusalem will be the seat of the end time Babylonian world system, also known as “*Babylon, the great.*”

*“...and their ... (the two witnesses)... bodies will lie in the street of the great city that symbolically is called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord*

**was crucified.**” ... (i.e. Jerusalem)... Revelation 11:8 ESV (insert and emphasis is the author’s)

(\*Because this truth concerning the 144,000 has been fully confirmed to me I can barely restrain myself from gushing it out at every opportunity, but the reality is that most will not accept this truth without having a firm revelatory confirmation concerning our redemptive covenant in Christ and the appointed times and feasts of the Lord.)

The one and only resurrection of living and dead saints from Adam forward on some future 1 Tishri, exactly 3.5 years after the sealing and redemption of the metaphorical 144,000 on Passover (6 Sivan) at the sounding of the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet of the 7<sup>th</sup> seal, will be the fulfillment of the Feast of Trumpets.

On 10 Tishri (*Yom Kippur*), after the “days of awe,” during which “those who have pierced Him” will grieve and mourn, is the Day of Atonement when the Lord destroys His enemies at Har-Mageddon, followed by Tabernacles on 15 Tishri through 22 Tishri, during which the temple is cleansed and the Holy of Holies is anointed as “King of Kings” and “Lord of Lords,” beginning the millennial kingdom reign of Jesus Christ.

This Feast of Tabernacles, like Pentecost, is also fulfilled in two parts. The first part is fulfilled by the cleansing of the temple and the initiation of the millennial reign of Jesus Christ in the earth. But the ultimate fulfillment will take place when the entire elect of spiritual Israel is eternally tabernacled with Him in the New Jerusalem on the New Earth renovated by spiritual fire.

All who have taken the mark of the beast, whether Jew or Gentile, will perish on the Day of Atonement, and all who have persecuted the church, whether Jew or non-Jew, will be judged as “goats.” But there will be a remnant of both Jews and non-Jews, the “**survivors**” (Joel 2:32) who have not taken the covenant mark of the beast and have not persecuted spiritual Israel who will enter the millennial kingdom as natural, but regenerated, men and women.

During this millennial kingdom age the appointed times and feasts of the Lord will be celebrated as a memorial of His completion of the seven appointed times and the fulfillment of God’s plan of redemption for an elect remnant of mankind, the “Israel of God,” by grace through faith.

And it will not be until this time that the covenant promises to Abraham and his “seed” (Jesus of Nazareth) will be totally fulfilled, not to natural Israel but to spiritual Israel, the Israel of God in Christ.

Then, at the end of this time, the Feast of Tabernacles will be ultimately fulfilled by a time known by the Jews as “rejoicing in the Torah” as the earth is renovated by fire, and we inhabit the New Jerusalem for all eternity.

For us, upon whom the fulfillment of the ages has come, the revelatory understanding of the prophetic calendar of appointed times and feasts of the Lord and of the eternal covenant written in His blood, which is the only redemptive covenant, planned by God before the foundations of the world, are meant by God to be our primary sources of truth by which we can test biblical prophecy and true doctrine.

Therefore, those who are “wise” will examine these doctrines thoroughly with a noble Berean attitude in order to reject error and receive revelatory truth from the Spirit of truth just as the Father has intended.