

Following the Saints (ἅγιων, *holy ones*) A Thinking Believer's "Rapture"

All scriptures are translated as literally as possible by this author, who seeks out correct word meanings rather than settling for traditional, professional consensus glosses.

Jackson Snyder, <http://Jacksonsnnyder.org>

The purpose of this essay is to use scripture carefully to show a model of what a saint (ἅγιος, *holy one*) should expect at the end of physical life. The saints of *Revelation* offer us a template of our fate as fervent and obedient slaves in and of the Master Yahshua. My conclusions are much different than traditional churchy "facts" with one special discovery that takes the mystery and uncertainty out of death and the seizing-away ("rapture"). At the end, a concise summary of findings.

[A Short Version is at this link.](#) [My translation of *The Disclosure*](#)

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Following is an in-depth translation of 1 Thessalonians 4:17ff consisting of my translation (yes, I'm a university-trained translator), my smooth edition of the translation, and the translation from a popular institutional Bible betraying a deliberate error, which I believe is part of a conspiracy to mistranslate certain words throughout the New Testament to maintain a popular but misleading church belief regarding the rapture. English corrections of these words and their passages usher in a new and simple understanding of Paul's prophecy of the "rapture" that makes all kinds of sense, replacing the false idea of people all flying off the earth into the stratosphere at the sound of a trumpet, and *all at the same time*. In order to get to a valid conclusion, we merely need to *closely* follow the saints through the Jewish Revolt of 66 - 73 AD. Paul, Yahshua, and Yochanan all prophesied the coming of the dark "Day of the LORD" and the end of the age before the conclusion of our first century, all fulfilled during this Jewish Revolt. It is a foregone conclusion of many scholars that the events of the Revolt fulfill the major visions of the Revelation. It's not our intention to try to prove that in this paper - it's too broad a subject - but much evidence of this "already fulfilled" perspective is to be found on my site revvevo.com as well as many other Preterist sites like www.preterist.org.

1 Thessalonians 4:13 - 18: Saul's Inspired Prophetic Message

4:13 We don't want you not to know, brothers, about the ones

4:13 Οὐ θέλομεν δὲ ὑμᾶς ἀγνοεῖν, ἀδελφοί, περὶ τῶν
sleeping,¹ that y'all may not sorrow, as do the rest not having

κοιμωμένων, ἵνα μὴ λυπήσθε καθὼς καὶ οἱ λοιποὶ οἱ μὴ ἔχοντες

hope, 14 for if we believe that Yahshua died and rose,

ἐλπίδα, 14 εἰ γὰρ πιστεύομεν ὅτι Ἰησοῦς ἀπέθανεν καὶ ἀνέστη,

so also the Elohim the ones sleeping through the Yahshua

οὕτως καὶ ὁ θεὸς τοὺς κοιμηθέντας διὰ τοῦ Ἰησοῦ

will bring with him. 15 For this to you we tell in a word

ἄξει σὺν αὐτῷ. 15 Τοῦτο γὰρ ὑμῖν λέγο (μεν) ἐν λόγῳ,

of Master's that we the living, the ones remaining within

κυρίου ὅτι ἡμεῖς οἱ ζῶντες οἱ περιλειπόμενοι εἰς

the presence² of the Master³ no-not arrive-before⁴ the ones

τὴν παρουσίαν τοῦ κυρίου οὐ μὴ φθάσωμεν τοὺς

having-fallen-asleep 16 for himself the Master in

κοιμηθέντας· 16 ὅτι αὐτὸς ὁ κύριος ἐν

a loud summons, in a voice of a chief-messenger,

κελεύσματι, ἐν φωνῇ ἀπ' ἀρχαγγέλου

and in a trumpet of Elohim will come-down-out of *the* sky.

καὶ ἐν σάλπιγγι θεοῦ, καταβήσεται οὐρανοῦ

So-also the dead in Messiah will rise up first. 17 then

καὶ οἱ νεκροὶ ἐν Χριστῷ ἀναστήσονται πρῶτον. 17 ἔπειτα

we the living, the ones remaining, together with them

ἡμεῖς οἱ ζῶντες οἱ περιλειπόμενοι ἅμα σὺν αὐτοῖς

will be seized⁵ in clouds⁶ into a meeting of the Master

ἀρπαγησόμεθα ἐν νεφέλαις εἰς ἀπάντησιν τοῦ κυρίου

in *the* air, and so always with Master we'll be. 18 So, then,

εἰς ἄερα· καὶ οὕτως πάντοτε σὺν κυρίῳ ἔσόμεθα. 18 Ὡστε

admonish one another in the words these.

παρακαλεῖτε ἀλλήλους ἐν τοῖς λόγοις τούτοις.

¹ sleeping = κοιμασθαι *sleep, fall asleep, die* - this is *not* some form of soul sleep as the Adventists teach. A person is either dead or alive, no middle ground. Paul is using a common euphemism, also used elsewhere in the scripture, meaning death.

² presence = παρουσίαν = parousian. Often intentionally mistranslated as “coming” by traditionalists.

³ Master = κυρίου = kyriou = usually glossed over with “Lord,” and referring to Elohim or Yahshua, depending on the context.

⁴ φθάσωμεν - where? Wherever the spirit of the saint goes when the physical body is dead and the spiritual body is loosed.

⁵ caught away, seized, grasped = ἀρπαγησόμεθα = harpagēsometha; Latin = rapiemur, raptured. This happens when “we” fall asleep: *ie* die.

⁶ clouds = νεφέλαις = nephelais. It's interesting to note that the Greek word for “clouds” is also a related Hebrew word, nephilim = fallen messengers.

My smoother, literal translation:

1 Thes. 4:13ff I don't want you to be ignorant, Brothers, about the ones sleeping,⁷ that you may not sorrow, as do the rest who have no hope, 14 for if we believe that Yahshua died and rose again, so also through Yahshua, the Elohim will bring with him the ones sleeping. 15 For this we tell you in a word of *the* Master: We the living, the ones remaining in the **presence**⁸ of *the* Master⁹ will no-not¹⁰ arrive-before¹¹ the ones sleeping,¹² 16 for the Master himself, with a commanding shout, in a chief-messenger's voice, as though by a trumpet of Elohim, will come down from *the* sky. And the dead¹³ in Messiah will rise up first,¹⁴ 17 then we the living, the ones remaining, will be seized¹⁵ *up* with them in *the* clouds¹⁶ into a meeting of the Master in *the* air, and so always with *the* Master we'll be. 18 So then, admonish each other with these words.

⁷ sleeping = κοιμασθαι *sleep, fall asleep, die* - this is *not* some form of soul sleep, as some teach. Throughout the scripture, sleep is used as a polite way of saying "die," just as we say "passed on" today. A person is either dead or alive, no middle ground.

⁸ presence = παρουσιαν = parousian. Often intentionally mistranslated as "coming" by the status quo, industrial bible. However, making the word out as "coming" in so many places entirely pollutes the truth of Messiah's *presence*. Consider in the writings about the eschaton, the difference in the Master's *presence* and the Master's *coming*. The thinking believer will shudder at the thought. Perhaps you'll be the one to explain WHY this makes a difference.

⁹ Master = κυριου = kyriou = usually glossed over with "Lord," and referring to Elohim or Yahshua, depending on the context.

¹⁰ no-not = οὐ μὴ = not, no = In Biblical Greek, double negatives are used to emphasize a negation, rather than to cancel each other out as in English.

¹¹ φθάσωμεν - precede, prevent (come before), arrive before. Arrive where? Wherever the spirit of the saint goes when the physical body is dead and the spiritual body is loosed, explained in a later study.

¹² Obviously, those who are died have preceded in death to those who are living!

¹³ dead - here Paul speaks plainly, without the euphemism.

¹⁴ In fact, the dead in Messiah are gathered by the messengers responsible for that duty immediately upon death, according to the Master. This is the personal rapture, which I explain completely in the video or essay "Following the Saints," found wherever you found this essay.

¹⁵ caught away, seized, grasped = ἀρπαγησόμεθα = harpagēsometha; Latin = rapiemur, raptured. This happens when "we" fall asleep: *ie* die.

¹⁶ clouds = νεφέλαις = nephelais. It's interesting to note that the Greek word for "clouds" is also a related Hebrew word, nephilim = fallen messengers.

Considerations

Consider the following statements, then think again. Be a thinking believer, not an institutional simpleton.

1. For spiritless humans, there is no kind of life after death.

“When people die, they go into unconscious ‘soul sleep,’” said the pastor who always allows his industrial denomination think for him. But this idea is *not* consistent with Messiah’s teaching in John 5 and other places. “Sleeping” (*κοιμωμένων, κοιμωμένων*) is a gloss used throughout the Bible meaning “being dead.” Forget soul sleep. We humans are alive or we are dead. There are other words used for death in scripture as well, like “the grave” and “the tomb.” Think instead, “They are dead.” Yahshua deals with this in John 11, “Lazarus is sleeping . . . Lazarus in dead.”

Of course, you’ll remind me to check Luke 16:19ff, the story of Lazarus in Hades, that says there’s an intermediate state between life and death. But that passage is an allegory commonly believed by the Hellenistic Jews¹⁷ of Yahshua’s day. He is even accused of using a Greek term, *Hades*, because, after 300 years of Greek oligarchy in Palaestina, a majority of the people would have known and believed Greek mythology such as this story. Consider the author: a Hellenist Gentile; Luke, like Paul, was fully steeped in Greek mythology and philosophy.

Unfortunately, a lot of religion teachers point to this allegory as part of Yahshua’s belief system! Those born again and obedient to the commands *do* go somewhere when they die. But those not born again, spiritless humans, go nowhere because there’s nothing in them that can survive death, including the bogus “immortal soul”; so no purgatory, no reincarnation, no river Styx, but there are plenty of demon importers and teachers.

¹⁷ Hellenist: Cultural Adoption: Hellenists were individuals who adopted Greek customs, language, and ways of life, even if they weren't of Greek descent. This often involved embracing Greek education, philosophical ideas, and artistic styles. Hellenized Jews: A notable group of Hellenists were Jews who embraced Hellenistic culture, often speaking Greek rather than Hebrew or Aramaic. Some even adopted Greek practices and names (like Andrew, Peter, Philip, Paul, Apollos, etc.).

(Where the dead end up is determined after the General Resurrection, which we suppose hasn't happened in this dimension.)

Do you think Messiah believed in Greek Mythology? I don't. Do you think this allegory represents his literal belief in Hades? Think again. The concept goes against everything else that Yahshua authentically said. In one place, he refused to even speak to Hellenists. In another, he refused to pray for a Hellenist's daughter. Any kind of interim state, including the old concept of Sheol, is incompatible with what Yahshua, the highest authority, the master teacher, taught. The teachings of man, angels, gospel writers, or even scripture contrary to the authentic words of the Master must be either re-thought or left behind. If a lesson is incompatible or contradictory, his word must be considered the highest authority. (There are many small parts of the gospels that have been added in by scribes later. Your study bible, if it's any good, will mention these in footnotes in the text.)

2. Paul's prophecy was meant to explain what becomes of The writers of New Testament prophecies were expected imminently. the earthly events of the prophecies Olivet and Revelation were fulfilled in the history of Israel in the first century.

How can we know that the earthly events of the Revelation were fulfilled 66 - 73 AD? Let me again summarize. First, do you believe that Yahshua is a liar? If not, then we really only have to look at one chapter in Matthew, one chapter in the Revelation, and a summary of the history of those years written by Josephus. In Matthew 24, he says that the destruction of the Temple would happen within the present generation, 40 years. He speaks in or about 30 AD and in 70 AD, the Temple was destroyed and never rebuilt.

Revelation 1 tells us that Yahshua said he'd return and be present quickly, suddenly, and soon, not century after century later. Not thousands of years later. He also said that those who pierced him would see him and gnash their teeth. Certainly, many or most of

them were alive to witness him present in 70 AD. That ought to be quite enough from the mouth of Messiah for a thinking believer to see that Revelation's predictions were soon to happen. But that's just the beginning. As one pundit exclaimed, "The Mystery is History," and he was right. That's how I learned this to be undeniably true - the history book.

But it's not only Yahshua who says so, for 5 of the authors of the New Testament say the same thing. It will be soon! Yet now, a long, long time later, the majority believes that Yahshua lied about these things, and teachers just ignore them in order to gain the power of fear over their disciples. Again, all the evidence anyone would want as to the fulfillment of the Olivet, Revelation, and Rapture is collected by yours truly on my web site <http://revrevo.com>, and many, many other sites. Revelation, Olivet, and Josephus' *Wars of the Jews* contain many, many points of convergence. And it's exciting to finally come to know that the Master's famous prophecies were not failures, as many say, but that they were fulfilled within the projected period of seven years.

3. People in Saul's time and place, Thessalonica, were Greeks expecting the dead to be in jeopardy in Hades. **He's teaching what may have been a completely new concept to these people, that those who previously died in Messiah would return with Messiah.** This is partially fulfilled as demonstrated by Rev 14, in which the martyrs are with Messiah on Zion. Future people in Messiah would also be with Yahshua *as they died*, not that they would just fly away *all at the same time*, or at one time. He received a word of wisdom, that a terrible catastrophe was coming soon, and if he was writing at about 46 AD, it started all over the Roman world in 64 AD, less than 20 years after Saul's message, with the Neronic persecutions.¹⁸

¹⁸ Emperor Nero (the head of the Beast) had Rome burned in 64 AD. Soon after, he blamed this burning on the Messiah Believers, the primitive Christians, and declared open season on them throughout the Empire. In Rome, he had them rounded up for torture and death. Soon after, he declared war on Palaestina, which unleashed the seven-year war described in Revelation. This war and persecution took the lives of millions, both saints and sinners.

Q. Does it seem to you that he's writing about circumstances two thousand years later? A. No. Certainly not. Q. Is he writing to those outside his immediate influence? A. The fate of one believer is the fate of all. Revelation 7 and following tells us that serious believers wouldn't die of spirit, even while their bodies died, but be gathered in with Messiah. It's also obvious that Paul is speaking about an *imminent event* happening soon, close to those living at that time, and not thousands of years later in our time. And Yahshua's prophetic words of Matthew 24 agree with him. Here's part of that agreement from Yahshua's prophecy called "the Olivet." Like Paul, Yahshua is also warning people about something that soon will happen, and within the hearers' lifetimes.

Olivet Prophecy of Yahshua

Matthew 24:30 (Yahshua speaking - the closing of the Olivet prophecy): **All the tribes in the land will mourn, and they'll see the Son of Man coming in the sky-clouds with power and great esteem. 31 And he'll send out his messengers with a great trumpet call, and they'll collect his chosen out of the four winds, from the skies end to end . . . 34 Amen, I'm telling you, **this generation won't pass away until all these things take place.** 35 The sky and the land will pass away, but my words, **no!** will **not**¹⁹ pass away.**

And in hope, we can believe that this did come to pass in the persecutions and beyond, into our world. This passage is part of the Yahshua's easiest prophecy to interpret, known as the Olivet Discourse, describing the "Day of the LORD," featuring the destruction of the Temple ("not one stone left upon another") and of all Israel decimated in such elementary terms that they can't be misinterpreted. Israel will soon fall to the Romans as a result of her previous rejection of the Son of Man's sacrifice on the stake. Yahshua actually tells us exactly **when** this is to happen. He says that **those making up the present generation of 30 AD would live to see his prediction come to pass.** These people aren't alive today, for this prophecies of the New Testament aren't for today or the future. They already happened long ago.

¹⁹ no, not = another double negation for emphasis.

Rev 1:7 Look! He-comes amid the clouds, and will-see him
Rev 1:7 Ἴδοὺ ἔρχεται μετὰ τῶν νεφελῶν, καὶ ὄψεται αὐτὸν
every eye, even whomever him pierced.
πᾶς ὀφθαλμὸς καὶ οἵτινες αὐτὸν ἐξεκέντησαν.

In order to see him, those who pierced him had to still be alive, they who lived from the time Yahshua proclaimed these words to the time they were to happen - which was in or around 70 AD, within 40 years (a generation). *One generation in prophetic terms throughout the scripture is 40 years in time.*²⁰ No argument there. So in 70 AD, exactly 40 years after he spoke, his predictions did come to pass, John predicted it around 64, as the Almighty used Rome to completely destroy all of Israel, with the deaths of millions of the people, which included many thousands of the Romans Legionnaires, which were made up of people from all over the known world.

The Jewish Revolt

This debacle, known today as the Jewish Revolt, was recorded in written form by a Temple priest, prophet, and general of the armies of Galilee, **Josef ben Matthias**, who was an eye-witness to that seven-year revolt, at first, a prisoner of Rome, and later, the interpreter for the Roman general titus. His history is still in publication today as [*The Jewish War*](#) (by Flavius Josephus aka Yosef ben Matthias); this history is essential for interpreting the symbolism and history of *The Olivet Prophecy (Matthew 24)* and *The Book of Revelation* in the Bible, and has been called “the best commentary on the *prophecies of Yahshua* ever written.”²¹

Paul predicts that those who abide in Messiah wouldn't perish in the conflict, but would escape through a sky-portal, guided by a messenger (angel), who was gathering up these people's spirits from their dead physical bodies, and transferring them on the

²⁰ forty appears 159 times in the Scripture, and has symbolic significance in many prophetic situations.

²¹ Quoted from John Wesley, founder of Methodism and a scholar of biblical languages.

winds to the sky, to meet the Master Yahshua for an assembly. The world calls it the “rapture,” from Jerome’s old Latin Vulgate version of 1 Thessalonians 4:17 (English and Latin).

17 Then we who are living, who are left, together
17 Deinde nos, qui vivimus, qui relinquimur simul
will be seized with / like them in clouds to meet Messiah
rapiemur^{22*} cum illis in nubibus obviam Christo
in air,²³ and so always with Master we’ll be.
in aera et sic semper cum Domino erimus.

So in summary, in 30 AD Yahshua publicly prophesies that Israel, even Jerusalem and the Temple, are to be destroyed entirely within 40 years (“not a stone left on a stone”), which is the period the prophets called “the end of the age” and “the Day of the LORD.” Those who pierced him are still alive to witness his return and presence; that is, unless Yahshua lied, which of course, he did not. What he’s recorded as saying is true; what Yahshua said happened.

Timing of the Fulfillment

Yahshua says in the Olivet and Revelation that his presence and return will happen soon, as did Paul, who was prophesying only 20 years or so before the destruction of Jerusalem. Both prophets indicated that the time was short, that there was a time limit, and hundreds or thousands of years later greatly exceeds their limits. Besides the evidence of time, there are a myriad of other such evidences pointing to the fact that Yahshua’s predictions were to come to pass in the very near future, within 40 years from when they were uttered. (For these evidences, read my commentaries on Revelation at Revrevo.com, or linked at JacksonSnyder.org.)

²² The Latin is “rapio, rapiemur,” which comes into English as “rapture,” in Latin means to seize, snatch, abduct, **rape**, or tear away) — not really a very comfortable translation! In Paul’s original Greek, it’s ἀρπαγησόμεθα (har-pag-
SO-me-tha), which also means “seized.”

²³ Paul is *not* saying that this all happens at one moment in time or in some far off future. The way it’s worded indicates that those still living could be caught up ANY TIME after those preceding. This is another component of the devilish conspiracy of 2 Thes. 2.

And these predictions most certainly did come to pass, as remarkable as that is, and more remarkable is that there was an anointed eyewitness on hand so we might know today what happened 1,945 years ago in Israel in detail. So rest assured that the Olivet and Revelation, at least the events described therein, happened on the earth, and *we have nothing to fear from them now*. Anyone who is broadcasting these things for the future is uninformed or a liar, including that fearless young prophet you're following on YouTube or in books. Know also that such a one is a servant of Satan employing the Great Deception to keep you from enjoying ageless life among the "stars" whether he or she realizes it or not.

The Day of YHWH

The Hebrew prophets frequently refer to "the Day of the LORD / YHWH" (Yom YHWH) as a time of divine intervention, often involving judgment and upheaval. Key passages include Isaiah 2:12, Amos 5:18, Joel 2:1, and Zephaniah 1:7. One example in symbolic language of what Elohim projected to happen on that awesome "day" we find in our Bible, at:

Isaiah 2:12 ISR+ For יהוה of hosts has a day against all that is proud and lofty, against all that is lifted up, so that it is brought low; 13 and against all the cedars of Lebanon that are high and lifted up, and against all the oaks of Bashan (code for Jerusalem and its temple); 14 and against all the high mountains, and against all the hills that are lifted up (rulers); 15 and against every lofty tower, and against every strong wall (edifices); 16 and against all the ships of Tarshish, and against all the desirable craft (commerce). 17 And the loftiness of man will be bowed down, and the pride of men will be brought low. And יהוה alone will be exalted in that day, 18 and the idols completely pass away (because people remember this prophecy once it starts coming to pass).

19 And they will go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, from dread of יהוה and the splendor of His excellency, when He arises to shake the earth mightily.²⁴ 20 In

²⁴ Rev. 6:15-16: "fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb."

that day man will throw away his idols of silver and his idols of gold, which they made, each for himself to worship, to the moles and bats, 21 to go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the crags of the rugged rocks, because of the fear of יהוה and the splendor of His excellency, when He arises to shake the earth mightily. 22 Cease from man, whose breath is in his nostrils, for in what is he to be reckoned upon?

Indeed, all the events pictured from Isaiah's and Yahshua's point of view did in fact happen 66 - 73 AD, seven years, $3\frac{1}{2} + 3\frac{1}{2}$ with 70 AD in the middle, a part of the Day of YHWH, and millions of Israelis and worldlings perished in this bloody revolt with blood splashing as high as a horse's bridle. Why don't you, a thinking believer, know all about this? Why do you follow futurism when there is absolutely not a shred, dot, or tittle of evidence? You should stop. It is occultism, plain and simple. The mystery of the Bible is often history. And the history is all well-known, it's factual, and available: and prophecy and history together provide the most amazing proofs of fulfillments throughout salvation's history. This is but one of Yahshua's many prophecies written in the biblical books that came to pass in that short time span of 40 years.²⁵

"I Am Coming Soon"

Throughout these texts, Yahshua reminds the readers that he is coming quickly, soon, suddenly; but can you understand that Yahshua did come, did present himself, in the middle of the 7-year war, as described in Revelation 14? He also tells us that the times like the *Wars of the Jews* will never happen again in the future. If this is true, then most of our preconceived notions about the Eschaton are false: that Israel will be destroyed, that there will be a "third" temple, and the rest of the themes of Revelation. They happened in the 1st century. Have no fear, they

²⁵ The history of Israel 66 - 73 AD isn't well-known to the religious folks of today due to uninformed teachers and denominations withholding it from believers. But this history *is* in existence, codified in the writings of the eye-witness, Flavius Josephus. The astounding future predictions claimed by "Bible scholars" clipped out of Revelation are evidently more attractive to unthinking believers than how Revelation lines up with what already happened ages ago.

won't happen again according to the Master's promise. Please review Matthew 24 again very closely; if possible, from the original Greek version, if you've the knowledge. Don't be led off by the uninformed, tempting you with exotic fantasies of Revelation's fulfillment in the future. They often know better, but they realize that futurism is very productive commodity; spiritless humans buy into it, not only intellectually, but also monetarily. Like the little scroll, it tastes good, but the result is indigestion and worse, rejection of the true word of our Savior. "If you love me, you'll do as I say" (John 14:15).

If there is doubt about Revelation's fulfillment, the following verses need to be seriously considered over and over again:

66 AD: Rev 1:1 This is Yahshua Messiah's disclosure (revelation) given to him by Elohim to show his slaves **what must quickly happen** ... 3 Happy are those reading, hearing, and heeding the words written in the prophecy, **for the time is near.**

55 AD: Here's Saul in 1 Cor 7:29 (NKJV) But this I say, brethren, **the time is short**, so that from now on even those who have wives should be as though they had none, 30 those who weep as though they did not weep, those who rejoice as though they did not rejoice, those who buy as though they did not possess, 31 and those who use this world as not misusing it. For the form of this world is passing away.

30 AD: Mat 24:21 For then there'll be great calamity as hasn't occurred from *the* beginning of *the* world until now, no, and never *again* will be.

30 AD: Mat 25:34 Amen, I say to you, that this generation *will* not pass until all these things happen.

There is much to learn from the passages in this essay, but the most important thing to retain is that these prophecies Have come and they've gone. They cannot happen again, especially after thousands of years. They're done. Learn this well and tell others. And fear not.

Ascending and Descending

Though millions were eliminated in the Neronic persecutions and what was really a world war, Paul says that this revolt **would not be the end of life** for those abiding in the Master, even if they were victims of it.

Revelation reiterates this as the 144,000, the spiritual “saints” killed²⁶ in the persecutions and war, were collected alive in clouds and appear alive on Mt. Zion, singing chorus-style, with the master (chapter 14): They had been previously born of the spirit from above sometime in their past, and though they were killed, they still live into future ages.

Using the wind, the malachim / messengers were to ferry the just into the atmosphere above to meet the Master for an assembly “in clouds.”²⁷ Perhaps that meeting was the hovering city known as the New Jerusalem, orbiting the earth in clouds, as Yahshua plainly tells us through John’s stylus. After the organizational meeting, these who cheated death of its victory will dwell with the Master in future ages as a symbolic bride, just as Yahshua told us in John 5:24,

Amen, amen. I say to you, the one who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me possesses ages of ages of life, and does not come into a trial,²⁸ but has passed from death into life.

The event of transition (the “passing” spoken of here, death) has no more effect on the spirit of the man or woman than the natural shedding of skin, since the essence of an *abiding* human, obtained through the new birth, can no longer die.

²⁶ If you follow the saints through Revelation (as we are now doing), you’ll find that the entirety of the 144,000 died, their living spirits gathered, and are still living in Messiah.

²⁷ Interesting note: the word for *clouds* in Greek is the same as the word for *fallen angels* in Hebrew - *nephilim*. Let’s not get confused to the point in which we are going to a meeting in the air with the fallen.

²⁸ The Translator’s Conspiracy again raises its deceptive lie - the word *kriseos* doesn’t mean *condemnation* or *damnation* as some still translate - but is actually a law technical term meaning a *trial* or *decision*.

but *that one* has passed from death into life.

Once the human spirit has been acquired, and the requirements of obedience are complete, natural death of the “living being” is an impossibility. The living spirit of the one abiding survived, and that spirit is seized by the responsible messenger and delivered up to the New Jerusalem to be with Yahshua. This happening is testified to all the time by people who have experienced the new world, then told they must go back.

However, Yochanan the Revelator adds more from the Master’s mind to this account, telling us that only a little flock would be raptured, and that it might only happen for these “saints” if they are martyred (murdered) first and *appeared* to be killed. The text implies that, in fact, all were killed.

Yochanan-John

This Yochanan-John was an overseer of seven Nazarene Israel assemblies in Anatolia, and at the time of his writing, he was living in exile in a Roman penile colony (Patmos) in Asia Minor (for the Word of Elohim and the Testament of Yahshua). He may have been



60 years of age, older or younger, and after his physical life was done, he went up himself.

Some have followed metal merchants, travelers, speculators, ship captains, and the others mentioned in Revelation 18 to visit the 49

square miles of Patmos from time to time, bringing news of far-off places such as Judaea, and undoubtedly to take news of the exiles out with them.²⁹

²⁹ The island is composed of volcanic rock, making it unlikely to have had extensive mineral deposits that would have made it a prime location for large-scale mining operations. However, other sources tell us that the island was replete with copper and tin.



Perhaps Yochanan collected and collated news and manuscripts and passed them on to the Jewish world in serial form, one “vision” after another, as the events came to pass, or as he prophesied them to pass.

He codified this news in the language and symbolism of the ancient prophets so that the adversaries of the Nazarenes,³⁰ the Romans, Greeks, Zealots, and all Gentiles - those who weren't conversant in the scriptures living everywhere - couldn't make sense of them.³¹

This serialization of visions may have gone on throughout the time that Jerusalem was under siege, 66 - 73 AD, and in Yochanan's *Disclosure*,³² he wrote about what was happening in Israel's “Day of the LORD”- *The War of the Jews* - on three levels - the physical level, the atmospheric level, and the supernatural level - land, air, and in the spiritual dimension. These three locales are broken down in the *Revelation* to help anointed saints to interpret the book. Or then again, the information came to him conveniently in visions; it's easy to see the locations that he's writing about because the book actually goes from one location and one vision to the other, and he generally tells us where he's writing from: sky, land, or someplace else: the realm of the supernatural.

Following the Saints

³⁰ Nazarene = not the “Church of the Nazarene,” but Netzari or Nazorean Israel, one of the titles our religion may be known by.

³¹ This possibility is very well fictionalized by P. Maier in his *The Flames of Rome*.

³² *The Disclosure* is the title of my book - new, anti-great-deception translations of New Testament prophetic writings - Olivet, Revelation, Rapture passages, etc. *The Disclosure* is available free online at jacksonsnnyder.org and will soon be published at lulu.com. Don't be deceived by the redactor's conspiracy.

In the rest of this essay, I'll be moving mainly in the physical level - what's happening on the earth, and the astronomical level - what's happening in the sky, and let the mystics interpret the supernatural. Really, the best we can do is seek John's *Disclosure*, and *The Jewish War*, your own powers of spirit of discernment, and an anointed teacher of this material. The fourth source is hard to find, because we're in a time of myriads of myriads of lying spirits and false prophets, the devil's presenters, frogs from the mouth of the beast, in churches, para-churches, and on YouTube and other video teaching venues. And though he's writing about a particular time in the past, in many ways, that time extends to a great degree in our time. Test the spirits before you listen to anything - consult your inner spirit, that part of you that was born sometime years ago, that part that will outlive your body: your holy spirit. You have been blessed with a living and set-apart *nephesh*; use it to eliminate the deceivers and poisoners. Be ye perfected.

How could Yochanan be so accurate in spiritual and temporal history?

Revelation 4:1 After these things I looked, and see! a door standing open in the skies! Like a silver trumpet, the first voice I heard speaking with me was saying, **Come up here!**³³ And I'll show you what's happening after these *things*. 2 Immediately, I was in spirit; and look!

He was accurate because he was "raptured," called up into pneumatic *space* - upon the apex of the Mount Zion, where, with Yahshua and the host, he's recording scenes from the siege of Jerusalem. He's never heard from again after he finishes his mission. Perhaps he was the very last of the raptured saints. Note Yochanan's storied observations:

Revelation 14:1 And I looked, and see! the Lamb is standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 having his name and the name of his Father written on their foreheads. 2 And I heard a sound *from* out of the sky,

³³ Ἀνάβα ὧδε! - Anaba hodeh!

like that of many waterways, and like a sound of great thunder. The sound I heard *was* also like kitharists kitharing their kitharas.³⁴ 3 And they sing a new song before the throne and before the four animals and the presbyters. And no one was able to learn the song unless of the 144,000: those having been redeemed from the land. 4 These are the ones who haven't stained³⁵ themselves with women, for the ones who're following the Lamb wherever he'll go are virgins. Out of *all* the people, these were bought back, first fruits to Elohim and to the Lamb, 5 and no falsehood was found in their mouths; for they are blameless before the throne of the Elohim. (*The Disclosure*)

- and like the angelic ladder climbers that Ya'aqov saw, John ascends and he descends, as he is bidden:

Deuteronomy 18:12: And Ya'aqov dreamed, and look! there was a ladder set up on the land, and the top of it reached to the sky. And look again! The messengers of Elohim were ascending and descending upon it!

Disclosure and the War of the Jews

But keep in mind: *The Disclosure* is a master work composed of visions, sayings, and events. After each vision was recorded, written copies were dispersed through Yochanan's network, reaching hundreds of Jewish people who reached hundreds more. He writes in Aramaic, then does the best he can to translate into Greek, because Greek was understood around the Roman world. (Not so with Aramaic.) World Jewry was the original targeted readership for Yochanan's collection of testaments, which, as you know, I call [*The Disclosure*](#).

³⁴ **kitharists kitharing on their kitharas** - κιθαρωδῶν κιθαρίζοντων ἐν ταῖς κιθάραις αὐτῶν. The kithara, or Latinized cithara, was an ancient Greek musical instrument in the lutes family; a seven-stringed professional version of the lyre, which was regarded as a rustic, or folk instrument, appropriate for teaching music to beginners.

³⁵ **stained** - ἐμολύνθησαν - emolunthēsav.

The secondary and largest target people-group includes all curious ever since, including and especially us moderns of the twenty-first century. The Disclosure has fueled a thousand stories, ten thousand speculations, and one-hundred thousand potential prophetic futures authored by uninformed, overzealous pretenders. None have or could actually come to pass, for only one situation in one place at one time could have fulfilled the 7-year period recorded, the years 66 to 73 *anno domini* - just seven years and only those seven years.

But beside John's disclosure, there survived only one other account of the war, written by Yosef bar Matyah, also known as Flavius Josephus, a Jerusalem priest who assumed a famous Roman name. *These two accounts have many comparable features, and many of similar or identical characters and events.*

*A Discursion (**Spurious Books** written to take a believer off the narrow path):*

In the 1800s, disguised as humble Christian servants, a handful of skilled scribes / seers claimed divine anointings to write, translate, or otherwise convey and replace lost biblical texts *found in obscurity and restored*. These "professors" aimed to credit, *augment*, or supplant the existing sacred writings in the Bible. The occult works I'm speaking of are composed of esoteric Biblical imitations purportedly found or channeled from deceased "**saints**," or discovered in tiny cultic libraries in obscure Asian villages.

These "Divines" render their lost works through the hands of the scribe/seer in the course of automatic writing or translating. The stories, well-crafted and emotionally resonant, serve as clever substitutes, amendations, and/or guidebooks to the Bible, with the ultimate goal of adding or replacing traditional writings with (what I would call) fortunetelling, thus undermining the original and authentic instructions between the Elohim and the people, and gaining disciples for their particular point of view, idiosyncratic practice, or caveat.

If you or someone you know is involved in interpreting Bible prophecy, and you happened to pick up or purchase one of their books, there's a good chance that certain subjects

discussed within will deeply affect you. For example, if you were to read *The Gospel of Barnabas* (15th Century - not *The Epistle of Barnabas*, which is authentic), *The Archko Volume* (1884), *The Unknown Life of Jesus* (1890), *The Gospel of the Holy Twelve* (1881), *The Aquarian Gospel* (1908), *The Secret Gospel of Mark* (1958), or *The Essene Gospel of Peace* (1975), you would encounter well-written, gospel-like paragraphs reminiscent of the canonical gospels found in the New Testament. However, these works also feature side doors that may lead you (the readers) down unexpected pathways and untrue conclusions. By the end of the read, you may find yourself mourning over the sandwich you ate at lunch, wishing instead to cuddle it, and vowing to never eat flesh again. (The meaning of this requires the wisdom of discernment. And, in the cases of some of these books mentioned, veganism and enemas may be salvation issues.)

Besides these books, we may add the voluminous *Book of Mormon* (1830), which I consider top flight Christian literature, though it be entirely fictitious, and supposedly translated by employing a “seer’s stone” and a magical hat, from “Reformed Egyptian script,” and unknown language, etched upon golden tablets found buried in a hill in New York by Joseph Smith, a professional treasure-finder. Who can believe that? Yet these “histories” are very well written, emotionally fetching, and very convincing to the unthinking spiritless human. Unfortunately, I have never seen any tangible evidence for the the Nephites and Lamanites. I consider it great religious fiction - but falsified, though still extremely popular and thought to be factual by adoring crowds. Research whatever you read - Wikipedia is fine - to learn if there is a chance you may get seduced by a lie that seems like it “ought to be right.” But since the source of these books is from spirits of dead people, do we believers who have the discerning, born-again spirit, accept them as fact? They are, by the human authors’ admission, from the dead?³⁶
End Discursion

** * **

³⁶ Deuteronomy 4:2: “You will not add to the word that I’m commanding you, nor take away from it, so you may keep the commands of YHWH your Elohim that I command you.” Let us add, “the dead know nothing.” Ecclesiastes 9:5

You Liar!

If you are speculating that Yochanan's visions represent the future, you should first consider Flavius Josephus' history. If you read carefully, referencing the events found therein, and compare them with the Revelation's visions, you will surely find what I found: Yochanan is describing events, both secular and spiritual, of the seven years he indicates, *i.e.* 66 - 73, the "Day of the LORD." You must very seriously consider the Master's caveat from Yochanan's 22nd chapter:

8 I warn every one who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if any one adds to them, Elohim will add to him the plagues described in this book . . . and if any one takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, Elohim will take away his share in the *tree of life* and in the *holy city*, which are described in this book.

//

This prohibition follow up that from the Deuteronomy Torah of YHWH, which previously warned you:

Deuteronomy 4:2: You'll not add to the word that I command you, nor will you diminish anything from it, so that you may keep the commandments of YHWH your Elohim that I command you.

And Deuteronomy 12:32: Whatever I command you, observe it, do it! You'll not add to it nor diminish from it.



Pandateria - Death Island for Women Royals in the Time of Yochanan. Prisoners quickly starved. O Elohim! Save us from such a fate!

These warnings are for you, prophetic teacher, false teacher, fortune teller! Breaking the ordinance by interpreting the *Revelation* outside of its historical context and into yours, you are being judged as “adding to the book” and “taking away from it.” In your speculations, you’ve taken the entire context out of the Master’s word; you have added to it context that he never represented nor could he represent. Lies! Then, with all the other famous false prophets of today (no need to name names - they’ve shown themselves false a thousand times to the thinking believer), you *may see* the “Kingdom” through human eyes for a short time, but, because you perverted the truth and misled others from the truth, puffed up as you are, and they have believed your energetic, persuasive prevarications, you will be found guilty spiritual abortions, and if you are lucky, find yourself exiled on some horrible little island in the Mediterranean Sea, like Pandateria or Patmos, and for ages of ages.

Revelation Received and Released in Sections

We suppose John released his visions in parts over a period of time - perhaps even over 7 years - to keep world Jewry up-to-date on what was coming to pass in the homeland. There is evidence of this, as pieces of the book containing only some of his vision have been discovered. It makes sense that, with the events happening in Israel over this short period of time, that he made the visions available as he received them. The complete text, which we can see is composed in obvious segments, betrays the probability of serialization. That does make sense to me.

John finds himself going in and out, back and forth, up and down from this place where he is shown the visions, but he doesn’t see with his physical eyes. He’s equipped with some new and improved vision organs in the spirit. Not unlike near death experiencers describe their visions, so John does also. Their views are far too expansive, too colorful, too fascinating for eyes. They see all sides at once; they enjoy 360° range of vision; they are given insight into what has already happened, and what will happen; they experience all sides and events at once. And

chances are good that what John has seen with his mind will never be forgotten, at least until Elohim's purpose is completely served. And Elohim's purpose is to show the thinking believer what's happening in Spiritual Israel in those days.

Josephus is doing the same thing, but through the eyes of flesh - he serialized two versions of the *The Jewish War* - a coded one for Aramaic speakers (now known as "Slavonic Josephus," left untranslated until 1933 or so) and a second *Jewish War* in Greek, written for the Roman world, for all the "western" whole world spoke Greek at that time on account of Alexander's world-winning 300+ years before. The account for the Jews in exile throughout the world, the Aramaic, was discovered after millennia lost, translated into old church Russian, also known as Slavonic. Very few know of this version, because, as I mentioned earlier, it hasn't been available in English until recently, and you can buy it in a book if you have \$700. Fortunately, I received a bootlegged copy of the book from a friend, and I've edited it for those interested in reading who haven't got that much money to spend on a book. (It took me six years to accomplish.)³⁷ So my edition is, at this time, free of charge, and I have it as a download, and it's available to you, thinking believer. There is much in this version about the earliest believers, including Yahshua, John the Dunker, and the apostolic band, topics that Josephus certainly would not have wanted the Romans to see because they show him to be an admirer of these early Jewish Christian heroes.

The Rising

Let's get back to the text and discover something that Paul and John have in common - the Rising, also called, The Rapture. Paul tells the Thessalonians in chapter 4:

16b The dead in Messiah **will rise** first.

They rise when their flesh dies.

³⁷ A free version of "Slavonic Josephus" can be found among my archives, currently (2025, 2026) at <http://jacksonsnyder.org> or <http://revrevo.com>.

17 Then **we** the living, the ones who are remaining, will be caught away in the clouds (νεφέλαις) for a meeting *with* the Master in air, and so we'll always abide with the Master.

Verses 16b and 17 say exactly the same thing. The only difference is timing. In the past, those in the Master, those born from above, those spiritually alive, were caught up immediately when they died. Those living during the war, their spiritual man, also were caught up when they died: but only those who were precious to the Master Yahshua. The vast majority, when they died, just died. Their spiritual man went nowhere because *they had not been born of the spirit*. Paul also said that the natural man was spiritually dead.

This Rapture passage, and the passages from Revelation below, are examples of what happens when Yahshua's people die through all time. They are sealed to live, though their flesh is killed. And this example still holds validity as what happens to *the spiritually alive of our day*. And if you can hear it, this gathering up at death *is* the Rapture. We're never told that all these would be gathered up *at the same time*, as is commonly believed today. Yahshua makes this clear in these words and many others - think!

John 5 (literal):24: **Amen, amen, I say to you that the one hearing my word and believing the one sending me has life an age, and not go into a trial, but has passed out of the death into the life.**³⁸

At that time *circa* 70 AD, there were a lot of people dying in Israel and Jerusalem. Those few sealed by the Master were sealed for spiritual life, but the world marked them for death - they weren't friends of the world. The Romans hated them because they were Jews. The violent of the Jews hated Nasorean believers because they refused to join in the fight, as they

³⁸ For a full explanation of this process, get my essay "Confident Believers Never Die" from <http://JacksonSnyder.org>.

wouldn't kill. We know this because, from the Bar Kokhba revolt 60 years later, a message was found written by bar Kokhba himself instructing his commander to kill the Nasoreans because they were heretics and wouldn't fight the Romans.³⁹ Any Jews in the first revolt that wouldn't fight were condemned to harassment and death by the Zealots and their assassins (the Sicarii); killed were the temple priests and the 144,000 who were living at that time. This is another piece of vast amount of evidence that the Olivet Discourses and Revelation prophecies are reports of the Jewish Revolt of 66 AD. The mystery is history. Do you know the history of Israel in the first century? Probably not, and that's the problem. People don't realize how Elohim works in *history*.

Where are the Dead? What is Necromancy?

We need only peruse Adams' formation story that tells us from the beginning where the dead are. YHWH tells the new human formation:

Genesis 2:17 Do not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for in the day that you eat of it you will certainly die.

But the Devil told them just the opposite:

Genesis 3:4 The serpent said to the woman, "You shall certainly not die.

Which of these opinions do people generally believe today? They believe the serpent's view; that when the body dies, some part of the person remains alive in heaven, or hell, or sheol, or purgatory, or as ghost, as spirits, as ascended masters, or as gods

³⁹ Simon bar Kokhba was the leader of the Jews during the third revolt, 132-136 AD, 60 years after the revolt written about in Revelation. A message about the Nasoreans (followers of the Nazarene) was found in the Cave of Letters, located in Nahal Hever near the Dead Sea. According to two different Christian traditions, Kokhba was proclaimed Messiah, and he ordered his general that Nasoreans were of no worth and should be killed. Justin Martyr claims that Nasoreans were punished or executed if they didn't deny and blaspheme the Master, while Eusebius asserts that Bar Kokhba harassed them because they refused to join his revolt against the Romans.

of their own planets along with their wives with the mission, to rule and populate their own worlds. Life goes on, they say, through transmutation. And though their Elohim has already revealed what “you will surely die” means, they all believe a lie. Transmuting to purgatory isn’t death, it’s continued life. Flaming in hell isn’t death, it’s continued life. As Solomon wrote, “The dead know nothing.” They are dead, they are gone. And we can’t take but one example, that of Saul bringing Samuel up from Sheol, as the definitive answer. (This comment always comes up during teaching.) This incident was of the occult, as Saul was an occultist and requested Samuel of a necromancer, a witch. It wasn’t Samuel. Saul himself delegitimized necromancy.⁴⁰ But in consulting the witch, he knew exactly what he was doing.

In the Torah, necromancy, or contacting the dead for divination or other purposes, is explicitly forbidden. Torah condemns it, stating that those who practice it should be put to death. The Elohim views it as a grave sin, placing it in the same category as child sacrifice and other abominations.⁴¹ If you have been involved with seances, channeling, or witchcraft, then, unless you’ve done something about it, you have attached to you demonic associates that bring nightmares, hallucinations, and voices. You must get restoration if you’re ever going to be saved. If you looked closely at the interlinear languages of the texts at the beginning, you will find that *necro-* comes from Biblical Greek and refers to corpses. Necromancers (those who seek the dead) aren’t hooking up with the living dead, but to living, unclean spirits of demons roaming the earth looking for a bodies to inhabit. Here’s victim from the gospel:

Luke 4:33 In the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice.

Wherever this man went, the demon went, for the demon was

⁴⁰ Necromancy is the practice of divination and magic involving communication with the dead, often to gain knowledge or manipulate events. It’s sometimes associated with black magic or witchcraft and involves summoning spirits of the deceased, usually for the purpose of foretelling the future or accessing hidden knowledge.

⁴¹ Leviticus 19:26; Deuteronomy 18:10; Galatians 5:19-20; Acts 19:19, etc.

inhabiting the space meant for the birthing and nourishment of the human spirit from Elohim. And observe; the man and his parasite is in the synagogue, the space in which these people worshipped their god! Obviously, the demon(s) are not restricted from worship centers; in fact, I believe that such entities get together in worship centers and cause their persons to hack and cough, suck snot, call attention to their person (who they are proud to be wearing), fall down, and cause the baby to screech for the entire service with a “loud voice,” or jump from person to person, make the choir look demonic, or disrupt in any way they can. Worship centers should see to the casting out of these things before every gathering.

I wrote earlier about about some books that the editors admitted them to be authored by dead saints. Since the dead know nothing, where did they get these amended stories about “Jesus”? The same place Saul got Samuel, from the demonic visage and voice inside, living in the witch, and undoubtedly an entire herd of them. If you get involved in necromancy, you risk a very real possibility of demon oppression, affliction, and possession. Those contacting demonic entities need to realize that they don’t want to ever leave, and they’ll even defy the Master to stay. In the name of Yahshua / Jesus,⁴² tarry for power, command these monstrosities out of your life, and be healed.

The Sealing and Rising

Revelation gives us more information on sealing and rising in the time after Messiah’s resurrection until today in chapter 7. It tells us what happens with (1) perfect believers (144,000), and with a crowd of the striving but (2) not-so-perfect (Gentiles). The chapter gives us *clear* and *simple* examples, a *template* if you will, on the heavenly processes meant for believers upon their physical death and spiritual freedom, maybe since the beginning of time (and maybe not). We are told that those belonging to Messiah are *sealed* so messengers can identify them for when it’s time to raise them

⁴² I say “Jesus” on account of perhaps the majority of demons don’t know of the name “Yahshua.” They know and recognize Jesus only. They are seldom informed; the majority are ignorant. This I’ve learned from *hands-on experience* in dealing with them.

up to *assemble* with the Master on the mountaintop (symbolic for a high place). (Remember, not just anyone can be sealed. There are firm requirements for both Israel and non-Israel.) As the Master's inheritance,⁴³ those who die in the Master are apparently caught up immediately upon physical death. Those not of the Master's simply die, and cease to exist.

Let us reiterate our authoritative information on sealing:

Revelation 7:1 *Says John*: I saw four messengers standing at the four corners of the land, **holding back the four winds** of the land, that no wind might blow on land or sea or against any tree. 2 I saw another messenger ascend from the *horizon* with **the seal of the living Eloah**, and he called with a loud voice to the four messengers who had been given power to harm land and sea, 3 Don't do harm to the land or the sea or the trees, till **we have sealed the slaves**⁴⁴ **of our Eloah** on their foreheads.

At this point, the seal of Elohim is with the messenger. In the days of the prophets hundreds of years before, some of the people of Elohim were likewise sealed with the final letter of the Hebrew (paleo) alphabet, Tau:

Ezekiel 9:4 And YHWH said to *a man clothed in linen who has a writing kit at his side*: Cross through the middle of the city, in the center of Jerusalem, and seal a Tau ✕ on the foreheads of the grieving men, who are mourning over all the abominations that are being committed in its midst.

The "man clothed in linen" is the messenger, like those of the New Testament and Revelation, wear the white linen of righteousness. Many remnants of this linen were found at Qumran, which gives us a strong indication that the Enochians / Zadokites considered themselves among the messengers (angels), and thus their understanding that if they were to

⁴³ Psalms 2:7,8 tells us that the non-Jews are the Master's inheritance: 7 I will declare the decree: YHWH has said to me, You are my son, today I have begotten you. 8 Ask of me, and I will give you foreigners (*ethnoi*) for your inheritance, and the ends of the land for your possession.

⁴⁴ Slaves - δούλους - doulous. This is usually mistranslated in most versions as "servants," yet there the difference between the two is very important, and that difference is *free will*.

continue among the messengers, they themselves were to resemble the messengers by being robed and being righteous.

Old Testament Saints?

It's beyond the scope of this paper to get into this subject because there appears to be contradictions between various church doctrines, between the church and scripture, and in scripture itself. From my point of view and location, individual churches follow whatever the denominational doctrine happens to be. This isn't a topic of much interest; certainly not useful for Bible or Sunday School classes, which are primarily attended by old people who'll be gone within 10 years. And it appears to be an moot issue to study the after-lives of people who lived so long ago and died before Messiah was resurrected.

However, the primary theology held by fundamentalists and evangelicals here in the deep south is that when a person dies, he or she goes directly to hell, unless they attended church regularly, didn't smoke, drink, or carouse. They don't consider Torah-breaking as sin, because, as I hear folks say:

O, that's Old Testament! It's passed away! We're in the New Testament now, and we're saved by grace once and for all when we say the 'Sinners' Prayer' and let Jesus into our hearts. If you're saved, when you die your immortal soul goes straight to heaven. You live there in bliss forever. If you're not saved, when you die, your soul goes straight down to the hell of fire for eternal punishment. As for the Old Testament people - they all went to hell, though the good people went to a special section there called "The Bosom of Abraham," which is a happy place with Jesus, awaiting the General Resurrection. The people in hell are resurrected back to human form, are judged at the Great White Throne, then are sent back to hell. The good people then go on to heaven.

A theme with several variations. Following are some passages having to do with the Old Testament Saints:

Matthew 11:(ISR) 29 יהושע־ (Yahshua) answering said . . . 31 concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by Elohim, saying, 32 I am the Elohim of Abraham, and the Elohim of Yitshaq, and the Elohim of Ya'aqob? *Elohim is not the Elohim of the dead, but of the living.*

This passage was spoken by our Master. It gives us a clue about our subject. They are alive, at least to Elohim. The next has been called, "[Matthew's Weirdest Passage](#)." The weirdness is *italicized* below.

Matthew 27:(ISR) 50 יהושע cried out again with a loud voice, and *gave up His spirit.*⁴⁵ 51 And see, the veil of the Dwelling Place was torn in two from top to bottom, and the earth was shaken, and the rocks were split, 52 and *the tombs*⁴⁶ *were opened, and many bodies of the set-apart ones who had fallen asleep were raised,* 53 and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection, they went into the set-apart city and appeared to many.

Next, another surprise that recently came to my attention:

Acts 2:(ISR) Pentecost: 29 Men and brothers, let me speak boldly to you of the ancestor Dawid, *that he died and was buried,* and his tomb is with us to this day.

It's novel that the writer of Acts would refer to David, the hero of the faith, to have been placed in a tomb, perhaps a euphemism (as mentioned before) for *death*, and without mention of David's eternal spiritual condition.

30 A prophet (speaking of David) knowing that . . . Elohim had sworn with an oath to him . . . to raise up the Messiah to sit on his throne, 31 that his being was neither left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.

However, Though David knew that Elohim swore to raise up Yahshua, who was in Hades. Hades is both the name of the god of the underworld and the name of the underworld itself, the realm in Greek mythology where *souls* go after death. It's a place

⁴⁵ Note that it's not the soul that escapes the body, but the spirit. Again, this is the *human spirit* lost to Adam but re-acquired through the new birth of John 3.

⁴⁶ Like "asleep," "the tomb" can be another euphemism for death. The "bodies" can only be the flesh kind that died when Yahshua did. Some, like these and the Master, were first returned in the fresh human flesh like the type of resurrection of Yahshua. Perhaps among these was the "thief on the cross." The spirit is also a body, but it appears this host, like Yahshua, were resurrected in the physical body, that is, their entombed bodies came back to life, or a copy of it. I wouldn't think they'd come back like zombies, scaring those they appeared to their death.

of darkness and gloom, a stark contrast to the bright world of the living.

And in Hebrew lore, “souls” don’t go anyplace at death, nor are souls independent of the body. If the body dies, so does the soul. So why would Peter tell the crowd that Yahshua had been in the Greek underworld, Hades? In 2nd Peter 2:4, the writer has Peter talking about Tartarus,⁴⁷ also in Greek mythology, the place where the Titans (Nephilim) were held. Why?

Was Peter a Hellenist? Was Peter a native Greek speaker? And why, in the canon, does he have a brother with a Greek name, Andros, Hebrew Adam? Christian tradition informs us that he’s married to a woman with a Greek name, Penelope (weaver or a duck), and a daughter Petronilla (a girl rock)? Do we need to reevaluate Peter based on some of these clues to his background? Does this sound like the Kefa of the *Clement Homilies*?

32 Elohim has raised up this יהושע, of which we are all witnesses. 33 . . . having *received from the Father the promise of a set-apart spirit*, he poured out what you now see and hear.

He’s talking about the baptism with a set-apart spirit, which could well be the same as receiving the absent human spirit, the born from above spirit (if we disregard church doctrine on the matter of “the Holy Spirit,” which could be completely spurious)?

34 For *Dawid did not ascend into the sky*, but he himself said, ‘יהוה said to my Master, Sit at My right hand, 35 until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet. 36 So let all the house of Yisra’el know for certain that Elohim has made this יהושע, whom you impaled, both Master and Messiah.

Is this theologically correct? Did the “Old Testament Saints” not go up, but are dead until the general resurrection? If David, after Elohim’s heart, didn’t go up, then was he not born again (evidently according to John 3, an ancient doctrine of the Jews), and is still “in the tomb.” It certainly seems so. (Though we then have a problem with the transfiguration of Moshe and Elijah.)

⁴⁷ Tartarus - ταρταρώσας. The place holding the Nephilim, fallen angels

Acts 2:37 And having heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Kēpha and the rest of the emissaries, Men, brothers, what will we do? 38 And Kēpha said to them, SHUV!* and let each one of you be immersed in the name of יהושע Messiah for the forgiveness of sins. And you shall receive the gift of a the set-apart Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are far off, as many as יהוה our Elohim will call.

* SHUV. Hebrew imperative. “TURN AROUND” or “TURN BACK.” The Greek is *metanoia*. “Change your mind!” Usually translated with the traditional term, *repent*. But repentance is but a small part of the act of *teshuva*. Repent is inadequate definition of *teshuva*; an obvious carry-over from Catholic traditional theology.

So now we’re learning that these people at Pentecost there at the tomb of David had received the birth from above (a holy spirit) along with an endowment of zeal. We know this because *teshuva* took place, which is the first act of becoming born from above, with baptism following! (And in Clement’s Recognitions, the act of deliverance upon the new believer.)

So what became of the “old testament saints”? Did they go to Sheol or some such dark, lonely place for tarrying or punishment? No. Yahshua *corrected* all those creepy old myths that originated in paganism. As the New Moses, he thoroughly corrected the ancient understanding that led to the accursed teaching of souls roasting in Hell. Apparently, if what Peter supposedly said in his Acts speech, those who died before the resurrection of Yahshua remained dead, though we could beat this horse to death. I can think of several more passages to add to the discussion.

For the time being, let’s say that after the first resurrection, believers began to be gathered in (raptured) at their physical death, with those believing *before* the first resurrection still dead, or in some undefined Abraham’s Bosom (which is probably the mind of Elohim) until the general resurrection, at which time their fate will be declared.

Summary: Those throughout the old world, if they weren’t marked, when their bodies died, they went *no place*. They were dead, to be brought back to corporeal life sometime during the thousand-year long judgment day or in dimensions that we can

neither perceive or imagine. Sheol, Hades, Tartarus, and Hell are not repositories for human souls, for “the soul that sins, it will die.”⁴⁸ Anything Yahshua tells us overrules any other judgment in the Bible, and certainly Jewish, Egyptian, and Greek myths. Yahshua came to set the record straight, though not much was recorded on the subject of the former saints.

Back to the 140,000 “Saints”⁴⁹

And back to Revelation:

Rev 7:4 I heard the number of the sealed, a hundred and forty-four thousand sealed, out of every tribe (φυλης) of the sons of Israel

And 144,000 was the extent of the little flock alive in 70 AD or so that Yahshua was speaking of in Luke 12:32,

Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

By 70 AD, one could count those who actually lived by the Word and the Testimony of Yahshua. The little flock was populated by 144,000 **saints** who received a supernatural, invisible identity stamp on the forehead for “special processing,” just as those in Ezekiel’s time. As we learn later, these saints were all martyred; they were killed on account of their relationship with the Word and the Testimony. They are gathered up here, mustered, to be troops tasked with managing the Day of YHWH, for that storied day had arrived, and the war was in full swing. But as having been marked out for gathering, when martyrdom catches up with them, their living spirits are caught up to be with Yahshua on Mt.

⁴⁸ Found in Ezekiel 18:20. It's part of a larger passage in Ezekiel 18 that emphasizes *individual accountability* for one's actions, both righteous and wicked. The verse also states that *a person's actions* will determine their fate, not the actions of their parents or ancestors, nor the “grace of God,” exactly as the New Testament states over and over. But today’s church insists that a person’s works account for nothing, following the lone voice of Paul and ignoring the teachings of the Apostles.

⁴⁹ 144,000 = Could be a literal number, but more probably, says traditional interpretations, the number should be broken up into its prophetic components: 12 x 12 x 1,000, prophets x apostles x a large group, which describes what we find written in the text.

Zion, as recorded in Revelation 14.

Regarding the mark: the Dragon behind the Beast institutes a counterfeit of the mark of tau known as “the stamp” or “Mark of the Beast,” which in the physical world, undoubtedly the Roman tax stamp,⁵⁰ for the high tax rates even on peasants was one of the main causes of the dissatisfaction of Roman / Priestly rule, and one of the main causes of the rebellion.

Rev 13:16 And *the beast* makes all, the small and the great, the rich and the poor, the free and the slave, to be given a stamp on the right hand or on their forehead . . .

Without the stamp, proof of the payment of one’s taxes, the people were not permitted to take part in commerce. Without the stamp, everything one had could be confiscated, even for a small debt. What was true of the tax stamp was also true of the Mark of the Beast. No buying or selling.

Believers of All Cultures Raptured

Returning now to Rev 7, the *second part* of the vision records this amazing event:

Rev 7:9 After these *things* I looked, and see! a great innumerable multitude out of all cultures, tribes, peoples, and languages, was standing before the throne and before the Lamb, dressed in white robes, and *with* palm branches in their hands;. . . 13b Who are they, and where have they come from? 14 And I spoke to him (the messenger guide), My master, you know. And *the messenger* said to me, These are the ones coming out of the Great Tribulation⁵¹. . .

Obviously, these are ***not*** the 144,000 saints. These martyrs are outside the Jewish culture. They are Gentiles and foreigners. They could be the *second class of the resurrected*, those Yahshua

⁵⁰ Tax stamp: One major reason for the war was the astronomical tax amount forced on the people of Israel from the various ruling powers. Even Yahshua speaks of this in Matthew 17:25-27. The Roman tax stamp is perfectly described in Rev 13:16ff as “The Stamp / Mark of the Beast.” For more information, see commentary at <http://RevRevo.com>.

⁵¹ the **Great Tribulation**: perhaps the 3 1/2 years and beyond from 66 to 70, now known as the Neronian Persecution.

tells us were “good” in John 5:25. They stand before the throne in righteousness robes as did the Rechabites⁵² of old, having lost their physical bodies in one of the terrible persecutions of that time, yet in the spirit, they retain their personhood and even their physical characteristics.

John 5:25 Amen, amen, I say to you that there is coming an hour and now is - that the corpses will hear the voice of the Son of the Eloha - and the ones who've heard will live.

Every martyr deserving of salvation from the Day of YHWH is gathered in: the Saints and the saints. There are no more of the justified in the land; the cup of martyrs' blood is full, and the days of vengeance continue.

Rev 18:1 Then the seventh messenger blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in the skies, saying, The government of the world has become the government of our Sovereign and of his Messiah, and he'll reign age after age. ... 16 And the twenty-four presbyters who sit on their thrones before Eloah fell on their faces and venerated Eloah, 17 saying, We give thanks to you, Sovereign Elohim Almighty ... who has taken your great power and begun to reign.

So where is this reign of Elohim? And where is Elohim's realm. It's not on earth quite yet! There's just as much sin and death now as then. But reign and realm both exist - in the sky, where all the saints and the slaves of Elohim are gathered together! These spirited people are before the throne of Elohim, along with the host of previously created spiritual beings that never had flesh bodies. They are all now in the New Jerusalem, a huge edifice in the unseen realm, hovering over the earth.

The Floating Cube and Dreams

Rev 21:2 And the city, the set-apart New Jerusalem, I witnessed

⁵² Rechabites - Jeremiah 35:18 To the house of the Rechabites Jeremiah said: Thus says YHWH of hosts, the Elohim of Israel: Since you have obeyed the command of Jonadab, your father, kept all his commands and done everything he commanded you, 19 so, thus says YHWH of hosts, the Elohim of Israel: Never will there fail to be a descendant of Jonadab, Rechab's son, standing in my presence.

descending from the sky, from the Elohim as a bride,⁵³ adorned beautifully for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice coming out of the throne, saying, Look! The Elohim's tabernacle is with humankind! And he'll dwell (tent) with them, and they'll be his people, and he'll be their Elohim.

From AI: The Book of Revelation, specifically in Revelation 21:2, is described the New Jerusalem as "descending from the sky from from Elohim." Some interpretations suggest it will be situated above the earth during the Millennium (well, that's what it says), with those on earth accessing it. The passage also describes the city as having no need of the sun or moon, further supporting the idea of it being a separate entity above the earth.

And we reiterate that the New Jerusalem is a huge cube comprised of materials resembling metals, minerals, and crystals found on earth. (More on this in the commentary at revrevo.com.)

I believe I was given a short dream depicting myself going into one of its portals, yet I was confined to one room, and in that room were robed students going from class to class in preparation for the winning over of the world. The students were "like angels." Inside this room there were many portals with students young and old going in and out. Evidently I got there during a "class change." The walls and portals were designed in a way I've never seen before, rather like lava, always moving like liquid. I felt excited and that I was in the right place. And then alas, it was but a dream.

Years ago, long before I lived near the ocean, I had another dream, much like a vision. I just found myself on a beautiful beech during the day. The weather was mild, and the sky was multi-colored. As I started to turn around, discovering this environment, and feeling no anxiety whatsoever, I saw a small group of people maybe 200 yard to the north, approaching the beach. They were too far away to recognize anyone, but I did watch as one person looked my way and pointed. Immediately after, the group began to make their way in my direction. I just watched while the came closer and closer.

At about 30 feet away, I recognized one of the people. It was my great aunt, a woman I loved, who took care of me as a child from time to time, who'd died years before. It wasn't easy to recognize her because I only knew her as a elderly, deformed woman. But this woman was youthful, smiling, colorful. And as they got closer, I could hear them welcoming me home. Then I was able to see the

⁵³ **bride** = νύμφην - nymphēn - nim-PHANE.

clearly, and they were people, relatives and others that I'd known and cared for, some of which hadn't at this time yet died. I was still observing when they reached me, and I remember having great joy while being with me. And my feeling was quite real, full of love and gratitude, then alas, it was but a dream, and I awoke.

The End is the Beginning //

That this place of spiritual perfection is extra-dimensional is known because it has no need of sun, and in the spiritual realm, there is no sun or moon or stars, though the people inhabiting the realm (those who've been born of spirit and enjoy a fully spiritual body) are able to go "down" to earth, and will be required to do so (for there will still a world to win), but rarely will those remaining on earth (the second class) traverse upward or outward into the New Jerusalem. Those still in the flesh yet living on earth) may be given "a ticket" up, but are only able ascend in the way that John went up: "I was in the spirit on the Day of YHWH," wrote John. Evidently, John (a saint, but still in the mundane body) was brought up into the air for a meeting, the contents of which he brought back down and explained on parchment to the best of his literary ability.

Rev. 11:18 The foreigners raged, but your anger came, and the time for the dead to be judged for rewarding your slaves, the prophets and **saints**, and those who fear thy name, both small and great, and *for destroying the destroyers of the land.*

Rev 3:5 And the beast (Rome, the head of it being the emperor Nero) was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months; 6 it opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against Eloah, profaning his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in the skies. 7 Also *it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them.* And authority was given it over every tribe and people and tongue and culture, 8 and all who inhabit the land will worship it, every one whose name hasn't been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb that was slain. 10b Here is a call for the endurance and trust of the saints.

The 144,000 constitutes the "saints" especially, those who're

found in their spiritual bodies on Mt. Zion in chapter 14. In another place, they are told to rest until the remainder of their number could be gathered, their martyr's blood destined for the famous "bloody cup." (It's important to note that these saints were not executed all at the same time, but when execution happened to each, the messenger was close by to seize and gather in the spiritual body of each.) Once their body died, they were then "raptured."

In the interim period between their sealing and their appearance on Zion, while they were living their mundane lives, they were assuredly working out their eventual salvation in the economy of Elohim. They weren't all together - they were located in a variety of places - perhaps all over the known world. They weren't martyred at the same time or in the same locale. This account informs us that they were gathered at these times and from all these places by messengers, guardian angels. Not until they die in the physical that they're gathered, though they may not be cognizant of what was happening to them.

If these saints / martyrs are the model for all saints, then their raptures constitute *a model* for all saints afterward. I hope I've made it clear that "rapture," the seizing of the spirit, isn't at one certain time or in one certain place, or that multitude of saints aren't raptured at the same time, but are "seized" by the gathering messengers when they physically die, whenever and wherever that is. These "gatherers" could be and probably are of the "watcher" and "guardian" class.

If we follow this sequence, this template, we can state with certainly that *raptures* happen individually, not all at once, not all at the same time, when the saints die, which makes far more sense that thousands of people of a sudden disappearing, or levitating into the atmosphere. We might also consider the possibility that these guardian-watchers have also witnessed the spiritual birth of the born from above in the past.

This understanding is not only logical, sensible, and now, scriptural, but it contradicts the uniformed, ancient theories of the dark ages, that when Yahshua returns, all those who are his

will be raptured at once. Rather, it will not be said of those born of spirit that “God needed them in Heaven, so he took them away” (a very disturbing platitude), but will instead be able to finish their course of service to the Elohim naturally (some by martyrdom), and Elohim will not be seen as *killing our loved ones and taking the off* because he needs them in Heaven so much!

When a born-from-above saint dies, he or she will “awaken” in an unfamiliar place, probably, like John, with a guide to orient them for their new experience, and maybe be guided to the an institute or learning, maybe even the New Jerusalem or New Mount Zion, just as the former saints of the 144,000 assembled with Yahshua on Mt. Zion to sing new songs of exaltation. John witnessed this wonderful scene up on Zion with the rest of the saints:

And I looked, and see! the Lamb is standing on Mount Zion, and *with him 144,000 having his name and the name of his Father written on their foreheads*. And I heard a sound from out of the sky like a sound of many waterways and like a sound of great thunder. . . . They sing a new song before the throne ...; no one was able to learn the song unless of the 144,000: those having been redeemed from the land. These were ... following the Lamb wherever he'd go. Out of all the people, these were bought back, first-fruits to Elohim and to the Lamb, and no falsehood was found in their mouths; for they are blameless before the throne of the Elohim. (Excerpts from Revelation 14, my translation from *The Disclosure* version.)

The Summation