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I would also encourage you to go to Amazon and pick up a copy of “**Liberating the Book of Revelation, Returning to the Source of the Message.**” This book is intended to help us all know what the Spirit said and how He said it. This book is focused not so much on interpreting the book of *Revelation*, that is what this podcast is for, but on accurately representing the book of *Revelation* in the manner in which the Spirit originally spoke it to John. It is available in all formats: hardback, paperback, e-book format, and as an *audible*.

EP125 Revelation 14 verse 14-16 P2

In our last podcast we began to address one of the most anticipated events ever, and that is the rapture of the church. We addressed the overall picture of Jesus being ready to collect His bride, as well as the various imagery used in the text, including: Another Angel, the Sanctuary of God, the Cry versus the Commands, the Two Commands, the Hour, The Reason, The Ripening, and the Archangel.

Now let’s pick back up where we left off.

THE BIG PICTURE & the Timing of it All

If one sticks to the **Codex**, the evidence related to the timing of the *rapture* is incontrovertible. The pre-tribulation rapture fiction is part of the enemy’s plan, those whisperings from the image of the Beast, to lie to the **Called** and **Chosen** of God, to set them up for great disappointment with the aim of their ultimate apostasy. Satan’s *coup d’etat*, so to speak.

Besides, considering all the **WARNINGS** we have been given that are rendered in the *present* tense, it would make no sense if the people of God were simply taken in the rapture before the occurrence of the events that prompted the Spirit’s **WARNINGS**. And keep in mind, this book is written to the followers of Jesus Christ, its audience is not unbelievers but believers. Those verbs rendered in the *present* tense should have all been rendered in the *future* or at least the *aorist infinitive* if they did not apply to those who are now found to be believing.

**THE GREAT APOSTASY IS COMING, AND ONE CANNOT FALL AWAY
UNLESS THEY HAD AT ONE TIME BELONGED.**

To support the claim that the timing of the *rapture* is incontrovertible, the **Codex** should provide us with an “**alignment of the stars,**” so to speak, such that we should find key facts in other passages that are like our primary text. For instance: the coming wrath (or time of indignation), the archangel, the cry or shout from the angel, the cloud, the last trumpet (as in the seventh trumpet), one like the son of man (or the Lord Himself), the harvest of both the dead and the living, the suddenness of this harvest, and the associated mystery. All these indices must be present in other text(s) to corroborate the link to our

primary text, and therefore fix the timing of it all to the blowing of the Seventh Trumpet.

In this regard, we will not have to utilize any slight-of-hand, ignore any aspect of the supporting verses, talk our way around things, or make things up to demonstrate their perfect tie to this first harvest that occurs with the blowing of the Seventh Trumpet.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

But I do not **now** want you to **now** be uninformed, brethren, about those who are **now** caused to be sleeping, so that you may not **now** be grieving as do the rest who are **now** having no hope. For if we **now** believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will in the **future bring with Him** those who have been **caused to be sleeping** in Jesus *{those who have shriveled}*.

For this we **now** say to you by the word of the Lord, that **we who** are now living and are caused to **now** be remaining until the coming of the Lord *{the ripened fruit}*, may not precede those who have been caused to be sleeping.

For **the Lord Himself** will in the **future** choose to descend from heaven **with a shout**, with **the voice of an archangel** and with **the trumpet of God**, and **the dead** in Christ will in the **future** choose to rise first. Then we **who** are **now** living and are caused to **now** be remaining will in the **future** caused to be **caught up together** with them in the **clouds** to meet the Lord **in the air**, and so we shall always in the **future** choose to be with the Lord. Therefore, you are commanded to **now** comfort one another with these words.

In this passage, many of the key indicators tied to the harvest are revealed:

- The Lord,
- The cloud,
- The shout,
- An angel,
- The angel's cry or shout (the voice of an archangel),
- The trumpet,
- The harvest of that which is dry and shriveled and that which is fully ripened,
- Our gathering together in one fell swoop (one thrust of the sickle),
- To meet the one sitting on the cloud in the air.

1 Corinthians 15:50-53

Now I **now** say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot **now** be caused to inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable **now** inherit the imperishable. Behold, I **now** tell you a **mystery**; we will not all in the **future** be caused to **sleep**, but we will all in the **future** be caused to be changed, **in a moment**, in the twinkling of an eye, at the **last trumpet**; for the trumpet will in the **future** sound, and **the dead** will in the **future** be caused be raised imperishable, and **we will** in the **future** be caused to **be changed**. For this perishable must **now** be caused to put on and choose to put on the imperishable,

and this mortal must be caused to put on and choose to put on immortality.

As before, we are given many of the key indicators which are directly linked to the first harvest.

- The mystery (in the days of the blowing of the 7th Trumpet, the mystery of God is completed),¹
- The suddenness of the harvest (in a moment),
- The resurrection of the dead (the shriveled) and of the living (the ripened)—*note*, not all will be caused to sleep, or to be shriveled,
- The last trumpet, which would clearly indicate the Seventh Trumpet, the last in an order of trumpets and the final trumpet referred to in **Revelation** (though not the final one connected to the End Times).²

By the way, in the sentence, “*For this perishable must **now** be caused to put on and choose to put on the imperishable, and this mortal must be caused to put on and choose to put on immortality*” the verb “*put on*” is a parsed verb, meaning it has two forms. The first is in the *aorist passive infinitive* and the second in the *aorist middle infinitive*. The *passive voice* indicates what is done to us, and the *middle voice* indicates our choice in the matter. Both are true. We have chosen and God has done.

Hence, God is the one who **now** (in our *present*) must cause us to put on the imperishable (the New Creation) and we must be willing to choose to put on the imperishable. God is responsible for our transformation, and we must choose to be transformed. He will never force us to be like Him. Likewise, God is the one who must cause us to be cloaked in immortality, and we must choose to be cloaked in immortality.

I love the way the Spirit circles everything around to the amazing interchange between the work of God and our **willingness** to choose for this work to be done. Jesus is the **Alpha**, the one who starts this work in our lives, and He is the **Omega**, the one who finishes this work in our lives, but we get to choose to let Him or not. And it is the work that is done in our **now**, in putting on the imperishable, that guarantees our ultimate transformation into His likeness.

Now back to our parallel verses.

Isaiah 26:19-27:1

Your **dead will live**; their **corpses will rise**. You who lie in the dust, **awake** and shout for joy, for your dew is as the dew of the dawn, and the **earth will give birth to the departed spirits. Come, my people, enter into your rooms and close your doors behind you; hide for a little while until indignation {or wrath} runs its course.**

For behold, **Yahweh** is about to come out from His place **to punish** the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; and the earth will reveal her bloodshed and will no longer cover her slain. In that day **Yahweh** will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, with His fierce and great and mighty sword, even

¹ **Revelation 10:7**

² *Note*: there will be one other trumpet that will be blown and that is after Jesus Second Coming where He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet, and they will gather the Elect from the earth. See **Matthew 24:30-31**

Leviathan the twisted serpent; and He will kill the dragon who lives in the sea.

This passage connects to both our primary text, but also aspects of the previous verses. The key indicators are:

- The dead will live,
- The corpses will arise,
- Those asleep will awake,
- They will hide away while indignation (wrath) runs its course,
- The Lord coming out from His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth.

The earth will, in a very strange way, give birth to the departed spirits, where they will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed from mortal to immortal.

Moreover, this notion that **Yahweh** will gather His people and usher them into rooms to keep them safe until the time of indignation runs its course, is also perfectly in alignment with what we have learned.

- First, God has not called us to wrath. Rather, He has promised to deliver us from this time of indignation—from the wrath to come.³ Hence, **the first harvest**.
- Second, it is what Jesus promised His disciples when He said: *“You are commanded to let not your hearts **now** be caused to be troubled. You are commanded to **now** believe in God and **now believe in God**; you are commanded to **now** believe **and now believe** also in me. In my Father's house there **now** are many residences. If it were not so, would I have told you that I **now** choose to go to prepare a place for you? And if I may be caused to go and may prepare a place for you, I will **now** choose to come again and in the **future** will choose to take you to myself, that where I **now** am you may also **now** be.”*⁴

Jesus is coming to harvest His Chosen ones from the earth and keep them safe and secure in His Father's house, in those rooms that the “Bridegroom” has been preparing for His bride. And it all happens immediately before the time of wrath.

Daniel 12:1-3

Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a **time of distress** such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, **will be rescued**. Many of those who **sleep** in the dust of the ground will **awake**, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.

When Michael arises,

- God's people will be rescued,

³ **1 Thessalonians 5:9, 1:10**

⁴ **John 14:1-3**

- Those who have fallen asleep will awake,
- There will be a time of distress such as never occurred previously (the Wrath of the Lamb).

Revelation 11:9-12

Those from the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations will **now** look at their **dead bodies** for three and a half days and will not **now** permit their dead bodies to be laid in a tomb. And those who are **now** dwelling on the earth will **now** rejoice over them and **now** be caused to celebrate; and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who are **now** dwelling on the earth.

But after the three and a half days, the breath [or Spirit] of life from God came into them, and **they stood** on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who are **now** watching them. And they heard a great voice from heaven **now** saying to them, "*You are commanded to come up here.*" **Then they went up into heaven in the cloud**, and their enemies watched them.

In this final passage, the key indicators are:

- The war resulting in dead believers,
- The resurrection (the dead in Christ who will rise first),
- The cloud,
- Their ascension into heaven.

Alignment of the Stars

All these passages are in complete alignment and there is nothing in the **Codex** which would take away from this clear and well documented understanding linking all these passages to the first harvest. There needs to be no intricate re-working of these passages, or skipping of anything that does not fit, or explaining away anything. They naturally fall into alignment.

Thus, these passages all clearly anchor the timing of the *rapture* to the time of the first harvest, just slightly into the second 3.5-year period, but right before the time of God's wrath. They are all a result of the blowing of the 7th Trumpet.

There is one other passage deep within the **Codex**, in the oldest book, which also speaks of the anticipation of the change from the mortal to the immortal and our hiding away from God's wrath.

Job 14:13-14

Oh, that You would hide me in Sheol, that You would conceal me until Your wrath returns to You, that You would set a limit for me and remember me! If a man dies, will he live? All the days of my struggle I will wait ***until my change comes.***

As a layered text, clearly Job is addressing his present suffering, but it also means so much more. Job

clearly wants to be protected from God's wrath, but until that time, he resigns himself to wait until his change comes.

Some think this reference to "*change*" is talking about his death, but it is more likely that he is prophetically talking about his new life that will occur when this mortal is shed and all true believers in God are clothed with the immortal. In other words, his question, "*If a man dies, will he live?*" is more of a statement with an implied answer. Job is talking about an event which will take place at the time of the rapture. After all, Job is the one who said,

Job 19:26-27

Even after my skin is destroyed, yet from my flesh I will see God. Whom I myself shall behold, and whom my eyes will see, and not another.

This is an expectation and a promise confirmed by the Spirit in the New Testament.

1 John 3:2

Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, **we will be like Him**, because we will see Him just as He is.

In fact, in the **Codex**, the Spirit promises that we will be transformed into the image of God. Said differently, He promises that we will share His divine nature.⁵ It is hard to imagine, but our fundamental construct will be divine. Even King David understood this beautiful reality. The Spirit communicated that he will not only rise from the dead, but that he will be "changed" or transformed into the likeness of **Yahweh**.

Psalms 17:15

As for me, I shall behold Your face in righteousness; **I will be satisfied with Your likeness when I awake.**

We will see Him as He is, in righteousness. And we will be satisfied bearing His likeness, being like Him, being made new in His image. David added the comment "*when I awake.*" Like Job, he was keenly aware that he would live again and be changed, shedding this mortal body in exchange for the divine and immortal. This same promise was confirmed to the prophet Daniel.

Daniel 12:1-4

"... everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. Many of those who sleep in the dust of

⁵ *Romans 8:29, 2 Peter 1:4*

the ground will **awake, these to everlasting life**, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt. Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.”

THE FIRST HARVEST IS THE BEAUTIFUL PICTURE OF THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH.

Any attempt to place the rapture at some other time, either before the Tribulation or after the Tribulation will require one to do some fancy gymnastics or slight-of-hand with all these passages. It will force one to make up new designations for defined terms like tribulation, wrath, and new designations for those who love Jesus during these days and follow the Lamb wherever He goes. The Spirit has been very precise and intentional across all these verses, and the stars, so-to-speak, are all in alignment.

Our Time of Glory

THIS IS THE MYSTERY; THIS IS THE GATHERING. The Gentile and Jewish believers are rescued when some are fully ripe, and some are already shriveled (first the dead and then the living). And with one fell swoop of His sickle, they will all meet Jesus in the air and will be protected from the time of His great wrath – the time of indignation.

This is one of the most important promises in the Bible. It is our **HOPE**. It is our victory. It is our assurance. It is the end of all our suffering, all our pain, all our terror. We shed our bodies of flesh, and we receive our new heavenly immortal bodies comprised of the substance of **Yahweh**.

In addition, we will soon find that this starts the time when we will be given our rewards as we prepare ourselves for the wedding supper of the Lamb. This is our time of glory.

Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah)

There is another indicator of the timing of the rapture, and it is found in the prophetic mystery of the Jewish festivals, specifically, the Feast of Trumpets (commonly referred to as “Rosh Hashanah”). The Feast of Trumpets comes in the fall, which just happens to be the fifth festival (the celebration of grace) of the seven festival celebrations.⁶

Rosh Hashanah means the “head of the new year” and is considered the Jewish New Year. It occurs in the Seventh month of the Jewish calendar (Tishrei). It begins what is known as the 10-days of awe leading up to the **Day of Atonement** (the day of judgment).

During the 10-days of awe, the people were to humble themselves in preparation for the day of judgment. This was a memorial celebration remembering the time when God ascended upon Mount Sinai and gave Moses the Law, which represented the covenant between Him and the people of Israel.⁷

The trumpet blasts of the Feast (of which there were seven), like those blown on that awesome day

⁶ See *Leviticus 23*

⁷ See *Exodus 19-20*

when God ascended upon Mount Sinai and gave Moses the Law, reminded the people that they were under a covenant, and they had accepted the responsibilities of being God's people.

The Feast of Trumpets was celebrated immediately before the **Day of Atonement**, the day where God would judge the sins of the nation and the sins of the people (a day which is symbolically linked to the great wrath of God being poured out upon the world and the heavenly realms in judgment, as well as the fixing of one's eternal destiny).

In this festival, there was an order of trumpets that were blown, and the seventh or **the last trumpet** was blown right before the "**Great Day**" or the eighth day of this great feast (the number eight signifying "new beginnings").

Thus, even the prophetic nature of the feasts places this event immediately before the time of judgment where God's wrath is poured out upon the sin of mankind. We will dive deeper into the prophetic nature of the feasts of Israel after this chapter.

Fiction Alert

FICTION ALERT

Pre-Tribulation Rapture Theory (again)

Before we proceed to the second gathering, let's address one additional issue about the **fictional** Pre-Tribulation Rapture Theory, and that is the existence of a very significant conjunction ("**and**"). By its very existence in a key part of the **Codex**, we can safely conclude that the pre-tribulation theory is **fiction** coming from the imagination of those who have twisted scripture and thereby have deceived many.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-11

May no one deceive you by any means, for it {the day of the Lord} will not come unless the apostasy comes first, **AND** the man of lawlessness is caused to be revealed, the son of *destruction*, who even **now** chooses to be **opposing** and **now** chooses to be **exalting** himself above all that is **now** caused to being called god or object of worship, so that he sits in the **Sanctuary** of God, **now displaying** himself that he **now is** God.

Do you not **now** remember that while I am **now being** with you, I **had told** you these things? And you **now** know what is **now restraining** him **now**, so that in his time he will be **caused to be** revealed. For the mystery of lawlessness is already **now choosing to work**; only he who now is **now restraining** will do so until he **chooses to be taken** out of the way. **And when** {or at the time} that lawless one will caused to be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; that is, the one whose coming is **now** in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who are **now choosing to be perishing**, because they did not **choose to** receive the love of the truth so as to be **caused** to be saved.

Due to the events of their lives, likely the extent of their suffering, the believers in Thessalonica were concerned that they had missed the rapture (missed our gathering together to Him) and found themselves in “**the Day of the Lord.**” Perhaps, they had been studying the letter Paul wrote to the Romans and freaked out when they read:

Romans 2:5-9

But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who will render to each person according to his deeds: to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation.

As we have learned the phrase “**the Day of the Lord**” is a defined term, for the **Codex** also calls it the day of **Yahweh’s** wrath, that “... time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation,” “... a great tribulation, such has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.”⁸

THE DAY OF WRATH AND THE DAY OF THE LORD ARE SYNONYMOUS TERMS.

The suffering of those in Thessalonica must have been so terrible for them to think they had been left behind. They thought they were experiencing the wrath of God. They likely knew the truth that true believers are not appointed to this time of wrath, so again, they must have believed they had blown it and had been left behind.⁹ That is how terrible their practical life circumstances must have been. Can you imagine? With this concern, it is certain that they did not believe in a pre-tribulation rapture because they were talking about **the Day of the Lord.**

Therefore, the Spirit clarifies things and sets their concerns to rest. What the Spirit did **NOT** do, however, is clear up the confusion by saying, “Stop worrying, you got it all wrong. You said the sinner’s prayer, therefore, you will be raptured before the tribulation even begins, much less before **the Day of the Lord** begins. So just chill out already. All that **End Times** stuff simply does not apply to you; it’s for those other people—those tribulation saints.”

Rather, the Spirit comforted them with the truth: **the Day of the Lord** (the time of the Lord’s wrath) had not come. And He admonished them to not let anyone deceive them as to this matter. In effect, the Spirit was telling them that they had not missed the rapture; they were not left behind.

Then He spoke unequivocally stating that it **WILL NOT COME UNLESS:**

1. “The apostasy” comes first (that great falling away from the faith). Remember, one must

⁸ *Zephaniah 1:18; Daniel 12:1; Matthew 24:21*

⁹ *1 Thessalonians 5:9*

belong to something before they can fall away from it.

2. He who restrains is moved out of the way (he is no longer restraining or holding back the revealing of the man of lawlessness), **AND**
3. The man of lawlessness, in his time, is revealed. This is the one whom Jesus will bring to an end at the appearance of His coming, at the Second Coming.

These are the precursors, the events on the prophetic timeline, that **MUST** occur before **the Day of the Lord** arrives, before the time of wrath, before the rapture of God's people who are not appointed to wrath.

Again, if the rapture was to occur before the Tribulation even begins, then all of this is irrelevant and would not apply to believers. The Spirit would not have needed to provide all these unnecessary details and just confuse them even more.

In addition, with the rampant use of the *present* tense throughout this passage (speaking of this one who **now** chooses to be **opposing** and **now** chooses to be **exalting** himself above all that is **now** caused to being called god or object of worship, so that he sits in the **Sanctuary** of God, **now displaying** himself that he **now is** God), we can be sure that this term "*the man of lawlessness*" is used as a placeholder for the Beast, the spirit who will possess the man we call the Antichrist. The man is just an imager for the Beast.

We have discussed this before. This is a layered passage that addresses the spirit through the imager of the man – which is why the Spirit added that he is the "son of destruction" – a.k.a. the Beast, the one whose name is Destruction.

Keep in mind, however, this one critical fact that most seem to ignore. The Beast is not unleashed upon the world until he is released from the Abyss at the blowing of the Fifth Trumpet, far into the first 3.5-year period of the tribulation.¹⁰ Thus, this man of lawlessness could not be revealed to the world prior to that time. The restrainer, the angel who holds the key to the Abyss, the one who unlocks it and lets the Beast, and his demonic hoards escape their bondage, will continue to do so until that Fifth Trumpet sounds.

And since the Beast is only given power to reign for only 3.5 years (the last 3.5-year segment of the Tribulation), it is likely that his coming out, or the time that he is revealed to humanity, must occur after his release from the Abyss and before or at the time that he is empowered to reign. This will likely occur along with the *Abomination of Desolation*. Hence, the rapture of God's people must occur **AFTER** these events, but immediately before **the Day of the Lord**, immediately before the time of wrath.

And so, the rapture occurs at the blowing of the last (the Seventh) trumpet. This then ushers in the second reaping and the time of the Lord's great wrath: **the Day of the Lord**.

Let's stop here and in our next podcast we will continue with our study on the second reaping and the judgment of those left behind.

I am glad you "tuned in" and have been "ready to listen."

¹⁰ *Revelation 9:1-11*