

-The Promise of His Return

John was with the disciples in the presence of the resurrected Christ, and they asked Jesus if He was finally going to be the King of Israel, (Jer. 23:5-6, Mal 5:2) just as the prophets had promised. Acts 1:6-7 Then, indeed, these coming together, they asked Him, saying, Lord, do You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel? The disciples asked Him if He would be King now. And He said to them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father has put in His own authority. We notice that Jesus did not deny that He will be King of Israel, but it was not yet time. Acts 1:9-11 And saying these things, as they watched, He was taken up. And a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they were looking intently into the Heaven, He having gone, even behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them, who also said, Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into the Heaven? This same Jesus who is taken up from you into Heaven, will come in the way you have seen Him going into Heaven. The disciples of Jesus Christ were eyewitnesses to His ascension on a cloud into Heaven, and they had been told that just as Jesus went up into the clouds, He would return in the clouds. They are the authors of the New Testament, and they are the ones who tell us of His glorious return in the clouds, and we are getting close to that day.

There are so many verses in the New Testament that say that Jesus will come in the clouds, and we also see this in the Old Testament, such as in Dn 7:13 I saw in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of man (Jesus) came with the clouds of Heaven,

The reason He constantly talks about returning in the clouds is because He wants us to look up into Heaven in anticipation of His return, so keep your eyes on Him. He told us to be ready, to watch for His return! This also prevents us from believing in those who claim to be Jesus Christ, since we are told that He will come in the clouds and every eye will see Him when He comes back. That is why no one should have believed David Koresh, and no one should believe the hundreds of men today who say that they are Jesus Christ.

THE PROMISE WE RECEIVED:

JESUS WAS TAKEN UP IN THE CLOUDS AND-

HE WILL RETURN IN THE CLOUDS: Mt 24:30, Mt 26:64, Mar 13:26, Mar 14:62, Lk 21:27, Act 1:9, 1Th 4:17, Rev 1:7, Rev 10:1, Rev 11:12, Rev 14:14, Rev 14:15, Rev 14:16

Jn 14:3 And if I go, ...I will come again and receive you to Myself.

I want to explain the whole verse of **Revelation 1:7** Behold, He comes with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, and those who pierced Him will see Him, and all the kindreds of the earth will wail because of Him. Even so, Amen. We read that “every eye will see Him.”

This includes those who “**pierced Him**” but those who pierced Christ are dead, so how is this possible? We must first learn that we all pierced Him, since He died for us in our place, but this scripture is also speaking of those who rejected Him and are now dead.

They will be able to see Him from hell, because God will allow them to see our Lord whom they rejected, when He raptures those Christians who trusted in Him and in His promises. As they see this event happen, they will be filled with sorrow, while the saints will be rejoicing as Christ receives us and gives us white robes.

Those left on Earth who rejected Him cannot have part in the rapture. That is why we read “*all the kindreds of the earth will wail because of Him.*” All those who did not believe in the Word of God will realize that His promises were true, but it will be too late for them. Hopefully, you will not be one of those wailing but rather one of those caught up to meet Jesus in the air. ^{1Th 4:17} Then we who are alive and remain shall be **caught up** together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. And so we shall ever be with the Lord. Do not miss out on this event! We will soon “*meet the Lord in the air*”

The idea that someone can see God from afar is not unbiblical, for we see that Stephen, who was on Earth saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God in Heaven. ^{Act 7:55} But being full of the Holy Spirit, looking up intently into Heaven, he saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ^{Act 7:56} And he said, Behold, I see Heaven opened and the Son of Man standing on the right hand of God. Stephen saw Heaven from Earth. This proves to us that those who pierced Jesus will see Him from hell when He raptures the church.

Notice this: ^{Mark 14:62} And Jesus said, I AM! And **you** will see the Son of Man sitting on the right hand of power and coming in the clouds of the heaven. Jesus told the high priest that he (**you**) would see Christ coming in the clouds. This leads me to believe that that very high priest will literally see Christ when He raptures the church.

Those who pierced Him include the Jews, and they will see Him when the church is raptured, ^{Zec 12:10} And they shall look on Me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him, as one mourns for his only son, and shall be bitter over Him, as the bitterness over the first-born. Therefore the 144,000 will serve God with all their strength.

-John in the Island of Patmos

The apostles had preached the gospel, and many people were saved; yet there were those who persecuted the Church. So John was sent to the island of Patmos because of his deep faith in our Lord, Jesus Christ. This is the place where he received the Revelation that Jesus Christ told him to write.

Most Christians believe that this Book was written around **95 AD**. The Apostle John receives the Revelation of Jesus Christ that God the Father gave Him, yet Jesus uses His angel to tell John to declare to His servants the prophecies that must happen very soon. Later, as John has received this revelation from the angel, he tries to worship the angel. He is told not to do that, but instead to worship God *Rev 19:10, Rev 22:8*.

So we can see that the Father gave Jesus this Revelation, Jesus sent His angel to John, and John wrote it down. After John is about to finish writing the book of Revelation, Jesus tells us that He sent His angel to show us His prophecies: *Rev 22:16 I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify these things to you over the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the bright and Morning Star.* So we can conclude that God gave the Revelation to Christ, who sent it through His angel to John, for us. *Rev 1:1 A Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave to Him to declare to His servants things which must shortly come to pass. And He signified it by sending His angel to His servant John.*

THE REVELATION IS FROM:

- (1) GOD TO JESUS
- (2) JESUS TO HIS ANGEL
- (3) HIS ANGEL TO JOHN (*Rev 22:6, 8 and 16*)
- (4) JOHN TO THE 7 CHURCHES & TO US



HIS FACE SHINES LIKE THE SUN (*Rev 1:16, 6:16, 10:1*)

-Jesus Talks to John

Rev 1:8 *I am the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the Ending, says the Lord, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.* Jesus tells us that He is the Alpha and Omega, because He is referring to the Greek language, in which the alphabet starts with the letter Alpha and ends with the letter Omega; Jesus is the Beginning and the End. He is the beginning, which means He always has existed because He is eternal. Let's look at what the prophet Micah said about Jesus: Micah 5:2. *And you, Bethlehem Ephratah, you being least among the thousands of Judah, out of you He shall come forth to Me, to become Ruler in Israel, He whose goings forth have been from of old, from the days of eternity.* We are told that Jesus is from eternity "*the Beginning*". But why is He also the Ending? Because there is nothing after Him since He is eternal. Finally, He tells us that there is no one greater than Him. He is the Almighty God "*who is to come*".

Jesus is to come and do what? "*Become Ruler in Israel*" Did He fulfill that yet? No. but He will in the very near future.

John tells us that he was in the Spirit: Rev. 1:9 *I, John, who also am your brother and companion in the affliction...* Rev. 1:10 *came to be in the Spirit in the Lord's day...* John was not limited by the eyes of the flesh. He was able to see with his spirit, and he was in the Lord's day, which means that God took him to the future to show him the events of the last days. Peter also talked of that day in 2Pe 3:10: *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night.* Peter is using the phrase, "*day of the Lord*" to refer to all of the events of the last days, and so is John, since God takes him to see all the last days' events, which include the new heaven and new earth seen in Rev Chapters 21-22.

John hears the voice of Christ, Rev 1:10-11 *...and I heard behind me a powerful voice, that sounded like a trumpet, saying, I am the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last.* Let's remember what the prophet Isaiah said in Is 44:6 *So says Jehovah, the King of Israel, and His redeemer Jehovah of Hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and besides Me there is no God.* As we read these verses, (Rev 1:10-11, Is 44:6) we have to conclude that Jehovah is "*the First, and the Last*" along with Jesus, who says that He is "*the First and the Last.*" Yet Jehovah says; "*besides Me there is no God.*" This allows for only one conclusion: Jesus is God since there is no other God than the one called; "*the First and the Last.*" So when Jesus Christ calls Himself "*the First and the Last*", He is claiming to be God. Rev 2:8 *The First and the Last, who became dead and lived, says these things:*

Jesus said, Rev 1:11: ... *write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, and to Smyrna, and to Pergamos, and to Thyatira, and to Sardis, and to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.* Jesus wanted this Book to be written; He wants you to read His Book– it’s for you! John was told 12 times to write.

THE TITLES OF JESUS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION:

THE FAITHFUL WITNESS (Rev 1:5)

THE FIRST-BORN FROM THE DEAD (Rev 1:5)

THE RULER OF THE KINGS OF THE EARTH (Rev 1:5)

THE ALMIGHTY (Rev 1:8, 15:3)

THE BEGINNING AND THE END (Rev 1:8)

THE ALPHA AND OMEGA (Rev 1:11)

THE SON OF MAN (Rev 1:13, 14:14)

THE FIRST AND THE LAST (Rev 2:8)

THE LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH (Rev 5:5)

THE LAMB (Rev 5:8)

THE ROOT OF DAVID (Rev 5:5, 22:16)

THE KING OF SAINTS (Rev 15:3)

THE WORD OF GOD (Rev 19:13)

THE KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS (Rev 19:16, Deu 10:17)

THE BRIGHT MORNING STAR (Rev 22:16)

-John Describes Jesus

After John had heard the powerful voice he continues: Rev 1:12-13 *And I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned, I saw seven golden lamp stands. And in the midst of the seven lamp stands I saw One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet, and tied around the breast with a golden band.* Jesus would call Himself “**the Son of Man**”. He was giving Himself the title of the One whom the prophet Daniel had spoken of when he said, “*One like the Son of Man*” in Dn 7:13. Jesus Christ is also dressed as a High Priest since He was a priest after the order of Melchizedek. Heb 5:10

In the book of Daniel, we find out that **the Son of Man** was to receive: Dn 7:14 *And dominion and glory was given Him, and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations and languages, should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.* Daniel is saying that the “Son of Man” would receive dominion and glory, and a kingdom in which all the people on Earth should serve Him. This is why some Pharisees would get upset when Jesus called Himself the Son of Man.

When Jesus was asked if He was the Christ, He answered with an emphatic, **I AM!**: Mark14:60 *And standing up in the middle, the high priest questioned Jesus, saying, Do you answer nothing? What do these witness against you?* Mark14:61 *But He was silent and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked Him, saying to Him, Are you the Christ, the son of the Blessed?* Mark14:62 *And Jesus said, I AM! And you will see the Son of Man sitting on the right hand of power and coming in the clouds of the heaven.* Jesus answered, by saying “I AM”, meaning that He was the Christ, and He also said, “You will see the Son of Man sitting on the right hand of power and coming in the clouds.” This answer offended the high priest because he understood that Jesus was giving Himself the title of the one who Daniel spoke of in, Dn 7:13-14 this tells us that He will receive dominion and glory, and a Kingdom in which all the people on Earth should serve Him.

Please read all the verses where Jesus uses the title of “The Son of Man”. These verses are so wonderful! They are on pages 208-214.

Mt 16:13 *Jesus asked His disciples, saying, Who do men say Me the Son of Man to be?* Mt 16:14 *And they said, Some say, John the Baptist; some, Elijah; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.* Mt 16:15 *He said to them, But who do you say I am?* Mt 16:16 *And Simon Peter answered and said, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.* Mt 16:17 *Jesus answered and said to him, You are blessed, Simon, son of Jonah, for flesh and blood did not reveal it to you, but My Father in Heaven.* These verses show us that the title, “The Son of Man” belongs to Jesus “The Christ”, “The Son of the living God”.

John continues: Rev 1:14 *His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow. And His eyes were like a flame of fire.* Our eyes are designed to take in what we see, and if impure things go in, our hearts can be affected. Yet Jesus has eyes like a flame of fire, so that nothing impure will enter into Him. His eyes are like flames that purify whatever passes through them. Jesus spoke of this in Luke 11:34-36: *The light of the body is the eye. Therefore when your eye is sound, your whole body also is full of light. But when your eye is evil, your body also is full of darkness. Therefore take heed that the light in you is not darkness. Therefore if your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the shining of a lamp enlightens you.* Notice that nothing impure goes through His eyes of fire.

There is no darkness in God: 1Jn 1:5 *And this is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. “in Him is no darkness at all”.*

John continues describing Jesus: *Rev 1:15-16 And His feet were like burnished brass having been fired in a furnace. And His voice was like the sound of many waters. And He had seven stars in His right hand, and out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword. And His face was like the sun shining in its strength.* Wow, the face of Jesus!

In *Mt 17:1* we read that Jesus Christ was transfigured on the Mount of transfiguration and His face was like the sun shining in its strength. Jesus Christ was showing His disciples how He truly is and how He will always be since He never changes *Heb 13:8*.

Daniel saw Him before He took on human form with His face looking as lightning *Dn 10:6*. And John now sees Him as He will be for all eternity; transfigured with His face shining as bright as the sun shines when it is extremely brilliant. We serve a powerful King!

Since the face of Jesus shines like the sun, it is a good thing for His children, but it is a bad thing for those who reject Him.

This is seen when God pours His wrath on the Earth and they will fear His face: *Rev 6:16 And they said...hide us from the face of Him sitting on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.*

(I remind you that Jesus and God are one. *John 10:30*)



JESUS IS DESCRIBED AS:

THE HIGH PRIEST (Mediator)

HAVING A WHITE HEAD (Holy)

HAVING WHITE HAIR (Wise)

HAVING FEET LIKE BURNISHED BRONZE (Strength)

HAVING A SHARP TWO-EDGED SWORD (Judge)

HAVING EYES LIKE A FLAME OF FIRE (Purity)

HAVING A FACE SHINING AS BRIGHT AS THE SUN (Glory)

Just as John sees Jesus, Daniel saw Him also:

Daniel and John saw Jesus with these similarities (Daniel 10 & Revelation 1):

Daniel saw Jesus with a gold band, *“a certain man was clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with fine gold.”* Dn 10:5

John also saw Jesus with a gold band, *“clothed with a garment down to the feet, and tied around the breast with a golden band.”* Rev 1:13

Daniel describes the face of Jesus *“His face looked like lightning”* Dn 10:6

John describes the face of Jesus *“His face was like the sun shining in its strength.”* Rev 1:16

Daniel describes the eyes of Jesus as, *“His eyes were like lamps of fire.”* Dn 10:6

John describes the eyes of Jesus as, *“His eyes were like a flame of fire.”* Rev 1:14

Daniel describes the feet of Jesus as, *“His feet in color were like polished bronze.”* Dn 10:6

John describes the feet of Jesus as, *“His feet were like burnished brass having been fired in a furnace.”* Rev 1:15

Daniel hears the voice of Jesus as, *“The voice of His words like the sound of a multitude.”* Dn 10:6

John hears the voice of Jesus as, *“His voice was like the sound of many waters.”* Rev 1:15

Daniel falls on his face, *“Yet I heard the voice of His words. And when I heard the voice of His words, then I was in a deep sleep on my face, and my face was toward the ground.”* Dn 10:9

John falls as dead, *“I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead.”* Rev 1:17

Daniel called Him a Son of Man, *“One like the Son of man.”* Dn 10:16

John called Him a Son of Man, *“I saw One like the Son of man”* Rev 1:13

In Daniel chapter 10 we see Jesus, Gabriel, and Michael:

Jesus came to Daniel Dn 10:5-9, Dn 10:16-17.

Gabriel came to Daniel Dn 10:10-15, Dn 10:18-21. Gabriel came to make Daniel understand the last day prophecies Dn 10:14, Dn 9:21-27, Dn 8:16-27.

Michael helped Gabriel against the ruler of Persia Dn 10:13.

Gabriel returned to fight with the ruler of Persia Dn 10:20.

Only Michael helped Gabriel Dn 10:21.

Jesus is the Commander of the army of Jehovah! Jos 5:14, Rev 19:14, 17:14

Michael is one of the chief rulers who serve Jesus: Dn 10:13, 12:1, Ju 1:9, Rev 12:7

Gabriel is seen in Daniel: Dn 8:16-27, 9:21-27, 10:10-15, 18-21 and Luke 1:19, 1:26

Those verses are so similar, and they show us that Jesus has always been the same, since He was seen with these features by Daniel (Dn 10) before Christ came to Earth (Jn 1:14 And the Word became flesh), and after He went to Heaven, John (Rev 1) saw Him with these same features. Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday and today and forever. & Mal 3:6

The most beautiful prayer is found in John 17, please read all of it. Jesus prayed: Jn 17:5 And now Father, glorify Me with Yourself with the glory which I had with You before the world was.
Glorify Me with the glory which I had with You before the world was

How great is Jesus Christ?

If anyone doubts the greatness of our Lord Jesus Christ, we can find out how great He really is by reading the words of the New Testament and by the words of Jesus Himself, let's look at what He said:

Jesus told us that He is greater than **Jonah**; Mt 12:40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the huge fish, so the Son of Man shall be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. Mt 12:41 The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it, because they repented at the proclaiming of Jonah, and behold, One greater than Jonah is here. Jesus tells the scribes and the Pharisees that the men of Nineveh will judge the generation who saw Christ, and they will condemn them, because the people of Nineveh repented when they heard the prophet Jonah, but Jesus says; “*One greater than Jonah is here.*” So if Jesus is greater than Jonah, shouldn't those who heard Him have repented?

He is also greater than **Solomon**; Mt 12:42 The queen of the south shall rise up in the Judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it, for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, One greater than Solomon is here. Jesus made sure that no one would think that Solomon was wiser than Him, we know that God gave Solomon great wisdom, 1Ki 10:24 And all the earth sought Solomon, to hear his wisdom which God had put in his heart. Yet Jesus tells us that “*The queen of the south shall rise up in the Judgment with this generation.*” The men of Nineveh and the queen of the south will judge the generation that heard Jesus, and she will also “*condemn it*” because she was willing to travel from the uttermost parts of the Earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon.

Jesus was greater than Solomon: “*One greater than Solomon is here*” but they would not hear Him.

He is greater than **David**; Mt 22:41 While the Pharisees were gathered, Jesus asked them, Mt 22:42 saying, What do you think of Christ? Whose son is he? They say to Him, David's. Mt 22:43 He said to them, How then does David by the Spirit call him Lord, saying, Mt 22:44 "the LORD said to my Lord, Sit on My right until I make Your enemies Your footstool for Your feet?" Mt 22:45 If David then calls Him Lord, how is He his son? Mt 22:46 And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor did anyone dare from that day to question Him any more.

Jesus starts by asking the Pharisees a simple question: whose son is the Christ? They quickly answered and said, "David's." This shows us that the Christ had to come from the lineage of King David. Now Jesus asks them another question, "How then does David by the Spirit call him Lord?" The question seems to imply that there is a problem; if the Christ is David's son (and a father is always greater than the son), how can He be greater than David since he calls Christ his Lord? We are then told "no one was able to answer Him a word." They understood the question, but they didn't know the answer.

Christ presents this question to show us that He was greater than David, even though He was the son of David. Peter explains this: Act 2:34 For David has not ascended into the heavens, but he says himself, "The LORD said to my Lord, Sit at My right hand Act 2:35 until I place Your enemies as a footstool to Your feet." Act 2:36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God made this same Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ. Peter says that Jesus is now "both Lord and Christ" being greater than David. I also want to point out the fact that Jesus is Lord, and sitting at the right hand of the Father makes Him equal with God. Here are some verses that speak of Christ being at the right hand of the Father: Mar 14:62, 16:19, Act 7:55, Rom 8:34, Eph 1:20, 1Pe 3:22.

A Father is always greater than his son, except that the Christ (the son of David) was greater than his father, namely David.

He is greater than **Abraham**; Jn 8:58 Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, Before Abraham came into being, I AM! Jesus makes it very clear in this statement so that we would know that He had existed before Abraham, therefore He was Greater than him. When Jesus says "I AM", He is both claiming to be eternal, never having a beginning, and that He is the Almighty God.

He is greater than **Moses**; Heb 3:1 Therefore, holy brothers, called to be partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus, Heb 3:2 who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all his house.

Heb 3:3 For He was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, because he who has built the house has more honor than the house. This proves that Jesus was greater than Moses “worthy of more glory” because He created Moses, “he who has built the house has more honor than the house.” Since Jesus created Moses, He is greater than him.

He is greater than the **Angels**; Heb 1:1 God, who at many times and in many ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, Heb 1:2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds, Heb 1:3 who being the shining splendor of His glory, and the express image of His essence, and upholding all things by the word of His power, through Himself cleansing of our sins, He sat down on the right of the Majesty on high, Heb 1:4 being made so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. Heb 1:5 For to which of the angels did He say at any time, "You are My Son, this day I have begotten You"? And again, "I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son"? Heb 1:6 And again, when He brings in the First-born into the world, He says, "And let all the angels of God worship Him." Heb 1:7 And of the angels He says, "Who makes His angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire." Heb 1:8 But to the Son He says, Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. The writer of Hebrews tells us that Jesus is greater than the angels, “so much better than the angels” and that they were to worship Him, “let all the angels of God worship Him.” He is greater than the angels and He was to receive a throne that would last, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.”

Christ also said that He was greater than the Earthly temple: Mt 12:6 But I say to you that One greater than the temple is in this place Notice this: Rev 21:22 The Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple.

We see that Jesus is greater than Jonah, Solomon, David, Abraham, Moses, the angels, and the temple. We are also told about how highly He was exalted:

One day everyone will confess that **He is Lord** Phil 2:9 Therefore God has highly exalted Him, and has given Him a name which is above every name, Phil 2:10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of heavenly ones, and of earthly ones, and of ones under the earth; Phil 2:11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Every tongue will confess “that Jesus Christ is Lord.” It does not matter if you don’t like the idea, you will eventually have to do it, and so it is better if you do it willingly.

God tells us in Isaiah, Is 45:22 *Turn to Me, and be saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other.* Is 45:23 *I have sworn by Myself, the word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that to Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.* This proves that Jesus is God as we read, “for I am God” and “to Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.” Just as we read in, Phil 2:9-11 “*That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow.*”

Jesus said: Mt 21:42, *The stone which the builders rejected, has become the head of the corner* ⁴⁴ *And he who falls on this Stone shall be broken, but on whomever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.* Jesus is the stone. When you become a Christian, you will be broken (you will change) but if you reject Him, He will grind you to powder.

We should Kiss Jesus Christ: Psa 2:12 *Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish from the way, when His wrath is kindled in but a little time. Blessed are all who put their trust in Him.* Trust in Jesus.

-The Number Seven is Used Over and Over in Revelation

I have to admit that at one time, I was not big on numbers in the Bible, and didn't give them much credence. Yet numbers are used significantly, especially in the Book of Revelation, where the number Seven is used 54 times for the Seven Spirits of God, the Seven Churches, the Seven Thunders, etc. We even see the following seven blessings in the book of Revelation:

Rev 1:3 *Blessed is the one who reads and hears the Words of this prophecy, and the ones keeping the things written in it, for the time is near*

Rev 14:13 *And I heard a voice from Heaven saying to me, Write, Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Yes, says the Spirit, they shall rest from their labors, and their works follow them.*

Rev 16:15 *Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is the one who watches and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.*

Rev 19:9 *And he said to me, Write, Blessed are those who have been called to the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true sayings of God.*

Rev 20:6 *Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. The second death has no authority over these, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and will reign with Him a thousand years.*

Rev 22:7 *Behold, I come quickly. Blessed is he who keeps the Words of the prophecy of this Book.*

Rev 22:14 *Blessed are they who do His commandments, that their authority will be over the Tree of Life, and they may enter in by the gates into the city.*

-Hidden clues

When you study Bible prophecy, it is not laid out in a simplistic, easy-to-grasp way. To understand Bible prophecy, one must first accept that most prophecies are revealed with hidden clues.

God knows why He chose to do it this way, as illustrated throughout the Bible. (Matthew 13:11)

For example: Hos 11:1 *When Israel was a child, then I loved him and called My son out of Egypt. And it was fulfilled as:* Mt 2:15 *And He was there until the death of Herod; so that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the LORD through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called My Son."* Here, the prophecy was so hidden that the Jewish people still believe that the text "**My Son**" only refers to Israel, and not to the Messiah. Yet Christians understand that Hosea was speaking of the Messiah and that Jesus fulfilled the prophecy as we are told by Mt 2:15, who said that it was fulfilled when Christ returned to Israel.

So whenever you study **prophecy**, you have to understand that it can be given to us as **hidden** in the Biblical text. If you cannot accept this, you will have a very difficult time interpreting God's prophecies. We also find prophecies woven in the middle of some verses or chapters not being limited by the context, and you have to be careful that you don't jump to conclusions before really understanding what is being said.

Look at this example: Mt 24:14 *And this gospel of the kingdom shall be proclaimed in all the world as a witness to all nations. And then the end shall come.* People may quickly conclude that every single person in all the Earth has to hear the gospel before the rapture happens, but the text does not say "every person". It says that it will be "*proclaimed in all the world as a witness to all the nations*", which means that "**all the nations**" will have people in them proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. Now try to think of a nation that does not have the gospel being preached in it, and you will see that there are none, this shows us that we are very close to His return.

Some prophecies can happen **twice**, we have the example of John the Baptist preparing the way for Jesus Christ, Joh 1:23 yet he said that he was not Elijah. Jn 1:21 *And they asked him, What then? Are you Elijah? And he says, I am not.* John said he was not Elijah, yet when Jesus was asked about this, Mt 17:10 *And His disciples asked Him, saying, Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?* Mt 17:11 *And answering Jesus said to them, Elijah truly shall come first and restore all things.* (Jesus said that Elijah "**shall come**" in the

future.) Mt 17:12 But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him, but have done to him whatever they desired. Likewise also the Son of Man shall suffer from them. Mt 17:13 Then His disciples understood that He spoke to them about John the Baptist. Jesus confirms that Elijah will come just as the prophets had said (Is 40:3, Mal 4:5), but He said that Elijah had come already when John had prepared the way for Jesus in His first coming. So we see that some prophecies will happen twice. John the Baptist fulfilled this prophecy the first time, and we are now in anticipation of the real Elijah coming to fulfill this prophecy the second time, where he will return to Israel to set them straight on the fact that Jesus was the Christ.

Joel's prophecy Joel 2:28 happened to the apostles Acts 2:16-18 and in the last 100 years we have seen Acts 2:16-18 happen again. It happened twice.

Some prophecies include **gaps** that are not easily seen, as we see when the Christ was to be the **King of Israel:** Mic 5:2 And you, Bethlehem Ephratah, you being least among the thousands of Judah, out of you He shall come forth to Me, to become Ruler in Israel, yet people did not see the gap where He would have to die first: Luke 24:25 And He said to them, O fools and slow of heart to believe all things that the prophets spoke! Luke 24:26 Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory? Jesus was not happy with those who had not believed all that the prophets had spoken. He said; "Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things". There were many prophecies that spoke of the sufferings of Christ, yet many had ignored them as if God didn't mean what He was saying. Isaiah spoke of His suffering: Is 53:1 Who has believed our report? And to whom is the arm of Jehovah revealed? Is 53:2 For He comes up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground; He has no form nor majesty that we should see Him, nor an appearance that we should desire Him. Is 53:3 He is despised and rejected of men; a Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as it were a hiding of faces from Him, He being despised, and we esteemed Him not. Is 53:4 Surely He has borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. Is 53:5 But He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was on Him; and with His stripes we ourselves are healed. Is 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, each one to his own way; and Jehovah has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Is 53:7 He was oppressed, and He was afflicted; yet He opened not His mouth. He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter;

and as a sheep before its shearers is dumb, so He opened not His mouth. Is 53:8 He was taken from prison and from judgment; and who shall declare His generation? For He was cut off (Dn 9:26) out of the land of the living; for the transgression of My people He was stricken. Is 53:9 And He put His grave with the wicked, and with a rich one in His death; although He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth. Is 53:10 Yet it pleased Jehovah to crush Him; to grieve Him; that He should put forth His soul as a guilt-offering. He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the will of Jehovah shall prosper in His hand. Is 53:11 He shall see the fruit of the travail of His soul. He shall be fully satisfied. By His knowledge shall My righteous Servant justify for many; and He shall bear their iniquities. Isa 53:12 He has poured out His soul to death; and He was counted among the transgressors; and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for transgressors. Peter confirmed this: Acts 3:18 But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. Today, there are some who are ignoring certain prophecies in the Bible, as if God did not really mean what He said. Jesus has prophesied that He will be King on this Earth for 1,000 years, Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them..... And they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. It is very clear that Christ will reign for 1,000 years on this Earth, yet, as unbelievable as it may sound, there are some people who are teaching that this will not happen, as if Jesus made a mistake. There was also a **gap** in the prophecy found in John & Daniel, Dn 12:2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. **And Jesus also said:** Jn 5:28 Do not marvel at this, for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves shall hear His voice. Jn 5:29 And shall come forth, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have practiced evil to the resurrection of condemnation. This prophecy seems to say that everyone, including the sinners and the saints will be resurrected at the same time to be judged. Yet, we read so many other verses that teach us that there will be a **gap** between the just being resurrected and the unjust being resurrected: Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them, And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the witness of Jesus and for the Word of God, and who had not worshipped the beast nor his image, nor had received his mark on their foreheads, nor in their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ a

thousand years. Rev 20:5 ***But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.*** We see here that there will be the first resurrection of the faithful, “*but the rest of the dead did not live again*” until the thousand years were finished. Shall we ignore these verses and risk being called fools? Let’s be smart and believe all the things that the prophets have spoken.

Jesus talked about the resurrection of the just: Luke 14:14 *and you shall be blessed, for they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just.* The resurrection of the just will happen, 1,000 years before the resurrection of the dead as seen in, Rev 20:5.

So we see that there are **hidden clues** in Bible prophecy, and they can happen **twice**, or they can have **gaps** within the prophecy.

HIDDEN CLUES IN BIBLE PROPHECY: SOME PROPHECIES CAN HAPPEN TWICE SOME PROPHECIES CAN HAVE GAPS

Jesus Said: O fools and slow of heart to believe all things that the prophets spoke!

Note: after the 1,000 years the mortals who died as believers in Christ during His Reign will be resurrected along with the dead. Dn 12:2, Jn 5:28-29 Therefore this event will happen with a gap in it of 1,000 years but it will also be fulfilled literally at the end of the 1,000 years.

Jn 5:28 ...*all who are in the graves shall hear His voice.* Jn 5:29 *And shall come forth, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have practiced evil to the resurrection of condemnation.*

-No One Knows the Day or the Hour

Some people believe that no one can know when Jesus Christ will return, or if we are near to His return, because Jesus said that no one knows the day or the hour when He will return.

Let’s look at what Jesus said: Mt 24:32-33 *Now learn a parable of the fig tree. When its branch is still tender and puts out leaves, you know that summer is near. So you, likewise, when you see all these things, shall know that it is near, at the doors.* Jesus is clearly giving us some clues as to when we will **know** that it is **near** at the door! He gives us an example of a fig tree, which puts out leaves when summer is near, so it is obvious that when a fig tree puts out leaves, you know that summer is close. We will also know when the return of Jesus is near. When will it be? When those prophecies He had mentioned come to pass. One major prophecy is that Israel will become a nation – which it has been since 1948, and God gave Jerusalem to them in 1967.

Jesus continues: Mt 24:34 Truly I say to you, This generation shall not pass until all these things are fulfilled. Jesus speaks more specifically by stating that all these prophecies will happen within a generation's time. Mt 24:36 But of that day and hour no one knows, no, not the angels of Heaven, but only My Father. Jesus goes from telling us that we will know when it was near, at the door, to not knowing the literal, exact day and hour.

Today, we are hearing false teachers saying that when Jesus said, Mt 24:34 This generation shall not pass until all these things are fulfilled He was speaking of that generation, and therefore all those things were fulfilled in 70 AD when the temple was destroyed. This is easily proven wrong by reading one of the things that needed to be fulfilled a few verses before: Mt 24:21 for then shall be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world to this time; no, nor ever shall be. There have been greater tribulations before and after the 70 AD events. So we can conclude that Jesus was speaking of the last days generation, who will witness the 7-year great tribulation, “as has not been since the beginning of the world to this time; no, nor ever shall be”, this will be the worse tribulation that shall ever be!

In these last days, we know that it is near because we saw Israel become a nation. And in 1967, Israel took over Jerusalem, which is the key prophecy-fulfillment to the time when Christians from all nations will be raptured, and then God will put His attention on His chosen people; the Jews.

Jesus spoke of Israel in: Luke 21:24 And they shall fall by the sword's edge. And shall be led away captive into all nations. Notice that Jesus references Jerusalem: And Jerusalem shall be trodden down by the nations until the times of the nations is fulfilled. And Paul repeated this prophecy: Rom 11:25: For I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, lest you should be wise within yourselves; that blindness in part has happened to Israel, until the fullness of the nations has come in. Jesus tells us that Israel was to fall, (it fell in 70 AD) and the Jews would be led away into all the nations, and that the city of Jerusalem would belong to the nations until the time of the nations (gentiles) are fulfilled. This prophecy was fulfilled, and many Jews were scattered among the nations.

Israel became a nation in 1948 and it regained Jerusalem in 1967, we are waiting for God to send Elijah to them, that they may believe in Jesus as their Savior, and we who are from the nations will leave this Earth in the rapture since, “***the times of the nations is fulfilled***”.

God will send Elijah to them to confirm that Jesus is the Messiah: Mal 4:5 *Behold, I am sending you **Elijah** the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of Jehovah.* Mal 4:6 *And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the sons, and the heart of the sons to their fathers...* After Elijah tells Israel that Jesus is the Christ, they will believe and turn to the relationship their fathers had with God.

And Paul tells us that we will know when the return of Jesus is near: 1Th 5:4 *But you, brothers, are not in darkness, that the Day should overtake you like a thief.* We see the signs and know that it is near.

Jesus continues speaking of the events of the rapture, giving us clues as to His return as we see in: Mt 24:37-39 *But as the days of Noah were, so shall be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered into the ark. And they did not know until the flood came and took them all away. So also will be the coming of the Son of Man.* Everything was normal, people were eating and drinking and going about their routines, and one day, the rain and flood caught people off guard. The same thing is going to happen when we who believe in Jesus Christ as our Savior hear the trumpet sound and meet Jesus in the air 1 Th 4. Those who stay behind will learn that those crazy Christians were not so crazy after all. We had warned them that it was near, at the door, but they ignored the signs and will stay behind in what will be the 7-year Great Tribulation.

In the first half, God will send His judgment, with seven angels that sound seven trumpets; and in the second half, God will send seven angels with the bowls of His full Wrath.

Jesus continues speaking about the events of the rapture: Mt 24:40-41 *Then two shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.* Jesus gives us an interesting example: one shall be taken, while the other is left behind. It will be very sad for those who are not ready, and those who ignored the warning signs, as they will see a husband or a wife, a sister or a brother, or friends disappear in a single second to be with our Creator, while they are left behind.

Jesus also said; Luke 17:34 *I tell you, in that night there shall be two in one bed, the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left.* This is without a doubt the rapture, for we see some asleep in a bed at night and some working in the field during the day, so this event will occur in a second throughout the Earth since everyone knows that if you are on one side of the Earth at nighttime, on the other side it is daytime.

Mt 24:42 **Therefore watch; for you do not know what hour your Lord comes.** Jesus warns us to watch and be ready. Why? So that you won't be left behind, because we don't know the exact hour when our awesome Lord will come.

Mt 24:43-44 **But know this, that if the steward of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched and would not have allowed his house to be dug through. Therefore you also be ready, for in that hour you think not, the Son of Man comes.** You will know that it is near, but once again you will not know the literal hour.

Jesus is using the words “**day**” and “**hour**,” please pay close attention to this because He is really speaking of a literal day and hour.

Jesus continues: Mt 24:45-50 **Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his Lord has made ruler over His household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his Lord shall find him doing so when He comes. Truly I say to you that He shall make him ruler over all His goods. But if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My Lord delays His coming, and shall begin to strike his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken, the Lord of that servant shall come in a day when he does not look for Him, and in an hour which he does not know.** In this passage, He is speaking of anyone who considers himself or herself a Christian (i.e., servant), but does not show it in action.

There are many people today who say they are Christians, but are not even thinking of Jesus – much less looking for His return!

Once again, Jesus says He will come in a literal day and hour that we do not know. The evil servant in the passage will not be looking for Him at that time. Yet many people teach that we should not worry about Christ's return. Just serve God, they say, and it will all pan out in the end. But it is clear that Jesus wants us to look for Him – we are to watch!

Mt 24:42 **THEREFORE WATCH!**

If we are watching in expectation of His return, will we be taken by surprise? Of course not, since we are expecting His return.

I'll put it this way; if you are expecting a visitor and you clean your house and set it in order, and suddenly you hear someone knocking at the door, are you taken by surprise? Of course not, since you were expecting the visitor; and neither will you be surprised when Jesus calls us up, since we are expecting Him.

Jesus ends this chapter telling us of the consequences to those who were **not watching**: Mt 24:51 And He shall cut him apart and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Weeping and gnashing of teeth sounds painful, and that is just what Jesus intends for you to understand. He wants you to know that hell is not only a place where you are separated from God, but also a place of terrible pain. Jesus wants everyone, including his servants, to be aware of the reality of hell, so that everyone can know the consequences of sin. Therefore, watch!

WE WILL KNOW - WHEN IT IS NEAR AT THE DOOR

WE WILL NOT KNOW - THE LITERAL DAY AND HOUR

-Jesus Talks to the Seven Churches

Jesus told John to write to each of the seven churches (Rev 2 & 3), and to all of them He said: **“I know your works,”** showing us that He sees everything your church is doing, and to each church He promised they would be rewarded if they **overcame**. He finished by saying: “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” This means that all those who are open to what the Holy Spirit says should receive it.

Jesus also did something very interesting: He always described Himself when He addressed a church:

To the angel of the church of Ephesus, **He says**: Rev 2:1 ...He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lamp stands, says these things. This is to remind the reader that Jesus is the one who holds the seven pastors in His right hand and that He walks in the midst of the seven churches Rev 1:13. This shows us how important a pastor is to God. He holds the pastors in His right hand, and He walks amongst our churches because He considers us as His body. Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the body, the church...

To the angel of the church in Smyrna, **He says**: Rev 2:8 ...The First and the Last, who became dead and lived, says these things: This reveals two things: first, He is God because He is the first and the last Is 44:6; and secondly, Jesus, who had died, had been the first born from the dead. This happened to show us that in all things, He is First. Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the body, the church, who is the Beginning, the First-born from the dead, that He may be pre-eminent in all things. He is pre-eminent or first in all things.

To the angel of the church in Pergamos, **He says:** Rev 2:12 ...*He who has the sharp sword with two edges says these things.* He lets this church know He is someone to be respected and feared, ending the letter by saying: Rev 2:16 *Repent! But if not I will come to you quickly and will fight with them by the sword of My mouth.* We later see Jesus use His sword when He returns to reign on Earth Rev. 19:21 *And the rest were slain by the sword of Him who sat on the horse.*

To the angel of the church in Thyatira, **He says:** Rev 2:18 ...*The Son of God, He who has His eyes like a flame of fire and His feet like burnished metal, says these things:* He mentions His position of Truth as the only begotten Son of God, and reminds us that He is pure, “*eyes like a flame of fire*” and strong, “*feet like burnished metal*”.

To the angel of the church in Sardis, **He says:** Rev 3:1 ...*He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars says these things.* Here, we see that Jesus has the Holy Spirit (seven Spirits) and the seven stars, which are the seven pastors of the seven churches. The reason we know that the seven stars are the seven pastors is because Jesus calls them the seven angels of the seven churches: Rev 1:20 *The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches.* And every time He addresses a church, He says: “*to the angel of the church,*” speaking to the leader or pastor of that church. “*He who has the seven Spirits of God*” is also a promise to the Christ found in Isaiah 11:2 see page 213.

To the angel of the church in Philadelphia, **He says:** Rev 3:7 ...*He who is holy, He who is true, He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts; and shuts and no one opens, says these things.* Here, Jesus confirms that He has the key that was promised to Him. This refers to a passage in Is 22:22, in which the prophet Isaiah said God the Father would give the Messiah the key to the House of David, because He would be from the lineage of King David. With this key, the Messiah shall open and none shall shut; and shut and none shall open. This shows us that Jesus is all-powerful since no one can open whatever He shuts, or close whatever He opens. Isa 22:22 *And the key of the house of David I will lay on his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.*

To the angel of the church of the Laodicea, **He says:** Rev 3:14 ...*The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Head of the creation of God, says these things:* He is the Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Head of the creation of God! Jesus is the Creator of everything that exists, and He created everything for Himself. Col 1:16 *For all things were created in Him... all things were created through Him and for Him.*

JESUS DESCRIBES HIMSELF AS:

1. He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lamp stands. Rev 2:1
2. The First and the Last, who became dead, and lived. Rev 2:8
3. He who has the sharp sword with two edges. Rev 2:12
4. The Son of God, He who has His eyes like a flame of fire and His feet like burnished brass. Rev 2:18
5. He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars. Rev 3:1
6. He who is holy, He who is true, He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts; and shuts and no one opens. Rev 3:7
7. The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Head of the creation of God. Rev 3:14

TO THOSE THAT WILL OVERCOME HE PROMISED:

(Found in Revelation chapters 2-3)

- (1) To him who overcomes I will give to eat of the Tree of Life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God. Rev 2:7
- (2) He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death. Rev 2:11
- (3) To him who overcomes I will give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give to him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knows except he who receives it . Rev 2:17 (Note Rev 19:12)
- (4) And he who overcomes and keeps My works to the end, to him I will give power over the nations. And he will rule them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of a potter they will be broken to pieces, even as I received from My Father. And I will give him the Morning Star. Rev 2:26
- (5) The one who overcomes, this one will be clothed in white clothing. And I will not blot out his name out of the Book of Life, but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. Rev 3:5
- (6) Him who overcomes I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will go out no more. And I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of Heaven from My God, and My new name. Rev 3:12
- (7) To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame and have sat down with My Father in His throne. Rev 3:21

1Jn 5:5 Who is he who **overcomes** the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? (Romans 12:21, 1John 2:13, 14, 5:4.)

Jn 16:33 I have **overcome** the world.