

Pentecost is the Key
April 16, 2011

Greetings to everyone who may be listening to this study or for that matter reading it. A few weeks ago I sent out some answers to some questions I received which focused on some issues of the timing of Pentecost to Trumpets. That endeavor triggered a lot of thoughts in my mind which I feel are relevant to us as the bride of Christ so I will attempt to share them with you. When dealing with prophecy and timelines we must remain little in our own eyes. There is a lot that can change in a very short time as we gain understanding of such things. All too often brethren will get very ridged and the next thing you know they get offended and fights and useless wrangling's start taking shape over what I have often called the spiritual sugar water hype diet. I say that because there is little substance in them, to the essential efforts and diet of preparing ourselves for our future Husband. For many they supply nothing solid, but a very quick rush and a nasty let down.

In Acts 3 we read where Paul was addressing the Jews about their part in Christ's death. Then we read something rather astounding in verses 19 through 21. It contains a promise and a prophecy.

"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."

Here we see the promise that if we repent and are converted then our sins will be forgiven. But Paul's comment does not end with the thought of our sins being forgiven, for he links that to something very important, "so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."

Refreshing here is 403 anapsuxis, "from 404; properly a recovery of breath i.e. figuratively revival."

Now read it with that meaning inserted.

"So that times of recovery of breath and revival may come from the presence of the Lord." Now where do we read in scripture about those who have repented and have been converted reviving or being granted the recovery of breath (which is figuratively, life)?

1st Thessalonians 4: 13–17, "But I do not want you to be ignorant brethren, concerning those that have fallen asleep (dead), lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 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 thus we shall always be with the Lord.”

Here we have a description of what will happen when Christ returns for those that have had their sins blotted out by His shed blood at the sound of the “yobel” summoning the camps of Israel to God, (Numbers 10). Those who are truly converted (called, chosen, and faithful) will rise from the dead. They will be restored to life by the breath of God. They will be in His presence that is the presence of the second Adam who has returned for His wife, the second Eve. These are the times of refreshing for this is a milestone in the plan of salvation. I have detailed the timing of these events often in past studies. It is Eve’s jubilee. It is completed after the seven weeks count of the early harvest, the barley harvest. It is the 50th day or as we call it Pentecost.

What is so significant about God calling this day of refreshing in the presence of Christ, Pentecost? Because, it represents the jubilee of the bride. What is so symbolic about that one might ask? A jubilee is a time of restitution, of restoring one to their rightful inheritance. All things are restored in a jubilee.

These converted individuals here are resurrected from the dead to meet their Husband in the air and followed by those who have qualified and are alive at the time. Revelation 19: 6-9, “And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thundering’s, saying, Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

Then he said to me, write; blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb! And he said to me, these are the true sayings of God.”

These converted (called, chosen, and faithful) individuals have made themselves ready through their righteous acts. Their sins had to be blotted out and they wore fine linen clean and bright. They have been refreshed!

But Paul does not stop with our instruction here in Acts 3:19. Listen to his confirmation of these events.

Verses 20–21, “And that He may send Jesus Christ who was **preached** to you before.”

We need to stop here for a moment and take a hard look at the translation. The NKJ version is what I have just read. It has this highlighted with a number 1. If we go to the margin for this verse we read something of great importance to the context and lesson being taught here. It says, “Christ Jesus who was **ordained** for you before.”

Read it with that more accurate translation inserted. “And that He may send Christ Jesus who was **ordained** for you before.”

Paul is not talking about “preaching” here. He is talking about something that took place six thousand years ago. We will see this clearly in a moment. But how do we know that

is what the Greek word here is saying for Strong's has the word listed as # 4296 prokerusso.

That's why I always use a backup for Strong's. Strong always will give a very basic meaning or understanding of a word, and at other times it will give a very detailed explanation of a word.

If we looked at this word in Vines it tells us it means, "literally to proclaim as a herald (PRO, before and #2 above), is used in Acts 13:24, 'had first preached'. Some MSS., have the verb in Acts 3:20; for the best see appoint, No. 12."

Appoint No. 12 says "proceirizo 4400, from procheriros, 'at hand' signifies A) to delivery up, appoint, Acts 3:20 (RV appointed). B) In the middle voice, to take into ones hand, to determine, appoint beforehand, translated appointed in Act 22:14 RV (For the KJV, hath chosen) and, to appoint, in 26:16 (For KJV, to make)."

Now watch how significant this is. Keep in mind what we read in verse 19 about refreshing. Now here in verse 20 God is sending "Christ Jesus who was appointed to you before".

To who? You. Who is the you? Those who were converted and their sins blotted out! He was appointed or ordained for you when?

Before!

Before when?

1st Peter 1:17-20 (Please focus on the context of these verses and the ones we are reading in Acts.)

"And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each ones work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your sojourning in fear; knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, silver or gold, from your aimless conduct by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a Lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was fore ordained before the foundation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for you."

Now there are many other scriptures we could turn to on this teaching but I do believe the point is made clear as to what context and thus what translation we use here in Acts 3:20. If not, let's keep reading in verse 21.

"Whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began."

So Jesus Christ is in heaven waiting for the times of restoration of all things. Put this into context here. Remember what we read in verses 19 and 20 and the companion verses we read with them. As well remember the meaning of the words we reviewed. They are all pointing to the time of refreshing which is the climax of things being restored that have been in motion since the beginning of the world.

So what went wrong that needed to be restored?

The Greek word for restoration here is #605 apokatastasis. It is from apo "back again" and katimstem, "To set in order." Strong's says it is from # 600 apokathistemi

“reconstitute (in health, home or organization) or restore (again). This is just incredible when we understand this meaning of the word here as it is applied.

Something here is being restored again, set in order, reconstituted in health and home, at Christ’s return.

I am sure the scriptures are just flowing through your mind. So what went wrong that needed to be restored?

The first Adam and the first Eve! They sinned in the garden and the plan of salvation, (with them as the central figures in the next step), came to a halt. Actually it was dead unless something else took place to bring it back to life. Their activities which led to sin needed to be reversed in a sense. But only in a sense, for they needed to be blotted out! This new route in the plan of salvation’s next step would now take 6,000 years to restore what was lost in the garden at the foundation of the world.

There was now a need for a second Adam who would actually be a Savior to His wife and not abandon her like the first one did. The second Adam would shed His blood for His wife. He would not blame her for His actions. Instead He would redeem her and teach her right from wrong so that she would be without spot and blemish as He is. She would then be trained to walk in acts of righteousness. This is what is being restored brethren. This is what we are a part of at this time. It is all about the restoration of the marriage and thus the Bride, the second Eve, the Church. Our Husband has done His part in restoring us to grace and is now imparting His knowledge to us so we can grow in righteousness.

This monumental task which has spanned 6,000 years and two marriage covenants is almost complete. When the set number of the Father’s household have completely internalized the Lamb of God, our Passover Lamb (Ex. 12:3-4), the restoration will be complete and the plan will continue on to the next phase. Christ will return for His bride, His Eve, and those that have died in Him will be resurrected from the dead.

Also those who are alive and doing likewise will be changed in the twinkling of an eye and rise and meet Him in the air. Hebrews 12 tells us about that timing, verses 18-19, “For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to the blackness and darkness and tempest, and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard, begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore.”

Those are the exact description of events that took place at Mt. Sinai at the first Pentecost or Feast of Weeks and the first marriage covenant with Israel as delineated in Exodus 19 and 20. That is so obvious that a zealous scribe of sorts wrote about it in verses 20–21. These verses are not part of the inspired word of God however.

The instruction picks up in verse 22–24, “But you have come to Mt. Zion (the throne of God, on the sea of glass) and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the festal gathering and church of the first born registered in heaven, to God, the Judge of all, to the spirit of just men made perfect, to

Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than Abel.”

This festal gathering takes place on the same day that the first one did. These individuals have walked the walk and are registered in heaven until the final count of those who have internalized the Lamb of the Father’s household is complete. Their sins have been blotted out! They are awaiting their time of refreshing and the restoration of the bride and the consummation of the marriage between the second Adam and the second Eve so that the plan of salvation can continue to proceed as the Father directs.

We who are called by the Father await and anticipate that time. We have to conduct our lives in a way that will compel Christ, our Betrothed, to choose us to be one with Him for eternity. This takes an incredible level of faithfulness on our part, for we do have an adversary who is trying to get us, the second Eve, to fall from grace just as he did to the first Eve.

At His coming we will be released and our jubilee will be true. We will be united with our loving Husband and our loving Father in Their household. We will inherit all things if we have persevered and suffered through all the persecutions and trials put before us.

Romans 8:16-17

“The spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs; heirs of God (the Father) and joint heirs with Christ if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”

Does this understanding not just take your breath away! So many today do not have this incredible awareness. They are led to and fro by deceitful men who themselves seek a name for themselves among other men.

There is no doubt in my mind when the day of restoration, and the return of Christ will be. It will happen on a future Pentecost or as it is called in Exodus 34: 22, the Feast of Weeks.

It is the timing of the next great event in the plan of salvation. The bride will have made herself ready. The predetermined number who will feed on the Lamb of God will be fulfilled. Christ will return for her and they will return with Him to the Sea of Glass. Then the marriage of the Lamb will take place and the bride will receive the Father’s name, the household name of the God family. This day is not a mystery to us. We know it as Pentecost, the jubilee of the bride of Christ. Restoration and redeemed somehow sound like understatement. The teachings we have about this day are steeped in some “unknowns” which can cause those who are called to be easily deceived.

In Matthew 25:13 Christ instructs us in the context of the day of His return.

“**Watch** therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of man is coming.”

There sure is a lot there in just a few words.

It clearly states “you” do not know the “day nor the hour.” That is clearly referring to the date! **Day and hour** here are Hemera #2250 and Hora #5610. Vines tells us in great

detail that these words have many meanings literally and figuratively. Unfortunately many trip over them in their zeal to follow a particular agenda which is not that of God. These words here are used with the command to "Watch." It is used here in the context of 10 virgins of which 5 were unprepared, caught off guard or unaware one might say, for they were slumbering and sleeping. In fact all ten had slumbered or slept at one point.

Watch is the Greek word *gregoreo* #1127. Vines says of it, "to watch, is used A) Of keeping awake e.g. Matthew 24:43; 26:38, 40, 41; B) Of spiritual alertness e.g. Acts 20:31, 1 Corinthians 16:13, Colossians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:6,10; 1 Peter 5:8, Revelations 3:2, 3; 16:15"

The context it is used in here is obviously referring to keeping awake as in "spiritual alertness."

So who is Christ talking to here? Is He talking to the five virgins who were ready for His return and went with Him into the wedding?

Not likely!

He is talking to the five virgins who were not ready who had not been spiritually alert. It is a warning to us all. If we are not alert we will not have a true understanding as to His return. The five foolish virgins were not looking for Him to return on the day He does. The reasons could be many. The context here however is suggesting they were looking for Him to return on a day and hour that was not correct.

Are there any clear scriptures that tell us we will in fact know the day of His return if we are "spiritually alert"?

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, "But concerning the times and the seasons brethren, you have no need that I should write to you.

(Now what is the context here? Read the verses before this for we did so earlier 4:13-18. It is the timing of Christ's return for His bride. So let's continue.)

"For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, Peace and safety! Then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman and they shall not escape. (Matthew 24:19) But you, brethren, are not in darkness so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others, but let us watch and be sober."

If this doesn't clearly make the case lets add to it.

Revelations 3:3, "Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you."

We have just heard from Paul and John that it is possible to know when Christ will return for His bride. Paul clearly tells us we will know the "times and the seasons" of His returns. Did we get that brethren! They are both plural!

The studies I have personally undertaken and shared with my family and with others talk about these events, these “times and seasons” of His returns.

Most if not all of you understand that Christ will return for His bride on Pentecost, the Feast of Weeks. She will rise with Him and be with Him on the Sea of Glass. He will also return on the Feast of Trumpets with her at His side. Revelations 19:11-16. These represent two different times and seasons.

We are told we will know all of this, even the hour, which only means the time frame as in what Feast day. The fascinating thing about this is that the day God picked for this, is a day that has no set calendar date. We know it will always be a Sunday or first day of the week for it clearly tells us that in Leviticus 23:11 just prior to instructing us on how we are to count each year to determine this day. The counting is all based on the wave sheaf of barley. That is all regulated by God from year to year as Duet. 11: 10 – 13 has taught us over and over again.

We do not use some preconceived calendar, mathematically figured out, and laced with postponements, and traditions. We wait on God at the end of each 12th lunar month to tell us when His calendar year will start based on the barley crop in Israel being Aviv, or mature enough, to start the harvest on the day after the Sabbath which falls during the days of Unleavened Bread.

We have grown in this grace and knowledge and travel to Israel at the end of the 12th lunar month of the year to see God’s will. We will either be starting the new year at the next visible crescent or be adding another lunar month for the barley crop to be aviv. I can’t stress how important this is to the bride of Christ. These however are only a portion of the righteous acts that we should be doing in the household of our Father. But they are very vital to our personal relationship with our Husband. He makes that very clear in Matthew 25.

Let’s go back for a few minutes to review some of the events leading up to this first return of Christ for His bride on Pentecost.

Earlier we read 1st Thess. 5:3, “For when they say, peace and safety (don’t worry brethren if you stick with us we will lead you to the place of safety) then sudden destruction comes upon them as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.”

Let’s put this into the clear spiritual perspective just in case there is any doubt or misunderstanding as to what this instruction here means.

Paul is still talking in context about Christ returning for His bride. Verse 3 is a spiritual metaphor. It is figuratively speaking about the condition of a large portion of the body of Christ at the time of His return. Paul instructs us in Hebrews 5:12-6:3 that we are to become spiritually mature. We are to move on from the milk of the word and being bottle-fed or breast-fed by another, so that we can eat solid food by ourselves. That means with our Husband one-on-one.

There are many today who do not want to leave the comfort of someone “doing it for them.” They are content to have a man or an organization bottle-feed them. I remember well how I would sit in services of the WWCG and often hear the church referred to as a mother and we as the children, and often likened to being in the embryo state. Yes, there was fellowship and social functions and all sorts of comfortable things. And there was milk mixed with a lot of very poor nourishment. We certainly had a polished veneer but the inside was pretty empty of sound spiritual food which causes growth unto Christ. However, it can sustain babes in or out of the womb.

The masters of the big organizations do everything they possibly can to promote what they believe to be a peaceful and safe environment. Their motives are not designed for the wellbeing of the bride but for themselves. When one of its members gets too inquisitive as to growth they drop the fear hammer on them. I can’t tell you how many times I have heard, that I needed to stay with the organization or I would not be able to be in the place of safety when tribulation starts, for only they (the leaders), could get me there. With the help of Christ I have cut that umbilical cord and am now eating one-on-one with Him, just as many of you are.

Look how Christ uses this same metaphor or analogy in Matthew 24:19.

It is the same context of time as in Thessalonians 4 and 5 that we have been reading, as well as in Matthew 25, for that is still Christ talking to His disciples on the Mount of Olives as in chapter 24.

“But woe to those who are pregnant and to those with nursing babies in those days!”

Once again that is a condition of those who have been called at this time. Listen to this all confirmed by the prophets of old.

Joel 2:15-16, “Blow the trumpet in Zion, consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly; gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children and nursing babies; let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, and the bride from her dressing room.”

Once again that is talking about the same series of events, in fact, a complete summation in many respects as to Matthew 24 and 25 and 1 Thessalonians 4 and 5 in relation to characters and timing.

Matthew 25:1-13 gives us the outcome of those who are called to the wedding at the end of the age. This is not talking about a span of thousands of years but just prior to Christ’s return. Five of the virgins made themselves ready and prepared spiritually for the return of their Husband. They grew and matured in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. The other five did to a point for He calls them all “virgins” which in context means they have reached a level of maturity and were not fornicating with other Gods. However they had been content to let a surrogate come between them and Christ to some extent. That is what the first Eve did. No pointing fingers is intended here for the wise virgins had also slumbered and slept as well, but to their credit they woke up and

became spiritually alert and made an eternal commitment to their betrothed. He and He alone became their source of nourishment. The Plan of Salvation will be restored as to the original intent and patterns. The scriptures reveal to us that it will happen on a future Pentecost/Feast of Weeks.

This is very helpful in our understanding of knowing the hour and the time and the season. The scriptures give us a clear pattern of the fact that if we keep spiritually awake, we will know when He will return. To date we can prove from scripture that He will do so first, on the Feast of Weeks.

No doubt some will claim that Matthew 24:36 disputes this. Not at all is my reply. "But of that day and hour no one knows, no not even the angels in heaven, but My Father only"

If this is literally true then the scriptures have lied to us for we heard from both Paul and John that we could know. So that means there is another answer to this verse. The context is already established and so has the basis of the explanation of what is being taught here.

The called of God are free moral agents. On top of that we are the weak and the base of mankind (1 Cor. 1:26-31). Many are to be called but only a few chosen to occupy the function of the bride in the Father's household. The Father calls, the Son chooses. Being called does not mean you will be chosen by Christ to be His eternal help mate. There is a set number who will internalize Him, the Lamb of God. Revelation 14:1 tells us that number will be 144,000. "Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion (throne room of God, the Sea of Glass) and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads."

These 144,000 are married to the Lamb, the Son of God. They have received His Family name, that of the Father's household. Because of the "stock" the Father has chosen (weak and base), it is unknown when that number will be completed. The Father has determined it will be on a Feast of Weeks. Undoubtedly He has figured a specific one and He has the ability to actually make that happen. For instance, if at our time there is a 7000-person shortage in the number of completion assigned to the Lamb, He is able to call many more candidates to qualify for the function of the bride. He knows that out of a certain vast number the remainder will come forth. He doesn't know which ones will qualify to be chosen by His Son however because the standards are difficult and the candidates have many obstacles before them. It takes a huge amount of effort on the part of both who are involved, that being Christ and the called. Ephesians 5:22-32 makes that very clear. Look at Christ's part in it.

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish."

That is a lot of work, time, and effort. Just try to imagine the patience and love it must take from Him.

The bride has the same difficult field to plow. Reading Proverbs 31:10-31 reveals to us the herculean task we are undertaking. Many decide it's too difficult a field to plow or road to walk. We must never forget that we undertake the journey and task being yoked with Christ. He will carry a lot of our burden. But He will not be unequally yoked, so we need to do our share with the hope of finishing the assignment we have been called to. So it is evident the Father is in control of the timing of this historic event in the plan of Salvation. We will always know the day of Pentecost is the day of the great event. We will not know which one until several things take place.

As we are all aware there is a tremendous amount of "calendar" doctrine floating around at this time. The vast majority of the brethren who are presently called, follow a Rabbinical Calendar or a variation of it, for they take their authority from its parameters, but change a day or two. For instance the Rabbis keep a 15th Passover, but many of the organizations keep a 14th Passover within the confines of the Rabbinical Calendar configuration, which is based on mathematics and traditions, and not visual signs presented by God. I know of about a dozen variations and I am sure that is probably only a small number of a much greater total currently blowing to and fro.

This brethren, is a recent phenomenon in the church. Have you ever asked yourself why this particular doctrine and why at this time? The answer is very sobering. The winds of this doctrine are blowing all around us. We need to be spiritually alert to discern which one is correct as to keeping the appointed times of meeting with God. It is very personal between ourselves and our Husband. I have often mentioned in the past that it was a watershed doctrine for our time. We need to make a very biblical based calendar decision, for the purpose of the function of our calling at this time depends upon it. Remember we are called to the wedding supper at this time. It is a qualifying event, one that will place the successful candidates in an eternal function as the wife in the family of God for eternity. You would never want to miss your wedding date after all the preparing and excitement that goes into that particular day would you? You anticipate it and yearn for it and are focused on it. Just imagine how your future spouse would feel if you were nonchalant about it and if you showed up days late. Maybe he or she would say something like, "I do not know you."

Be mindful we are not talking about qualifying for salvation, for that will be offered to all mankind, but occupying the function of the bride will not. If we prepare, grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, we will be spiritually alert to His coming. It all happens after we have awakened from sleeping and slumbering. It will be short notice as Matthew 25:6 tells us, "And at midnight a cry was heard; "Behold the bridegroom is coming go out to meet him!" Not a lot of time to prepare. It is well into the day already, midway through the night in fact. This is very important in

understanding the symbolism of being midway through a very dark time. We will get to that shortly. We are all familiar with what takes place next with the virgins.

Verse 7, "Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps." Here we see a hasty situation and one of confusion for verse 8 says, "And the foolish said to the wise, Give us of your oil, for our lamps are going out."

Half had kept their oil filled but the other half had not. They, according to verse 9, did not even know where the oil really came from. The wise point them in the right direction. But why did they not know how to replenish it? Why did they turn to other brethren to do so?

The answer is simple and sad. They had always depended on another to do it for them. They were only able to keep a limited amount of oil this way, spiritually speaking. This is very sobering as we look about and see this condition very prevalent in the church today. Many today either pay or just expect another to dish up their spiritual food for them. We need to be doing that for ourselves, one-on-one with our Husband and only glean among ourselves in His field. We need to be active in all of this and not depending on another. Christ isn't looking for a slothful wife. He expects one-on-one contact just like any one of us would as well. For those of us who are married, do you remember how you always longed to be with your betrothed? It's exactly the same here in our relationship with Christ.

Let's establish a very important fact here in verse 8.

All the virgins arose during this time frame being talked about here. This however is not referring to any who are being bottle fed on milk, or those so young they are still in the womb for that is a very different condition in the church. When these 10 virgins arose they all trimmed their lamps. I used to think this meant they were preparing the wick to be lit. That is when you clean any carbon or black residue off of the wick so that the oil can burn efficiently and thus brighter. That is, until I looked up the word translated as "trimmed."

It is the Greek work kosmeo. Strong's says it is "from 2889 kosmos (which means orderly arrangement i.e. decorated) to put in proper order, i.e. decorate literally or figuratively; specifically to snuff (a wick): adorn, garnish, trim."

Vines says of it kosmeo "to arrange, adorn" is used of "trimming" lamps, Matthew 25:7. See adorn, garnish." Under adorn it says, "primarily to arrange, to put in order (English "cosmetic") is used of furnishing a room Matthew 12:44; Luke 11:25, and of trimming lamps, Matthew 25:7. Hence, to adorn, to ornament, as of garnishing tombs Matthew 23:29; a building Luke 21:5, Revelation 21:19; one's person, 1 Timothy 2:9; 1 Peter 3:5; Revelations 21:2; metaphorically, of adorning a doctrine, Titus 2:10".

This isn't talking about "trimming a wick" here in scripture, it is talking about adorning the lamp. They all did this. They adorned the outside of the lamps. They all looked pretty good but only half of them had what really counted. That is the oil to burn bright during this midway point through a very dark time.

I try to stress this lesson to myself over and over for it is easy to forget with all the distractions, obstacles, and pulls of the flesh we are subjected to. We need to constantly be filling our oil, replenishing it on a daily basis not just adorning the outside. Our Husband tells us He will wash us by the water of His word so that we will be without spot, wrinkle, or blemish. We need to let Him do that for us, but WE need to keep the contact open to Him daily.

Do we remember what Israel did at Sinai when God wanted to talk with them one-on-one?

Exodus 20:18-21, "Now all the people witnessed the thundering's, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking and when the people saw, they trembled and stood afar off. Then they said to Moses, You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die. And Moses said to the people. Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin. So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was."

Yes, they did not want to talk with God one-on-one. They used the lame excuse of being afraid of God after all He had done for them. They wanted "mommy" to do it for them. We must never allow ourselves to drift into that type of a mindset. Five virgins did so. Five did not. Regardless of how dark and gloomy it gets we must not fall back into a slumber, and certainly not into a sleep. We need to be awake, spiritually alert. All the descriptive language we have read today reflects a very specific time frame. It is Pentecost, the fiftieth day, the Feast of Weeks. It is the focal point of what we are here for at this time. It is the culmination of our calling by the Father. The bar is set high brethren, but not too high, for our Husband assists us all along the way. He promises to never leave nor forsake us (Heb. 13:5). We need to do the very same thing.

We need to further establish how important a focal point that the Feast of Weeks is to us and the Plan of Salvation. It is called the Feast of Weeks because it is the culmination of a seven-week harvest. It was set in motion by Christ being the Wave Sheaf offering to God the Father, and it will be finished by Him on Pentecost when He returns and gathers His own to Himself for the wedding supper.

Many of the prophesied events to come focus on this very day. Many today stumble over prophesy. It is an addiction to them. It drives them into spiritual malnutrition. They do not know solid food when they see it for they are incapable of eating it because of their spiritual state. Then there are others who could care less. Both conditions are the extremes and can lead to death.

The Father does the calling, thus it is He who knows when the timing will be. Christ, as the Son, chooses from those the Father has called. Ten virgins, all virgins, so what separates them? What keeps them from the wedding supper? Being prepared overall but specifically lacking a clear understanding of when the Bridegroom would return. The vast majority of those who are called have been led by another to believe that Christ will

return only at the feast of Trumpets as to the next event in the plan of Salvation. That's a biblical mistake if we are willing to believe the biblical patterns detailing the subject. The other specific problem is the lack of understanding of the Biblical Calendar. Matthew 25:13 is clearly describing this correct calendar problem and thus the timing of the next great event in the plan of Salvation, the restoration of the second Adam and second Eve and the wedding supper.

I am sure that most of us understand that God uses the timing of certain events with specific days attached to teach us about His plans. He often will overlap and duplicate these lessons in doing so.

Let's review the Exodus from Egypt and the 7-week journey to Mount Sinai to see a very clear illustration of Him doing this. What I will do is for the most part just repeat what is found in the article, "Pentecost and all its Fullness."

In Exodus 19:1 scripture tells us that Israel arrived at Sinai on the same day of the week that they had left Egypt. It also tells us it was the third month when they arrived there. There are seven days in a week and that becomes very relevant to what day of the week they left and arrived at Sinai and to the count.

If the NT scriptures of Christ dying on a Wednesday afternoon, being placed in the grave just before the end of the day, (which is at sunset), and fulfilling His own prophecy of the sign of Jonah (3 days and 3 nights in the grave), and becoming the wave sheaf on Sunday or the first day of the week is typified after the events of Israel's first Passover, UB, and Pentecost (Feast of Weeks) then we must have proof in the OT scriptures. So let's follow it through. A good understanding of the Biblical Calendar will be the key to accuracy.

Exodus 19:1 tells us it is the 3rd month. Each month has either 29 or 30 days based on the visibility of the New Moon or first crescent. We read in verse 2 that they are camped before the mountain. Verse 11 tells us it is Sinai. They were commanded by God to sanctify themselves for three days and on the third day they were to stand before the mountain and the Lord was to come down upon the mountain in the sight of all the people.

Now if this was to be Pentecost it has to be the 50th day after they had left Egypt as well as being the first day of the week or as we call it Sunday. Using these three specific days of sanctification as a marker and counting backwards we see that Sunday was day 3, Sabbath was day 2, and Friday or the 6th day of the week was day 1. Here we have accounted for three of the 50 days. Thus the earliest Israel could have camped before Sinai would be Thursday based on the chronology of events found here in Exodus 19. Thus Thursday or the 5th day of the week would need to be the day they left Egypt as well. That means the first Passover would have to have been on a Wednesday or day 4 of the week. Of course that is the same sequence of days assigned to Christ's last Passover in the NT scriptures. He and His disciples ate the Passover after sunset on Wednesday night and that is what we will see is depicted in Egypt as well. We will see

that the two timelines match perfectly, that of the first Passover and that of Christ's last Passover. That would mean that the first day of UB would have been on Thursday or day 5 of the weekly count. That is also Abib 15. Sunday would then have been the start of the count to Pentecost for it always starts on the first day of the week which falls during the days of UB.

Exodus 12:2 tells us Passover falls in the first month. Verse 6 tells us it takes place on the fourteenth day of the month. Exodus 13:4 tells us the name of the month is Abib.

Numbers 33:3 tells us; "they departed from Ramses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the day after the Passover the children of Israel went out with boldness in the sight of all the Egyptians."

This needs to be Thursday or day 5 of the weekly count established in Genesis 1 to typify Christ's last Passover and resurrection as our Wave Sheaf in 31 AD. So if they arrived at Sinai the same day they left Egypt, that being a Thursday, the count of days for the three different months needs to bear this out. So let's do that.

Abib 1st Month (13 days)						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Eighteenth is wave sheaf day and the start of the count to Pentecost. It is also the day they were baptized in the Red Sea event.

2 nd month (30 days)						
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

3 rd month (7 days)						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13

We see the 14th Passover (Wed), 15th first day of UB (Thurs), and 18th (Sunday, wave sheaf day) start to the 50 day count to Pentecost in Abib/Nissan. Scriptures tell us they left on the day after the Passover so count the days. They arrived on Thursday set up camp, Moses went up the mountain to God after sunset on Thursday, and they sanctified themselves for 3 days (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday). God came down during the day on Sunday, the 7th day of the 3rd month. 13 + 30 + 7 = 50. This is exactly the

same sequence of days (Wednesday through Sunday) that Christ used to be crucified and raised from the dead and to be our Wave Sheaf offering in 31 AD. The first foretold the second! Both Covenants started with the same sequence of days as to these historic and biblical events.

It is quite amazing how God has taught us about these things by using the Biblical Calendar and not the confusion of men. We can see what followed these events of the journey to Sinai in Exodus chapters 20-24. Exodus 19-24 is a must read for us all to understand the series of events which took place at Sinai on Pentecost so we can see these same events taking place and being magnified on a future Pentecost which will mark Christ's return for His bride who has made herself ready. This is all detailed in the Pentecost article so I won't go through it all at this time. What is important to mention here is that only a very small portion of those who journeyed to Sinai were allowed to go up to the sea of glass, to the supper God had prepared (24:9-11). In fact 74 out of millions who had made the journey and who had sanctified themselves for 3 days and who had come before the mountain. This 50th day is of tremendous importance to the plan of Salvation. It will mark the day of the restoration of the bride, the second Eve, and thus allow the plan to then continue to the next phase. It has far more meaning than the day in which Gods spirit was given to the disciples. That was just the start of the process to qualify the remaining number of the bride, those who would internalize the Lamb of the household of God under the terms of the second marriage covenant. Today we have many running to and fro claiming to have a great understanding of prophetic events which are recorded in scripture. They set dates and such only to see them come and go. However the slyer ones make it hard to pin them down with a number of techniques which we do not have time to discuss here. All of them attempt to give explanations of events which in fact are designed in ways to make themselves look good to the listener. They are really foolish pursuits to get caught up in. Prophecy is given and recorded in the scriptures as proof that God is the Almighty. He tells us the end before the beginning. That is an important lesson, for if we study the scriptures and grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ then we will be very familiar with what He says. We will then not be caught unawares and ignorant of what we are to look for, and in fact do, when we see prophecy being fulfilled. Prophecy is the foretelling of an event by God. It is used to also strengthen our faith and give us encouragement and hope.

Of late there has been an "uptick" in people proclaiming the end of the world is near. They site every source imaginable and sometimes even the Bible. Some are vague and some are very specific as to dates and such. This is obviously a characteristic of the troubling times we live in. It is actually difficult to keep up with all of the events happening around the globe. With all this happening people are more prone to listen to someone on a soap box spewing out rubbish as to why it is happening. What ever happened to the guy who ran around with a sign in front of him and in back of him

declaring the end is near so repent? That guy was never looking for money was he! Today we have layers of prognosticators speaking out of both sides of their mouths and requiring cash to do so.

What we need to remember in all this confusion is that Pentecost/Feast of Weeks is the next major event in the plan of salvation. All the destruction and political upheaval we are witnessing is just a prelude to it and a message to the faithful. We already know it is coming and for that matter we know it with a lot of detail, so it is not a focal point of fear and is not to unnerve us in any way. It's going to happen for God said so. That's all we need to be concerned with in that regard. We don't need someone else claiming they are foretelling it. Armed with the knowledge we have been given we prepare ourselves for its outcome being acceptable to Christ, and not so much its happening for we all know it will happen. When we do this He will give us an understanding as to when this will happen.

Let's take some time and have a little fun with some of the scriptures that are being focused on today by "prophets" and see from our perspective how they may be used to enlighten us as opposed to how they are used by many today to create their own time lines and of course to turn people to their great wisdom in such things, and don't forget to send the cash.

Many today are fixated on the 70-weeks prophecy found in Daniel the ninth chapter so let's start there just to point out how confusing and unstable these things can be to the bride if she is not watching/spiritually alert. Most use these scriptures in Daniel with some others found in the Bible to declare when Christ will return. They focus on numbers found elsewhere in scripture and then add a lot of historical events to them to try and prove their prophecy correct. Of course the only time anyone will know if it is would be when it happens. This is not our focus for using scripture. We do not need to add to or take away from it. We do need to let the spirit lead us in it. We do that so we will have prepared and not be caught off guard. That is very different from this world and for that matter from many brethren as well.

Daniel 9:24 sets a spiritual context to Daniel's request for understanding of a vision. There are obvious physical scenarios that could be addressed there, but let us look into it by spiritually sifting through what we have just looked at earlier and we will see some astounding things which should encourage us to put our hand to the plow more earnestly.

Verse 24: "Seventy weeks are determined for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression (what transgression), to make an end to sin (what sin), to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy."

Do all those criteria sound vaguely familiar brethren? They should for we just covered them all earlier in dealing with another prophecy by Paul in Acts 3:19-21.

“For your people and your holy city” can refer to both the physical and the spiritual application here. Whichever it is to be it needs to focus on finishing a transgression, to make an end of sin, to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness. That has not happened yet for that is a simple fact of history. The bride under the first covenant (Israel and Judah) had her opportunity to do so but failed so I think we lose the “physical type” a few steps back. Also in focus is to “seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy.”

Seal here is #2856 chatham. Strong’s says of it, “a prime root; to close up, especially to seal; make an end, mark, seal up, stop.” Insert some of these other uses for the word into the 24th verse. “To make an end to vision and prophecy” and to “mark vision and prophecy” are just two of them. Interesting translations when looking at the series of events being talked about here in verse 24. Here we see a time period going to be assigned for Daniel’s people and for his holy city. Please remember Daniel is numbered among the bride (Dan 12:13) and she is called New Jerusalem the Holy City in Rev 21:9-11. These people and the holy city being talked about here are to finish the transgression. What transgression? The one we have been discussing earlier which started in the garden with Eve, which required a second Adam and the equivalent of a second Eve. These also will be used to make an end of sins. What sins? Those committed under the terms of the first marriage covenant. To make reconciliation for iniquity. The completion and perfection of the bride under the terms of the second marriage covenant will bring this about. She will complete the number of the bride through her righteous acts which will be used to usher in the era of everlasting righteousness which will bring a completion, or mark an end, to the prophecies and visions foretelling this epic event, (we will cover a few later). This will bring a completion of the Most Holy which is where the spirit of God dwells under the second covenant. Yes it dwells in those who are called, chosen, and faithful. She is the temple of God. There is a time line allotted to this to take place. We can read about some of it in Rev 11:1.

“Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod and the angel stood, saying, Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there.”

All of this is linked. Have you ever given this much thought? I happen to believe there will be a big push at the end of the age to complete the bride, and that during this time of Elijah coming, that we will see 7,000 qualify and thus finish the count. Once again that is something I think may be the case, but keep in mind it’s not a prophecy from me, just a thought and we are only having some fun here.

Before we continue in Daniel 9 we need to address what I left out in verse 24. “Seventy weeks are determined.” This could very well be an important key to unraveling everything being stated here as well it could be a diversion for many to stumble over. God has put it here for a reason. We can clearly assign the events of this verse with those we expect to take place at a future Pentecost/Feast of Weeks when we

understand the meaning and intent of the words here. It would not be a stretch then to associate this time line with that epic event. Remember it is a time of restoration, a time in which the bride of Christ will be completed, the total number having reached conversion after repentance and the resulting conduct in righteous acts, resulting in her sins being blotted out and she being made holy and acceptable to her Husband, Jesus the Christ.

A little more fun now! Weeks here in this verse is #7620 in Strongs, shabua. It is the feminine sense of this word. Strongs says of it, “passive participle of #7650 as a denominator of #7651; literally sevens, ie a week (specifically of years), seven, week.” Some of you may have already jumped ahead in your minds, but let’s just finish this whole thought here with its variety of meanings in context with how it is being used. #7650 is shaba; a prime root; properly to be complete, but used only as a denominator from #7651; to seven oneself, ie swear (as if by repeating a declaration seven times).” #7651, shib’ah is from 7650; a prime cardinal number; seven (as the sacred full one); also adverbially seven times; by implication a week, by extension an indefinite number.” I really hope the bells and whistles are going off in our minds. This word is the same one used in Exodus 34:22; “And you shall observe the Feast of Weeks...”

And Deuteronomy 16: 9, 10, and 16.

“You shall count seven weeks for yourself; begin to count the seven weeks from when you begin the sickle to the grain. Then you shall keep the Feast of Weeks to the Lord God...”

That same word is found in this prophecy here in Daniel 9:24. The modern Hebrew calls it Shavuot. Based on the series of events found here in verse 24 God may be telling us these “weeks” are tied to Pentecost/Feasts of Weeks. It is a focal point in prophecy but understood by few. They think its significance has already been completed with the giving of the spirit of God under the terms of the second covenant. Many Bible prophecies and visions are centered on it and around it, but with the lack of understanding by most of the true significance of this feast day, we find some really wild predictions coming forth from them. Keep all this in mind as we continue in Daniel 9. Remember we are supposed to be having some fun and I hope we are. We need to remain little in our own eyes.

Verse 25; “Know therefore and understand, from the going forth of the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street (open space) shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.”

So the street and the wall will be rebuilt in troublesome times. Wait until we take the meanings of these words apart shortly and see why we study such in spite of some saying it is not necessary to do so. Revelation 6:1-11 tells us of these troublesome times in relation to the events leading up to the return of Christ for His bride. In Biblical terms this would be 3 ½ years of a 7 year time frame. The first segment ,of tribulation, the

second, of great tribulation. They in fact are identical to those He told His disciples about in Matthew 24:4-13. In each case they precede the Bridegroom returning for His bride to take her to the sea of glass and to the wedding supper. We read about that event earlier in brief in Matthew 25 for we should all be very familiar with it from years of review and study. Let's look at Revelation 6 & 7 to bring in a lot of linkage. Revelation 6:12-17.

"I looked when he opened the sixth seal and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. (It is my belief that this is the time when Michael and his angels defeat Satan and his demons. The effects on the heavens and the earth from this climactic battle will be unmistakable, so do not be shaken when it comes about for God has told us it will happen before hand. Satan and his demons will be cast to the earth in a great defeat. Satan will then know that he has but a short time and try to destroy the bride through the organizations and governments of men, Revelation 12:7-13.)

Then the sky will recede as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! (How would you react if someone was threatening to kill your wife?) For the great day of His wrath has come and who is able to stand."

Here we have a very clear setting and series of events following the previous 5 seals being opened which were times of tribulation or sorrows but not the great time of tribulation. It is all capped off with the return of Christ as the Lamb of God. Be mindful He is still functioning in the role of the Lamb here. Notice some of the details here at this return. The throne room is visible to everyone and so is the Lamb. This is not Christ sitting on a throne. It is the Father and the Lamb returning to welcome the bride of Christ into Their household. They have come to redeem the 144,000 who have qualified to occupy that important function in the family. They are the completed number, who have internalized the Lamb of the Fathers household as Exodus 12:2-3 tells us. These are those who have qualified under the first and second marriage covenants. This is not the time frame noted and depicted in Revelation 19:11-21. Here in Rev 6 we are being instructed that this is all happening before the wrath of the Lamb has come. They are there to bring the bride to the sea of glass, those who have died who were called, chosen, and faithful, and those who were actually still alive at the time. It is her jubilee! (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17). In sequence of scripture it is what follows what is described in Rev 12: 7-12. Satan has been defeated by Michael and thrown to the earth. In 12:13-14 we read what happens next.

“Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male. But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place (the sea of glass as we have seen in past studies) where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.”

Many speculate this is a 3 ½ year time period and we will here as well. That may be the case, and time will tell, as the saying goes. What is very telling here is that the bride will not be in the same place as, or presence of, the devil. The Interlinear Bible says, “from the serpents face.”

Presence here is #4383 and Strong’s says of it, “from 4314 and 3700, the front (as being towards view) i.e. the countenance, aspect, appearance, surface, by implication presence, person.” In brief Vines says of it. “Prosopon #4383 denotes the countenance, literally the part towards the eyes.”

So here we have the bride being removed from the presence or appearance of Satan. We know from the scriptures here that he is confined to the earth. A reasonable deduction is the bride is removed from the earth then. We are going to see that happen now.

Revelation 7:1-4, “After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. (The great day of His wrath is about to start. Keep in mind this is not the day of Christ’s judgment and making war as we have seen in the past and will see again today. The focus here at the start of the Day “or time period” of the Lord is to redeem His bride from the earth, from amongst men before it starts). Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the Living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying, Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads. And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred, forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of (spiritual) Israel sealed.” Remember from 2 marriage covenants. The Gentile converts are grafted into the tribes of Israel, Romans 11:24-25. This will happen at the sound of the two silver trumpets (Yobel) blown to call the tribes of Israel to God as we have discussed often in the past in Numbers 10.

Those who are in the grave will rise first to meet Christ in the air at the sound of the first trump and then those who are alive will follow at the sound of the second or last trump (1 Cor 15:52) as we read earlier in Thessalonians. No mention of making war in this return is there. No mention of armies brazenly challenging Christ’s authority. No mention of Him destroying them either. In fact all the people of the earth are hiding from Him. His wrath is about to start here and His angels are the ones who are going to dish it out at this time not He Himself as scripture clearly delineates after Isaiah’s method of teaching, here a little, there a little, line upon line, precept upon precept.

This here is the same time frame spoken of in Matthew 24:1-31. The chronology of events are identical. Verse 31 states, "And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

Identical brethren! This is not what is depicted at His return to make war and judgment reading the scriptures about the Feast of Trumpets return.

Revelation 19:11-15, "Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on His head many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called, The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God."

Can we see the clear differences between the two returns we have just reviewed? Let's just list a few to remind ourselves of them.

- 1) Here in Revelation 19 He is not coming to redeem His bride for she is with Him.
- 2) He is about to make war on those who resisted His correction for the past 3 ½ years.
- 3) It is not the wrath of the Lamb here for His is completed; here it is the wrath of the Father, God Almighty.
- 4) Christ is dishing it out Himself and not His angels. They have already done their part and they are not even mentioned in these scriptures except for one standing in the sun in the next verse in context.
- 5) This time period is after the wedding of the Lamb and the bride as depicted in verses 6-9.
- 6) She is now with Him verse 14. These are not angels as scripture clearly teaches us. These are those who were called, chosen, and faithful to Him, who had been redeemed some 3 ½ years earlier at the Feast of Weeks/ Pentecost. Look at the clear Biblical pattern of evidence.

Rev 17:14, "These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those with Him; called, chosen, and faithful." Angels are not called, chosen, and faithful.

Jude 14-15, "Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam (not a coincidence) prophesied about these men also saying, Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands (144,000) of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

This time frame we are reading about here is the timing of the Feast of Trumpets. The trumpet of war is blown and not the trumpet for summoning the camps of Israel unto the Lord as in Rev 7:1-4. We are talking about two completely different events, two completely different feast days. But, they are linked together by two central figures appearing in each of them; the Bridegroom (Lamb of God), the second Adam, and the bride, the church, the second Eve. He has fulfilled the role of the Lamb and is now taking up a much different one which is necessary for the furtherance of the plan of salvation. Lev 23 instructs us that we have to count to get to the Feast of Weeks each year after the start of the year is determined. In these two prophetic events here depicting two momentous times in the plan of salvation we see Pentecost starting a 3 ½ year time frame with the Feast of Trumpets ending it. We can see there is an end to one count and a start to another. Don't forget the third name for Pentecost is the Feast of Firstfruits which depicts the start of another function or role being filled in the household of God which is qualifying those who will occupy the function of the firstborn from the union of the Bridegroom and the bride, but that is for another study. We have covered it in detail in the past.

Now back to having some serious fun in Daniel 9 verse 25. Let's read it from the Interlinear. "Know then and understand from the going out of a word to restore and to rebuild Jerusalem (not all of Israel), to Messiah the Prince, shall be seven-weeks and sixty-two weeks. The street shall be built again, and the wall, even in times of affliction." So many people try to put a purely physical application or point of view to this scripture. Remember what we did in verse 24. We were able to understand it through a pattern of scriptural events pertaining to spiritual things and inserting the appropriate definitions of the original words used. Let's do the same here with verse 25 just for fun.

Remember the context here is of a vision being interpreted for Daniel about the restoration of the bride in spiritual terms. The bride is called New Jerusalem and the temple of the spirit of God in the second covenant scriptures. The second covenant scriptures interpret or clarify many of the first covenant ones. We are all aware of this. Here we are seeing a timeline, actually two of them, focused around a command going forth or as the Interlinear says, "the going out of a word" to restore Jerusalem in troubled times. Once again I emphasis Jerusalem and not Israel for many today try to focus on this to claim it is the restoration of the land of Israel and that it happened in 1947-8 depending on the prognosticator. Could this word going out be the second covenant scriptures? If so when do we start that timing from?

I can show a physical timeline for this scripture dealing with the time from Darius (457 BC) to Christ starting His ministry (27 AD), even to Him being cut off midweek as many of us could. But is that all we are to take away from this scripture in this context? No it's not. Once again let's have some fun with the Hebrew being used here. Words are important and Christ makes that clear by His name, The Word of God.

"The street shall be built again, and the wall."

To me that doesn't make sense in this context when applied spiritually. In a physical sense I could understand the idea of a wall, but not the street for there were lots of streets inside the walls of Jerusalem. The word for street here is #7339 and for wall #2742 in Strongs.

Street #7339 is rechowb from #7337, "a width, ie; avenue or area. #7337 is rachab, a prime root; to broaden."

The BDB says of it, "broad open place, plaza." So where does the translation "street" come from here!

Wall is #2742 charuts. It is a "passive participle of #2782; (properly) incised or (actually) incisive; hence (as a noun masculine or feminine) a trench (as dug), gold (as mined) a threshing-sledge (having sharp teeth); (figuratively) determination, also eager."

#2782 (its root) "charats; a prime root; properly to point sharply; ie (let) to wound; figuratively to be alert, to decide. The BDB says of it, if an "adjective sharp, diligent." "Sharp as in threshing instrument." It is also used as "strict decision in Joel 4:14" and as "trench or moat."

Brethren, it is up to us how we decide to use the various applications of the words to fit the true context or the more important aspects of any particular scripture. We use the spirit in us to do so. The verse starts out telling us to "know and understand."

Understanding that the bride of Christ will be restored from a ruined relationship by many in the past makes it easy to incorporate being "diligent" here and harvested, "sharp threshing instrument." Those are just two of this words meanings and uses. It also says incisive. That in itself has two meanings and uses. First, cutting and penetrating and secondly acute, clear cut. Merriam Webster (dictionary) adds, "Incisive implies a power to impress the mind by keen penetration, directness, and decisiveness." And "trenchant implies an energetic cutting or deep probing so as to reveal distinctions or get to the heart of the matter."

Isn't that amazing and telling at the same time! That is exactly as the bride is to function.

Remember the word numbered 2742 is a passive participle of #2782 charats which is a prime root which means literally to wound or figuratively to be alert, to decide. A participle is a word having the characteristics of both verb and adjective. When used here in Daniel 9:25 for "wall" I think we can see it has a much more important usage than that. It is not stressing a "wall, trench, or moat." It is stressing a spiritual condition or state. The object being discussed here is the restoration of spiritual Jerusalem prior to Messiahs coming. Spiritual Jerusalem and the temple will be restored and completed. She will be incisive in every sense of the word, she will be wounded as part of the body of Christ, she will be determined, she will be alert, she will be diligent, and she will be decisive if we believe her resume in Proverbs 31:10-31. Just look at what we have derived from looking into the meaning and uses of this word. When I hear people

ridicule others for digging into the meanings of the Greek and Hebrew and for that matter the Aramaic words used by God in the holy scriptures I get a little incensed. Let's tie the word translated as street here in verse 25 with that translated as wall. We have seen how it can change the interpretation quite dramatically.

The root word for rechowb (street) is rachab and it means to "broaden." So we have a word going out or spoken to build and restore the bride being tied in context to the Messiah who is the Husband. She will be built, "broadened" and restored to her incisiveness (diligence, and alertness because under the first marriage covenant she quit). That process of time started and then slowed down to a crawl if not in fact paused for a time and then started up again. We can see that depicted in the two marriage covenant participant's activities. So when did it start up in earnest again? After Christ's death! He was wounded as scripture tells us. She is of His body and thus shares in that death. We can take the time frames being addressed here and apply them to the second covenant church.

We have two periods of time mentioned in verse 25, seven weeks and sixty-two weeks. We need to ask the question if they are consecutive or separated by time in between. Is it possible to find a stage of initial growth interrupted by a time of slow growth and then a time of sustained growth. That could be one scenario.

Try using 7-weeks x seven which equals 49. Also do the same for the sixty-two weeks which would equal 434. Assign years to these and look for events in the history of the church which would support these two time frames. There are many more options which could be used as well. As I mentioned before I don't spend a lot of time on such for my time has a lot of other demands on it. However it can be fun. Unfortunately some get sucked right up into it, believing such things are necessary for salvation.

We won't read on any further here at this time. This is where many start getting real goofy in their assumptions and prognostications. The reason I have taken the time I have in verses 24-25 should be apparent. There can be a purely spiritual message to us in them as to events centered around the bride and her jubilee at Pentecost. You may want to review Rev 11:1-2 as to its spiritual relevance. Here is where John was given the command to measure the temple of God. Now we should all know this was many years after the physical temple had been destroyed, circa 70 AD so that eliminates the physical. He was also to measure the altar and those who worshipped there. But he was to leave the outer court out of his measurements. Lots to be said about all that in tying it into Daniel 9:24-27.

I have strayed a little from my original purpose of this study, to cover the importance of the bride to remain spiritually alert in these troublesome times just prior to the return of Christ. She is to be ready for her Husband's return for her. She needs to be eating from His table with no surrogate slithering in between them. Scriptures have taught us today that there are some who will know about the timing of His return and some who will not, even though they are in some senses all awaiting His coming.

I have made only a brief case for Christ having two return trips from scriptures which are very, very, clear to understand. As many of you know they have been detailed more in other studies. Many today do not have any focus on Pentecost as the next major event in the plan of salvation. Let's spend a little time linking these two great events, Pentecost and Trumpets with some possible timelines based on scripture and add a little "what if" to it. Keep in mind we are having some fun here.

In 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 we read about the resurrection of the bride and her rising to meet her Husband in the air. Immediately following these scriptures we read in 5:1-6 that Paul references times and seasons in context of Christ's return for His bride and that we will not be ignorant to this if we remain spiritually alert. As we know He does not return twice for His bride and we have made the case from scripture that His second return will be for judgment and war.

In the past couple of decades we have all been exposed to, or heard from, a lot of prophecy prognosticators. They claim to have an answer to everything right down to the day etc. They play with and float many numbers referenced in scripture to fit their fancy and of course their prophecy. There are lots of brethren who get consumed with such activities and then they get used and abused as well as distracted from our primary function. We must not go there!

In Revelation 11:2 we read that the outer court of the temple will be given to the gentiles and that they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months. As I mentioned before, this could have both spiritual and physical applications. What is clear is it has not yet happened in either venue. In verse 3 we read that the two witnesses will prophecy for one thousand two hundred and sixty days. Over and over again I have heard people describing these two events in the very same time frame and in fact consisting of the same amount of days for each. Have you ever wondered why God didn't just say 42 months for both, or 1260 days for both? Just a thought! Until I came to my current understanding of the calendar I didn't give any of this much attention. Many folks just figured there were forty-two, thirty-day months. As we all know that is not possible with the celestial time clock. No such thing exists and thus no calendar whether Biblical or Gregorian comes remotely close to that. That is a problem but there may be a solution or explanation as we will discuss. That would only be possible with a "what if" scenario were to happen.

We can also read about a forty-two month time frame in Revelation 13:5. This is in reference to the Beast speaking blasphemies for that time period. We also read about one thousand two hundred and sixty days in Revelation 12:6. The context there is of a place prepared by God for the woman where she will be fed.

"Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days." Have you ever asked yourself who the "they" are? If you believe that she will be on the sea of glass then we should capitalize the They, for it would be the Father and the Son.

I have stressed this next point often but it is important so I will do it again. **Wilderness** is the Greek word *eremos* #2048, “lonesome” and when used as an adjective it denotes with reference to persons, “deserted, desolate, and deprived of friends and kindred.” When she is removed from Satan’s presence to the sea of glass she will be removed from her kindred physically and spiritually speaking. She will have no more contact with any of them, the rest of her seed until the plan plays out.

So if this one thousand two hundred and sixty days is the same time frame as the forty-two months we will have some real contradictions. I am sure we can all see that. The chief one being that our current lunar calendar which is the one used by God in addressing everything biblical has 29 and 30 day months in a year. Also there can be 12 or 13 months in a year which is regulated by the barley crop being Aviv and thus ready to be harvested and a wave sheaf being offered. There are either 354 or 383 days in a Biblical year give or take one or two depending on how the months fall in total days. No matter how you count it you can’t make one thousand two hundred and sixty days work into a 3 ½ Biblical year or in 42 Biblical months.

In my mind there are only two scenarios which could make this all possibly work.

The first one:

At Christ’s return on Pentecost or better stated just prior to it, we read that there was going to be a **great** earthquake so powerful that it would move every island and every mountain out of its place. If we have learned one thing from our calling and subsequent understanding we know that God does not even in the slightest way exaggerate. This is a really big cataclysmic event. Top this off with the war in heaven taking place between Michael and Satan and the sun becoming black as sackcloth of hair and the moon becoming like blood and we are talking about the easy potential of a new orbit of the earth in relation to the moon and the sun (No, global warming won’t cause it).

Remember at this particular return all the kings, the great, the rich, the mighty, etc., are all hiding. Of course that is not what happens at His next return on Trumpets is it. They are all gathered and waiting to have it out with Him. Talk about deluded and the deceptive power of Satan. If the earth and the heavens are so shaken then it may be possible to have a new monthly cycle which could be 30 days long over and over throughout the year. Only God could perform such a feat and He may have that in store for us. That would present a new set of circumstances to be spiritually alert to. This is all within the realm of possibility.

But what if this is not the case?

Then the two numbers are not talking about the same duration. There could be some overlap or a lot of it but they could not be mathematically compatible as to the same amount of days. We can make the 42 months work out in a scenario but not the 1260 days between Pentecost and Trumpets as to a 3 ½ year time frame.

We can't use the start of a year to do so. We are looking at time, times, and half a time as a numerical equation only and not as a Biblical Calendar start date such as Abib. Year one would start in the 3rd month (Pentecost always falls in that month) and be an intercalated year. This gives us 11 months.

Year two would need to be a normal year with 12 months.

Year three would need to be an intercalated year with 13 months.

Year four or half of a year would need to have 6 months for Trumpets starts at sunset at the end of the 6th month.

So here we have $11+12+13+6=42$ months.

If this is the case the count would start from a Pentecost which would fall in an intercalated year and finish in a normal year. As I have stressed earlier we are only having some fun here speculating with prophecy and playing with numbers. This is not to be a steady diet in my mind. Unfortunately there are some who eat and sleep it twenty four seven. They have no respect for solid food, but chase after every wind of doctrine like it were succulent dining. Most of us are just plain meat and potatoes type of brethren.

Once again a very interesting calendar point about being ready. What if a false report goes out on the barley harvest or the timing of a 29 or 30-day month? In some instances many with have missed Pentecost by a month or by a day. Sounds like a Matthew 25 scenario. Something to give serious consideration to! We must be spiritually alert! The same applies to the Rabbinical Calendar being used by many brethren missing the true start of a given year. Lots to think about as well as being aware of.

Now let's cover another point that comes to mind for me while we are in Revelations. Look what the angel says to John in chapter 19 right after he told him about the wedding supper at Pentecost and before he tells Him about Christ's return for war on the Feast of Trumpets.

Verse 10, "And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me; see you do not do that! I am your fellow servant and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

There are two very big points here.

First, we see John the last surviving apostle fall down at an angel's feet as to worship him. Have you ever thought before how bizarre that appears to be? John knew he was to only worship God. So why would he do this? Worship here is the Greek word Proskuneo #4352. Strongs says of it, "from 4314 and probably derived of 2965 (meaning to kiss, like a dog licking its masters hand); to faun or crouch to, ie (lit or fig) prostrate oneself in homage (do reverence to, adore)." Vines, basically says the same thing with one exception, "to make obeisance."

A person can make obeisance without doing reverence or adoring something.

Obeisance means "a movement of the body made in token of respect or submission." So did John fall at the angel's feet to worship him? I certainly don't think so. However I do

believe the act of falling at the angel's feet was an act of submission which could have easily been construed as an act of reverence. The angel sure ended any hint of that. He made sure that John, and thus us, knew we are all brethren, and in no way were to act differently to one another. Too bad the muckity mucks can't figure that out. He made it clear, just because he was speaking all these words he was nothing more than a messenger and a servant and gave credit where it was due, for he made it clear he was only repeating Christ's words.

If we are the children of God then we too have this testimony of Jesus. So what does this entail? Prophecy is just one of the things which incorporate the testimony of Jesus. It goes hand in hand with His commandments and His faith. Here we are being told that we will understand prophetic events when they unfold or are about to unfold. There is no hocus pocus about it. It does not mean we will be going around proclaiming to know when every prophecy told by the word of God will be taking place or waste a lot of time and resources on it. What it means is that we will be so attuned to the scriptures that we will understand these great events just prior to them happening for we have familiarized ourselves with the series of events surrounding them as well as leading up to them in scripture. They will never be a distraction to us from carrying out our responsibilities to ourselves or the family. They will never distract us from our preparing to be the bride of Christ.

What we are talking about are all simple teachings of God. Some we will know in part at this time and some we will know in full. The fullness of the prophetic teachings will all come in time if we are growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord. He will work with us through His spirit to reveal things to us when it is necessary to have that understanding just as He did with Daniel and many others in the Bible. We are told that if we remain humble and true to our calling He will reveal to us when He is coming for us so we can be ready to greet Him as He deems necessary and not by our own understanding of how it should be. We need to endure and overcome to the very end. We are to be vigilant and unmoving in our loyalty to Him. We also need to be patient through it all. He is completely in control. The plan has been underway for nearly six thousand years. We also need to read and reread the conditions of the churches at the end of the age. (The article; The 7 Churches, 7 days of Unleavened Bread, and 7 weeks Journey to Pentecost, may be helpful.)

Personally I have no doubt in my mind that I am a repentant Laodicean. In itself that is not really anything to boast about under the circumstances, which I am not. However as such I can't help but look across the aisle to what our Lord and Savior says to those who are Philadelphians in attitude and action and only hope that some of that can come this way. In fact more than some, a whole bunch! It is a desire in fact, based on what He says.

Revelation 3:8, "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door (to grow in grace and knowledge), and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength (humble

situation), have kept My word, and have not denied My name (stayed in a one-on-one relationship with Him).”

We find ourselves experiencing some of this now in our lives. That should give us great encouragement. We must also recognize the glory goes to Him with very little of anything going to us. It is He who is washing us clean, to be without spot or blemish or wrinkle by the water of the word. Look at what He promises us if we truly take on this Philadelphian attitude with its work ethic and it’s sincerity in our lives and in our relationship with Him.

Verse 10, “because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”

The fulfillment of the Feast of Weeks/Pentecost, the deliverance and jubilee of the bride is our goal and with a lot of help from our Betrothed we will rise in the air to meet Him and the Father on the sea of glass and enter the wedding supper.

How awesome is all that!

Let’s not lose focus as to the goal of our calling by the Father at this time.

Our peace we give to you.

Brian Convery