

Union with Christ in His Kingship and Priesthood

The Sacred Scriptures give us many accounts and teachings of Union with Christ. I have only touched upon a few. There are many more such as Union with Christ in *His Sufferings*, in *His Inheritance* and in *His Glorification* and *Adoption*. I would love to consider all of these and perhaps may write a distinct treatise on the various unions of Christ and believers.

Most of this treatise I have tried to consider the various parts of *Manifest Obedience*. In *Manifest Obedience* we must always note that Christ does a special work upon the manifest elect in order to their becoming members of the Gospel Church. He makes them into kings and priests unto God.

1 Peter 2: 5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. {are: or, be ye}
6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.
7 Unto you therefore which believe *he is* precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, {precious: or, an honour}
8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, *even to them* which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.
9 But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: {peculiar: or, purchased} {praises: or, virtues}
10 Which in time past *were* not a people, but *are* now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

This passage sets forth Manifest Order and Obedience in a very complete way. Christ makes us into these manifest distinctions. The Gospel church is a holy nation and a royal priesthood, all arising out of union with Christ and His Priesthood and Kingship.

Re 1:6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Re 5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

Union with Christ before creation in eternal, vital union, contains many distinct and blessed parts. Yet, we must always remember that we are not speaking of being with Christ and in union with Him *as we now are*. This was a spiritual union, that is, we existed in our spirit state only, not our physical state, until we were conceived in our mother's womb.

There are two concepts concerning eternal, vital union. The first is that the elect did actually exist in their spiritual state before creation, in and with Christ. The second is that they existed before creation in their decreed state or in the mind of God. I feel there is ample evidence to hold to the former concept.

Since we were given grace and mercy according to the purpose of God given to us in Christ Jesus before the world began, and since the Scriptures speak of the pre-existence of Christ and in the same manner speak of the pre-existence of God's little children, it follows to me that both the elect or little children and Christ also existed in a spiritual, not incarnate, state before the world was.

Joh 17:5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

Mt 13:35 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.

Mt 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

Lu 11:50 That the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation;

Heb 4:3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

Re 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Re 17:8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

2Ti 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

Tit 1:2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

I am of the opinion that *before creation* the Gospel Church did exist in its *spiritual form*, and did observe the Father giving all the Council of God unto His only begotten Son, and that the Father, Son, Holy Spirit, the entire Trinity or Godhead, with the elect, both angels, men and women, and a great number of other beings, *did exist in some form*, but *not as we now exist*, in the heavenly city, the New Jerusalem, the mother of us all.

Were we not sheep in a heavenly fold *before* we went astray in Adam, and are we not *returning* unto the Bishop and Sheperd of our souls in our conversion and Christian experience?

1Pe 2:25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now *returned* unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

Matt. 15:24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

It seems to me that the Scriptures teach us not only the existence of eternal children, but an *eternal dwelling place* as well, the Heavenly City, the New Jerusalem. By eternal

I do not mean as God is, but pre-creation.

Do not the Scriptures teach us that there is an eternal sheep fold? While the following may not directly speak of such, yet they would seem to indicate such:

Mt 18:12 How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray?

Mt 18:13 And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that *sheep*, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray.

Lu 15:4 What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?

Lu 15:7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

Matthew 18:10 Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.

11 For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.

12 How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray?

13 And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that *sheep*, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray.

14 Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.

Do not these Scriptures imply that there were and are sheep with a Shepard and that if there were sheep, and there were, then there was also a fold? Do not these Scriptures also imply that we did go astray as *sheep*, *never goats*, and as *sheep* we were found? I hold that this *pre-creative fold is the New Jerusalem which is above*, and will remain above until the New Heavens and the New Earth. My present concern also is with the fold, or the eternal city, the Heavenly Jerusalem, the Mother of us All.

Paul said in Hebrews 12:

22 *But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem*, and to an innumerable company of angels,

23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than *that of Abel*. {covenant: or, testament}

25 See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more *shall not we escape*, if we turn away from him that

***speake*th from heaven:**

26 Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.

The New Testament Manifest Elect Have Come To

- 1. Mt. Sion,**
- 2. and unto the City of the Living God, the heavenly Jerusalem,**
- 3. and to an innumerable company of angels,**
- 4. to the general assembly, (panagarus, universal gathering)**
- 5. and church of the first born, that are written in heaven, (ekklesia of first born ones),**
- 6. and to God the Judge of all,**
- 7. and to the spirits of just men made perfect,**
- 8. and to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant,**
- 9. and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaks better than that of Abel's blood.**

Please note that the New Covenant Christians, the converted Hebrews unto whom Paul wrote, have come to this. Yet, this was not then on earth. How then did they come to such a gathering? In my opinion it was ***by their union with Christ in His glory and fullness.***

This was in ***distinction*** from the Old Testament Mt. Zion. This is the New Testament Mt. Sion, and is manifested and experienced in the Gospel Church in this present evil world.

In the New Testament we are taught that the Father gave unto His only begotten Son a people, and these people shall come to Him and not be cast out. This giving of a people unto Christ occurred before creation, even before the world began. The elect were given grace in Christ Jesus before the world began and God promised eternal life unto these people before the world began. The Lamb's Book of Life was completed from the casting down of the world just as Christ stood as the Lamb slain from the casting down of the world.

God predestinated all the blessings of Christ and His inheritance unto this elect people. This people were promised this inheritance even as they were predestinated in Christ Jesus before the world began. This inheritance, the inheritance of Christ that they are co-heirs with by union with Christ, is kept and reserved in heaven for them who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. This is ready to be revealed in the last day.

In my opinion Christ builds His gospel church out of this elected people, not all of them so it seems, but those before chosen of God to be witnesses and members of the ekklesia of first born ones.

Ac 10:41 Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.

Ac 13:31 And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to

Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people.

Please note the distinction between the spirits of the just men who have been perfected, those O T saints that rose with Christ, and the church of the first born ones.

Matt. 16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock *I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

Ac 2:47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

The Lord Jesus *added unto the church those who should be saved*. This does not mean salvation was probable, *but future*. These who would receive final and total salvation were then being added unto the Church at Jerusalem.

1Th 1:10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, *even* Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

1Co 12:12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also *is* Christ.

1Co 12:18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

1Co 12:27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

Eph 4:25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

Eph 5:30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

A Special and Distinct Difference Between Believers

There is a *special and distinct difference* between believers. Some desire to seek out and find the heavenly City of God, or the Gospel Church on this earth, and some do not. Some are not content or satisfied to dwell in the cities of the nations, false churches, and desire the heavenly city, while it seems that some are.

1Co 4:7 For who maketh thee to differ *from another?* and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive *it*, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received *it*? {maketh...: Gr. distinguisheth thee}

Why is it that some believers are satisfied to dwell in the cities of the nations receiving only the baptism of men, and others desire the heavenly city and must have the baptism of heaven?

Is this difference or distinction found in the believers or does God make us to differ? Certainly this distinction and difference is from the Lord. He makes us to differ from each other. He adds unto the Church.

1Co 3:9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. {husbandry: or, tillage}

Eph 2:22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

1 Cor. 1:1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother,

2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

3 Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;

5 That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge;

6 Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you:

7 So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: {coming: Gr. revelation}

8 Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Fellowship with Jesus Christ and the Gospel Church

It seems to me that the fellowship of Jesus Christ is in the gospel church, *the visible manifestation of the ancient City of God*, in this present evil world. How can anyone have true fellowship with Christ and His people and not walk in the Light that Christ is and set up in His gospel church and ordinances?

Joh 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Joh 9:5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Php 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

1Jo 1:3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with

his Son Jesus Christ.

1Jo 1:6 *If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:*

1Jo 1:7 *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

Let us be mindful of three important points:

1. The Manifest elect have fellowship ***both with the Father and the Son;***
2. The Father delivered unto the Son all the counsel of God, He showed it all unto Christ, and taught Him,
3. and what Christ heard and saw the Father doing, that also Christ did!

Joh 5:17 *But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.*

Joh 5:19 *Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.*

Joh 5:20 *For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.*

Those whom God has distinguished and predestinated to be ***manifested as His elect*** in this present evil world, ***in the orderly walk of the gospel in word and deed***, obey and walk in the Lord's ways only because the Lord causes and enables them to do so.

Eze 36:27 *And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.*

Eze 36:33 *Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities I will also cause you to dwell in the cities, and the wastes shall be builded.*

The Lord works the grace of obedience in His people ***when He converts them and they are a willing and obedient people***. This manifests them to be His children, so far as visible manifestation is concerned. He makes them to differ. There is nothing that the manifest elect do, to manifest their election and standing in Christ, that comes from themselves, they are God's husbandry and are builded up together for the Habitation of God through the Spirit.

Ps 110:3 *Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth. {from...: or, more than the womb of the morning: thou shalt have, etc}*

Isa 26:12 LORD, thou wilt ordain peace for us: for thou also hast wrought all our works in us. {in us: or, for us}

If indeed we are walking in the ways of the Lord, and if indeed we have manifested ourselves as those who are with Jesus Christ in His new and living way, we have only been so and doing so because of the Grace of God.

Heb 10:19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, {boldness: or, liberty}

20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; {consecrated: or, new made}

21 And *having* an high priest over the house of God;

22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

23 Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;)

24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

1Co 3:10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

1Co 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which *was bestowed* upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

We who were with Him in union before the world was and perhaps witnessed the Father's delivering the whole council of God unto Him, are in this present evil world to manifest this council of God unto others, *and in the future ages to come we shall continue to manifest and show forth the whole council of God unto the saved nations.*

Mt 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Php 2:15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

Mt 13:43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

All these blessings are too wonderful and glorious for us as created and redeemed beings, *we are only such because we have union with Christ in His Inheritance and His rewards.* He shall reward us as our work shall be in the world to come.

Re 22:12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

Eph. 2:5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) {by...: or, by whose grace}

6 *And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:*

7 *That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.*

Returning Home

Luke 15:3 And he spake this parable unto them, saying,

4 What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?

5 *And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing.*

6 And when he cometh home, he calleth together *his* friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.

1Pe 2:25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd

and Bishop of your souls.

Part III

Displaying and Opening up that this Grace, the Elect, this Obedience, and the Entire Counsel of God did Pre-Exist in the Purpose of God, in an Eternal Union with Christ, Before Creation, in the Heavenly Jerusalem, the Mother of Us All

In this section I hope to present the eternal dwelling place of God, the *New Jerusalem*, and set forth the *grand assembly* of the elect of men and angels as they dwelt around the infinite Godhead and delighted in the glories of the Three in One as they formed and developed the Counsel of God and set forth His eternal purpose in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Again, I do not mean that this eternal City of God is self-existent or eternal as God alone is, but simply that it existed before the natural creation.

Isa 24:21-23 "And it shall come to pass in that day, [that] the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones [that are] on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth. And they shall be gathered together, [as] prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited. Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and *before his ancients gloriously.*"

Da 7:9 I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment *was white as snow*, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne *was like the fiery flame*, and his wheels *as burning fire.*

Da 7:13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, *one like the Son of man* came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

Da 7:22 Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.

Re 3:12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: *and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem*, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and *I will write upon him my new name.*

Re 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Gal. 4:22 For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman.

23 But he *who was* of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman *was by promise.*

24 Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the

mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. {covenants: or, testaments}
{Sinai: Gr. Sina}

25 For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. {answereth to: or, is in the same rank with}

26 But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.

27 For it is written, Rejoice, *thou* barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband.

28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.

29 But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him *that was born* after the Spirit, even so *it is* now.

30 Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.

31 So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.

Please do take the time to read chapters 21 and 22 from the Book of Revelation.

Rev. 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

2 *And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, *Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.*

9 And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, *Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.*

10 *And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,*

22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb *is* the light thereof.

24 *And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.*

25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

26 *And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.*

27 *And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.*

Rev, 22:1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, *was there* the tree of

life, which bare twelve *manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*

3 And there shall be no more curse: *but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:*

4 *And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.*

5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; *for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.*

14 *Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.*

The Eternal Origin of God's Grace, His Elect, and Their Obedience

In the Divine Godhead we find attributes that are communicateble and attributes that are non-communicatable. God's grace is communicateble.

2 Tim. 1:8 *Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;*

9 *Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,*

10 *But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:*

11 *Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.*

Tit 1:2 *In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;*

The Grace of God in the Eternal Tri-Unity

Before the world began God did self-exist in the Trinity of His Divine being. How this is so, no man can explain. If we believe this, it is only by Divine Revelation. Not only did God self-exist in His Tri-Unity, but His Grace did as well. Within the *nature* of the Divine Tri-Unity, God did posses His grace. This grace, as well as His other communicatable attributes existed within the Treasure House of our Lord Jesus Christ. *God did exercise grace in Christ Jesus before the world began.*

The Natural Attributes of God

When I speak of natural attributes in God, I do not mean that He is a natural Being. He is pure spirit and not natural. However, I do mean that within His Divine Nature there are certain attributes that can be communicated and these find their origin in God's essential essence or nature. I realize this is not a very good name to use when speaking of God, but the Scriptures do give us a role model to follow.

2Pe 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

In my opinion these great and precious promises are the promises the Father made unto His Only Begotten Son in the Covenant of Redemption. They are given unto us *because they given to Jesus Christ Who is our Representative* in the Covenant of Redemption. See B. Keach on *The Covenant of Peace Opened*, in the Old Faith Baptist Library, and also his larger work *A Gold Mine Opened*, that is not yet in our Library, but may be ordered from University Microfilms.

These great promises and stipulations that passed between the Father and His Son before the world began, and to the elect by union with Him, as He represented them in the Covenant, enables them to partake of the Divine Nature because they are in union with the Manhood of Jesus Christ, and through that Manhood are also in union with the Godhead of Jesus Christ, God the Eternal Word. From God the Eternal Word we have a Trinitarian Union also with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Please see the First London Confession of Faith, edition of 1644. Also please see the Spilsbury-Bakewell Debate wherein Thomas Bakewell, Presbyterian, denied this union of the Trinity with believers. Both of these works are in [The Old Faith Baptist Library; http://pbl.oldfaithbaptist.org:80/](http://pbl.oldfaithbaptist.org:80/)

.27.

That God the Father, and Son, and Spirit, is one with all believers, in their fullness, in relations, as head and members, as house and inhabitants, as husband and wife, one with Him, as light and love, and one with Him in his inheritance, and in all His glory; and that all believes by virtue of this union and oneness with God, are the adopted sons of God, and heirs with Christ, co-heirs and join-heirs with Him of the inheritance of all the promises of this life, and that which is to come. I Thes. 1:1. Joh. 14:10, 12 & 17:21. Col. 2:9, 10. & 1:19. Joh. 1:17. Joh. 20:17. Heb. 2:11. Col. 1:18. Eph. 2:12. Cor. 3:16,17. Isa. 16:5. 2 Cor. 11:3. Gal. 3:16. Joh. 17:24. Edition of 1644.

Grace is a natural attribute within the Divine Nature. If we can believe, by divine revelation, in the pre-existence of Divine Grace before the world began, and we can, than we can also believe in the pre-existence of Jesus Christ and His brothers and sisters, the elect of God, before the world began. Why is it any easier to believe in the pre-existence of God and not the other parties in this Scripture? It is not.

The Objects of God's Grace Before the World Began

God, His grace, and our Lord Jesus Christ, the God-Man Redeemer, all did pre-exist before the world began. God did exist in the Tri-Unity of His Beings. This includes God the Eternal Word and God the Holy Spirit. Since this is true, why should we deny the existence of the elect here considered though only indicated by the pronoun "us"? If Paul and Timothy did exist before the world began, *and they did*, then it should also follow that the rest of the elect did also.

Please note that I am speaking of the existence of the elect **ONLY IN THEIR SPIRITUAL BEING**, not in their natural being. Man is threefold, mind-soul, spirit, and body.

1Th 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole

spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

If Paul and Timothy only existed in the decrees of God, then Jesus Christ only existed in the decrees of God. Many hold this concept. But then it would follow that *grace did not actually exist before the world began*, but only decreed grace or God's purpose to show grace did exist. This would mean that God's grace did not actually exist in fact, but only in potential purpose before the world began. If this is so then it would also follow that God did not actually exist before the world began, but God only existed in His own mind, decrees and purpose before creation. This entire setting holds forth different beings and grace existing before the world began. Paul did not indicate that some actually existed in fact and some only in purpose and decrees.

God did exist in the Tri-Unity of His Divine Being, with His grace, and the objects of His grace, the Lord Jesus Christ, God-Man Redeemer, and the elect in union with Him, before the world began.

Not only is this true of God and His grace, but if we deny this to God's grace, then we can also deny this to the other natural attributes of God as well. His *love* is also a natural attribute, so is His holiness, and many other attributes. Did these actually exist *in fact* within God before the world began? Yes, they did.

Grace and Truth were In Christ Jesus Before the World Began

Some thoughts from another dear brother:

John 1:14 "and the Word was made flesh (and dwelt among us) full of grace and truth." He is the fullest expression of God's grace. This is the grace that was given US before the world was.

Second, "For *whom* he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.."

The Father did foreknow Christ's brethren, not just their acts, but them personally, before the foundation of the world. How is it that the Son might be the firstborn among many brethren? What is the connection between He Who became flesh and was full of grace and truth and His being the firstborn among many brethren? He preceded brethren in His resurrection from out of the dead ones? Was not Elijah taken to heaven before the Word's becoming flesh? Yes. What about Enoch? Yes, he too was taken up into the presence of God before Christ's becoming flesh. So then, how is it that He is the firstborn of many brethren if not from before creation? If He was so from before creation, then it holds that we were also in His body. His life is our life. He is our Head and we His body. He was born full of grace and truth, we partake of Christ's grace and truth by the gift of God. "for the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."

It is certainly true that Christ is the embodiment of all grace and truth. It is true also that the elect were in grace and truth before the world began. They were in Christ, and objects of God's grace and truth before creation. But what about God's love, did this

exist before creation? Certainly love did exist as well.

God's Everlasting Love

Eph. 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:

2 Grace *be* to you, and peace, from God our Father, and *from* the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ: {places: or, things}

4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Rom. 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Objects of God's Love Before the World Began

The exercise of God's love, grace and truth before the world began centered upon our Lord Jesus Christ and God's elect in Him. God exercised and directed His love, grace and truth before creation. God directed these natural attributes toward Christ and the elect in Him, even from before of old. Since God directed these attributes toward Christ Jesus and the elect in Him, they have been everlasting.

Jer 31:3 The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, *saying*, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

John 17:22 *And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:*

23 *I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.*

24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: *for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.*

25 O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me.

26 And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare *it: that the love*

wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

Behold What Manner of Love

1Jo 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

Execution and Union

The oneness of the Son in and with the Father and the manifest elect with each other is ***in the glory of God***. This great glory manifests itself in the ***execution*** of God's purpose and then in ***union***, both the union of the Father in the Son and the manifest elect with each other, all in the oneness of the manifest purpose of God.

This manifest union is complete in this manner, the Lord Jesus dwells within His brothers and sisters by union and the Father indwells Christ by union. Therefore, the manifest elect have both the Father and the Lord Jesus dwelling in them.

Not only is there a special blessing of love for the elect, but also they are loved in the same manner as Christ Jesus is:

and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

The Lord God loves all His elect, not just His manifest elect, but we cannot identify them before their conversion and manifestation and therefore we cannot speak of them individually as the objects of His love.

2Ti 2:10 Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

The Father loved Christ Jesus before the casting down of the world:

for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

Therefore, it follows that the Father ***also loved the elect*** before the foundation or casting down of the world. The Father loved and knew the elect as objects of His love and glory, not as mere ideas or future beings.

The Manifest Glory of God

The Glory of God was manifested before the casting down of the world, and continues to be manifest in this present evil world. In order for God to be glorified beings existed to behold His glory. Had no beings existed other than God before the creation God would have manifested no glory before creation.

God is glorified both now and forever just as He was before creation, in and by Jesus Christ.

Eph. 3:9 And to make all *men* see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:
10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly *places* might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,
11 *According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:*
12 *In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.*
13 Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.
14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,
16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;
17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,
18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;
19 *And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.*
20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,
21 *Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*

God has been glorified *only one way* since the beginning of creation and that is by and through our Lord Jesus Christ. This glory and knowledge God kept hidden within Himself from the world, *not the elect*, until the incarnation and resurrection of Christ.

The creation is not able to look upon God directly, and therefore cannot glorify God directly, but only through the mediatorial God-Man, our Redeemer, Christ Jesus. The manifest members of the redeemed church, going all the way back to Adam, not invisible, but visible, not the gospel church, but the redeemed church, the elect of all ages, have all glorified God only one way, by and through Jesus Christ.

God Glorified Christ and the Church Before the Natural Creation

Eph. 3:9 And to make all *men* see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by (□□□ or through REP) Jesus Christ:
10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly *places* might be known by (□□□ or through REP) the church the manifold wisdom of God,
11 *According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:*

Even as God created all things through the medium of Jesus Christ, □□□, even so He has purposed that through the medium of the Redeemed Church by Christ Jesus, the

principalities and powers who are all manner of the angelic beings, might know the mystery of the glory of God in and by Christ Jesus.

This mystery is unfolded when the angels behold the purpose of God worked out and manifested in the conversion and lives of the elect.

The manifest glory of God shines forth unto the world or creation by two mediums, the *primary medium* Jesus Christ, the SUN and the MOON or the Redeemed Church, the *secondary medium*. The Gospel Church shows forth the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev. 12:1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

The Redeemed Church is indeed clothed with the Sun, or the Righteousness of Jesus Christ and she has the Moon, the foundation of reflecting Christ, under her feet and God's governmental glory and execution upon her head.

The Redeemed Church manifests the glory of God in Christ Jesus and sets forth the glory of God through Christ Jesus unto the creation.

The Gospel Church, which is a manifestation of the Heavenly City and a major part of the Redeemed Church or the elect of all ages, *displays the glory of God by walking in the same commandments and ordinances that the Father set forth and gave unto Jesus Christ.*

The Old Testament elect, a portion of the Redeemed Church, did not walk in and manifest the New Covenant as such, for that time had not yet come until the first advent of Christ, for they all died still looking for that City of God, *but in the New World* they also shall come to that City and enter it and walk in its light.

Re 21:11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

Re 21:23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

Re 21:24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honor into it.

Re 22:5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

Seeing God Face to Face

When we are on the New World, under the New Heaven, dwelling in the New Jerusalem, there will be many changes. One shall be that all God's little children shall behold the Lord God and the Lamb *directly*. We shall *look upon the Face of our Lord God*, and it shall be brought to pass that the *pure in heart shall see God*. This has never happened before. Man, created, sinful, redeemed, and unglorified, *cannot* look directly upon the

Face of God. But the elect then shall.

Rev. 22:1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, *was there* the tree of life, which bare twelve *manner of* fruits, *and* yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations.

3 *And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:*

4 *And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.*

5 *And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.*

Is this setting the same as it was before creation, except with the addition of the *natural* creation? I am asking: in the New World, will the existence then be as it was before creation except with the total glorification of the elect and the presence of the new world?

In my opinion this is true and further helps us understand that the Heavenly City did exist before the casting down of the creation and that the Father did deliver the entire council of God unto the Lord Jesus Christ in the midst of the New Jerusalem with all the elect, men, women and angels beholding.

Rev. 5:1 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?

3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

7 And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four *and* twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

Is this not a presentation of the Lord Jesus Christ receiving the Council and Purpose of God before creation as well as in the last days? Does not this and other like

passages, reach back before creation as well as into the future? *The worthiness of Christ to receive and execute the plan and purpose of God is the same before as well as after this present evil world.*

Here is another setting:

Dan. 7:1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, *and* told the sum of the matters. {had: Chaldee, saw} {matters: or, words}

2 Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.

3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.

4 The first *was* like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it. {and it: or, wherewith it}

5 And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and *it had* three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh. {it raised...: or, it raised up one dominion}

6 After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.

7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it *was* diverse from all the beasts that *were* before it; and it had ten horns.

8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn *were* eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

9 I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment *was* white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne *was like* the fiery flame, *and* his wheels as burning fire.

10 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

11 I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld *even* till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.

12 As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time. {their lives...: Chaldee, a prolonging in life was given them}

13 *I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.*

14 *And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, 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.*

15 I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of *my* body, and the visions of my

head troubled me. {body: Chaldee, sheath}

16 I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things.

17 These great beasts, which are four, *are* four kings, *which* shall arise out of the earth.

18 But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever. {most...: Chaldee, high ones, that is, things, or, places}

19 Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth *were of* iron, and his nails *of* brass; *which* devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet; {from...: Chaldee, from all those}

20 And of the ten horns that *were* in his head, and *of* the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even *of* that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look *was* more stout than his fellows.

21 *I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;*

22 *Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.*

The Heavenly Assembly

Heb 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of *them*, and embraced *them*, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

Heb. 12:22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, {written: or, enrolled}

24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than *that of* Abel.

The General Assembly is the panagerus. This Greek term means Olympic or universal assembly. This is the only place where it occurs in the Greek New Testament. This general assembly *is not* the church of the first born ones. This is the *ekklesia* of the firstborn ones. These are like Christ in their manifestation. *They, like Christ, are spoken of as the firstborn ones because they receive a double portion of the Father's inheritance given to Christ.* Certainly their inheritance comes by union with Christ and being joint heirs with Him.

Ro 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; *if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

The First Born of All Creation

Christ is the *First Born of all creation*. He is the Chief of those called the First Born. The manifest elect are also first born ones. They also receive a double portion of the Father's inheritance, but only by and through their union with Christ Jesus.

Ro 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be conformed to the image of his Son*, that he might be the *firstborn among many brethren*.

Col. 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son: {his...: Gr. the Son of his love}

14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:

15 Who is the image of the invisible God, *the firstborn of every creature*:

16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, *the firstborn from the dead*; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.

The Church of First-Born Ones Are the Kings and Priests unto God

This Church of First Born ones, or the ekklesia of Christ, *flesh of His flesh and bone of His bone*, is the totality of those who make up the gospel churches in this present evil world. *They serve as spiritual kings and priests in this present evil world and shall reign and rule with Christ in His endless reign in the world to come.*

Re 2:26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

Ro 5:17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

1Co 15:25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

2Ti 2:12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with *him*: if we deny *him*, he also will deny us:

Re 5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

Re 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become *the kingdoms* of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

Re 20:6 Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Re 22:5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

God has appointed the *manifest elect* to be Kings and Priests. *They are made so actually by the blood and power of Jesus Christ.* All that God requires of His Kings and Priests is found in and accomplished by Jesus Christ and communicated unto them. This brings us to our next point, the grace of obedience.

God Appointed us unto Obedience and Supplied the Grace
in Christ Jesus Before the World Was

I will now key on the word appointed. Please note that we shall possess a Kingdom, *not by earning it, but by Christ's appointment.*

Dan. 7:22 Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints *possessed* the kingdom.

Luke 22: 25 And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors.

26 But ye *shall* not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve.

27 For whether *is* greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? *is* not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth.

28 Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations.

29 And I *appoint* unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me;

30 That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Ac 22:10 And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said unto me, Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do.

1Co 4:9 For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.

1Th 3:3 That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto. {thereunto: or, to sufferings, or, to persecution}

1Th 5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

2Ti 1:11 Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

Heb 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath

appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

Heb 3:2 Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses *was faithful* in all his house. {appointed: Gr. made}

Heb 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

1Pe 2:8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, *even to them* which stumble at the word, being disobedient: **whereunto also they were appointed.**

Isaiah 44:6-8 "*Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I [am] the first, and I [am] the last; and beside me [there is] no God. And who, as I, shall call, and shall declare it, and set it in order for me, since I appointed the ancient people? and the things that are coming, and shall come, let them shew unto them. Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared [it]? ye [are] even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, [there is] no God; I know not [any].*

Job 23:14 For he performeth *the thing* that is appointed for me: and many such *things* are with him.

John 15:15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; ***for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.***

16 *Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.*

The First London Confession of Faith, edition of 1644, states:

.26.

That the same power that converts to faith in Christ, the same power carries on the soul still through all duties, temptations, conflicts, sufferings, and continually what ever a Christian is, he is by grace, and by a constant renewed operation from God, without which he cannot perform any duty to God, or undergo any temptations from Satan, the world, or men. I Pet. 1:5. 2 Cor. 12:9. I Cor. 15:10. Phil. 2:12,13. Joh. 15:5. Gal. 1: 19,20.

While the term appointed is not used in Ephesians 2:8-10, the sense and implication is the same.

Eph. 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is the gift of God:*

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

10 *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

Opening the Eyes of the Mind

God has *performed a special work of grace upon the manifest elect* in order that they might see and understand these wonderful blessings. God has opened the eyes of the mind of His manifest elect. It is given to them to know the mysteries of the kingdom, but this is not given unto others.

Eph. 1:18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what (is) the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

Mr 4:11 And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all *these things* are done in parables:

Lu 8:10 And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.

The Work of Christ Upon His Manifest Elect

Christ Jesus makes His manifest elect into Kings and Priests unto God and they shall live and reign forever and forever.

1Co 15:25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

2Ti 2:12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with *him*: if we deny *him*, he also will deny us:

Re 5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

Re 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become *the kingdoms* of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

Re 20:6 Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Re 22:5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

The Manifest Elect are the Living Epistles of Christ

Christ ministers directly unto His manifest elect and indirectly through other believers. The Holy Spirit *writes the thoughts and desires of Jesus Christ upon the new heart*.

2Co 3:2 Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:

2Co 3:3 *Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ*

ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

4 And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward:

5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency *is* of God;

6 Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

The Manifest Elect Bear the Name of the New Jerusalem

Re 3:12 Him that overcometh *will I make* a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and *I will write upon him* the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, *which is* new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and *I will write upon him* my new name.

Christ makes His manifest elect into Kings and Priests unto God and makes them into a pillar in the New Covenant Temple, *the gospel church*, and He writes upon them the name of God, not Jehovah, *but Father*, and writes upon them the name of the City of God, the New Jerusalem.

All Purposed Before Creation

All this God purposed to do before creation and reveals unto us in and by Christ.

Eph. 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:

2 Grace *be* to you, and peace, from God our Father, and *from* the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ: {places: or, things}

4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;

9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in him: {heaven: Gr. the heavens}

11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

Eph. 3:7 *Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.*

8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

9 And to make all *men* see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, *which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:*

10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly *places* might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

11 *According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:*

12 In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

13 Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

The New Jerusalem Upon the New Earth

When the elect are in the New Jerusalem upon the new earth, they will then know the fullness of returning unto the Bishop and Shepard of their souls in the City of God.

1Pe 2:25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

In the state of glory where will our Bishop and Shepard dwell but in the New Jerusalem?

Rev. 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

11 Having the glory of God:

22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb *is* the light thereof.

24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

26 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither *whatsoever* worketh abomination, or *maketh* a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Rev. 22:1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, *was there* the tree of life, which bare twelve *manner* of fruits, *and* yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations.

3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

4 And they shall see his face; and his name *shall be* in their foreheads.

5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: *and they shall reign for ever and ever.*

Confirmed by Christ unto the End
During the
Tribulation the Great

1Co 1:8 Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Mt 24:13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Mr 13:13 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

The Coming Final Great Tribulation

God's little children have endured tribulations since the fall of Adam and Eve. They have differed from each other in length and severity, but all those who live Godly in Christ Jesus have and shall suffer tribulation. Some have come by Satan alone directly as in the case of Job while others have come by Satan using means and ways such as the Jews and Romans upon the early Christians. God is the ordainer of all such for *He has made all things for Himself, yea even the wicked for the day of evil.* Proverbs 16:4.

2 Thess. 1:3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

4 So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

5 *Which is* a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:

6 Seeing *it is* a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, {his...: Gr. the angels of his power}

8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: {taking: or, yielding}

9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

11 Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of *this* calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of *his* goodness, and the work of faith with power: {count: or, vouchsafe}

12 That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

However, in the last days of this present evil world there will come a Great Tribulation that will be the final Tribulation and if the Lord does not come and take His own unto Himself none of His elect will survive.

Destruction of Jerusalem a Type

The Destruction of Jerusalem from AD 69-70 was a frightful picture of the great tribulation of the last days, but the final tribulation will be even more dreadful and frightening because it will include all nations world-wide.

Persecutions from Civil Rome upon Christians a Type

Re 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

For a good account of these persecutions and tribulations upon the early Christians please consult Eusebius' *Martyrs of Palestine*. These times were horrible, but were not to be compared with the Great Tribulation yet to come.

Persecutions from the Catholics and Protestants During and After the Dark Ages a Type

Beyond all doubt the Christians who lived during the cruel rule and reign of the Papists and Protestants when they had the civil sword to murder all dissenters endured a terrible time of trial and persecution. It is difficult for us to imagine a time of such

sufferings for 1,260 years, but it happened. The coming final Tribulation, though only for 1,260 days or 42 months will exceed it, not necessarily in suffering, but in its universal scope and thoroughness.

Mt 24:22 *And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.*

Mr 13: 19 *For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.*

20 *And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days.*

21 *And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ; or, lo, he is there; believe him not:*

22 *For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.*

23 *But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things.*

24 *But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,*

25 *And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken.*

26 *And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.*

27 *And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.*

28 *Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near:*

29 *So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors.*

30 *Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done.*

31 *Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.*

32 *But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.*

Since the best interpreter of prophecy seems to be fulfillment, we cannot say with much certainty when this is going to be fulfilled. However, it seems like we are already well into the terrible events described in the Book of Revelation.

Highly Controversial Points

I am not able to speak much with any certainty about these future events, but if I may venture this much, please consider that these points are highly controversial and much liberty must be granted to all who differ.

This Present Evil World's Final 7 Years

I would say that the final great period of this present evil world will cover 7 years, not Daniel's last week, but much like it.

These final 7 years shall be divided *into two eras of 42 months each*. The first will be the time of *great tribulation* when the Beast, Antichrist, and False Prophet will each join together in government over the totality of the earth. These three, the natural Gentile systems or Rome Revived following the Papacy, shall join hands with the Zionists, the final form of the antichrist system, and the false prophet, apostate Christianity headed up by America and the modern American type of Arminian, TV-evangelistic churches.

This time of great tribulation will cover the entire earth and all nations shall support this terrible government because the *mark of the beast* will govern all financial exchanges. This will perhaps be a final *smart credit card*, at first, and then it will give way to a mark tattooed upon the hand or the forehead, or chip placed just below the skin.

Rev. 13:1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. {name: or, names}

2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as *the feet* of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. {wounded: Gr. slain} (**The revived Roman Empire including the Papacy, REP**).

4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, *Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?*

5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue *forty and two months*. {to continue: or, to make war}

6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, (**the gospel church and ministry, REP**) and them that dwell in heaven.

7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

9 If any man have an ear, let him hear. (**See Dan. 7 with this also, REP**)

10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was

healed.

13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by *the means of* those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. {life: Gr. breath} (America the enforcer with its computerized policing forces, REP)

16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: {to receive: Gr. to give them}

17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number *is* Six hundred threescore *and* six.

The final days will be controlled by a computerized policing system and will include the killer satellites that have been in place since the 1970s. However, the Leo satellites and others like them are being updated constantly.

Loss of All Privacy and Natural Rights

Since the Clinton administration natural human rights and privacy have been steadily vanishing away into government policing forces world-wide. The peoples of the world will gladly receive these loses for protection from all the supposed evils that the Christians will supposedly bring on mankind. I can now download computer programs that will allow me to zoom in to any address on the earth. The governments can listen to any conversations and even read the strips in our paper money from satellites and other means.

Terrorism and Civil Unrest

The evil tri-unity shall bring in supposed and pretended Christian misbehavior and by this seek to prejudice all peoples against the true Bible and true Christians. There will be other forms of terrorism, but in the end this will all lead to the attempted banishment of the true Christians and the true gospel churches. There may also be bounties placed upon true Christians and their meeting places. Races shall be against races, or nations against nations, and there will continue to be wars and rumors of wars, but the end is not yet. This has happened many times before, and the Lord has protected His own and shall again.

Environmental Pollutions and Terrible Climate Malfunctions

The Book of Revelation speaks in such a way as to suggest that there will be great changes in the climate and the insect population. Perhaps there will be mutant insects with extraordinary growth due to the terrible environmental pollutions and climate changes. Global warming shall certainly play an import part in all these evils. However,

even with global warming and the almost universal pollution of the world's water and food sources, and the coming great physical changes, still, nothing shall go beyond God's appointed bounds.

Pr 8:26 While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. {fields: or, open places} {the highest...: or, the chief part}

27 When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth: {a compass: or, a circle}

28 *When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep:*

29 *When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth:*

30 Then I was by him, as one brought up *with him*: and I was daily *his* delight, rejoicing always before him;

31 Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men. **(The elect in eternal, vital union with Him, REP)**

Resting in Christ Jesus

Mt 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Mt 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Heb 4:1 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left *us* of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

Heb 4:3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

God's little ones can continue to rest in their faith in Christ Jesus Who upholds all things and governs for the good of His church and people. Nothing shall happen but what Christ allows and has ordained to happen. Our Redeemer shall carry His own through all this coming tribulation and we are to be of good cheer for He has overcome the world, and has already bruised Satan under His heel.

Ro 16:20 And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. Amen.

Heb 1:3 Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Col. 1:12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:

14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:

**15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:
16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:
17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.**

Speaking of the present Rule of Christ over this earth, the First London Confession stated:

.19.

Touching His Kingdom, Christ being risen from the dead, ascended into heaven, sat on the right hand of God the Father, having all power in heaven and earth, given unto Him, *He does spiritually govern His Church, exercising His power over all Angels and Men, good and bad, to the preservation and salvation of the elect, to the overruling and destruction of His enemies, which are the Reprobates*, communicating and applying the benefits, virtue, and fruit of His Prophecy and Priesthood to His elect, namely, to the subduing and taking away of their sins, to their justification and adoption of Sons, regeneration, sanctification, preservation and strengthening in all their conflicts against Satan, the World, the Flesh, and the temptations of them, continually dwelling in, governing and keeping their hearts in faith and filial fear by His Spirit, which having given it, He never takes away from them, but by It still begets and nourishes in them faith, repentance, love, joy, hope, and all heavenly light in the soul unto immortality, notwithstanding through our own unbelief, and temptations of Satan, the sensible sight of this light and love be clouded and overwhelmed for the time. *And on the contrary, ruling in the world over His enemies, Satan, and all the vessels of wrath, limiting, using, restraining them by His mighty power, as seems good in His divine wisdom & justice to the execution of His determinate counsel, delivering them up to a reprobate mind, to be kept through their own deserts, in darkness and sensuality unto judgment.* I Cor. 15:4; I Pet. 3:21,22; Mat. 28:18,19,20; Luke 24:51; Acts 1:11 & 5:30,31; John 19:36; Rom. 14:17. Mark 1:27; Heb. 1:14; Jn. 16:7,15. John 5:26,27; Rom. 5:6, 7, 8 & 14:17. Gal. 5:22,23. John 1:4,13. John 13:1 & 10:28,29, & 14:16,17; Rom. 11:29; Psa. 51:10,11; Job 33:29,30; 2 Cor. 12:7,9. Job 1 and 2; Rom. 1:21 & 2:4,5,6, & 9:17,18. Eph. 4:17,18. 2 Pet. 3 chap.

.20.

This Kingdom shall be then fully perfected when He shall the second time come in glory to reign amongst His Saints, and to be admired of all them which do believe, when He shall put down all rule and authority under His feet, that the glory of the Father may be full and perfectly manifested in His Son, and the glory of the Father and the Son in all His members. I Cor. 15:24,28; Math. 9:28; I Thess. 1:9,10; 1 Thess. 4:15,16,17; Jn. 17: 21,26, Edition of 1644.

Attempted and Short Lived Peace

After the tri-unity of evil has destroyed as much as it concludes is necessary to bring about the mass surrender of mankind under its protection, then the leaders and the masses of reprobates *shall pretend to enjoy a short period of peace and safety*. They shall pretend that they are the great gods of this present evil world and have finally brought forth the golden age of utopia.

They shall be sadly mistaken, for this will then open up the 7th trump of God, and is, in my opinion the time of the out gathering from the earth of God's little children. This is the mid trib gathering out that shall then usher in the final 42 months of this present evil world. This will begin the **WRATH OF GOD!**

I Thess. 5:1 **But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.**

2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

6 Therefore let us not sleep, as *do* others; but let us watch and be sober.

7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

Distinguishing Between the Great Tribulation and the Wrath of God

The Wrath of God shall be distinguished from the Great Tribulation in these ways:

1. None of God's little ones shall be on the earth, but shall all be delivered from the wrath to come by Jesus Christ;
2. The Great Tribulation comes from the tri-unity of Satan while the Wrath of God comes from our Lord Jesus Christ and His Father.

2 Thess. 1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

2 Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

4 So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

5 *Which* is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:

6 Seeing *it is* a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, {his...: Gr. the angels of his power}

8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: {taking: or, yielding}

9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord,

and from the glory of his power;

10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

11 Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of *this* calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of *his* goodness, and the work of faith with power: {count: or, vouchsafe}

12 That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev. 11:1 And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. (The gospel church and its ministers, ordinances and worship, REP)

2 But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty *and* two months. {leave out: Gr. cast out}

3 And I will give *power* unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. {I will give...: or, I will give unto my two witnesses that they may prophesy}

4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.

5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.

6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

8 And their dead bodies *shall lie* in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.

10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.

The Taking Out of the Lord's True Ministers and Churches,

At this time there will not be any Gentile elect left on the earth.

11 And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.

13 And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven. (Perhaps a mass-worldwide revival, that is the final part of this grand event, that may lead to the conversion of many Hebrews; REP)

14 The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.

The Judgment Seat of Christ and the Visible Presence of the Lamb and God in the Heavens

15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, *The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.*

16 And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,

17 *Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.*

18 *And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth. {destroy the earth: or, corrupt the earth}*

19 *And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.*

The Meaning of the Two Witnesses

Many of our older Particular Baptist writers from the First London Confession era understood these witnesses to refer to the gospel church and ministry. I agree in principle with them. For example please read King's Way to Sion on this and Knollys Commentary on the Book of Revelation, all in the Old Faith Baptist Library that brother David maintains.

Please note that the two witnesses become two olive trees and two candlesticks. These are the ministering saints of both covenants, or Kings and Priests united together in the gospel church.

In my weak opinion the two witnesses, being two olive trees, denoting Hebrews converts, and two candlesticks, denote Gentile Gospel Churches making the mystical number of four. It seems that during these terrible days God will engraft the Hebrew elect back into manifest gospel union with the Gentile elect.

Ro 11:17 *And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the*

olive tree; {among them: or, for them}

Ro 11:19 Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in.

Ro 11:23 And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again.

Ro 11:24 For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural *branches*, be grafted into their own olive tree?

John 15:1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

5 I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. {without me: or, severed from me}

6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned.

7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

The Attempted Extermination of the Manifest Elect

The evil Tri-unity of Satan will seek to exterminate all the manifest elect of God and except the Lord provide a wilderness existence for His own manifest elect, they would succeed, but the Lord will take care of His own people. He has always taken care of His own, but in these coming final days He will seem to do this in a very special way.

Rev. 12:1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: {wonder: or, sign}

2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. {wonder: or, sign}

4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days.

7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitors of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man *child*.

14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.

16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Mid Trib Position

My position would be classified as that of the Mid-Trib view. There are many others who feel Christ will gather His own off the earth even before the Tribulation begins, pre-trib concept, and others who feel they will be on the earth until it is finished, the post-trib view. Much love and liberty should be granted on these points. For several years many have made these points tests of fellowship and condemned with an intolerant and legalistic spirit all who differed from them. I feel this is evil and not of the Lord.

Sometime during these final days it seems that the Lord will convert His Hebrew elect and there will be a great revival in the coming last days. They shall look upon Him Whom they have pierced just as some of the Hebrews did when they murdered Christ on the Cross. At that time a nation shall be born in a day.

Dan. 12:1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation *even* to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame *and* everlasting contempt.

3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. {wise: or, teachers}

4 But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, *even* to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.

5 Then I Daniel looked, and, behold, there stood other two, the one on this side of the bank of the river, and the other on that side of the bank of the river. {bank: Heb. lip}
{bank: Heb. lip}

6 And *one* said to the man clothed in linen, which *was* upon the waters of the river, How long *shall it be* to the end of these wonders? {upon...: or, from above}

7 And I heard the man clothed in linen, which *was* upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that *it shall be* for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these *things* shall be finished. {a time...: or, part}

8 And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what *shall be* the end of these *things*?

9 And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words *are* closed up and sealed till the time of the end.

10 Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.

11 And from the time *that* the daily *sacrifice* shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, *there shall be* a thousand two hundred and ninety days. {the abomination: Heb. to set up the abomination} {maketh...: or, astonisheth}

12 Blessed *is* he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.

13 But go thou thy way till the end *be*: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.

Please take the time to read Isaiah chapter 66. How much of this refers to the First Advent of Christ and the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 and how much relates to the end of this present evil world is hard to understand. I feel both judgments are presented and will not attempt to note the distinctions because I am not able.

Confirmed by Christ unto the End
During the
Tribulation the Great

1Co 1:8 Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Mt 24:13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Mr 13:13 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

The Coming Final Great Tribulation

God's little children have endured tribulations since the fall of Adam and Eve. They have differed from each other in length and severity, but all those who live Godly in Christ Jesus have and shall suffer tribulation. Some have come by Satan alone directly as in the case of Job while others have come by Satan using means and ways such as the Jews and Romans upon the early Christians. God is the ordainer of all such for *He has made all things for Himself, yea even the wicked for the day of evil.* Proverbs 16:4.

2 Thess. 1:3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

4 So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

5 Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:

6 Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, {his...: Gr. the angels of his power}

8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: {taking: or, yielding}

9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

11 Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power: {count: or, vouchsafe}

12 That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

However, in the last days of this present evil world there will come a Great Tribulation that will be the final Tribulation and if the Lord does not come and take His own unto Himself none of His elect will survive.

Destruction of Jerusalem a Type

The Destruction of Jerusalem from AD 69-70 was a frightful picture of the great tribulation of the last days, but the final tribulation will be even more dreadful and frightening because it will include all nations world-wide.

Persecutions from Civil Rome upon Christians a Type

Re 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

For a good account of these persecutions and tribulations upon the early Christians please consult Eusebius' *Martyrs of Palestine*. These times were horrible, but were not to be compared with the Great Tribulation yet to come.

Persecutions from the Catholics and Protestants During and After the Dark Ages a Type

Beyond all doubt the Christians who lived during the cruel rule and reign of the Papists and Protestants when they had the civil sword to murder all dissenters endured a terrible time of trial and persecution. It is difficult for us to imagine a time of such sufferings for 1,260 years, but it happened. The coming final Tribulation, though only for 1,260 days or 42 months will exceed it, not necessarily in suffering, but in its universal scope and thoroughness.

Mt 24:22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

Mr 13: 19 For *in* those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.

20 And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days.

21 And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here *is* Christ; or, lo, *he is* there; believe *him* not:

22 For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if *it were* possible, even the elect.

23 But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things.

24 *But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,*

25 And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken.

26 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

27 And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.

28 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near:

29 So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors.

30 Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done.

31 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

32 But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.

Since the best interpreter of prophecy seems to be fulfillment, we cannot say with much certainty when this is going to be fulfilled. However, it seems like we are already well into the terrible events described in the Book of Revelation.

Highly Controversial Points

I am not able to speak much with any certainty about these future events, but if I may venture this much, please consider that these points are highly controversial and much liberty must be granted to all who differ.

This Present Evil World's Final 7 Years

I would say that the final great period of this present evil world will cover 7 years, not Daniel's last week, but much like it.

These final 7 years shall be divided *into two eras of 42 months each*. The first will be the time of *great tribulation* when the Beast, Antichrist, and False Prophet will each join together in government over the totality of the earth. These three, the natural Gentile systems or Rome Revived following the Papacy, shall join hands with the Zionists, the final form of the antichrist system, and the false prophet, apostate Christianity headed up by America and the modern American type of Arminian, TV-evangelistic churches.

This time of great tribulation will cover the entire earth and all nations shall support this terrible government because the *mark of the beast* will govern all financial exchanges. This will perhaps be a final *smart credit card*, at first, and then it will give way to a mark tattooed upon the hand or the forehead, or chip placed just below the skin.

Rev. 13:1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea,

having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. {name: or, names}

2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as *the feet* of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. {wounded: Gr. slain} **(The revived Roman Empire including the Papacy, REP).**

4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who *is* like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty *and* two months. {to continue: or, to make war}

6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, **(the gospel church and ministry, REP)** and them that dwell in heaven.

7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

9 If any man have an ear, let him hear. **(See Dan. 7 with this also, REP)**

10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by *the means of* those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. {life: Gr. breath} **(America the enforcer with its computerized policing forces, REP)**

16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: {to receive: Gr. to give them}

17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number *is* Six hundred threescore *and* six.

The final days will be controlled by a computerized policing system and will include the

killer satellites that have been in place since the 1970s. However, the Leo satellites and others like them are being updated constantly.

Loss of All Privacy and Natural Rights

Since the Clinton administration natural human rights and privacy have been steadily vanishing away into government policing forces world-wide. The peoples of the world will gladly receive these loses for protection from all the supposed evils that the Christians will supposedly bring on mankind. I can now download computer programs that will allow me to zoom in to any address on the earth. The governments can listen to any conversations and even read the strips in our paper money from satellites and other means.

Terrorism and Civil Unrest

The evil tri-unity shall bring in supposed and pretended Christian misbehavior and by this seek to prejudice all peoples against the true Bible and true Christians. There will be other forms of terrorism, but in the end this will all lead to the attempted banishment of the true Christians and the true gospel churches. There may also be bounties placed upon true Christians and their meeting places. Races shall be against races, or nations against nations, and there will continue to be wars and rumors of wars, but the end is not yet. This has happened many times before, and the Lord has protected His own and shall again.

Environmental Pollutions and Terrible Climate Malfunctions

The Book of Revelation speaks in such a way as to suggest that there will be great changes in the climate and the insect population. Perhaps there will be mutant insects with extraordinary growth due to the terrible environmental pollutions and climate changes. Global warming shall certainly play an import part in all these evils. However, even with global warming and the almost universal pollution of the world's water and food sources, and the coming great physical changes, still, nothing shall go beyond God's appointed bounds.

Pr 8:26 While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. {fields: or, open places} {the highest...: or, the chief part}

27 When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth: {a compass: or, a circle}

28 *When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep:*

29 *When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth:*

30 Then I was by him, as one brought up *with him*: and I was daily *his* delight, rejoicing always before him;

31 Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men. (The elect in eternal, vital union with Him, REP)

Resting in Christ Jesus

Mt 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
Mt 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Heb 4:1 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left *us* of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

Heb 4:3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

God's little ones can continue to rest in their faith in Christ Jesus Who upholds all things and governs for the good of His church and people. Nothing shall happen but what Christ allows and has ordained to happen. Our Redeemer shall carry His own through all this coming tribulation and we are to be of good cheer for He has overcome the world, and has already bruised Satan under His heel.

Ro 16:20 And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. Amen.

Heb 1:3 Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Col. 1:12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:

14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

15 *Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:*

16 *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:*

17 *And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*

Speaking of the present Rule of Christ over this earth, the First London Confession stated:

.19.

Touching His Kingdom, Christ being risen from the dead, ascended into heaven, sat on the right hand of God the Father, having all power in heaven and earth, given unto Him, *He does spiritually govern His Church, exercising His power over all Angels and Men, good and bad, to the preservation and salvation of the elect, to the overruling and destruction of His enemies, which are the Reprobates*, communicating and applying the benefits, virtue, and fruit of His Prophecy and Priesthood to His elect, namely, to the subduing and taking away of their sins, to their justification and adoption of Sons, regeneration, sanctification, preservation and strengthening in all their conflicts against Satan, the World, the Flesh, and the temptations of them, continually dwelling in, governing and keeping their hearts in faith and filial fear by His Spirit, which having given it, He never takes away from them, but by It still begets and nourishes in them faith, repentance, love, joy, hope, and all heavenly light in the soul unto immortality,

notwithstanding through our own unbelief, and temptations of Satan, the sensible sight of this light and love be clouded and overwhelmed for the time. *And on the contrary, ruling in the world over His enemies, Satan, and all the vessels of wrath, limiting, using, restraining them by His mighty power, as seems good in His divine wisdom & justice to the execution of His determinate counsel, delivering them up to a reprobate mind, to be kept through their own deserts, in darkness and sensuality unto judgment.* I Cor. 15:4; I Pet. 3:21,22; Mat. 28:18,19,20; Luke 24:51; Acts 1:11 & 5:30,31; John 19:36; Rom. 14:17. Mark 1:27; Heb. 1:14; Jn. 16:7,15. John 5:26,27; Rom. 5:6, 7, 8 & 14:17. Gal. 5:22,23. John 1:4,13. John 13:1 & 10:28,29, & 14:16,17; Rom. 11:29; Psa. 51:10,11; Job 33:29,30; 2 Cor. 12:7,9. Job 1 and 2; Rom. 1:21 & 2:4,5,6, & 9:17,18. Eph. 4:17,18. 2 Pet. 3 chap.

.20.

This Kingdom shall be then fully perfected when He shall the second time come in glory to reign amongst His Saints, and to be admired of all them which do believe, when He shall put down all rule and authority under His feet, that the glory of the Father may be full and perfectly manifested in His Son, and the glory of the Father and the Son in all His members. I Cor. 15:24,28; Math. 9:28; I Thess. 1:9,10; 1 Thess. 4:15,16,17; Jn. 17: 21,26, Edition of 1644.

Attempted and Short Lived Peace

After the tri-unity of evil has destroyed as much as it concludes is necessary to bring about the mass surrender of mankind under its protection, then the leaders and the masses of reprobates *shall pretend to enjoy a short period of peace and safety.* They shall pretend that they are the great gods of this present evil world and have finally brought forth the golden age of utopia.

They shall be sadly mistaken, for this will then open up the 7th trump of God, and is, in my opinion the time of the out gathering from the earth of God's little children. This is the mid trib gathering out that shall then usher in the final 42 months of this present evil world. This will begin the **WRATH OF GOD!**

I Thess. 5:1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live

together with him.

11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

Distinguishing Between the Great Tribulation and the Wrath of God

The Wrath of God shall be distinguished from the Great Tribulation in these ways:

- 3. None of God's little ones shall be on the earth, but shall all be delivered from the wrath to come by Jesus Christ;**
- 4. The Great Tribulation comes from the tri-unity of Satan while the Wrath of God comes from our Lord Jesus Christ and His Father.**

2 Thess. 1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

2 Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

4 So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

5 Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:

6 Seeing *it is* a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, {his...: Gr. the angels of his power}

8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: {taking: or, yielding}

9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

11 Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of *this* calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of *his* goodness, and the work of faith with power: {count: or, vouchsafe}

12 That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev. 11:1 And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. (The gospel church and its ministers, ordinances and worship, REP)

2 But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty *and* two months. {leave out: Gr. cast out}

3 And I will give *power* unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. {I will give...: or, I will give unto my two witnesses that they may prophesy}

4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.

5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.

6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

8 And their dead bodies *shall lie* in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.

10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.

STARTHERE

The Taking Out of the Lord's True Ministers and Churches,

At this time there will not be any Gentile elect left on the earth.

11 And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, **Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.**

13 And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven. (Perhaps a mass-worldwide revival, that is the final part of this grand event, that may lead to the conversion of many Hebrews; REP)

14 The second woe is past; *and*, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.

The Judgment Seat of Christ and the Visible Presence of the Lamb and God in the Heavens

15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, ***The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.***

16 And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,

17 *Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.*

18 *And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth. {destroy the earth: or, corrupt the earth}*

19 *And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.*

The Meaning of the Two Witnesses

Many of our older Particular Baptist writers from the First London Confession era understood these witnesses to refer to the gospel church and ministry. I agree in principle with them. For example please read King's Way to Sion on this and Knollys Commentary on the Book of Revelation, all in the Old Faith Baptist Library that brother David maintains.

Please note that the two witnesses become two olive trees and two candlesticks. These are the ministering saints of both covenants, or Kings and Priests united together in the gospel church.

In my weak opinion the two witnesses, being two olive trees, denoting Hebrews converts, and two candlesticks, denote Gentile Gospel Churches making the mystical number of four. It seems that during these terrible days God will engraft the Hebrew elect back into manifest gospel union with the Gentile elect.

Ro 11:17 *And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert graffed in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; {among them: or, for them}*

Ro 11:19 *Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be graffed in.*

Ro 11:23 *And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be graffed in: for God is able to graff them in again.*

Ro 11:24 *For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert graffed contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural *branches*, be graffed into their own olive tree?*

John 15:1 *I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.*

2 *Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*

3 *Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.*

4 *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in*

the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

5 I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. {without me: or, severed from me}

6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned.

7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

The Attempted Extermination of the Manifest Elect

The evil Tri-unity of Satan will seek to exterminate all the manifest elect of God and except the Lord provide a wilderness existence for His own manifest elect, they would succeed, but the Lord will take care of His own people. He has always taken care of His own, but in these coming final days He will seem to do this in a very special way.

Rev. 12:1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: {wonder: or, sign}

2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. {wonder: or, sign}

4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days.

7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man *child*.

14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the

wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.

16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Mid Trib Position

My position would be classified as that of the Mid-Trib view. There are many others who feel Christ will gather His own off the earth even before the Tribulation begins, pre-trib concept, and others who feel they will be on the earth until it is finished, the post-trib view. Much love and liberty should be granted on these points. For several years many have made these points tests of fellowship and condemned with an intolerant and legalistic spirit all who differed from them. I feel this is evil and not of the Lord.

Sometime during these final days it seems that the Lord will convert His Hebrew elect and there will be a great revival in the coming last days. They shall look upon Him Whom they have pierced just as some of the Hebrews did when they murdered Christ on the Cross. At that time a nation shall be born in a day.

Dan. 12:1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation *even* to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame *and* everlasting contempt.

3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. {wise: or, teachers}

4 But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, *even* to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.

5 Then I Daniel looked, and, behold, there stood other two, the one on this side of the bank of the river, and the other on that side of the bank of the river. {bank: Heb. lip} {bank: Heb. lip}

6 And *one* said to the man clothed in linen, which *was* upon the waters of the river, How long *shall it be* to the end of these wonders? {upon...: or, from above}

7 And I heard the man clothed in linen, which *was* upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that *it shall be* for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these *things* shall be finished. {a time...: or, part}

8 And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what *shall be* the end of these *things*?

9 And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words *are* closed up and sealed till the time of the end.

10 Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.

11 And from the time *that* the daily *sacrifice* shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, *there shall be* a thousand two hundred and ninety days. {the abomination: Heb. to set up the abomination} {maketh...: or, astonisheth}

12 Blessed *is* he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.

13 But go thou thy way till the end *be*: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.

Please take the time to read Isaiah chapter 66. How much of this refers to the First Advent of Christ and the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 and how much relates to the end of this present evil world is hard to understand. I feel both judgments are presented and will not attempt to note the distinctions because I am not able.