

Rev 22:17: *'And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.'*

'The Holy Spirit and the True Church say, 'Come, Lord Jesus!' Satan, the false church and all God's enemies say: 'Stay away!' 'Let whosoever will, take the water of life freely.' The only problem lies in that so few will to come, so few will to submit, so few will to repent, so few will to receive His gift of Eternal Life.

It's dependent upon the Election of God but also upon human will and volition: upon deciding and doing, but the gift of faith, to believe, and the gift of Repentance come only from God, only to His Elect.

Every man's will is held captive to sin, to his flesh, to the devil and to his fear, his terror of death: *'Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; ¹⁵ And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.'* Heb 2:14

No matter how macho a man might believe himself to be, every unsaved person is terrified of death because every person knows, instinctively, that he was created as an eternal being and that he will, eventually, stand before God, knowing that his destiny is, in fact, the Lake of Fire because of his sin: unconfessed, unrepented and unforgiven.

God has caused all men to possess the consciousness of eternity: *'Also **He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.'*** Ecc 3:11 NKJV

Verse 18: *'For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:'*

This is a terrible threat: anyone who adds to The Revelation, God will put upon him all the plagues and judgments which are to be poured out on the World which has, for so long, rejected God's love, grace and mercy and upon the Antichrist's kingdom which will be the culmination of Satan's long kingdom of darkness.

Verse 19: *'And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.'*

From this, I take that there are two specific books with similar titles: the *Book of Life* and the *Lamb's Book of Life*. I assume that The Book of Life is that into which God writes the name of every person, ever conceived, whether born or not. From that book, every name is then transferred to one of two other books: the Lamb's Book of Life which contains the names of all who have ever received God's gift of Eternal Life, from which no name could ever be removed, or to the Book of the Dead. There are only two groups of people: the spiritually alive or the spiritually dead. All are either physically alive or dead, but they still all fit into one of those two books. We see the dead in Rev. 20:12 *'And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; **and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.'***

Here is a crucial reason why the name of a born again believer, one of God's Elect from the foundation of the World, whose name was written into the Lamb's Book of life, from the foundation of the World, can never be removed from that Book; his salvation rests upon the character of God and not his own. The Word tells us that it is impossible for God to lie. Jesus said, *'All that the Father giveth me (His Elect, from the foundation of the World) shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. ³⁸ For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. ³⁹ And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that **of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing**, but should raise it up again at the last day.'* John 6:37

There are only two possibilities for the Salvation of Man: either a man is saved through his own good works, or he is saved according to God's Grace; no combination of the two is acceptable to God... that is the lie of Catholicism and of every false religion. Man does not 'help' in the work of his salvation. Additionally, either what God offers is true Grace or it is no grace at all. If it is truly Grace from God, then it was either paid for, fully, by Jesus' Crucifixion, or it was not paid for at all and we are liable for the full price of our sin.

If you believe that our Salvation was fully paid by the Lord Jesus Christ and given to us only through God's Grace, then it follows that there is no line which a true child of God can cross to lose his eternal life... period!

'There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.' Rom 8:1

But, you say... only if you walk after the Spirit. See what Paul wrote just before that statement: 'I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.' Rom 7:25 Even Paul said that my flesh serves the law of sin... as it does in all of us... but our spirits always serve the law of God. There is therefore, no condemnation... never any condemnation... no possibility of condemnation for the true child of God. Either Jesus' blood paid it ALL, or it paid nothing at all.

But detractors claim, 'That is a license to sin, to take advantage of God's Grace!' But the truth is, we take all advantage of God's Grace every day! Sin is sin! Large or small, all sin is an attack on the Love, Grace, Mercy and Patience of God. No sin is 'small' enough to be overlooked, to be forgiven without the shed Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ... but how blessed we are... that the Love, Grace, Mercy and Patience of God for us, who are in Christ Jesus, is poured out upon us without measure, without regret and without end forever.

Now, obviously there are gaps in many of the things which God has told us about Himself, about the spiritual realm, about Heaven and Hell, about the future and the past and about many other things... but we try to lay it all out into a workable form that best satisfies our hunger to know more and more Truth. I don't have all the answers but when I don't, I try to fit any given thesis into what seems to make the most sense, in light of, and in relation to, all those things which God has, in fact, given us clear understanding. Of some things, I can say, 'I just don't know,' while of other things, I can say, 'I don't know, but *'this'* is what makes the most sense to me in light of all else that God has shown us in His Word. One day, soon, we will begin to understand far, far more than we ever even imagined, let alone questioned.

J. Vernon McGee said: "They have a right to be wrong. But if they want to be right, they should come along with me." I think that should be the attitude of any teacher of God's Word. If not, he or she should not be teaching. Every verse, idea, doctrine and word in God's Word has one true meaning and only one; never is there room for two differing understandings. There are never two or three equally valid interpretations, worthy of respect, in God's Word. That is the heresy I fought in the past. For example: some believe that the Rapture of the Church will not occur at any moment and not before the Tribulation or not at all while others, myself included, understand God's Word to clearly teach an imminent, pre-Tribulational, pre-Millennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, for His Bride, to happen at any moment. Only one understanding can be true. Some believe that the 'sons of God' in Gen 6, refer to the human 'line of Seth,' while others understand it to refer to angels; only one interpretation can be correct. Some believe in the eternal security of every true child of God while others believe that our Salvation depends on us, that it can be lost... both cannot be true.

With every question raised from the Word of God, it is crucial to weigh each one in light of all of God's Word in order to see how it falls into the clearly revealed character and plan of God. If one or two obscure verses seem to contradict revealed, and understood truth, then their meaning is being misunderstood; they must not form the basis for overturning known Truth which does clearly comport with the revealed character and plan of God.

Verse 20, 21: 'He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.'

He will come soon and He will come quickly, with no warning, whatsoever. No prophecy is left to be fulfilled before He comes in the Rapture and no warning will be given; we are to always be ready while earnestly and eagerly waiting and watching for His appearance in the clouds. His promised, special reward for all who look forward to His appearing, will be **the Crown of Righteousness**: Paul wrote, *'I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, **but unto all them also that love his appearing.**'* 2 Tim 4:7

His very last message to man, before He chose to go silent through a long gap of time between the fulfillment of the 69th Week of Daniel which was completed when He offered Himself as King, at His Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem, riding on the foal of a donkey... and the 70th Week of Daniel, the 7-year Tribulation, following His

coming for His Bride in the Rapture... His last message was: *'And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.'* Rev 22: 12

He promised to come without any warning, telling us to always be ready and waiting...

The evil citizens of Sodom were given no warning, other than the witness of Lot, before Lot was removed and judgment fell. Those living during the time of Noah were given no warning other than the righteous preaching of Noah, before the Flood came and destroyed them all.

Of that moment, He said: *'But first must he (Jesus) suffer many things, and be rejected of this generation. (He was rejected and crucified; then, His very next statement: ²⁶And as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. ²⁷They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. ²⁸Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; ²⁹But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. ³⁰Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.'* Luke 17:25

He gave Noah and Lot as examples of the time of the Rapture: eating, drinking, marrying, buying, selling, planting, building... life going along as usual, as normal... nothing at all like the time during the Tribulation which will be more like Hell on Earth. Life as usual with no warning or advance notice... none... maybe even today!

Today, we see the World not falling apart but, rather, falling into place. Anti-Semitism is exploding all around the World, like it was in 1930's Germany with the result being, Jews around the World are fleeing from those nations to finally arrive in Israel.

Israel's becoming a model, flourishing society, welcoming of Jews was never enough to draw them there; only God's instigation of intense pressure around the World is becoming the impetus of their coming home to the land which God promised to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Israel's rebirth, in 1948, was the crucial fulfillment of Prophecy which began the very Last Days of the End Times and the World's Jews fleeing to Israel is the fulfillment of Prophecy which opens the door to the final 7 years before Jesus' return as King of kings and Lord of lords, at Armageddon.

We are watching God's plan unfold. For Lot, rescue was hours away while complete destruction was mere minutes beyond that. The same, essentially, was true for Noah and his family but he believed God and went into the Ark.

We are to believe and trust God, to earnestly watch, wait, look and believe. We are commanded to be like watchmen upon the walls, ever vigilant against danger, always watching and always warning as we see that day approach.

'And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars (like Ukraine, like Gaza, like Lebanon, like Syria, like many, many other places as well): but see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.' Matt 24:6 'The end is not yet.' The Holy Spirit is still restraining the evil intents of Satan and humankind... the 'end' will begin when we are removed and the Holy Spirit releases His restraint of Evil.

'Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. ¹¹Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.' Rev 3:10

Again, **that crown is the Crown of Righteousness** which is promised to every one who patiently waits for and looks for His coming in the clouds.

*'But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. ⁵Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. ⁶Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but **let us watch** and be sober... 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,**' 1 Thes 5:4*

He is coming for us, one day soon, at any moment of any day. *'Therefore, be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh'* Matt 24:44 **MARANATHA!**