

## ***NOW CONCERNING SPIRITUAL THINGS***

an historical account of one man's walk with God

Jim Ash letter No. 104

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“Behold the former things have come to pass, **and new things I declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them.**” (Isaiah 42:9)

To those newly added to my mailing list: My footnotes must be read concurrently with the text in order to understand my writing.

### **GET READY**

Students of the bible who make a study of end-time events may have an informed opinion on the Rapture. In such a study, one may be inevitably led to these words of Jesus concerning that event, “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, but My Father only.”<sup>1</sup> For that reason, the prophetic scriptures tell of this event but avoid setting a time for its occurrence.

There is one scripture that may be the key to the time of this event. More than seven hundred years before Jesus was born, the prophet Amos declared, “Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.”<sup>2</sup> In view of this prophecy, God's prophets will know His *secret*, not the day or the hour, but a close date of the Rapture. I know one prophet<sup>3</sup> to whom the Lord has given ten or twelve prophetic words<sup>4</sup> concerning this event to include an approximate date. I also know someone to whom the Lord has prophesied **that he will remain after the Rapture to be martyred**. Here is scripture from Revelation, chapter twenty on *that* event:

“4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and

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<sup>1</sup>Matthew 24:36.

<sup>2</sup>Amos 3:7.

<sup>3</sup>My definition of “prophet” is one who hears the voice of God and proclaims His message. This may be distinctly different from the gift of prophecy and the office of prophet as exhibited in the church today.

<sup>4</sup>To those who are newly added to my mailing list, when I write “prophetic word” I don't refer to a single “word,” but to a *prophetic utterance* given at a specific time that may contain a single word, a few words or several hundred words.

reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

“5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until **the thousand years were finished**. This is the first resurrection.

“6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him **a thousand years.**”

The setting for these three verses of scripture is the period of time immediately following the Rapture, called the Great Tribulation, the last three and one-half years of the seven-year Tribulation. The Rapture immediately precedes the Tribulation.<sup>5</sup> From these three verses of scripture we learn these things:

(1) God has designated certain of His servants who will remain after the Rapture to be martyred by the beast, the Antichrist, during the Great Tribulation.

(2) Those who are martyred (beheaded) will remain faithful, will not worship the beast or his image and will refuse to accept the mark of the beast on their forehead or their right hand. (See Revelation 13:16)

(3) The Great White Throne judgment follows the Millennium. (See Revelation 20:11-15)

(4) Those who are beheaded will be resurrected at the second coming of Christ and

(5) will join those who are raptured to reign with Him during the Millennium as priests of God and Christ.

Here is additional scripture also concerning martyrdom of the same believers from Revelation, chapter six:

“9 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the

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<sup>5</sup>There are at least five theological “positions” or conclusions concerning the time of the Rapture: (1) pre-tribulation, (2) mid-tribulation, (3) partial, (4) post-tribulation and (5) the no rapture view. My conclusion on when the Rapture will occur is not only based on my biblical knowledge of prophetic scripture concerning this event, but also on prophetic rhema word revelation given to me by the Lord. Theologians perform a needed function within the church, but if their specialized knowledge of the bible is intellectual only, of what value is the theology? A theologian blessed with faith is the greater blessing. A theologian blessed with faith who has learned to hear the voice of God continually is the greatest blessing. Revelation is the source of true knowledge. Theologians may present alternatives; revelation presents solutions.

altar the souls of those **who had been slain** for the word of God and for the testimony which they held.

“10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, ‘How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?’

“11 Then a white robe was given to each one and they were told to rest a little while longer, **until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.**”

From these verses we learn that:

(1) A special white robe will be given to the martyred believers and

(2) the Lord has decreed that a specific number of believers will be martyred by the beast during the Great Tribulation.

You may be wondering why I am writing about these events now. Here is the reason: The Rapture will occur within twelve years and two months from the date of this letter. That also marks the beginning of the seven-year Tribulation. There are people who read this letter who will be raptured and therefore **will not die**. I also know one individual on my mailing list who has been told by the Lord that he will remain through the Rapture to be martyred. That is only one reason I am writing about these exciting end-time events chronicled in Revelation concerning:

- (1) the Rapture
- (2) the Tribulation
- (3) the Great Tribulation
- (4) the martyrdom of the Great Tribulation saints
- (5) the resurrection of the Great Tribulation martyrs at the return of Christ
- (6) The return of Christ to rule and reign with the raptured saints and the resurrected martyrs
- (7) the binding of Satan for a thousand years in the bottomless pit
- (8) the millennial reign of Christ on the earth
- (9) the release of Satan from the bottomless pit
- (10) the Great White Throne Judgment

Believe this servant of God. Now is the time to get your life in order. Get ready. The King is coming!

In My quiet time with the Lord the morning of January 22, 2008, He began to talk to me concerning these end-time events as recorded in the book of Revelation. Several things He revealed to me that morning are new and to my knowledge are revealed for the first time in this letter. Listen to hear a “right now”

word of the Lord in preparation for end-time events just ahead. The bold fonts, italics, underlining and footnotes are added for emphasis and understanding.

#### The rhema word received

“Yes, My son, in this Rapture generation, **you have the legal right to claim freedom from death.**<sup>6</sup> As you see that and as you claim that and as you confess that, I will honor that. This is another **NEW THING for THIS GENERATION. Freedom from death is the ultimate spiritual warfare weapon against the enemy.** Since this is **NEW**, it needs to be explained thoroughly, but it also needs to be proclaimed by My leaders in these last days. Only My prophets will have the courage to make this proclamation. Those who are receptive and hungry will accept it and be blessed.

“The wages of sin is death. When one, by confession, is freed of that sin consequence and claims freedom from that consequence, that is the ultimate spiritual warfare weapon against the enemy **TODAY**. You will want to write about that as one of the **NEW THINGS** of Isaiah 42:9 and as one of the **GREATER THINGS** of John 14:12.

“Herein lies the answer. Some who are being trained by Me will be among those in this generation who will be anointed and commissioned by Me with John 14:12. **Those who remain after the Rapture to boldly confront the beast will be told**<sup>7</sup> and there will be special rewards for those so chosen. This will be an honor reserved for a few, who, without fear, will boldly confront the beast to his consternation, because he will neither expect nor believe that **ANYONE** would or could be so bold because he uses fear to intimidate and motivate people to do his will.

“Notice that the mark of the beast is buying and selling – commerce and industry – which one may do **for himself**. That is one of the things which caused Lucifer to fall, so he is simply continuing his onslaught through his selfish ways.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>6</sup>**Realize this is something new!** No generation prior to this one has had that knowledge or privilege. And this revelation came by *learning to hear* the voice of God continually, a blessing of unlimited benefits.

<sup>7</sup>Notice that the ones who will remain at the Rapture to confront the beast will be told by the Lord. Such a blessing! That means He will prepare them before the Rapture occurs so they will not be surprised.

<sup>8</sup>The iniquity of Lucifer’s trading (buying and selling), was one cause of his downfall when he was in authority over the pre-Adamic earth, and is referenced in Ezekiel 28:16 & 18. I will have more to write about that in future letters.

“The enemy’s ways (temptations) are still the same. They all tempt one to glorify **self** instead of Me. And that, you will remember, was his downfall. The five “I wills” of Isaiah 14:13 & 14 are all exaltations of Lucifer (self) – to glorify Lucifer (self). Hence Satan’s temptations all point to self, to glorify self, instead of Me. That is the way of death. That is glorifying self before Me and I will not have that.

“The reason I said that you shall have no other gods before Me is that I must have the glory or it will be stolen by the enemy. When you choose Me (through obedience), you choose life. When you choose Satan (through sin – disobedience), you choose death. It’s choosing obedience or disobedience, blessings or curses, life or death.

“I must have the glory for that reason. Because I am the Creator, My will must be foremost. As Creator, I know what is best for My creation. I want My creation to have life everlasting by following Me.

“Satan knows his ultimate destiny (death) and wants to take as many with him as possible.

“The false motivation of the beast will be to intimidate with fear of death. That is why some who you are training **NOW** will remain at the Rapture to **BOLDLY CONFRONT** the beast without fear, which he will not understand, all the while thinking death to his detractors will lead him to victory and eliminate those who oppose him, rather than exalt them, which is My plan. (Note: this is similar to Satan’s plan to kill Jesus and eliminate Him as heir, while God’s plan was to exalt Him.)

“Those who willingly give their lives will receive rewards prepared especially for them.

“The Rapture is both a resurrection from the dead and a rapture of the living, making it unique, or an occurrence happening only once. Every other resurrection is from the dead and not for the living.”

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The morning of May 11, 2006, the Lord shared some things with me that reflect the intimacy He wishes to have with you and me. As I share these words with you, you may recognize that one incident related therein appeared in my last (February) letter. Although it is redundant, I wanted to include the incident within the context as it was given to me since it ties in with this specific word from the Lord. Some of the words concern me personally. In this case, instead of editing them out, I left them in to reveal the intimacy He wants with you. Realize that these are words from the Lord

Jesus, Himself, that he spoke to me that morning in May, 2006, exactly as I transcribed them from my journal.

The rhema word

“Yes, My son, all of these things will be added as you walk in obedience. You see, My son, I have learned from the Father what I am teaching you. Like Father, like Son is the rule. When the Father teaches the Son properly, the Son is able to replicate the blessings.

“And yes, go ahead and prepare handouts of the lesson I have put on your mind/heart. Those are the things to teach Sunday, 5/14/06.

“And yes, I could have failed as the first Adam failed. Many times I was discouraged because of the heavy burdens I carried. That’s why ‘foxes have holes, birds of the air have their nests, but the Son of Man had no place to lay His head’ was descriptive of the situation in My ministry. I had no one to whom I could go except the Father. And so to Him I went, night after night, for encouragement, hope and strength to continue.

“My son, I am saying these things to you because few get to the place I have brought you. Do you realize that everyone who reaches My maturity comes to the same place I was during My lifetime – during My ministry. When one’s spiritual growth/maturity gets to a certain point, **NO ONE** except Myself will understand and can minister to that one.

“You see, My son, as I have said to you, My life on the earth truly was a microcosm of yours as you learn to listen to Me. You see, as you learn to listen to Me, I am changing you into **ME**, My son. You know that My words are a Spiritual Person. Therefore, as you hear My rhema words, I am changing you into **ME**, My son.

“Here’s the way that works: **Everything** man needs is in the word (that’s Me). As I therefore see **your** needs, I simply respond with that part of **Myself** imparted to you through My rhema words. In that manner, I am training you by changing you into My likeness, My image. The way I know your training is finished and you are ready to be commissioned (sent out) is when the finished product is like the model. That is the way I will know.

“Remember, that as I train you, you may train others. As you proceed in My training workshop, you will begin to see, more and more, the similarity of My teaching. **I taught the same thing, the same principles different ways many times** – sometimes in parables to confuse the legalists. As you mature in Our ‘workshop,’ you will begin to see these things more clearly. As you listen to My rhema words and are obedient, the end result will be like the model. It’s just that simple, My

friend. My Father said that to Me time and time again.

“The whole purpose of My training, and of My training you is to achieve complete victory over the enemy. Every soldier I train will become a trainer.

“But you, My son, are an exception to My rule, and yet confirmation of My rule. I am training you for special assignments, as you know. Your training, therefore has . . . .

(At this point, as I was transcribing these words from my journal with my word processor, I was interrupted. I thought I heard a sound behind me, turned around and looked at the doorway leading into my office. There in My mind’s eye I could see Jesus – standing in the doorway. It was not a vision, but in my mind’s eye I could see Jesus – grinning almost from ear to ear. A smile that was almost a laugh. He was tanned. His dark hair of medium length appeared to have been wind blown, as though He just stopped by to see me and to say how pleased He was with my boldness in prayer and my obedience to become valuable to Him. And then He was gone. Vanished. I can still see His face – that broad smile – almost a laugh – a smile of joy at my serving Him. I then continued to transcribe these words, His words, from my journal:)

. . . . needed to be more rigorous than most. I have other second Johns scattered around whom I am also training as I am training you, but I have brought you the long way. You have learned – you are learning to be proficient in more than one area due to your nature. You like to become proficient in every area of an endeavor. Consequently, your training has needed to be more thorough than most.

“Note that I have trained you in denying self, the use of mammon and its use of you, fasting, communion, spiritual warfare, healing and true growth and maturity. You, My friend, will be more perfected than most as you continue for the remaining three years (Until May of 2009).

“Do not grow weary in well-doing. Just respond to My initiatives and We’ll do fine. I see the end result, the end from the beginning. You see only what lies immediately ahead as I lead you and guide you to Our final destination. My son, John knows of you and he is thrilled at My training you.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>9</sup>This reference is to the apostle John and is not the first one. The way of communication between believers on the earth and those who have inherited the kingdom of heaven (see Matthew 8:11) is through the Holy Spirit. That is how the “great cloud of witnesses” (Hebrews 12:1) are informed of our activities on the earth.

“Continue to do as I have instructed. Confess and proclaim everything I have promised you so as to confess, profess them into existence. *That’s how powerful your words are.* Have you noticed that as you *confess* what I have *promised* you, you grow *stronger* in your *faith* in each of these areas? Remember that and boldly claim for yourself **EVERYTHING** I have promised, and surely they shall come to pass, says your Friend to you this morning.

“My son, I delight in your learning even as you do. When you thrill at My teaching, that is a reflection of My joy at someone (you) who will challenge, yes, challenge even Me to go beyond most in achievement for My glory. So remember, I thrill, I exult, I joy with you as We travel along this road together.”

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The end-time events about which I write are real. Hell is just as real as heaven. **All of God’s promises are conditional.** There is no such thing as one foot in the kingdom of the world and one in the kingdom of God. You can’t straddle the fence in God’s economy. With him, it’s all or nothing at all. That’s the negative side.

The positive side is when you become totally committed to the Lord, in time, in His time, as you patiently learn to (1) read His word and (2) hear His voice, you will never be the same. The benefits (blessings) of the intimate relationship with Him, are without limit, wherein one may grow up into the fulness of the stature of Christ.

I speak and write from experience. It is real. It is lasting. It is salvation for whosoever will come to Him and drink from the fountain of Life, and it is forever.

If you get hard copies of my letters, please send me your email address that I may delete you from my hard copy mailing list. If you do not have email capability, I will continue to send you hard copies. Upon request, I will add a name to my mailing list. Also please let me know if you would like to be deleted from my mailing list.

Jim Ash