

Storm Clouds on the Horizon

(Sermon notes)

By Warren Zehrung 9/5/2015

The Feast of Trumpets is very near. In this short interim before the Fall Holy Days begin I thought a review of the events leading up to the Feast of Trumpets would be helpful. Of course the meaning of the Feast of Trumpets will be covered on that day.

Trumpets pictures the Day of the Lord and the return of Jesus Christ in total power to establish the Father's Kingdom over all the earth. God has foretold the events leading up to that time. We know what it is we are to look forward to.

We are not in darkness that that day should overtake us unexpectedly. God has given us an outline and many details. I find it helpful to place all the prophesied events in a time ordered **chart** based on the seven **seals** of Revelation. Only Jesus Christ is able to reveal the meaning of the seven seals:

Revelation 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**.

Revelation 5:2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, **Who** is worthy to open the book, and to loose the **seals** thereof? [The answer is, Jesus – that's who (verse 5).

We see the **first seal** explained in Revelation 6:

Revelation 6:2 And I saw, and behold a **white horse** [False Religion]: and He that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

Revelation 6:3 And when [Jesus] had opened the **second seal** [War], I heard the second living creature say, Come and see.

Revelation 6:5 And when he had opened the **third seal** [Famine], I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.

Revelation 6:7-8 And when he had opened the **fourth seal** [Disease and Pestilence], I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

Revelation 6:9 And when he had opened the **fifth seal** [The Tribulation], I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

Revelation 6:12-13 And I beheld when he had opened the **sixth seal** [Heavenly Signs], and, lo, there was a **great earthquake**; and the **sun** became black as sackcloth of hair, and the **moon** became as blood; And the **stars** of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casts her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

Revelation 8:1-2 And when he had opened the **seventh seal** [Trumpets – the wrath of God – the seven Plagues and the vials], there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given **seven trumpets**.

Revelation 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 forever and ever.

Create your own useful chart if you haven't done so already. It is so helpful to see how all these things unfold leading up to the Day Christ returns and sets His feet on the Mt. of Olives – across the Kidron valley from the Temple Mount – on the East side of Jerusalem.

Zechariah 14:4 And His [Jesus Christ's] feet shall stand **in that day** upon the Mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

We will see that phrase, "**in that day**," over and over today. God has disclosed, and given us this framework of the seven seals and this time order of events so that His people will know exactly what is happening.

Dark storm clouds are gathering and the trumpet sounds will soon be heard. It is prudent that we look at the prophesied events leading up to the time of the trumpets.

We keep the Feasts of the Lord each year and we preach meat in due season so that, especially in these last days, we can all be conversant in the sequence of end time events as they begin to unfold all around us.

In these perilous last days we are witnessing a world of **turmoil**. We see lawless governments, violence and murder rates shooting up, a refugee crisis unfolding in Europe.

We see an escalating immigration predicament in America as a result of our perforated borders.

There is radical Muslim encroachment everywhere with the beheading of those who profess another faith. They push for Sharia law.

A reader of "The **Countdown** to the Return of Jesus Christ," wrote about this. I would like to share this **email** with everyone because it demonstrates the importance of having our eyes open.

"I just read an article about 4,000 refugees being eagerly welcomed into Austria and Germany.

"There was a comment by a young man in the U.S.

"He went on to say that he helped another young man whose car was broken down and found that this young man that he was helping was from England.

"The English man told the other young man how bad it is in England, and that the media isn't even telling people how bad it is there.

"He went onto say how sad he was to see his country crumbling by immigrants taking it over.

"It has become a huge financial drain and that his own family and friends want to leave England and come to the U.S. as well.

"His last statement was one of warning saying that America needs to wake up because what is happening in Europe will soon be our problem...

"With this latest refugee crisis coming, I can see how this situation will finally bankrupt this country.

"There were also some other comments about Sharia Law being set up and once that is done, our country will then become a shadow of what it once was.

"We know that these things have to happen, but it is still so sad to watch.

"People cannot push God out of their lives and out of our country fast enough, so we are doomed as a nation to the consequences.

"Having the ability to endure through these difficult times ahead will be our reward." End email

Deuteronomy 28:43 The stranger that is within thee shall get up above you very high; and thou shall come down very low.

Deuteronomy 28:44 He shall **lend** to thee, and thou shall not lend to him: he shall be the **head**, and thou shall be the tail.

Get ready for it – it is happening faster than we think. We see nuclear proliferation deals with rogue nations, wild stock market and currency instability, poverty and homelessness, widespread cohabitation, blatant perversion, war, abortions, extreme weather fluctuations, and the list could go on and on.

Even the reporters on the Weather Channel cannot understand why so many horrendous natural disasters are piling up, one after another. Unprecedented floods, droughts, tsunamis...

What we're looking at also is the destruction of our economy. We are 18 trillion dollars in debt – and it's rising rapidly. China is devaluing their currency and calling for a new a new world currency to try to have some type of economic stability. And that is just the tip of the iceberg. The landscape is being set for the emergence of the Beast and His world ruling economic system.

God, and His way, is being systematically eradicated from every vestige of our society, schools, culture and lives. As a result, God has begun to remove His hand of protection and guidance that has brought us bountiful prosperity and might. God is beginning to take away the wonderful blessings of power, wealth, protection and greatness that He bestowed upon Israel as a result of His promise to Abraham.

It is not our military that is ineffective – it is the pride of our power – our once distinct God given exceptionalism – that has become broken and pathetic.

Leviticus 26:19 And I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass:

We are losing the will to use our might to defend our country's citizens. We allow our citizens to be held hostage in foreign prisons without coming to their rescue. Shame on us. God tells us that we have built up our military and defenses in vain – for they will no longer protect us.

Leviticus 26:18 If ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.

Leviticus 26:19 And I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass:

Leviticus 26:20 And your strength shall be spent in vain: for your land shall not yield her increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits.

Brethren, this nation cannot stand without God. As we witness the prophesied fall of our nation, what should we be doing? Should we shrink back and hide in the shadows. No! We do **not** find that example portrayed in the Scriptures.

And God is **not yet** asking us to seek the spotlight of center stage. That time will come soon enough. We should realize that these end-time events portend and pave the way for the soon coming salvation of the Lord.

God tells us to take a stand for our faith and the principles of our faith and God's way of life. When we stand for what is right, God will fight our battles for us, but soon some of us will be openly persecuted for obeying God and not man. Some people are being persecuted, fined and jailed for standing on their principles.

You have heard of Kim Davis.

Ashland, Kentucky county clerk, soft-spoken **Kim Davis**, who refused to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples on religious grounds was held in contempt of court by a United States federal judge and sent to jail. U.S. marshals confirmed that she was under arrest.

"Marriage is a union between one man and one woman," Mrs. Davis said under questioning by her attorney. "This is about upholding the word of God," she said.

The judge who found Kim Davis in contempt and sent her to prison said, "Her good-**faith** belief is simply **not** a viable defense. Oaths mean things."

I might add, Yes, oaths are important. "... We ought to **obey God** rather than men." (Acts 5:29) Our oath to God always comes first!

Look at how many sworn public officials across this nation flaunt their breaking of our nation's immigration laws with impunity – and then insist that people like Kim Davis obey an unconditional and Godless law. God hates hypocrisy.

"Kim Davis was thrown in jail for standing up for her faith."

The first amendment of the United States constitution guarantees that the government will not persecute Christians in the practice of their faith. Our Constitution guarantees that, "You cannot institute a law that says Christians must violate their faith or go to jail."

Chief Justice Roberts in his dissenting opinion on this new law in question said, "This is not based on the constitution." And Supreme Court Justice Scalia predicted exactly what is happening to Kim Davis because of this lawless Judicial **activism** – where public officials are put in a position where they must defy this inappropriate and illegitimate law.

We have reached a sad stage in our country where: "Judicial lawlessness crossed into judicial tyranny. The government arrested a Christian woman for living according to her faith. This is wrong. That is not America."

Let me present another similar case: Perhaps you haven't heard the story of **Linda Gibbons** of Toronto. Linda has spent an astonishing total of **ten years** and seven months in jail for her "crime." The 67-year-old grandmother is a pro-life protester outside of abortion clinics. She persists in trying to make her voice heard.

Holding her sign — it's always the same one, which features a Gerber-like beautiful of a chubby baby with tears – that reads, "**Why mom? When I have so much love to give.**" Linda walked back and forth on the public sidewalk. She walked her solitary path in front of the abortion clinic entrance; she didn't chant, sing, or pray; and she didn't block or stop anyone.

Here is the interesting take on our culture that I want you to take notice of: Who goes to jail today for **ten years** and **seven** months? They don't lock up burglars, robbers, serious drug offenders, drunk drivers, child abusers or those charged with manslaughter for that length of time!

As she sees it, Linda Gibbons' silence honors the unborn. "The Supreme Court has determined that the baby Linda is defending does not exist ... Nobody is there until the baby is born."

"Linda, has been found to be in breach of a court order." She didn't resist. She doesn't speak to her jailers. She won't sign bail. She just quietly protests the killing of innocents.

Jeremiah 19:5 God said that He never approved of abortions – as a matter of fact, He said, "it never came it into my mind," that man would stoop so low.

Those two ladies are not in God's Church. Could we take a stand for God's way if we were singled out as they have been? This, we must seriously consider seriously as it goes to the heart of our character, because we people of true faith are going to have to summon our moral courage with increased regularity – and not be afraid, weak or timid.

What we are seeing is that it is happening more and more frequently – people being singled out on a larger and larger scale – some have even given their lives.

There will be **no place** to avoid being singled out as time grows short. What kind of people should we be when there is nothing sacred anymore? Without God and His perfect way – nothing on this earth is worth anything. Governments, militaries, and all institutions will utterly perish.

2Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, **not willing** that any should perish, but that **all should come to repentance**.

If that is **God's will** – that none should perish – it must be our attitude and desire as well.

2Peter 3:11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, **what manner of persons ought ye to be** in all holy conversation [conduct] and godliness.

That is the question of today's sermon. What kind of people are we?

This defines what our attitude towards all others must be – especially our scattered brethren. The people of this world are not our enemies – Satan the devil is.

2Peter 3:12 Looking for and hasting unto **the coming of the day of God**, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

What can we do?

Malachi 3:16 Then they that feared the LORD **spoke often** one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

Malachi 3:17 And they shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spares his own son that serves him.

We serve God when we serve one another. Things are getting really bad in government and society. Our culture is becoming entirely polluted. Bringing up children and living a decent life is fast becoming untenable.

Jesus posed the question would He find Faith on earth when He returned – because He knew how difficult it would be in these last days to have a sustainable faith. It is only God who will be able to bring a true witness to the entire world. And every eye will see.

Our culture and religious environment is under assault. Soon, **nothing** of God's way will be tolerated anywhere on earth. It will be a challenging and seriously dangerous time for professing Christians. God will choose some true Christians to be witnesses for Him.

Two and a half years of Satan's wrath will be followed by the Day of the Lord when God will release terrible scourges on this earth to bring mankind to repentance.

Revelation 6:9 And **when** he had opened the **fifth seal** [the tribulation], I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

Revelation 6:10 And they cried with a loud voice [metaphorically], saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

We are looking at the prophesied events leading up to the day of Trumpets when Christ shall appear.

Basically, the **Day of the Lord** is that last year of the three and one half years of tribulation when God's wrath comes against all evil, and God begins to establish His righteousness on the earth.

There are rough and tough days ahead, but the one who endures to the end shall be saved.

Matthew 10:17 But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues;

Matthew 10:18 And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a **testimony** against them and the Gentiles.

That's good! God wants you to be a witness for Him! Unfortunately, some not so spiritual folks will decide that you should not have bucked the system – and you've done something wrong. Just remember that God has orchestrated your court date for His good purposes – even if they take your life. Are we ready for that? Do not worry at all because God will give you the words He wants you to say.

Matthew 10:19 But when they deliver you up, **take no thought** how or what ye **shall speak**: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak.

Matthew 10:20 For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaks in you.

Matthew 10:21 And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death.

Matthew 10:22 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endures to the end shall be saved.

Revelation 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

An impossibly difficult time is coming – except that God is always there for us. Unless we have the mind of Christ, we will falter when we are brought before those magistrates in power. We must have enough of God's spirit to speak His righteous words and yet not lose control and let anger take over – but represent God's way in everything we say and do.

Christians will be painted into a corner – nowhere to go to escape. Who will walk in the paint? Sadly, some will yield to the Beast power. Who will look to God for His defense?

Again – for your **chart of chronological events** – we have the tribulation which lasts 3½ years.

The first 2½ years of the tribulation are the wrath of Satan – when the saints who have not been protected in the Place of Safety will die for their faith. Then the last year of the tribulation is the Day of the Lord's wrath which comes against all evil, and God begins to establish His righteousness on the earth.

It is like telling a little kid, "If you do that again **you will** get a spanking." The parent is looking for compliance and repentance – not the spanking. In the same way, God is looking for the **repentance** of mankind so that His wrath will not come.

Matthew 11:20 Then began [Jesus] to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they **repented not**: [of their sins]

Matthew 11:21 Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works [Christ's miracles], which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, **they would have repented** long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

Matthew 11:22 But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the **day of judgment**, than for you.

Matthew 11:23 And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, [a great city] shalt be brought down to hell [put in its grave]: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done

in Sodom,[because of the homosexuality there, Sodom was destroyed forever] it would have remained until this day.

Matthew 11:24 But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the **day of judgment**, than for thee.

Notice how Jesus is instant in prayer – turning to His Father in a moment’s notice. (Romans 12:12 ... instant in prayer.)

Matthew 11:25 At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.

Those in the world are unable to see these things – but God has revealed them unto us – His Children. Next, Jesus is speaking of the great false religion.

Revelation 2:21 And I gave her **space to repent** of her fornication; and she **repented not**. [They continue to worship a false god.]

Revelation 9:20 And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet **repented not** of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:

Revelation 16:9 And men were scorched with **great heat**, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they **repented not** to give him glory.

Stubborn mankind is set in his evil ways: No matter how many **plagues** God sends they will not repent:

Revelation 16:11 And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and **repented not** of their deeds.

You do not hear much talk about the **Day of the Lord** but the Bible has a great deal to say about it. Let’s look at a **list, sketch** or **survey** of the declarations God has made about the **Day of the lord** [not a comprehensive list by any means.] The Bible has much to say – no one should be in ignorance.

"Isaiah" means: The Eternal is Salvation. When you see "LORD" in all caps – a good translation is ‘The Eternal.’

These are **Day of the Lord** Scriptures, also referred to as “**that Day**.” All of this prophecy is in the near future.

Isaiah 1:7 Your country is desolate, **your cities are burned with fire**: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is **desolate**, as overthrown by strangers.

Isaiah 2:11 The [proud] lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in **that day**.

Which “Day” is being spoken of? See the next verse for the answer:

Isaiah 2:12 For the **day of the LORD** of hosts shall be upon every one that is **proud and lofty**, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low:

Man has got to get his priorities straight – especially those of us in God’s Church.

Isaiah 2:17 And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the **LORD alone** shall be **exalted** in that day.

Isaiah 2:18 And the idols he shall utterly abolish.

Isaiah 2:19 And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to **shake** terribly the earth.

Isaiah 2:20 In **that day** a man shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which they made each one for himself to worship, to the moles and to the bats;

Isaiah 2:21 To go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to **shake terribly** the earth.

The Day of the Lord will not be destruction on every man – remember how Jesus said:

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

Isaiah 6:11 Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be **utterly desolate**,

Isaiah 6:12 And the LORD have removed men far away, and there be a **great forsaking** in the midst of the land.

Isaiah 11:11 And it shall come to pass in **that day**, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the **remnant** of **His people**, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. [Where they have been taken captive.]

Isaiah 13:1 The **burden of Babylon**, which Isaiah the son of Amoz did see.

The sun and the moon being darkened are a sign of **God's judgment** – in this case upon Babylon which represents all **false** worship – whether Catholic, Protestant – and yes, even in God's Church.

Revelation 14:8 And there followed another angel, saying, **Babylon is fallen**, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

Revelation 18:2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

We see that the Day of the Lord brings **destruction** from God:

Isaiah 13:6 Howl ye; for the **day of the LORD** is at hand; it shall come as a **destruction** from the Almighty.

The Day of the Lord is a clean-up operation. It is "The Day of the Lord's wrath." Notice:

Isaiah 13:9 Behold, the **day of the LORD comes**, cruel both with **wrath** and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall **destroy** the sinners thereof out of it.

Isaiah 13:10 For [Because] the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in its going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. [Sixth seal]

Here's the sequence: Satan's wrath – which is the tribulation – is the **fifth seal**.

Matthew 24:21 For then shall be **great tribulation**, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Matthew 24:29 **Immediately after** the **tribulation** [5th seal] of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: [6th seal]

That is the sixth seal there in verse :29 – Heavenly Signs.

Revelation 6:12 And I beheld when he had opened the **sixth seal**, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the **sun** became **black** as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

Revelation 6:13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casts her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. (Joel 2:31, Isaiah 13:9-10)

We see the time ordered sequence here leading up to trumpets – the **7th** seal – and the Lord's wrath.

Matthew 24:30 And **then** [after Satan's wrath and the heavenly signs] shall appear the **sign** of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the **clouds** of heaven with power and great glory.

Matthew 24:31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a **trumpet**, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, **from one end of heaven to the other**.

Jesus is coming back at this moment into the very near proximity of the earth – even in the air – but this is not speaking of the day of Trumpets when Jesus' feet will stand on the Mt. of Olives.

1Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself shall **descend from heaven** with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with **the trumpet** [singular – not trumpets] of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: [On a Pentecost]

Jesus comes into near proximity of the earth to gather all His saints from all around the earth – dead and alive - **the last trumpet**. (Singular)

1Thessalonians 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them **in the clouds**, to meet the Lord **in the air**: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. [Not on the Mt. of Olives just yet.]

1Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

1Corinthians 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at **the last trumpet**: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

It will be a fearsome sight:

Luke 21:26 **Men's hearts failing** them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the **powers of heaven** shall be shaken.

Luke 21:27 And then shall they see the **Son of man coming** in a **cloud** with power and great glory.

Jesus will be brightly visible:

Revelation 1:7 Behold, he cometh **with clouds**; and **every eye shall see him**, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth **shall wail** because of him.

Those people of the world will be caught unreservedly by surprise – but not God's true saints.

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

1Thessalonians 5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

1Thessalonians 5:3 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.

1Thessalonians 5:4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

1Thessalonians 5:5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

Isaiah 17:9 In **that day** shall his strong cities [Think Los Angeles to New York] be as a forsaken bough [twig], and an uppermost branch, which they left because of the children of Israel: and there shall be **desolation**.

Isaiah 22:12 And in **that day** did the Lord GOD of hosts call to weeping, and to mourning, and to baldness, and to girding with sackcloth:

Isaiah 24:4 The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth **do languish**.

Isaiah 24:5 The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.

Isaiah 24:6 Therefore hath the curse **devoured the earth**, and they that dwell therein are **desolate**: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left.

For True Christians of the Church of God it will not be only the **hope** of the resurrection, but the **realization** that all God has prophesied is coming to fruition:

Isaiah 25:9 And it shall be said in **that day**, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and he will save us: this is the [Eternal] LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.

The Feast of Trumpets pictures the triumphant return of Jesus Christ in power to establish His Father's Kingdom in all the earth.

A good many people from America, Canada, England, Australia and other English speaking countries will have been carried off in a second captivity.

Isaiah 27:13 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem.

Isaiah 34:1 Come near, ye nations, to hear; and hearken, ye people: let the earth hear, and all that is therein; the world, and all things that come forth of it.

Isaiah 34:2 For **the indignation of the LORD** is upon all nations, and his fury upon all their armies: he hath utterly destroyed them, he hath delivered them to the slaughter.

Isaiah 34:3 Their slain also shall be cast out, and their stink shall come up out of their carcasses, and the mountains shall be melted with their blood.

Isaiah 34:4 And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree.

Isaiah 34:5 For my sword shall be bathed in heaven: behold, it shall come down upon Idumea, and upon the people of my curse, to judgment.

Isaiah 34:8 For it is the day of the LORD'S **vengeance**, and the year of recompenses for the controversy of Zion.

Romans 12:19 ...Give place unto [God's] wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

The True Church will have suffered much – even to death in some cases.

Isaiah 63:3 I have **trodden the winepress** alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment.

Isaiah 63:4 For the **day of vengeance** is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come.

Isaiah 63:5 And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and **my fury**, it upheld me.

Isaiah 63:6 And I will **tread down** the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth.

Jeremiah 25:33 And the slain of the LORD shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground.

We find that God presents **Two Suppers** in Revelation 19:9 and :17!

Revelation 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

Revelation 19:8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

Revelation 19:9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the **marriage supper of the Lamb**. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

Then there is the **buzzard supper** of verse :17.

Revelation 19:17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the **supper of the great God**;

Revelation 19:18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

Now I suppose the Two Witnesses will be preaching these things to the world – and calling for repentance. And the world will not hear them – but instead kills the Two Witnesses and rejoices in that.

Hosea 2:16 And it shall be at that day, saith the LORD, that thou shalt call me Ishi [my husband]; and shalt call me no more Baali [my lord].

Jeremiah 30:7 Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of **Jacob's trouble**; but he shall be saved out of it.

Jeremiah 46:10 For this is the **day of the Lord GOD** of hosts, a day of vengeance, that he may avenge him of his adversaries: and the sword shall devour, and it shall be satiate and made drunk with their blood: for the Lord GOD of hosts hath a sacrifice in the north country by the river Euphrates.

Lamentations 2:22 Thou hast called as in a solemn day my terrors round about, so that in the **day of the LORD'S** anger none escaped nor remained: those that I have swaddled and brought up hath mine enemy consumed.

Please read all of Ezekiel 7 for details of the Day of the Lord – here are a few verses:

Ezekiel 7:6 An **end is come**, the end is come: it watches for thee; behold, it is come.

Ezekiel 7:7 The morning is come unto thee, O thou that dwellest in the land: the time is come, the **day of trouble** is near, and not the sounding again of the mountains.

Ezekiel 7:8 Now will I shortly pour out **my fury** upon thee, and accomplish mine anger upon thee: and **I will judge** thee according to thy ways, and will recompense thee for all thine abominations.

Ezekiel 7:15 The sword is without, and the pestilence and the famine within: he that is in the field shall die with the sword; and he that is in the city, famine and pestilence shall **devour** him.

Ezekiel 7:19 They shall cast their silver in the streets, and their gold shall be removed: their silver and their gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the **wrath of the LORD**: they shall not satisfy their souls, neither fill their bowels: because it is the stumbling block of their iniquity.

Ezekiel 13:5 Ye have not gone up into the gaps, neither made up the hedge for the house of Israel to stand in the battle in the **day of the LORD**.

Ezekiel 29:21 In **that day** will I cause the horn of the house of **Israel to bud forth** [A prototype of this magnificent happening was the explosion of Ephriam and Manasseh into world powers - The Day of the Lord will usher in a greater fulfillment for all Israel.], and I will give thee the opening of the mouth [Ezekiel's prophecies and utterances fulfilled] in the midst of them; and they shall know that I am the LORD.

Ezekiel 30:3 For **the day** is near, even the **day of the LORD** is near, a cloudy day; it shall be the time of the heathen.

Ezekiel 38:19 For in my jealousy and in the fire of **my wrath** have I spoken, Surely in that **day** there shall be a **great shaking** in the land of Israel;

Oh, another earth quake – just how bad could that be? It will be the worst ever – by far!

Actually, it is the worst earthquake since the Rockies and Himalayas were formed. The Himalayas have 8 mountains over 26 thousand feet! That was some enormous earthquake to drive rock that high!

Revelation 16:18 And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a **great earthquake**, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.

Revelation 16:19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and **great Babylon** came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of **His wrath**.

It is God who does the shaking!

Haggai 2:6 For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and **I will shake the heavens**, and the **earth**, and the **sea**, and the dry land;

Haggai 2:7 And I will **shake all nations**, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.

Hebrews 12:26 Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more **I shake not the earth only, but also heaven**. [Sixth Seal]

Ezekiel 39:22 So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from **that day** and forward.

Joel 1:15 Alas for the day! for the **day of the LORD** is at hand, and as a **destruction** from the Almighty shall it come.

All of **creation** is going to be in dire straits.

Joel 1:18 How do the beasts groan! the herds of cattle are perplexed, because they have no pasture; yea, the flocks of sheep are made **desolate**.

Joel 1:19 O LORD, to thee will I cry: for the fire hath **devoured** the pastures of the wilderness, and the flame hath burned all the trees of the field.

Joel 2:1 Blow ye the **trumpet** in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the **day of the LORD** comes, for it is nigh at hand;

Joel 2:10 The **earth shall quake** before them; the **heavens** shall tremble: the **sun** and the **moon** shall be **dark**, and the stars shall withdraw their shining: [Sixth Seal]

Joel 2:11 And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executes his word: for the **day of the LORD** is great and very terrible; and who can abide it? [Seventh Seal]

Joel 2:31 The **sun** shall be turned into **darkness**, and the moon into blood, **before** the great and the terrible **day of the LORD** come.

Joel 3:12 Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to **judge** all the heathen round about.

And we know what happens in the valley of Jehoshaphat. 'Jehoshaphat' means 'the judgment of YHVH.'

Joel 3:13 Put ye in the sickle, for the **harvest is ripe** [this harkens back to Revelation 19 and the buzzard's supper]: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great.

Joel 3:14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

Joel 3:15 The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.

Joel 3:16 The LORD also shall roar out of Zion (seventh seal), and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the **earth shall shake**: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.

Now, we come into the time of the Millennium.

Joel 3:17 So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more.

Joel 3:18 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth of the house of the LORD, and shall water the valley of Shittim.

Amos 5:18 Woe unto you that desire the **day of the LORD!** to what end is it for you? the **day of the LORD is darkness**, and not light.

Amos 5:20 Shall not the day of the LORD be darkness, and not light? Even **very** dark, and no brightness in it?

Obadiah 1:15 For the **day of the LORD** is near upon all the heathen: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head. [that is a negative reward by the way.]

Zephaniah 1:7 Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord GOD: for the **day of the LORD** is at hand: for the LORD hath prepared **a sacrifice**, he hath bid his guests. [this too, harkens back to Revelation 19 and the buzzard's supper – which will be the slain kings of the earth and all those who do their bidding.]

Zephaniah 1:8 And it shall come to pass in the **day of the LORD'S** sacrifice, that I will punish the princes, and the king's children, and all such as are clothed with strange apparel.

Zephaniah 1:14 The great **day of the LORD** is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the **day of the LORD**: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly.

Zephaniah 1:18 Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the **LORD'S wrath**; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.

Zephaniah 2:2 Before the decree bring forth, before the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the LORD come upon you, before **the day of the LORD'S anger** come upon you.

Here is the key to the Place of Safety:

Zephaniah 2:3 Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the **day of the LORD'S anger**. [JMF and the love of God]

Zephaniah 3:5... but the unjust know no shame.

Zephaniah 3:6 I have cut off the nations: their towers are desolate; I made their streets waste, that none passeth by: their cities are destroyed, so that there is no man, that there is none inhabitant.

Zephaniah 3:7 I said, Surely thou wilt fear me, thou wilt receive instruction; so their dwelling should not be cut off, howsoever I punished them: but they rose early, and corrupted all their doings.

Zephaniah 3:8 Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, **until the day** that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be **devoured with the fire** of my jealousy.

Then as we again come into the Millennium...

Zephaniah 3:9 For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent.

Zechariah 14:1 Behold, the **day of the LORD** cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.

Malachi 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful **day of the LORD**:

Quoting Joel 2:31 (that we just saw:)

Acts 2:20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable **day of the Lord** come:

That darkening occurs in seal #6 Heavenly signs – after the Tribulation.

1Corinthians 5:5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in **the day of the Lord Jesus**.

2Corinthians 1:14 As also ye have acknowledged us in part, that we are your rejoicing, even as ye also are ours in the **day of the Lord Jesus**.

2Peter 3:10 But the **day of the Lord** will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

It is not God's will that any of us should perish. He insists that each and every one acquire the courage to take a stand for what is right – even if everyone else is turning a blind eye; even if we must stand alone and trust in God.

Romans 14:10,12 ...we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ... So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

We must be willing to stand alone, be tested alone, and be tried alone. We learn collectively, but we are tested individually. God is going to use some of us – separately and individually as witnesses to give testimony to what He is doing – are we willing to stand alone? Notice how this scripture says it so clearly, "...for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ... so then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."

End: Storm Clouds on the Horizon