

THE RAPTURE

“Escape all these things [taken together] that will take place” ...Luke 21:36

Part 7

Pastor Grant Williams

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

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.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

In part 6, we finished with the “Jewish Wedding Traditions” and how the New and Old Testament writers utilized that which culture already knew and understood to explain the bride and groom relationship regarding the Rapture of the church.

God’s Word is very clear that the follower of Jesus Christ, or the Word (John 1:1) will not be on the earth for the 7 year Tribulation. This was made known in the Old Testament and confirmed in the New Testament as Peter, Paul, Jude, John and Jesus reminded them what they had already heard and read.

Remember, the reason the Jews and Gentiles in the New Testament asked the question about the Rapture and Tribulation is that it was foretold to them in the Old Testament by the never wrong Prophets. The answers given by the NT writers were understood.

Jewish Wedding Traditions

Jewish wedding traditions at the time of Christ are a fascinating study topic, and certain parallels can be seen between those customs and Christian theology. In the Bible, the Church is sometimes metaphorically understood to be Jesus' Bride (Revelation 21:2, 9–10; 19:7; 22:17).

The *Mishnah Kiddushin* (the section of the Talmud dealing with “dedication” or betrothal) specifies that a bride is acquired by a groom in one of three ways; one involves the groom leaving his father's home and traveling to the bride's home to “purchase” her for a price. The groom gives a token or a dowry, and its value must be known to the bride. In all cases, the wife can only be acquired with her consent. The marriage contract, or *ketubah*, is then established, and from that moment on the bride is sanctified, or set apart, exclusively for her bridegroom. It is customary for the groom and bride to drink from a cup of *wine* over which a betrothal benediction has been said.

This prenuptial process can be seen as symbolic of Christ's work on our behalf. Jesus left the home of His Father (heaven) and traveled to the home of His prospective Bride (earth) to purchase her for a price; that is, His own blood (1 Corinthians 7:23). His Bride has joyously consented to the match. He has given her a priceless token, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:6–16). With the establishing of the *ketubah* (the New Covenant), Jesus' Bride was sanctified for Him (1 Corinthians 6:11). The *communion wine* is symbolic of the covenant by which Christ obtained His Bride.

The *Shulkhan Arukh*, an exhaustive presentation of the details of Jewish law, elaborates regarding the two stages of marriage: the betrothal (*kiddushin*, meaning “sanctified”) and the consummation of the marriage (*nisuin*, translated “elevation”). *Kiddushin* is not engagement as we understand it.

It is a binding agreement in which the woman is legally considered the wife of the man. It was routine in Jesus' day for *kiddushin* and *nisuin* to be separated by as much as a year. During that time the bridegroom would construct the marital home.

This, too, can be viewed as a metaphor for spiritual truth. After sealing the covenant with the Church, Jesus ascended to His Father's home to prepare a dwelling place. Just prior to His death, Jesus told His disciples, "My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am" (John 14:2–3).

According to Jewish marriage law, when the time came for *nisuin*, the groom would return for his bride, accompanied by male escorts. The exact time of his arrival was not usually known in advance (see Matthew 25:1–15). The groom's arrival was announced with a shout. The Church's Bridegroom has been separated from His Bride now for nearly 2,000 years, and one day He will come for her and snatch her from the earth to meet Him in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:17). We don't know when exactly this will happen; we must be ready and remain faithful (Mark 13:33). Jesus will be accompanied by an angelic escort, preceded by a shout, when He returns for the Church (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

After being whisked from her home, the Jewish bride remained hidden at the groom's father's house for seven days. Similarly, the Church will remain "hidden" for a period of seven years, during the prophesied tribulation period. After the seven days, the Jewish bride left the bridal chamber unveiled; likewise, after seven years the Church will return to earth with Christ, in full view of all (Colossians 3:4).

Viewed as an analogy, Jewish wedding customs have great significance for both believers and unbelievers. If you are a believer, you must remember your devotion to your Bridegroom so as not to commit spiritual adultery against Him (see James 4:4). The apostle Paul says to the Church, "I am jealous for you with a Godly jealousy.

I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.” He then warns us not to allow our minds to be “led astray from our sincere and pure devotion to Christ” (2 Corinthians 11:2–3).

If you are an unbeliever, now is the time to reevaluate your belief system in light of Jesus’ words and the prophecies of Revelation. Don’t be left behind in the Rapture. Jesus offers eternal life to all who repent and believe.

Jewish Wedding Traditions

This hiding or protection is taking place during the judgments that will be poured out on the earth during the wrath of the Lamb and the wrath and indignation of God during the seven year Tribulation.

The 5th, 8th and 16th chapters of Revelation deal with these judgments (bowls, seals, and trumpets etc.) that will take place on the earth.

From the Old Testament prophets and the New Testament writers we have studied and proven that they are both revealing a pre-wrath catching away or Rapture. The Rapture of the Church will take place, according to the Old and New Testaments, prior to the seven year Tribulation period of time.

The Prophet Isaiah said that those who died righteous would rise up with him when Jesus calls them out of the ground. They would then be hidden in heaven for a short period of time (7 years) until God’s Wrath and the Wrath of the Lamb were over.

Isaiah 26:19-21 KJV

19 Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.

20 Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.

21 For, behold, the Lord cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.

With our previous weeks of study in this series on the Rapture and a series that I've done in the last few years, I want to give the revelation of God's Word from the Old Testament and New Testament. Both testaments are revealing the same thing, Jesus would go away or ascend and then return to gather the dead in Christ and those still alive in Christ together in heaven, this is the Rapture.

**The New Testament is in the Old Testament concealed;
the Old Testament is in the New Testament revealed...**

Notes: _____

Everything the Prophet Isaiah said will come to pass either has or it will. Isaiah wrote that God's Word has told us everything from the beginning that would happen up until the end of time as we know it.

Isaiah 46:9-10 AMPC

9 [Earnestly] remember the former things (in my Word), [which I did] of old; for I am God, and there is no one else; I am God, and there is none like Me,

10 Declaring the end and the result from the beginning, and from ancient times the things (Biblical prophecies) that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure and purpose...

Tonight I want to reveal these things or prophecies from the beginning of time and their meaning for all time and why the believer in Christ, the Church, need not be ashamed. Jesus is coming and we need to let people know.

1 Peter 2:9 KJV

*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;*

1 Peter 2:9 GNT

*9 But you are the chosen race, the King's priests, **the holy nation**, God's own people, chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God, who called you out of darkness into his own marvelous light.*

Romans 10:11 KJV

*11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him **shall not be ashamed**.*

Romans 10:11 AMPC

*11 The Scripture says, No man who believes in Him [who adheres to, relies on, and trusts in Him] **will [ever] be put to shame or be disappointed.***

From the beginning of time, God said watch Israel and Jerusalem. God could've chosen anything, why did He choose Israel and Jerusalem for us to watch?

1. He put His name there.
2. He put the Temple there.
3. The sacrifice took place there.
4. This is where He sent Jesus Christ.

Deuteronomy 12:11 AMPC

11 Then there shall be a place which the Lord your God shall choose to cause His Name [and His Presence] to dwell there; to it you shall bring all that I command you: your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes and what the hand presents [as a first gift from the fruits of the ground], and all your choicest offerings which you vow to the Lord.

Deuteronomy 12:21 AMPC

21 If the place where the Lord your God has chosen to put His Name [and Presence] is too far from you, then you shall kill from your herd or flock which the Lord has given you, as I [Moses] have commanded you; eat in your towns as much as you desire.

Deuteronomy 14:23 AMPC

23 And you shall eat before the Lord your God in the place in which He will cause His Name [and Presence] to dwell the tithe (tenth) of your grain, your new wine, your oil, and the firstlings of your herd and your flock, that you may learn [reverently] to fear the Lord your God always.

Deuteronomy 16:2 AMPC

2 You shall offer the Passover sacrifice to the Lord your God from the flock or the herd in the place where the Lord will choose to make His Name [and His Presence] dwell.

Deuteronomy 16:11 AMPC

11 And you shall rejoice before the Lord your God, you and your son and daughter, your manservant and maidservant, and the Levite who is within your towns, the stranger or temporary resident, the fatherless, and the widow who are among you, at the place in which the Lord your God chooses to make His Name [and His Presence] dwell.

Jewish history states that God formed Adam on the Temple Mount platform which was above Jerusalem and the Temple when He created everything.

Genesis 2:7-8 AMPC

7 Then the Lord God formed man from the [a]dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath or spirit of life, and man became a living being.

8 And the Lord God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden [delight]; and there He put the man whom He had formed (framed, constituted).

When you study the rivers of Eden there was one main river according to Genesis 2 that flowed through the garden and that one broke off into 4 others. (Historical/Biblical maps from the beginning - pre-flood and not after the flood in the days of Noah.)

Genesis 2:10-14 AMPC

10 Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from there it divided and became four [river] heads.

11 The first is named Pishon; it is the one flowing around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold.

12 The gold of that land is of high quality; bdellium (pearl?) and onyx stone are there.

13 The second river is named Gihon; it is the one flowing around the whole land of Cush.

14 The third river is named Hiddekel [the Tigris]; it is the one flowing east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

When you go through the research and look at the rivers for the boundaries of the garden, the garden measured 1,500 square miles.

The Euphrates is one of the rivers and the Gihon, which Josephus said is the Nile, is all the way into Egypt. When you lay out the boundaries of the garden... guess what it is smack dab in the middle of it? The Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

Now, I'm going to summarize this a little bit:

This area of the Temple Mount is where Adam used to come and commune with God and it is said that the ***Tree of Life*** is where the ***Holy of Holies*** used to be. When Adam sinned and fell, there was a cherub or cherubim placed at the East entrance of the garden to protect it.

Genesis 3:24 AMPC

24 So [God] drove out the man; and He placed at the east of the Garden of Eden the cherubim and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep and guard the way to the tree of life.

Adam had to leave the garden and leaves from the East side and there is a curse...

Genesis 3:17-19 AMPC

17 And to Adam He said, Because you have listened and given heed to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, saying, You shall not eat of it, the ground is under a curse because of you; in sorrow and toil shall you eat [of the fruits] of it all the days of your life.

18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth for you, and you shall eat the plants of the field.

19 In the sweat of your face shall you eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you shall return.

The Bible says there is a curse of thorns, the land is cursed and when you look at the Judean wilderness from the Mount of Olives off to the east of Jerusalem it is barren to this day.

There is also a city not too far away from that place called Adam right by the Jordan River and not far from Jericho where many scholars believe that is where Adam went after he left the garden.

Joshua 3:16 AMPC

16 Then the waters which came down from above stood and rose up in a heap far off, at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan; and those flowing down toward the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt [Dead] Sea, were wholly cut off. And the people passed over opposite Jericho.

King Solomon comes along and builds the Temple here to reestablish this idea of the garden. The Bible said he put something on the veil or curtain...

2 Chronicles 3:14 AMPC

14 And he made the veil [between the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place] of blue, purple, and crimson colors, and fine linen, and embroidered cherubim on it.

Genesis 3:24 AMPC

24 So [God] drove out the man; and He placed at the east of the Garden of Eden the cherubim and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep and guard the way to the tree of life.

The crucifixion was to restore not only a redemptive covenant to mankind, which man needed, but to also restore the idea of lost paradise to man in the city where it all originated to begin with.

The first man was created here...

Genesis 2:7 AMPC

7 Then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath or spirit of life, and man became a living being.

The first man Adam lost it here from a tree...

Genesis 3:17-19 AMPC

17 And to Adam He said, Because you have listened and given heed to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, saying, You shall not eat of it, the ground is under a curse because of you; in sorrow and toil shall you eat [of the fruits] of it all the days of your life.

18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth for you, and you shall eat the plants of the field.

19 In the sweat of your face shall you eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you shall return.

The second Adam who is Jesus Christ...

1 Corinthians 15:45 AMPC

45 Thus it is written, The first man Adam became a living being (an individual personality); the last Adam (Christ) became a life-giving Spirit [restoring the dead to life].

Jesus, the second Adam, came to the same place as the first Adam. He went to the Garden of Gethsemane where He was betrayed, and then the next day... He suffered on top of a tree.

Matthew 26:36 AMPC

36 Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and He told His disciples, Sit down here while I go over yonder and pray.

Mark 15:20-37 AMPC

20 And when they had [finished] making sport of Him, they took the purple [robe] off of Him and put His own clothes on Him. And they led Him out [of the city] to crucify Him.

21 And they forced a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus, who was coming in from the field (country), to carry His cross.

22 And they led Him to Golgotha [in Latin: Calvary], meaning The Place of a Skull.

Notes: _____

23 And they [attempted to] give Him wine mingled with myrrh, but He would not take it.

24 And they crucified Him; and they divided His garments and distributed them among themselves, throwing lots for them to decide who should take what.

25 *And it was the third hour (about nine o'clock in the morning) when they crucified Him.*

26 *And the inscription of the accusation against Him was written above, The King of the Jews.*

27 *And with Him they crucified two robbers, one on [His] right hand and one on His left.* 28 *And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, He was counted among the transgressors.*

29 *And those who passed by kept reviling Him and reproaching Him abusively in harsh and insolent language, wagging their heads and saying, Aha! You Who would destroy the temple and build it in three days,*

30 *Now rescue Yourself [from death], coming down from the cross!*

31 *So also the chief priests, with the scribes, made sport of Him to one another, saying, He rescued others [from death]; Himself He is unable to rescue.*

32 *Let the Christ (the Messiah), the King of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see [it] and trust in and rely on Him and adhere to Him! Those who were crucified with Him also reviled and reproached Him [speaking abusively, harshly, and insolently].*

33 *And when the sixth hour (about midday) had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour (about three o'clock).*

34 *And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?—which means, My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me [deserting Me and leaving Me helpless and abandoned]?*

35 *And some of those standing by, [and] hearing it, said, See! He is calling Elijah!*

36 *And one man ran, and, filling a sponge with vinegar (a mixture of sour wine and water), put it on a staff made of a [bamboo-like] reed and gave it to Him to drink, saying, Hold off! **Let us see whether Elijah [does] come to take Him down.***

37 *And Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed out His life.*

But then Jesus did something.....He came and restored that which was lost by the first man Adam - the City of Jerusalem.

1 Corinthians 15:20-27 AMPC

20 But the fact is that Christ (the Messiah) has been raised from the dead, and He became the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep [in death].

21 For since [it was] through a man that death [came into the world, it is] also through a Man that the resurrection of the dead [has come].

22 For just as [because of their union of nature] in Adam all people die, so also [by virtue of their union of nature] shall all in Christ be made alive.

23 But each in his own rank and turn: Christ (the Messiah) [is] the firstfruits, then those who are Christ's [own will be resurrected] at His coming.

24 After that comes the end (the completion), when He delivers over the kingdom to God the Father after rendering inoperative and abolishing every [other] rule and every authority and power.

25 For [Christ] must be King and reign until He has put all [His] enemies under His feet.

26 The last enemy to be subdued and abolished is death.

27 For He [the Father] has put all things in subjection under His [Christ's] feet. But when it says, All things are put in subjection [under Him], it is evident that He [Himself] is excepted Who does the subjecting of all things to Him.

Now fast forward to after the flood of Noah.... We first hear again of Jerusalem in Genesis 14 and are introduced to a king and priest by the name of Melchizedek. Melchizedek's name in Hebrew means **King of Righteousness**.

Genesis 14:14-24 AMPC

14 When Abram heard that [his nephew] had been captured, he armed (led forth) the 318 trained servants born in his own house and pursued the enemy as far as Dan.

15 He divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and attacked and routed them, and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus.

16 And he brought back all the goods and also brought back his kinsman Lot and his possessions, the women also and the people.

17 After his [Abram's] return from the defeat and slaying of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh, that is, the King's Valley.

18 Melchizedek king of Salem [later called Jerusalem] brought out bread and wine [for their nourishment]; he was the priest of God Most High, 19 And he blessed him and said, Blessed (favored with blessings, made blissful, joyful) be Abram by God Most High, Possessor and Maker of heaven and earth,

20 And blessed, praised, and glorified be God Most High, Who has given your foes into your hand! And [Abram] gave him a tenth of all [he had taken]. 21 And the king of Sodom said to Abram, Give me the persons and keep the goods for yourself.

22 But Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lifted up my hand and sworn to the Lord, God Most High, the Possessor and Maker of heaven and earth,

23 That I would not take a thread or a shoelace or anything that is yours, lest you should say, I have made Abram rich.

24 [Take all] except only what my young men have eaten and the share of the men [allies] who went with me—Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion.

Now, Abram meets Melchizedek - Priest of God Most High in Jerusalem and pays a tithe to him....

Genesis 14:17-20 AMPC

17 After his [Abram's] return from the defeat and slaying of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh, that is, the King's Valley.

18 Melchizedek king of Salem [later called Jerusalem] brought out bread and wine [for their nourishment]; he was the priest of God Most High,

19 And he blessed him and said, Blessed (favored with blessings, made blissful, joyful) be Abram by God Most High, Possessor and Maker of heaven and earth,

20 And blessed, praised, and glorified be God Most High, Who has given your foes into your hand! And [Abram] gave him a tenth of all [he had taken].

This area gets marked with Abram or Abraham because when you bring it all and pay a tenth or the tithe the rest becomes sacred. The reason Abraham pays his tithe is he knows that something is going to happen in this city. So he marks this city with his seed for him and his descendants after him.

In Genesis 14 is the meeting of the first priest and king of God named Melchizedek in Jerusalem. Then.....move ahead to Genesis 22, God says to Abraham take your son as an offering.

Genesis 22:3-4 AMPC

3 So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and his son Isaac; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and then began the trip to the place of which God had told him.

*4 On the third day **Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance.***

Genesis 22:3-4 KJV

3 And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.

*4 Then on the third day **Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off.***

The Bible says that *Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place afar off*. This is where it gets good... there are two Hebrew phrases used here. When you translate this from the Hebrew this is how it reads:

“Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw something about God in the future”.

So, Pastor Grant, do you think that Abraham looked ahead and saw something that would take place in the future?

This is what Jesus said...remember: Jesus only speaks the Word and since the beginning was the Word. There is nothing new under the sun, God has already told us from the beginning what would happen in the end. Jesus is revealing or unveiling that which was already spoken, the revelation or understanding of the Word which had already been spoken.

John 8:56 AMPC

56 Your forefather Abraham was extremely happy at the hope and prospect of seeing My day (My incarnation); and he did see it and was delighted.

John 8:56 KJV

*56 Your father Abraham **rejoiced to see my day**: and he saw it, and was glad.*

Jesus said - He saw it...

So why does he take Isaac here? Remember, he had paid the tithe to Melchizedek. He gave his first OFFERING here to the first king and priest. Now, he takes his first son here as an offering where he paid the tithe.

Genesis 22:1-3 KJV

1 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. 2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

*3 And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his (**donkey**) ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.*

Why did he do this here? Because, he knows where the blessing is or the land of the blessing.

You have Abraham the father, who is a type of God the father, with his only son Isaac, as a type of Christ, to go to Mount Mariah which is right there in Jerusalem.

He then takes wood, that Isaac carries up the mountain...

Genesis 22:6 AMPC

6 Then Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and laid it on [the shoulders of] Isaac his son, and he took the fire (the firepot) in his own hand, and a knife; and the two of them went on together.

Just like Jesus who had to carry the cross and had someone help him.

Luke 23:26 AMPC

26 And as they led Him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross and made him carry it behind Jesus.

Abraham lays Isaac down on the wood just as Jesus is laid down on the cross...

Genesis 22:9 AMPC

9 When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there; then he laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar on the wood.

Mark 15:22,24 AMPC

22 And they led Him to Golgotha [in Latin: Calvary], meaning The Place of a Skull.

24 And they crucified Him;

But guess what? A ram shows up and the ram takes Isaac's place...and Isaac gets up off that wood!

Genesis 22:13 AMPC

13 Then Abraham looked up and glanced around, and behold, behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up for a burnt offering and an ascending sacrifice instead of his son!

The same way that Jesus, when he died, kicked out the bottom of the grave and gets out of it and lives again...

Luke 24:1-7 AMPC

1 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, [the women] went to the tomb, taking the spices which they had made ready.

2 And they found the stone rolled back from the tomb,

3 But when they went inside, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

4 And while they were perplexed and wondering what to do about this, behold, two men in dazzling raiment suddenly stood beside them.

5 And as [the women] were frightened and were bowing their faces to the ground, the men said to them, Why do you look for the living among [those who are] dead?

6 He is not here, but has risen! Remember how He told you while He was still in Galilee

7 That the Son of Man must be given over into the hands of sinful men (men [a]whose way or nature is to act in opposition to God) and be crucified and on the third day rise [[b]from death]

Genesis 22 is a perfect picture of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ when you study all the parallels. **Now, Moses wrote the book of Genesis and he also wrote about what Abraham saw.**

Isaac asks Abraham, “Dad where is the lamb”?

Genesis 22:7 AMPC

7 And Isaac said to Abraham, My father! And he said, Here I am, my son. [Isaac] said, See, here are the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt sacrifice?

Abraham said, “My son, God will provide himself, the lamb”.

Genesis 22:8 AMPC

8 Abraham said, My son, God Himself will provide a lamb for the burnt offering. So the two went on together.

Hold on, a ram showed up and not a lamb...get a load of this in verse 14

Genesis 22:14 AMPC

14 So Abraham called the name of that place The Lord Will Provide. And it is said to this day, On the mount of the Lord it will be provided.

A ram showed up instead of a lamb because Abraham knew the lamb was coming and he knew God himself would become the lamb.

That’s why Jesus said...

John 8:56 AMPC

56 Your forefather Abraham was extremely happy at the hope and prospect of seeing My day (My incarnation); and he did see it and was delighted.

John 8:56 KJV

56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.

The New Testament is revealing the Old Testament....

From Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, let’s go from when the Israelites enter the Promised Land. There was a Canaanite tribe named the Jebusites who inhabited and built Jerusalem. Joshua was supposed to take them out and didn’t. Canaan was full of giants. Then, going forward to the time of King David, he comes in and takes over the same place which is Jerusalem that was known as Jebus prior to David taking it. It was also called the stronghold of Zion. David defeats the enemies and calls it the City of David.

So, why does David come here and take this city, Jerusalem?

In David's day there were 5 giants in the land...

David's mighty men wiped out the race of the giants. But, notice this in 1 Samuel 17 when David killed Goliath. For those of you who grew up in Sunday School as kids or have heard this story over and over here's something that most people do not teach or draw attention to.

1 Samuel 17:54 KJV

54 And David took the head of the Philistine, and brought it to Jerusalem; but he put his armour in his tent.

David put the armour in his tent...but, brought the head of Goliath to Jerusalem. So, what do you do with the head of Goliath? You pick a mountain - and you bury the skull.

Note: The giants are the seed of the serpent that God warned about in the book Genesis. Satan had used these giants on earth to corrupt the world in the days of Noah before and after The Flood. He used these giants to keep the Israelites out of the Promised Land and there were now only five of them left.

Genesis 6:1-7 AMPC

1 When men began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them,

2 The sons of God saw that the daughters of men were fair, and they took wives of all they desired and chose.

3 Then the Lord said, My Spirit shall not forever dwell and strive with man, for he also is flesh; but his days shall yet be 120 years.

4 There were giants on the earth in those days—and also afterward—
when the sons of God lived with the daughters of men, and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.

5 *The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination and intention of all human thinking was only evil continually. 6 And the Lord regretted that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved at heart.*

7 *So the Lord said, I will destroy, blot out, and wipe away mankind, whom I have created from the face of the ground—not only man, [but] the beasts and the creeping things and the birds of the air—for it grieves Me and makes Me regretful that I have made them.*

Numbers 13:32-33 AMPC

32 *So they brought the Israelites an evil report of the land which they had scouted out, saying, The land through which we went to spy it out is a land that devours its inhabitants. And all the people that we saw in it are men of great stature.*

33 *There we saw the Nephilim [or giants], the sons of Anak, who come from the giants; and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.*

Remember, David took 5 smooth stones - he wanted to take them all out at one time.

1 Samuel 17:39-40 AMPC

39 *And David girded his sword over his armor. Then he tried to go, but could not, for he was not used to it. And David said to Saul, I cannot go with these, for I am not used to them. And David took them off.*

40 *Then he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones out of the brook and put them in his shepherd's [lunch] bag [a whole kid's skin slung from his shoulder], in his pouch, and his sling was in his hand, and he drew near the Philistine.*

David takes the skull or the head of Goliath and buries it somewhere in the city of Jerusalem.

1 Samuel 17:54 KJV

54 *And David took the head of the Philistine, and brought it to Jerusalem; but he put his armour in his tent.*

Solomon then builds the Temple here, the Babylonian captivity takes place here, in the City of David...now lets go forward to the time of Christ.

Jesus has to be crucified in the city of Jerusalem....it was the place where the first man or the first Adam was created in the garden. This is where the first Adam sinned (Genesis 3), where he ate of the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil. This is the place where he hid from God amongst the fig trees.

Note: The Mount of Olives or Olivet is where you will find the house of the figs. Which, is also where Jesus cursed the fig tree on his way into Jerusalem.

Mark 11:13-21 AMPC

13 And seeing in the distance a fig tree [covered] with leaves, He went to see if He could find any [fruit] on it [for in the fig tree the fruit appears at the same time as the leaves].

But when He came up to it, He found nothing but leaves, for the fig season had not yet come.

14 And He said to it, No one ever again shall eat fruit from you. And His disciples were listening [to what He said].

15 And they came to Jerusalem. And He went into the temple [area, the porches and courts] and began to drive out those who sold and bought in the temple area, and He overturned the [four-footed] tables of the money changers and the seats of those who dealt in doves;

16 And He would not permit anyone to carry any household equipment through the temple enclosure [thus making the temple area a short-cut traffic lane].

17 And He taught and said to them, Is it not written, My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations? But you have turned it into a den of robbers.

18 And the chief priests and the scribes heard [of this] and kept seeking some way to destroy Him, for they feared Him, because the entire multitude was struck with astonishment at His teaching.

19 And when evening came on, He and His disciples, as accustomed, went out of the city.

20 In the morning, when they were passing along, they noticed that the fig tree was withered [completely] away to its roots.

21 And Peter remembered and said to Him, Master, look! The fig tree which You doomed has withered away!

This all goes back to Adam...

Jesus Christ begins to fulfill the type and shadow in Genesis 22. Abram and Isaac (like that of God the father) sends his son to mount Mariah to be offered as a sacrifice.

Jesus then goes up to a place called Calvary (in Latin) or in Hebrew it is called Golgotha. Now in Semitic languages when you do the root words they can mean different things.

I know when you take the word Golgotha what it eludes to - but read what Mark wrote...(it looks like a skull).

Mark 15:22 AMPC

22 And they led Him to Golgotha [in Latin: Calvary], meaning The Place of a Skull.

Mark, the Bible writer calls it the place of or the hill of a skull....so the question is whose skull?

It is my understanding from study and research that the Jews knew where the head of Goliath was buried and they made it a stoning ground or crucifixion site so that Israel's enemies are killed where David killed one of Israel's biggest enemies and that is Goliath - and that made him king.

When he killed the giant and cut his head off the Jews knew they had a king. So, he drags that head up the mountain and buries it.

Look at the word Golgatha: Goliath was from Gath - Gol gatha

1 Samuel 17:23 AMPC

23 As they talked, behold, Goliath, the champion, the Philistine of Gath, came forth from the Philistine ranks and spoke the same words as before, and David heard him.

I believe that the cross is placed in the spot where King David buried the head of the giant that represents the seed of a serpent.

As Jesus is hanging on that cross with his feet above.... Jesus' feet are above the seed of the serpent. You might be thinking, "Big deal Pastor Grant"... God told us from the beginning everything that would take place so we wouldn't miss out on eternity with Him. (Isaiah 46:9-10)

Genesis 3:15 AMPC

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her Offspring; (speaking to satan) He will bruise and tread your head underfoot, and you will lie in wait and bruise His heel

Genesis 3:15 KJV

15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

When they crucified Jesus or crucified in general, people think that they overlapped the feet and drove a nail through the top down. That's not how they did it, they put the legs and feet sideways and drove a nail through the back of the heels so they could pull out the wood that was supporting their weight.

Jesus was crucified in the heel of the foot...and the point is, when He was crucified his feet were on top of the head of the seed of the serpent - the giant, the picture of satan.

As Jesus hung there, the blood poured out over the enemy!

When we read about the crucifixion at Easter, which is really the Passover, this story is so much deeper than Jesus riding into town on a donkey and hanging on a cross.

So why did God choose Israel and Jerusalem?

Jerusalem is the place called the apple of God's Eye...

Zechariah 2:8

Jerusalem is the place called the city of the king...

Matthew 5:35

Jerusalem is called the place where God will put His name...

Deuteronomy 12:11

Jerusalem is the place where the first priest and king lived...

Genesis 14:18-20

Jerusalem is the place where Abraham came and offered Issac...

Genesis 22:1-19

All of these things were spoken and fulfilled for you and I. We were told things by the prophets, the apostles and Jesus Himself that have all come true and there is only one more thing to take place, the Rapture. Why does God do all of this, why does He tell us and warn us for 6,000 years? Because, ***It is not God's desire that any should perish (2 Peter 3:9).***

There will come a day at the end of the Tribulation... there will be a day when Jesus' feet will stand upon the Mount of Olives.

Zechariah 14:4 AMPC

4 And His feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives, which lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from the east to the west by a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north and half of it toward the south.

This is when Satan will be bound....

So, David killed the natural seed of the serpent who were the giants.

1 Samuel 17:50 AMPC

50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and struck down the Philistine and slew him. But no sword was in David's hand.

But Jesus is going to kill the spiritual seed....

When people in the church try and tell you there's no such thing as the Rapture or who cares about the signs....

Romans 1:22 KJV

Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

You and I are told in God's Word...

Ecclesiastes 8:4 KJV

4 Where the word of a king is, there is power.

We know that when we study, speak and learn about the Revelation of Jesus and His coming, His judgement by the Word that we are blessed!

Revelation 1:1-3 AMPC

1 [This is] the revelation of Jesus Christ [His unveiling of the divine mysteries]. God gave it to Him to disclose and make known to His bond servants certain things which must shortly and speedily come to pass in their entirety.

And He sent and communicated it through His angel (messenger) to His bond servant John,

2 Who has testified to and vouched for all that he saw [in his visions], the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

3 Blessed (happy, to be envied) is the man who reads aloud [in the assemblies] the word of this prophecy; and blessed (happy, to be envied) are those who hear [it read] and who keep themselves true to the things which are written in it [heeding them and laying them to heart], for the time [for them to be fulfilled] is near.

You and I have been commanded to live and speak about the time that we are living in! We need to know God's Word about the day and times we are living in....

Esther 4:14 AMPC

14 For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance shall arise for the Jews from elsewhere, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows but that you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this and for this very occasion?

Notes: _____

2 Peter 3 AMPC

1 Beloved, I am now writing you this second letter. In [both of] them I have stirred up your unsullied (sincere) mind by way of remembrance,

2 That you should recall the predictions of the holy (consecrated, dedicated) prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior [given] through your apostles (His special messengers).

3 To begin with, you must know and understand this, that scoffers (mockers) will come in the last days with scoffing, [people who] walk after their own fleshly desires

4 And say, Where is the promise of His coming? For since the forefathers fell asleep, all things have continued exactly as they did from the beginning of creation.

5 For they willfully overlook and forget this [fact], that the heavens [came into] existence long ago by the word of God, and the earth also which was formed out of water and by means of water,

6 Through which the world that then [existed] was deluged with water and perished.

7 But by the same word the present heavens and earth have been stored up (reserved) for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly people.

8 Nevertheless, do not let this one fact escape you, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day.

9 The Lord does not delay and is not tardy or slow about what He promises, according to some people's conception of slowness, but He is long-suffering (extraordinarily patient) toward you, not desiring that any should perish, but that all should turn to repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will vanish (pass away) with a thunderous crash, and the [[a]material] elements [of the universe] will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and the works that are upon it will be burned up.

11 Since all these things are thus [b]in the process of being dissolved, what kind of person ought [each of] you to be [in the meanwhile] in consecrated and holy behavior and devout and godly qualities,

12 While you wait and earnestly long for (expect and hasten) the coming of the day of God by reason of which the flaming heavens will be dissolved, and the [[c]material] elements [of the universe] will flare and melt with fire?

13 But we look for new heavens and a new earth according to His promise, in which righteousness (uprightness, freedom from sin, and right standing with God) is to abide.

14 So, beloved, since you are expecting these things, be eager to be found by Him [at His coming] without spot or blemish and at peace [in serene confidence, [d]free from fears and agitating passions and moral conflicts].

15 And consider that the long-suffering of our Lord [[e]His slowness in avenging wrongs and judging the world] is salvation ([f]that which is conducive to the soul's safety), even as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the spiritual insight given him,

16 Speaking of this as he does in all of his letters. There are some things in those [epistles of Paul] that are difficult to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist and misconstrue to their own [g]utter destruction, just as [they distort and misinterpret] the rest of the Scriptures.

17 Let me warn you therefore, beloved, that knowing these things beforehand, you should be on your guard, lest you be carried away by the error of lawless and wicked [persons and] fall from your own [present] firm condition [your own steadfastness of mind].

18 But grow in grace (undeserved favor, spiritual strength) and [h]recognition and knowledge and understanding of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (the Messiah). To Him [be] glory (honor, majesty, and splendor) both now and to the day of eternity. Amen (so be it)!