

BE READY!

1 Thessalonians 4:14-17

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him.

15 For this we say unto you by the Word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. (dead)

16 For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel. And with the trump 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.

Many people talking about what is going on in the world and what all the Bible says is going to happen in the last days. There are many prophesies that have been fulfilled in recent times and many are unfolding right before our eyes! As children of God, it's very exciting to see everything coming closer to the return of our Savior, Jesus Christ – He's on the way to get us! He's going to rescue us from the wrath (tribulation) to come! *Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be **saved from wrath through Him.*** (Romans 5:9)

It's very important to know about the Jewish customs and holidays and what they represent. Everything that they were commanded by God to do in the Old Testament were examples to us and represent things to us in the New Testament - in our new covenant in Christ! When you study about the tabernacle that God told Moses to build, in the Old Testament, you will see the extraordinary meaning behind every single detail of it, both inside of it and out! Every different kind of metal, every color, measurement, cloth, doorway, post, piece of furniture, and all of the work they were commanded to do all had deep meaning and represented something awesome! It all represents Who Jesus is and what He accomplished for us!

This time of the year, everyone is focusing on Israel and the Jewish Festivals that are coming up very soon. The Jewish people celebrate four main Spring holidays each year, and three in the Fall. It's very important to know and understand what each of these feast days represent, because it all has to do with Jesus and what He accomplished for you and me, and what He is about to do! You see, every one of the Spring feasts have already been fulfilled by Jesus! Not only did He already fulfill them, but He fulfilled them to the day and to the hour! When the Jewish people were celebrating their Passover meal and killing the lambs for their dinner, Jesus, our perfect Lamb of God was being crucified! When the Festival of Unleavened Bread was taking place, Jesus, Who had no leaven, (sin) was being buried! He is the Bread of Life! *And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread*

of life; he that cometh to Me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst. (John 6:35) When the Festival of Firstfruits was being celebrated, and the people were offering the first and best part of the harvest to God, Jesus, the Firstfruit, was being raised up from the dead! But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. (1 Corinthians 15:20) Jesus was the very first One to be raised from death and enter into heaven!

Fifty days after the Passover, after Jesus' ascension into heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit back to Earth once again and He filled the disciples who were waiting in the upper room for the promise – the Gift from on High! *And being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith He, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. (Acts 1:4-5) And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:1-4)*

As you can see, all of the Spring Feasts have been fulfilled by Jesus to the very day! The very next feast they will celebrate is called the **Feast of Trumpets**, which is the first of the Fall feasts. It will take place in September from the 15th -17th this year, and they will begin their celebration at 6:00 p.m. and end on the 17th at 6:00 p.m. Israel is seven hours ahead of the Eastern Standard time, so it will be 11:00 a.m. here when they begin.

The Feast of Trumpets has not yet been fulfilled by Jesus, but is a huge focal point right now for many believers! Many Christians believe that this next feast will be the time period when we and our spiritual brothers and sisters from all around the world will meet our Lord in the clouds and be **“caught up”** together with Jesus to live with Him forever! Read 1 Thessalonians 4:16 again at the top of the page! At this feast they sound the trumpets 100 times and the very “last trump” is a longer and loud blast! *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the **last trump**: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and **we shall be changed.** (1 Corinthians 15:52)* This event is what Christians call the “rapture.” The words Rapiio or Rapturo are Latin words describing the “catching away” of the church on earth just before the Tribulation. The Greek word is Harpazo (to snatch or take away).

There is a day coming when Jesus will rescue His people from what God's Word calls “the wrath to come,” which is the seven year tribulation period. This is the time when God, Himself, will pour out His wrath upon the earth on all of the people who denied Him. Everyone who never gave a thought to what Jesus did for them and who never repented of ALL of their sins and received Jesus as the Lord of their lives, will be left behind to go through the most horrific times that the earth

has ever seen! People will experience the worst times of all of the history of the world and many, many people will die. There will be devastation everywhere you look!

While God's own sons and daughters are celebrating the seven year Marriage Supper of the Lamb in heaven, the people who missed out on the rapture will be experiencing the wrath of God for seven years! My advice to you is to read Matthew 24, 2 Timothy 3, (which is what we see all around us already,) and the book of Revelation to see what all to expect. Study the words out and see what they truly mean! The second half of the seven years of the tribulation (3 ½ years into it) will be the worst times – the Bible calls it the Great Tribulation.

Jesus is coming back very, very soon for His bride, the church! The ones who will go with Him are the ones who made themselves ready – the ones who don't have spots or wrinkles. *That He might sanctify and cleanse it (the church) with the washing of water by the Word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be **holy and without blemish.*** (Ephesians 5:26-27) These are the ones dressed in white, without sin, because they have **repented** and are serving God to the fullest! Jesus is their Lord! They are on fire for Him and are full of nothing else but Him!

Don't think you are going in the rapture or to heaven when you die just because you said a prayer that you didn't mean! Don't believe that because you take communion or were baptized with water that you will be saved! If you are still sinning the same sins that you always have then you are in trouble! If you are still in sin, whether it is in word, deed, or even in thought, you will be left behind with all of the other sinners of the world!

God is warning people everywhere to **repent** and to get right with Him. He wants to be your healer, your deliverer, your provider, protector, and your Savior – your everything! Some people don't depend on God for anything – they don't even know Him enough to depend on Him! They never learned how to use their faith to receive anything for themselves, let alone for others! *And this is life eternal, that they might **know thee** the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.* (John 17:3) Do you truly **know** Him? (not just know about Him)

Make sure you are on the right path – ***There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*** (Proverbs 14:12) There is only one way to heaven and it is through Jesus Christ! *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.* (John 14:6) The Bible says that unless you are born again, you don't even have a chance to ever go to heaven. *Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.* (John 3:3) ***It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*** (Hebrews 10:31) *Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that*

*every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.** (Philippians 2:9-12)*

*Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not **prophesied** in thy name? And in thy name have **cast out devils**? And in thy name **done many wonderful works**? And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.** (Matthew 7:21-23) As you can see, these people were being used by God mightily! They were prophesying, casting devils out, and even doing miracles! (wonderful works) Yet Jesus will tell them He never knew them because they were still in sin!*

Don't think that I'm trying to bring you bad news – the Good News of the Gospel is that Jesus already took care of your sin problem when He took your sins in His own body! He reconciled you back to God! All you have to do is accept Jesus as your Savior and make Him your Lord! He loves you with an everlasting love and He will take care of you, bless you and rescue you **if** you will give yourself to Him, spirit, soul, and body! He wants all of you – every part that He made! *But what does it say? The Word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.* (Romans 10:8-10) If you have never experienced Jesus or the love that God has for you, don't wait – today is the day of salvation! Repent of your sins and give your life to God – If you have turned away from God and would like to return like the prodigal son, He is waiting for you with open arms! He will run to you at full speed just to gain back your relationship!

Always know that Jesus is for you, not against you. He has the very best for you but time is short – things are about to change drastically and there is no time to ride the fence – the devil owns it! If you never make the decision to serve God, then you've made your decision. But know this: If you don't let Jesus save you now, you will for all of eternity be crying out for Him to save you, and it will be too late then! Choose Life! Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life and He is coming soon! *But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.* (Mark 13:32) Jesus can come back any day now! Whenever the Father says for Him to come and get His bride, that's when He will come, whether it's today, tomorrow, or on the Feast of Trumpets! Only God knows! This generation that saw Israel become a nation in 1948 will not pass away before all of these things happen! (Read Mark chapter 13) Can **you** hear the trumpet? Be ready - watch and pray!

From God's heart to yours, Jody

