

THE POST RAPTURE / PRE-TRIBULATION THESIS

By Bill Salus

This dissertation explores the time interval that exists between the end of the Church Age, which concludes with the Rapture, and the start of the Seven-Year Tribulation Period, which begins with the confirmation of the Covenant of Daniel 9:27 and Isaiah 28:15-18.

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*This Thesis is an integral part of the book entitled, **Apocalypse Road, Revelation for the Final Generation**. Apocalypse Road combines a novel with a biblical commentary. To achieve a thorough understanding of this thesis it is important to read it from start to finish without skipping ahead to separate sections. Also, it is advised to read the Apocalypse Road book in its entirety.*

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Introduction to the Post-Rapture / Pre-Tribulation Thesis

This thesis is based upon the major premise that a gap of time exists between the Pre-Tribulation Rapture and the seven-year Tribulational Period (Trib-period). The minor premise is that it is not the Rapture, but the confirmation of a covenant by the Antichrist between Israel and some other party that triggers the ticking of the Trib-period. This covenant is identified primarily in Daniel 9:27 and Isaiah 28:15 and 18.

This dissertation is an integral part of the book entitled, "*Apocalypse Road, Revelation for the Final Generation.*" Together, the book and this treatise attempt to accomplish the following;

1. List and chronologically order the potential prophecies that fit into the Post-Rapture / Pre-Trib gap period, which is also referred to in this book and thesis as the "*gap period.*"
2. Determine how long the gap period could be from the clues provided in the prophecies that find fulfillment within this vastly overlooked period.
3. Set the world stage as it transitions from the Church age, which concludes with the Rapture, into the gap period that follows.

4. Explore the details, timing and purpose of the Gog of Magog prophecy of Ezekiel 38 and 39, in addition to;
 - a. Discover the location of the Valley of Hamon Gog as the burial grounds of the hordes of Gog, (Ezek. 39:11-16),
 - b. Reveal the potential connection between the Marian apparitions and Ezekiel 38. (Refer to the appendix called, *The Marian Apparitions Connection with Ezekiel 38*).

5. Explain why the first five seals of Revelation 6:1-11 probably start during the gap period, but conclude during the Trib-period. This includes;
 - a. Introduce the Antichrist as the white horseman of the Apocalypse, (Rev. 6:1-2),
 - b. Examine the wars that plague the planet through the fiery red horseman of the Apocalypse, (Rev. 6:3-4),
 - c. Warn about the wide scale famines, pestilences, and economic upheavals that occur during the ride of the black horseman of the Apocalypse, (Rev. 6:5-6),
 - d. Put a face on the fourth horsemen of Death and Hades of the Apocalypse, (Rev. 6:7-8),
 - e. Reveal the identities of the three primary groups of martyred believers after the Rapture, which are the fifth seal saints, their fellow servants and their brethren, (Rev. 6:11).

6. Identify Roman Catholicism as “Mystery, Babylon The Great, The Mother Of Harlots And Abominations Of The Earth” of Revelation 17:5.

7. Determine who the two parties are to the seven-year covenant that starts the Trib-period.

8. Define the *true content* on what is commonly called the *false covenant* of Daniel 9:27, as it pertains to the “overflowing scourge,” of Isaiah 28:15 and 18.

9. Reveal the Lord's hidden message to the 144,000 Witnesses in Revelation 7:1-8.
10. Identify the Two Witnesses of Revelation 11:3-13, and demonstrate how they serve as God's rebuttal to the false covenant.
11. *Most importantly*, the sincerest goal of this timely and unique work is to forewarn and prepare EVERYONE for the SOON ARRIVAL of this treacherous Post-Rapture / Pre-trib gap period!

Many readers will get Raptured as true believers of Jesus Christ before this gap period commences. The good news is that they will not personally face the frightening events that are forthcoming in the gap period. The bad news is that someone they love will!

This work has been specifically designed to stimulate the mind and pulsate the heart of believers, and to invigorate their love for the lost. Careful consideration in that regard has gone into the overall content of this entire composition. If you are concerned about the eternal destiny of an unsaved loved one, then consider *Apocalypse Road* as your invaluable guidebook for these last days. The biblically supported scenarios within this book will embolden you to share the good news about Jesus Christ with the ones you love.

Important Caveats

First, *Apocalypse Road* contains controversial subject matter. Therefore, DON'T TAKE MY WORD FOR IT, rather do these three things: *First*, read the Bible to ascertain the pertinent details of the prophecies presented in this book; *Second*, read this entire book; *Third*, after reading this book, then read the commentaries of those who disagree with my conclusions to see if their arguments make more sense.

Second, it is important to read this entire book because the scenarios presented within the novel storyline are based upon the conclusions that are explained in this thesis and in the Companion's Commentary. These determinations have been arrived at

from uncovering one prophetic principle at a time. Precept upon precept, line upon line, as Isaiah 28:10 alludes to, is how this book was written. The process is likened to the completion of a complex puzzle one piece at a time.

Third, some of the text in this thesis is repeated in various parts of this book. This links the thesis with the related content covered in that chapter. This book attempts to chronologically order forthcoming events, which makes it difficult to confine the explanations of each prophetic topic solely in its own section of commentary.

Lastly, this thesis section presents the most complex text within the entire book. If you are unfamiliar with some of the prophetic topics, please don't let that discourage you from reading the rest of the book. A cover to cover reading should adequately familiarize you with these critically important Bible prophecies.

What Will the World Look Like Shortly After the Rapture?

After the Rapture, humankind will enter a new era. The paranormal will become the new normal, the supernatural will swiftly seem more natural, and what was once considered futuristic rapidly becomes very realistic. This is because the Rapture is a miraculous event and Satan immediately follows it up with powerful lying signs and wonders.

The worldwide disappearances of millions of believers will likely warrant more than a simple scientific explanation. The spiritual and prophetic implications surrounding the event will necessitate a religious response. Satan realizes this and, after the Rapture, he has a campaign filled with supernatural surprises ready to be promptly put in place. According to 2 Thessalonians 2:6-7, nothing after the Rapture will hinder the double religious jeopardy that the Devil has prepared to deceive mankind.

First, the Harlot world religion of Revelation 17 will surface and after it has overextended its usefulness, it becomes desolated by ten kings in Revelation 17:16. This appears to happen at the mid-point of the Trib-period, which means that the reign of this false global religion likely begins during the gap period, but concludes in the

middle of the Trib-period. When the Harlot is dethroned, the Antichrist becomes fully enthroned. He hails over the second global system described in Revelation 13. Satan has devised a one-two punch that people left behind won't expect, but many sadly will accept.

In the immediate aftermath of the Rapture, the world will become increasingly unruly as lawlessness is predicted to increase. Wars occur as world peace departs as per the opening of the second seal in Revelation 6:3-4. These catastrophic global conditions facilitate the emergence of the "Lawless One," which is another title of the Antichrist. His introduction into the world theater is among the first order of events to occur after the Rapture. This crazed world leader is the White Horseman of the Apocalypse described in the first seal in Rev. 6:1-2.

All the things described in above paragraph closely parallel the predicted events in 2 Thessalonians.

Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains (*lawlessness*) *will do so* until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one (*Antichrist*) will be revealed, whom the Lord (*Jesus Christ*) will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. (2 Thessalonians 2:5-10; emphasis added)

Summary: The World Shortly After the Rapture

With the disappearances of believers, the world clock nears midnight. Ancient biblical prophecies, which were intended to be fulfilled in the last days, will begin to roll off their parchments and pound onto the pavement in relatively rapid succession. Each one has the potential to pack a more powerful punch than the one that preceded it.

Many people who were left behind will wonder where the believers went. As they attempt to return to their normal lives, a paranormal reality promises them an uncertain future. Global chaos will be mounting, which will necessitate the formation of a world government to restore international order. The stage will be set for Satan to send his point man, the Antichrist, into the world theater, and that's exactly what he does!

The Revealing of the Antichrist

One of the first things that happens after the Rapture is the revealing of the Antichrist. The consensus among many Bible prophecy experts is that he shows up with the opening of the first seal.

Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see." And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer. (Revelation 6:1-2)

There are at least two important questions to ask and address concerning this event.

1. Question: *When is the first seal opened?*

Answer: Probably in the early stages of the Post-Rapture / Pre-trib gap period.

2. Question: *Does the Trib-period begin when the first seal is opened?*

Answer: Probably not.

This section explains why the opening of the first seal probably happens in the gap period and does not likely trigger the start of the seven-year Trib-period. These conclusions are supported by the following reasons.

First, the church is pictured in heaven before the first seal is opened, which means that the Rapture has previously occurred. *Second*, the Antichrist's rise to political power takes time. *Third*, the other party to the false covenant of Daniel 9:27 factors into prophecy after the first seal has already been opened. The Trib-period doesn't

commence until after this covenant is made between Israel and another party. The role of the Antichrist in this scenario is to confirm this covenant between the two parties.

The Church is in Heaven Before the Antichrist is Revealed on Earth

The Christian Church is residing in heaven before the tribulation period commences.

This conclusion is supported by understanding the chronological ordering of chapters two through six in the book of Revelation. Revelation 2 and 3 describe the Church on earth while Revelation 4 and 5 pictures the Church residing in heaven. Revelation 6 introduces the earthly events that occur after the Christian Church has been removed from the earth via the Rapture. The prophecies in Revelation 6 segue into the Tribulation period. The details of this ordering are explained below.

Revelation 2 and 3 contain the seven letters to the seven Churches. These letters had multiple applications at the time of their issuance. First, they provided important individualized information for the seven specific Churches that they were addressed to. Second, these letters detailed the distinguishing characteristics that would exist at any given time within various Churches throughout the Church age. Third, they outlined the prophetic future of the Church age. These two chapters portrayed the Church during its existence on earth during the Church age from its inception until its completion. More information on this topic is provided in the Appendix entitled, “*The Seven Letters to the Churches.*”

After the Church age is completed, meaning once it is removed from the earth, Revelation 4 begins with the Greek words “*meta tauta*,” which means “*after these things*,” and pictures the Church being raptured into heaven. In other words, after these things pertaining to the Church on earth, it is caught up to heaven in Revelation 4 and 5.

“After these things (*meta tauta*) I (*the apostle John*) looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, “Come up here, [*representing the rapture*] and I will show you things which must take place after this.” (Revelation 4:1, NKJV; emphasis added).

It is commonly taught that the twenty-four elders, who are identified several times in Revelation 4 and 5, represent the Church in heaven. Revelation 5:9 informs that these elders are redeemed by the blood of Christ. Only true believers are qualified to make such a salvation claim. Moreover, these redeemed are “*out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation.*” This is an acknowledgement that the twenty-four elders represent the believers saved throughout the world during the Church age.

Quoted below, is how noted Bible prophecy scholar Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum interprets the identity of the twenty-four elders

*"While the text does not clearly state as to what these twenty-four elders refer, there are clues in the text by which their identity can be deduced. First, these elders are clothed with white garments, which throughout the Revelation are symbols of salvation. Celestial beings before the throne of God do not need salvation for they were not lost to begin with. But these elders were at one time lost and at some point received salvation as is seen by their wearing of the white garments. The second clue is the fact that they are wearing crowns. These crowns are not diadem crowns worn by those who are royal by nature, which would have been the case had these been celestial beings. These crowns are the stephanos crowns, the crowns of an overcomer; the type of crown given as rewards to the members of the church at the Judgment Seat of Christ. A third clue lies in their very title of elders. Nowhere else in Scripture is this term used to describe celestial or angelic beings. This term is used of humans in positions of authority either in the synagogue or church. Hence, from these three clues, the twenty-four elders must represent the church saints. If this is true, then they provide further evidence for a pre-tribulation Rapture. The church is already in heaven in chapter four and five before the tribulation begins in chapter six."*ⁱ

Sometime after the Church gets caught up into heaven, the events described in Revelation 5 commence. One very significant event that the twenty-four elders witness is the opening of the heavenly scroll by Jesus Christ. This scroll contains the seven seal judgments. The first seal judgment, which is described in Revelation 6:1-2, introduces the Antichrist upon the earth. As per Daniel 9:27, the Antichrist confirms a covenant with

Israel for seven years. It is commonly taught that the ratification and implementation of this covenant becomes the starting point of the seven years of the tribulation period.

Therefore, it can be concluded that only when the Church resides in heaven, can it watch Christ open the scroll that contains the seven seal judgments. Until these seal judgments are opened, the Antichrist can't emerge upon the world scene and confirm the seven-year covenant with Israel. As long as the covenant can't be confirmed, the tribulation period can't commence. Simply stated, the Antichrist won't be revealed and the tribulation period can't begin until sometime after the Christian Church has been raptured into heaven.

The Revealing of the Antichrist is Being Restrained

2 Thessalonians 2:5-10, which was previously quoted, pointed out that the "lawless one" can't be revealed until the restrainer is removed.

For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He (*the one presently restraining lawlessness*) who now restrains *will do so* until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one (*the Antichrist*) will be revealed, whom the Lord (*Jesus Christ*) will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His (*second*) coming. (2 Thess. 2:7-8; emphasis added)

Some Bible teachers, myself included, correlate the timing of the Rapture with the removal of the restrainer. 2 Thessalonians 2 appears to inform that the Church is Raptured, the restraint of lawlessness is removed, and promptly afterward the Antichrist is revealed. The timing of these events chronologically coincides with the timing of Revelation 4, (the Rapture), Revelation 5, (the presentation of the heavenly scroll) and Revelation 6, (the opening of the seals and the revealing of the Antichrist).

The Mystery of Lawlessness and the Lawless One

There are at least three mysteries exposed in the New Testament that find a Pre-trib fulfillment. One of them happens before the gap period and the other two appear to begin in the gap period. They are the Mysteries of the Rapture, (1 Corinthians 15:51), Lawlessness, (2 Thess. 2:7), and Babylon, (Revelation 17:5, 7). Once the Rapture

becomes a reality, the stage is set for the fulfillment of the other two. The “mystery of lawlessness” is presented here because it is relevant to the timing of the revealing of the lawless one.

The Greek word for mystery is “*musterion*,” and it is translated as a mystery or secret doctrine.ⁱⁱ Lawlessness, also translated as iniquity in some translations, is the Greek word, “*anomia*.” It is used 13 times in the New Testament. It is defined as sin in 1 John 3:4. However, the fact that lawlessness is sin is not a mystery. So, the question arises; why did the apostle Paul label lawlessness as a mystery?

The common interpretation of a biblical mystery is that it is something that was not disclosed in the Old Testament, but is now exposed in the New Testament. A mystery in this case is information that is solely privy to God until He makes it known to the public, mostly through the Holy Scriptures. Some mysteries deal with future events. Once the future episode finds fulfillment, it becomes a reality and ceases to be a mystery. It becomes an actuality to the generation that witnesses its fulfillment. For instance, once the Rapture happens, it can no longer be classified as a mystery because it has become a historical fact.

A summary of what lawlessness is, as per its thirteen usages in the New Testament, is provided below.

Lawlessness is the opposite of righteousness, (2 Corinthians 6:14). It is an integral part of Satan’s end time scheme, (2 Thess. 2:1-10). It characterized the condition of the scribes and Pharisees at the time of the first coming of Christ, (Matthew 23: 27-28). Similarly, it becomes implanted into the Kingdom of God prior to the second coming of Christ. Like tares adversely affect the wheat during harvest time, Satan uses lawlessness as a stumbling block to harm the people of God in the last days, (Matt. 13:36-43). When lawlessness goes unrestrained in the end times, it metastasizes into its most cancerous condition, causing the love of many throughout the world to grow cold, (Matt. 24:12). Its only cure is forgiveness through Jesus Christ, (Romans 4:7, Hebrews 10:17).

Lawlessness is so bad that it must be restrained, for the overall good of the Church while it exists upon the earth. The Church is not appointed to experience lawlessness when it spreads throughout the world without further hindrance, and that's why it is Raptured out beforehand. As per 1 Thess. 5:9, the Church is likewise not appointed to the wrath of God, however lawlessness is not poured out by God, rather it is unleashed according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, (2 Thess. 2:9-10; abbreviated).

A lawless world provides the ideal environment through which the seed of Satan can incubate. The seed of Satan is another name for the Antichrist used in Genesis 3:15. Therefore, the lawless one is introduced into the end times equation in the immediate aftermath of the removal of the restraint of lawlessness. With the opening of the first 5 seal judgments, lawlessness no longer remains a mystery, but becomes a global reality. The breakdown goes as follows;

1. The Lawless one is revealed with the opening of the first seal, which evidences that lawlessness is no longer restrained, but is dispersing rapidly throughout the world,
2. This unhindered spread of evil disrupts world peace, giving rise to war(s) as per the second seal,
3. Impoverished conditions plague the planet because of the first two seals, during the third seal,
4. A global government, which is made up of an unholy Church and State alliance, forms to remedy the dire situation in the fourth seal,
5. True believers get martyred for their Christian testimonies by the world government, which is perpetrating lawlessness and suppressing the truth about Christ. God allows these believers to die for their faith, because He is no longer restraining lawlessness, like He did during the Church Age. In Revelation 6:11, 13:10 and 14:12, Jesus instructs His Post-Rapture followers to be patient until He physically returns in His second coming.

The Antichrist's Rise to Political Power Takes Time

One of the reasons that the seven-year Trib-period probably doesn't start immediately with the opening of the first seal is because the Antichrist accomplishes his threefold career in two stages. This topic is covered in the chapter called, "The Encounter between Satan and his Seed." Below is a quote from that chapter.

"The Antichrist rises to political prominence, military power and religious dominance through a process of two stages. The two stages are apparent in these verses (Rev. 6:1-2) by the usage of the words "conquering and to conquer."

The dual usage of the word conquer implies that the Antichrist embarks upon a process, which eventually over an unspecified time-period, leads him to his desired destination of becoming the world's political and religious leader.

This conclusion is further supported by Revelation 17:3, 7, which predicts that an unholy alliance will be made between the Harlot world religion and the Antichrist. These verses denote that the Antichrist allows the Harlot to "sit" on him, while he "carries" her to the heights of her position of becoming the predominate world religion. The Antichrist plays a subservient role to the Harlot, until he is ready to exert his dominance over the world. The relationship between the Harlot and the Antichrist is covered in greater detail in several different sections of commentary within this book.

As the Antichrist ascends to the heights of his political career, at some point along the way he earns the respect of Israel and the other party to the false covenant. They entrust him with the important responsibility of "confirming" the covenant between them. It is not until then, that the seven-years of tribulation begins.

The Two Parties of the False Covenant

"Then he (the Antichrist) shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; (consisting of seven years) But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate." (Daniel 9:27; emphasis added)

.....

“Bill, you can’t confirm a dentist appointment unless one has already been made. Similarly, the Antichrist can’t confirm a seven-year covenant, unless one already exists.”

This is a direct quote from a conversation I had with Bible prophecy expert Jack Kinsella. Jack has since passed on to be with the Lord in March of 2013, but a couple years prior he and I were filming interviews with Jonathan Bernis for the Jewish Voice television show. After the TV shoots, Jack and I had a discussion in my hotel room about the Antichrist’s prophesied role in relationship to the false covenant that triggers the Trib-period. That was when Jack made this profound statement to me.

I mention this here to emphasize the important point that the Antichrist merely confirms the false covenant. He may draft up the text of the document and he may even be a party to the treaty, but all the Bible tells us for certain is that he confirms it. This means that something is taking place in the world just prior to the drafting of this document that troubles the Jewish state and warrants Israel’s participation in this infamous covenant.

I stated, *“troubles the Jewish state,”* because of what Isaiah says about this covenant. The prophet informs that Israel is concerned about an overflowing scourge that is raging within the world, which has the potential of being harmful to the Jewish state. This concern motivates them to covenant with the party that is perpetrating this overflowing scourge.

“Because you (Israel) have said, “We have made a covenant with death, And with Sheol we are in agreement. When the overflowing scourge passes through, It will not come to us, For we have made lies our refuge, And under falsehood we have hidden ourselves.”” (Isaiah 28:15; emphasis added)

What the overflowing scourge might be, when it will occur and who death and Sheol represents, will be discussed later in this thesis. It is simply introduced here to bring to the reader’s attention, that until this scourge sweeps through the world, there is no need for the covenant of Daniel 9:27 to exist.

This is important because all parties to the covenant, Israel, the Antichrist, and death and Sheol, must be present in the world theater prior to the commencement of the Trib-period. When will these parties all be in place? Israel is now and the Antichrist will be swiftly after the Rapture, but when does death and Sheol arrive to implement its scourge campaign? Shortly, I will explain why death and Sheol seem to arrive as the fourth horsemen of the apocalypse. If this is the case, then the false covenant does not get confirmed when the first seal is opened.

Summary About the Timing of the Antichrist's Arrival

The Antichrist will be the first horsemen out of the starting gates after the Rapture. Satan will inject his point man, the Lawless One, onto the world stage the instant he is no longer restrained from doing so. This inserts his time of entry onto the prophetic timeline during the Post-Rapture / Pre-trib gap period.

Introducing the Antichrist into the global theater as a first order of events is important for Satan because his well calculated plan to perpetrate widespread lawlessness, via deceptive supernatural means, facilitates the Antichrist's ability to become a conqueror. As the choice mediator of the false covenant between Israel, and death and Sheol, the Antichrist must ascend to his position of political prominence without much delay.

Meanwhile as the Antichrist waits to confirm the false covenant, he forms an unholy Church and State alliance with the Harlot. This marriage of convenience becomes politically expedient for him and his Harlot companion. As I point out shortly, the Harlot may be the other covenanting party.

The Post-Rapture / Pre-Trib Timing of the First Five Seals

There are no shortages of biblical commentaries that place the timing of the seven seal judgments within the Trib-period. Traditional teachings tend to group most of them together within the first half of this seven-year period. Although I believe the seven seals conclude within the Trib-period, it is possible the first five seals are opened prior, during the Post-Rapture / Pre-trib gap period. This following section will explore the details of the first five seal judgments to uncover the clues about their timing.

First Seal: The White Horseman of the Apocalypse

Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see." And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer. (Revelation 6:1-2)

The White Horseman is commonly taught to be the Antichrist. Since he is the subject of commentary elsewhere within the book, not much about him will be discussed here, other than to note the important things below;

1. *With the introduction of this Lawless One, lawlessness is no longer being restrained.*

2 Thessalonians 2 informs that until the Rapture happens, the Lord protects His believers on earth by hindering the devastating effects of three things. *First*, is Lawlessness, *Second*, is the Lawless One and *Third*, is strong Satanic deception that is empowered through supernatural signs and lying wonders. The fact that the Antichrist is introduced with the opening of the first seal, means that God is no longer hindering these three things.

2. *One of the required parties involved with the finalization of the false covenant of Isaiah 28:15, 18 and Daniel 9:27 exists on earth.*

The false covenant, which initiates the Trib-period upon its finalization, involves at least three parties. The *confirmer*, who is the Antichrist and the *covenanters*, who are Israel and whoever Death and Hades represents. With the opening of the first seal, at least two of these parties exist on earth. They are Israel and the Antichrist. However, the third party appears to surface subsequently.

3. *The false covenant of Daniel 9:27 can now be confirmed.*

The political figure that confirms the false covenant between Israel and the other party is the Antichrist. Now that the White Horseman is revealed, the covenant can be confirmed. This doesn't mean the covenant necessarily exists yet, rather it simply implies that from this point forward, when it does exist, it can be confirmed.

4. *The Harlot world religion can form an alliance with the Antichrist.*

Revelation 17 discloses that the Harlot world religion marries up with the Antichrist in a Church and State union. Once the Antichrist exists on earth, the wedding invitations can go out and this marriage can be consummated.

Second Seal: The Fiery Red Horseman of the Apocalypse

When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see." Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that *people* should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword. (Revelation 6:3-4)

These verses are relatively self-explanatory. The Fiery Red Horseman represents the unavoidable inevitability that when lawlessness spreads without hindrance throughout the world, peace becomes illusive, world wars occur and global chaos results. In biblical typology, a *great sword* alludes to *great war(s)*. If the prophetic Middle East wars of Psalm 83 and Ezekiel 38 have not happened prior, they could find fulfillment at this point.

Psalm 83 and Ezekiel 38 are two different prophecies. They both deal with major Middle East Wars. In the commentary of the chapter entitled, "The European Union Consoles Israel," I explain why Psalm 83 precedes Ezekiel 38, and in the commentary of the chapter called, "Rabbis Warn of the Future Russian Invasion," I provide reasons why Ezekiel 38 happens before the Trib-period. Thus, these two conflicts conclude prior to the Trib-period.

These epic wars waged against Israel involve mostly Muslim countries. Israel's victories in both biblical battles will have a devastating effect on Islam! Presently, there are an estimated 1.6 billion Muslims in the world. Approximately 500 million of them are involved in the wars of Psalm 83 and Ezekiel 38. These are only estimated numbers and not all 500 million Muslims will be killed when these Islamic nations are defeated. However, the important point is that Muslims worldwide will justifiably become concerned about the future of their religion.

In the aftermath of these two prophetic wars it is likely that Islam will begin to decline in numbers and in popularity. Many Muslims will begin to question their faith, especially if Satan begins to prop up Roman Catholicism as the Harlot world religion through supernatural signs and lying wonders, which is the position presented within this book.

I mention this to rebut the relatively new prophetic teachings below, which I believe to be erroneous. In my opinion;

1. Islam WILL NOT be the Harlot world religion, (Mystery Babylon), of Revelation 17,
2. The Antichrist WILL NOT be a Muslim,
3. The false covenant of Daniel 9:27 WILL NOT involve Islam.

Third Seal: The Black Horseman of the Apocalypse

When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine." (Revelation 6:5-6)

The introduction of the Black Horseman signifies that the darkest of times have fallen upon the earth. When great wars happen, severe suffering results. Famines occur as plagues and pestilences spread uncontrollably throughout the warzones. This creates a humanitarian crisis as refugees' surface and become stranded in the affected areas. The fact that the prior horseman wielded a great sword, implies that the global consequences of the second seal wars were catastrophic.

The third seal imposes the enormous burden upon the international community to resolve the disastrous dilemma before it burgeons out of control. It encourages the expeditious formation of a global government to deal with the escalating emergencies, like world starvation and disease control.

Presently, The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, (OCHA), and The Central Emergency Response Fund, (CERF), are among the United Nations agencies in place to deal with international emergencies. Perhaps they will be the organizations called upon to bring relief to the refugees.

Whatever international agency takes responsibility for administering aid to the afflicted, the Black Horseman instructs them to ration the world's food supplies. The price tag for the necessary food staples to survive becomes fixed at two days' wages. A denarius was the equivalent of a day's wage when this prophecy was written. One denarius will put a quart of wheat inside a family's gallon and another denarius will fill the remainder of their container with three quarts of barley.

The third seal paints a grave picture for the poor, but it's not as distressing for the rich. The horseman concludes his instructions with the command, "*do not harm the oil and the wine.*" This alludes to the luxury items that only the rich will be able to afford. In other words, in the process of rationing the food, do not harm the economic engine that drives the financial recovery, which sustains the existence of the global government.

Fourth Seal: The Pale Horsemen of the Apocalypse

When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth. (Revelation 6:7-8)

As the seals progress in their chronological order, things go from bad to worse as the world welcomes in the Pale Horsemen of the Apocalypse. I say horsemen, rather than horseman, because unlike its three predecessors the Pale horse has two riders. This sinister tag team rides side saddle in their natural order, Death followed by Hades. Death deals with the material departure of a being from its body and Hades is concerned with the immaterial aspect of a person after death, which is their soul. Presently, when someone dies their soul is delivered to its destination, which is either Heaven if they're saved or Hades if they're not.

Whoever, or whatever their manifestations represent, this diabolical duo possesses power and authority over a quarter of the world's population to kill people via multiple means. Unlike the second horseman who only had a great sword in his sheath, Death and Hades have a lethal arsenal that enables them *to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.*

The traditional teaching is that Death and Hades kill a fourth of mankind, but that's not necessarily what's being said here. Compare the differences in language between the fourth seal and the sixth trumpet in the book of Revelation.

“By these three *plagues (of the sixth trumpet)* a third of mankind was killed—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths.” (Rev. 9:18 NKJV; emphasis added)

This above verse clearly states that *a third of mankind was killed* by the three plagues that followed the sounding of the sixth trumpet. However, Revelation 6:8 says that, “And *power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.*”

It may mean that Death and Hades kill a fourth of the earth's population, but more than likely it implies that a quarter of the world's population are faithful followers of Death and Hades. These are devotees so committed to their cause that they are willing to kill their opposition. The fact that Hades takes a lead role in this massive operation infers that this involves a global religious crusade. This future scenario appears to be reminiscent of the historical inquisition periods when Roman Catholicism was martyring the so-called Protestant heretics centuries ago.

Who are Death and Hades?

Hades, which is translated as *Hell* in the King James Version, is the Greek equivalent for the Hebrew word *Sheol*. Hades is the abode of departed souls or spirits. Death and Hades appear together five times in the New Testament Scriptures. Below is a summary interpretation of their usages.

Death is likened to a lethal sting that kills its victim. If the deceased is an unsaved soul, the being goes to *Hades*, who in turn claims victory over that person's departed spirit, (1 Corinthians 15:55). In other words, Death detaches the soul from its body and then Hades imprisons it.

Christ, having His soul depart from His body after being stung by the death of His crucifixion, conquered Hades through the superior power of His resurrection. In His victory over Death and Hades, Christ now possesses the keys to their gates. This claim is made in Revelation 1:18, which says, "I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death."

As the gatekeeper, Christ determines who enters Hades and who doesn't. Upon death, a saved soul is locked out of Hades, but when an unsaved soul dies, it enters into Hades and the doors are sealed shut behind it.

As per Luke 16:19-31, Hades is an actual place and it is filled with unbearable torments. In order to avoid being locked into Hades, a person needs to accept Christ as their Savior, after which the gates of Hades can no longer prevail against it according to Matthew 16:18.

Revelation 1:18 is the only verse where Hades appears ahead of Death when they are paired together in scripture. When Death precedes Hades in scripture, it alludes to the death of the body, which is the first death. However, when Death follows Hades, it alludes to the second death pertaining to the eternal separation of the soul from God its maker. When Christ claims to have the *keys of Hades and (then also) of Death*, He is boldly declaring sovereign authority over the eternal destiny of each and every individual soul.

"And do not fear those who kill the body, (Death), but cannot kill the soul, (Hades). But rather fear Him, (Jesus Christ), who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." (Matthew 10:28; emphasis added)

Death and Hades are frightful, but a believer need not be fearful because they are unable to destroy both their soul and body in hell. These are words of comfort,

especially to those that will be martyred by Death and Hades as the fourth horsemen of the apocalypse.

Lastly, Death and Hades make their final appearance during the White Throne judgment proceedings at the end of the millennial reign of Jesus Christ. After which, they and all the unsaved souls they had previously killed and incarcerated, are cast into the Lake of Fire.

“Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”
(Revelation 20:11-15)

Death and Hades will face the second death, but beforehand as the fourth horsemen, they exert power and authority over a large religious system. This massive institution comprised of at least a quarter of the earth’s population, becomes the Harlot world religion of Revelation 17. This statement is qualified later in this thesis.

Is Islam the Fourth Horsemen of the Apocalypse?

Some relatively recent teachings have attempted to connect the fourth horsemen with Islam. They point out that the Greek word “chloros,” which is used to identify the pale color of this horse, can also be translated as green. They make the connection with the flag of the prophet Mohammed, which was made of green silk, with this green horse.ⁱⁱⁱ They further suggest that Mohammed founded Islam in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, which also has a green flag.^{iv}

More green related topics are found in the Quran, which they believe adds further evidence that the fourth horsemen represent Islam.^v Another correlation they make is

that Islam is a religion of violence and has been responsible for many deaths, and one of the riders on the fourth horse is called “Death.”

In my estimation, these arguments are weak and overridden by other prophetic factors, the primary one being previously mentioned, which is that Islam seems to be in a state of decline by the time the fourth horsemen arrives on the scene. Also, the Islamic terrorist group called ISIS banners a black flag, but that does not make it the black horseman of the third seal. Similarly, the green flag of Saudi Arabia does not likely represent the pale horsemen of the fourth seal.

Is Islam the Harlot World Religion?

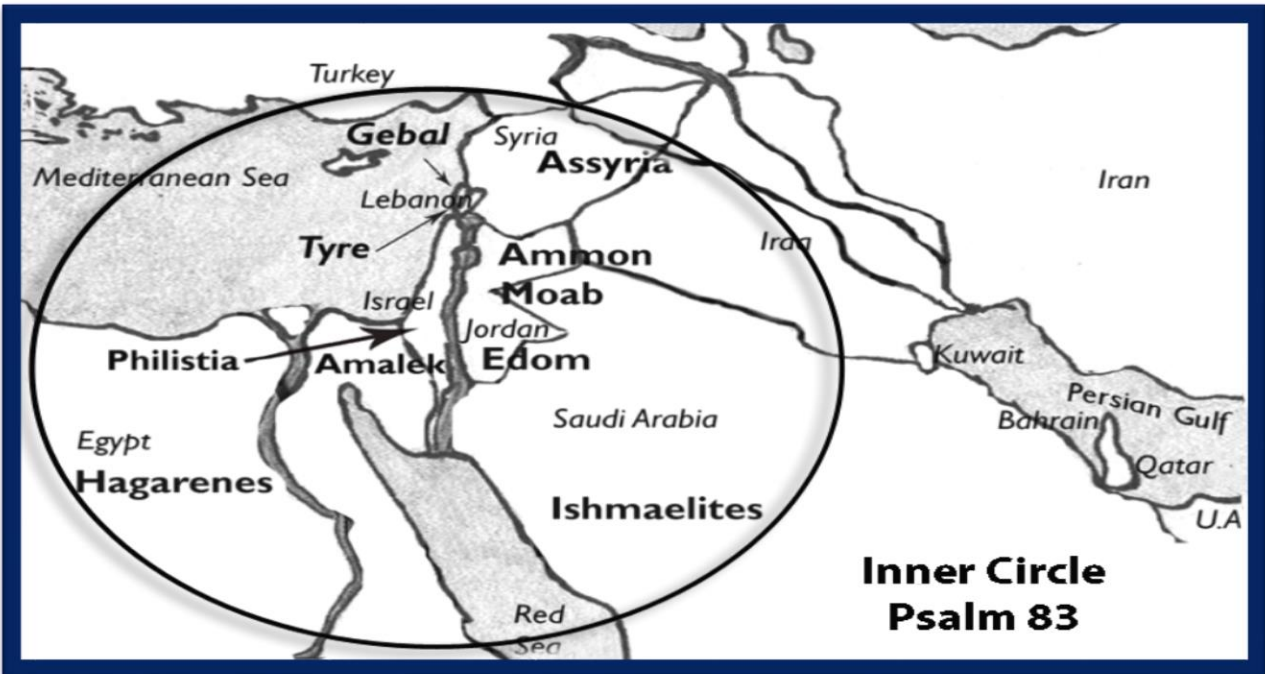
Joel Richardson teaches that Islam is the Harlot of Revelation 17 and Mecca is the central city of this world religion. In a personal face to face conversation that I had with him on October 27, 2016, I pointed out the following arguments against his new paradigm shift in thinking on this topic.

1. **After Psalm 83 and Ezekiel 38**, Islam will be a religion in decline, which minimizes the potential for Islam to be the Harlot.

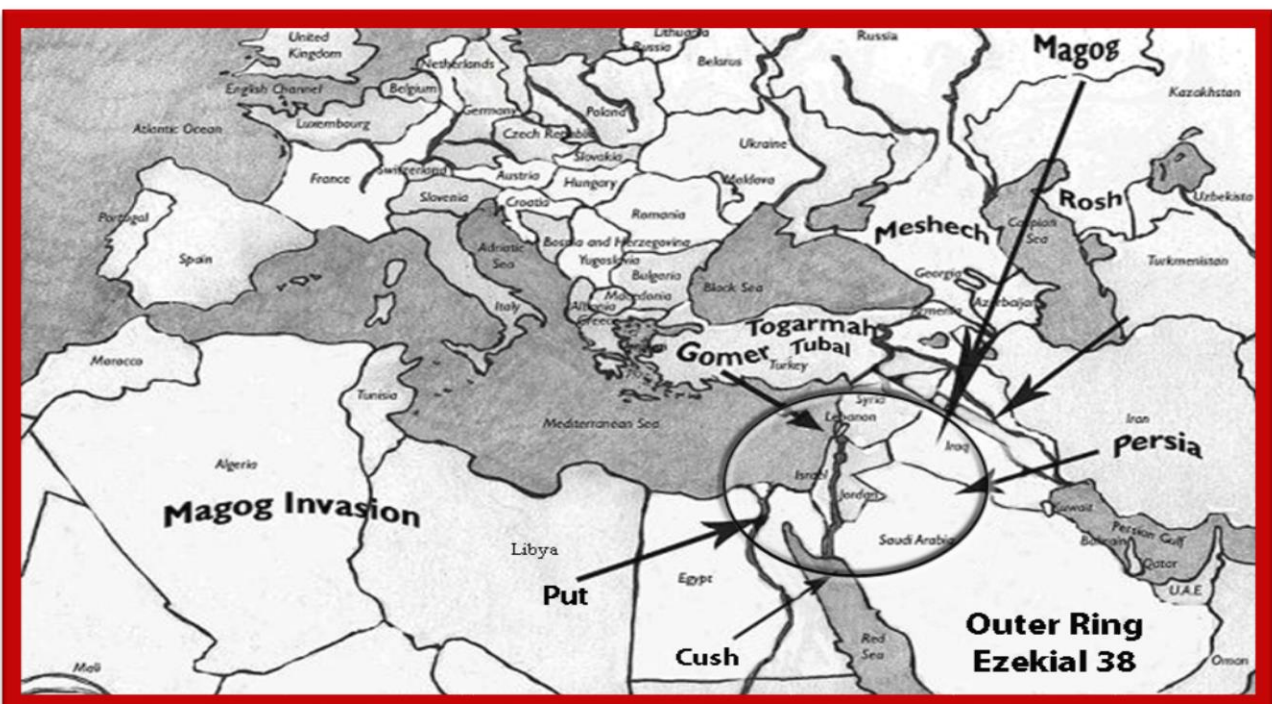
Psalm 83 and **Ezekiel 38** are distinctly different prophecies. They have;

1. *Different coalitions*, (refer to maps below).
2. *Different motives*, (Psalm 83 wants to wipe Israel off the map and capture the Promised Land. Ezekiel 38 is to capture plunder and booty from Israel).
3. *Different defeats*, (Psalm 83 is defeated by the IDF. Ezekiel 38 is defeated supernaturally by God).

Psalm 83 is an ancient prophecy that predicts the conclusion of the Arab-Israeli conflict. It foretells that Israel will defeat their Arab neighbors in an epic war and end the oppression of those peoples once and for all. Ezekiel 38 prophesies that God will stop a massive invasion of Israel supernaturally. Because of both biblical wars, the Jewish state will be emboldened and recognized by the Harlot as a force that must be reckoned with.



(The Inner Circle map overlays the ancient names of Psalm 83:6-8 over their modern-day counterparts. Note that the Inner Circle is mostly comprised of Arab states and terrorist groups that share common borders with the Jewish state. These ancient civilizations have been Israel's most notorious enemies from time immemorial.)



(The Outer Ring map superimposes the historic names of the Ezekiel 38:1-5 coalition over their present equivalents. The arrows depict the location of the coalition members. Note that the Outer Ring of nations does not share common borders with Israel, include any of the Inner Circle countries or notable terrorist organizations, involve any of Israel's historic enemies, apart from Persia at the time of Esther, or incorporate many Arab states).

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2. Saudi Arabia becomes adversely affected by Middle East wars, which mitigate against Mecca becoming the central city of the Harlot. I provided the supporting prophetic verses below to Joel.
 - a. Jeremiah 49:8 - Saudi Arabia, who is identified by Dedan, is told to retreat prior to the calamity of Esau, which seems to allude to the concluding Arab-Israeli war of Psalm 83. Esau's descendants are referred to as the "*tents of Edom*" within the prophecy in Psalm 83:6. The Edomites have ethnical representations within some of the Palestinians today.
 - b. Ezekiel 25:13 – which points out that Saudi Arabia, (*Dedan*), doesn't heed the warnings of Jer. 49:8 and thus suffers defeat in that war.
 - c. Psalm 83:6 – Saudi Arabia, under the banner of the *Ishmaelites*, are a member of the Arab confederacy of Psalm 83, which gets defeated. This war appears to occur before the Harlot becomes the world's dominant religion. Joel Richardson doesn't believe that Psalm 83 is an unfulfilled prophetic war. Below is a quote from him on this topic.

"In conclusion, the Psalm 83 (war prophecy) theory wrongly interprets the prophets, setting the Church up for confusion through unbiblical and false expectations. But the most worrisome error of the Psalm 83 War theory is that it takes the righteous judgments of Jesus, and reallocates them to mere men."^{vi}
 3. Ezekiel 38:13 – Saudi Arabia, (*Dedan*), is reduced to being a mere sideline protestor during the Gog of Magog invasion of Ezekiel 38. This is likely the

weakened condition that the Saudis find themselves in after being defeated in Psalm 83,

4. Revelation 18:19-20 – which says that the “holy apostles” are avenged when Babylon is destroyed. I asked Joel, “If Babylon represents Islam with a central city of Mecca, then which two or more “holy apostles” were killed by Islam in the city of Mecca?” The answer is none! This is because Islam didn’t exist until centuries after the apostles were martyred. However, two or more apostles were martyred in or nearby Rome. History suggests that they were Peter, Paul and possibly Andrew.

As this thesis progresses, I will further explain who I believe Death and Hades are and introduce the most important reason why I don’t believe they represent Islam.

It is important to note that Death and Hades of Revelation 6:7-8 are probably one and the same with Death and Sheol in Isaiah 28:15, 18. This means that they are the probable perpetrators of the first leg of the “overflowing scourge.” This scourge is what concerns Israel and causes them to become a signatory of the false covenant.

“Because you (*Israel*) have said, “We have made a (*false*) covenant with death, And with Sheol we are in agreement. When the overflowing scourge passes through, It will not come to us, For we have made lies our refuge, And under falsehood we have hidden ourselves.”” (Isaiah 28:15)

If there is a connection between Death and Sheol and Death and Hades, this means that the other party to the false covenant of Daniel 9:27 comes on the scene with the opening of the fourth seal. At that point, Israel, the Antichrist and Death and Sheol (Hades) are all together on the world stage. The Antichrist confirms the covenant between Israel and Death and Sheol. This implies that the false covenant could be confirmed and the Trib-period could begin when the fourth seal is opened. However, the details of the fifth seal suggest that won’t be the case.

Who are Death and Hades Killing?

Now, it's time to examine who Death and Hades are killing. Understanding who they are martyring helps to answer the following important questions pertaining to them;

1. Who or what do they represent?
2. What is their mission on earth?
3. Why are they killing people, especially believers?
4. What is their role in the overflowing scourge?

Answering these questions should also help to uncover what is the true content of the false covenant and provide some insights as to when the treaty becomes finalized. Let's start by probing into what's taking place promptly after the fourth seal is opened, and some of those important details are provided within the fifth seal.

Fifth Seal: The Martyrs of the Apocalypse

When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both *the number of* their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they *were*, was completed. (Revelation 6:9-11)

Lo and behold, Death and Hades are killing believers for professing the word of God and living out their Christian testimony. True Christian believers may not be the only group they are killing, but they are at least one of them.

This means that Death and Hades must be perpetrating a spiritual message that runs contrary to the gospel of Jesus Christ. The fifth seal saints will hold fast, even to the point of death, to the biblical narrative, which is that Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life and the only means of salvation as per John 14:6.

This message of the fifth saints must be antithetical to the teachings of Death and Hades. As such, the quarter of the world's population that adheres to the religious view presented by Death and Hades, is called upon to martyr these Christian

dissenters. The slaying of an untold number of Christians implies that the killing campaign of Death and Hades, is not religiously tolerant! Apparently, Death and Hades will not be propagating an ecumenical message, like “*all roads lead to heaven.*”

This religious intolerance should terrify the Jews, who at the same time will be wanting to build the Third Jewish Temple and reinstate the Mosaic Law. When Death and Hades embark upon their unholy war against true believers, there will only be three powerful primary religions left in the world. They are the religions of the Harlot, Judaism, and biblical Christianity. Ultimately, there are four religions after the Rapture, but the fourth, which is the worship of the Antichrist, does not fully emerge until the Middle of the Trib-period. These four religions are explained in greater detail in the commentary section of the chapter called, “The EU Condemnation and Vatican Consecration of Russia.”

Some noted Bible commentators believe that the Harlot will be a future apostate ecumenical world church that will embrace all religions except biblical Christianity. They believe this religiously tolerant church with its blending of all religious faiths will be in the war-torn country of Iraq, with a rebuilt Babylon as its central city. Unfortunately, the expositors don't usually explain which one of these religious faiths will arise and lead this ecumenical church. This teaching beckons the question, if Death and Hades represent a tolerant spiritual system, then why are they killing Christians?

The Two Killing Crusades that Martyr Christians After the Rapture

Unlike the indiscriminate deaths that will inevitably result from the war(s) of the second seal, there exist two religious systems that discriminately martyr true Christian believers after the Rapture. These two are the Harlot and the Antichrist.

Per Revelation 17:6, the Harlot is “*drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.*” Per Revelation 13:15-17 and 20:4, the Antichrist will kill believers for refusing to receive the “Mark of the Beast.”

Unless Death and Hades represents a third campaign of Christian martyrdom after the Rapture, which is not likely, then it must find association with either the Harlot or the Antichrist. It can't be related to the Antichrist for two reasons.

1. The Antichrist is the White Horseman and Death and Hades are the Pale Horsemen of the Apocalypse. These two horses carry distinctly different riders who operate independent of each other. The Antichrist is given a crown and instructed to go out conquering and to conquer. Death and Hades is given authority over a quarter of the earth's population to kill believers.
2. The Antichrist's killing crusade doesn't start until the middle of the Trib-period, but Death and Hades begin their targeted murders beforehand.

Therefore, based upon the minor premises above, the major premise is that Death and Hades seemingly finds association with the Harlot world religion. Or, more boldly and directly stated; DEATH AND HADES are associated with "MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."

If this is the case then whoever THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS represents, could be the embodiment of the fourth horsemen of Death and Hades. One possible way to uncover the identity of Death and Hades, is to understand how the fifth seal saints become believers.

How Do the Fifth Seal Saints Get Saved?

How do the Fifth Seal Saints get saved? The "white robes" they are given in Rev. 6:11 symbolizes that they are indeed saved. These are committed saints, truly sold out to Christ, even to the point of dying for their faith? Providing they were alive when the Rapture happened, these people were left behind as unbelievers when the miraculous event took place. This means they received Christ as their Savior, after the Rapture.

These saints did not likely learn about Christ from the two witnesses in Revelation 11 or the angel with the everlasting gospel in Rev. 14:6, because the two witnesses and the angel appear during the Trib-period and these saints get saved beforehand. This statement will soon be qualified with an explanation about the timing of the Fifth Seal Saints.

Thus, these martyred saints likely learned about Christ through prior testimonies they had heard, Christian works that have been left behind, and / or by realizing that the

Christians were Raptured. This prophetic truth about the Rapture will probably also be echoed by the 144,000 Jewish witnesses of Revelation 7, who will be ministering the gospel of Christ at the time. The 144,000 also get saved after the Rapture.

Here's how the process of conversion might go for the Fifth Seal Saints. After some very basic research, their analytical minds will quickly realize that those who vanished all had *one basic thing in common*; they all believed in Jesus Christ as the Messiah, *i.e.* they were believers. This fact will stick out for some like a sore thumb and be hard for them to deny.

Possessing that understanding, their analytical minds will then logically ask, "Did the Bible have anything to say about Christians vanishing instantly?" They will easily discover the answer is yes, and the event had been predicted about two-thousand years ago, by the Apostle Paul.

Their analytical minds will deliberate further and discover that the Bible also said, "Christ is the way the truth and the life and that God so loved the world that He sent Christ to die for their sins, so that they wouldn't perish but would have everlasting life." This realization will become a motivating factor in their ultimate decision to receive Christ as their Savior to obtain eternal life.

Moreover, after a little more basic study, their analytical minds will become aware that the same Bible predicted that a Harlot world religion and an Antichrist would emerge on the scene after the Rapture. This should cause their analytical minds to turn its attention to Rome and seriously question Roman Catholicism, which will still be mostly intact after the Rapture.

The sustained existence of Roman Catholicism after the Rapture is a prophecy contained in the letter to the Church of Thyatira, which is about to be explored and explained in this thesis. Revelation 2:22 foretells that Thyatira will be going into the Great Tribulation period, which is the second half of the seven year Trib-period.

The Catholics, represented by Thyatira prophetically, who are left behind will take issue with the Fifth Seal Saints when they question the unscriptural practices and beliefs of Roman Catholicism and its bold claims to be the one true Church. When

confronted, some Catholics will likely say something like, *“We are the true church and the removal of many Protestants and Evangelicals brings clarity to this truth. The disappearances of these individuals did not discredit Catholic claims, but to the contrary, proves our standing as the one true Church.”*

The analytical minds of the Fifth Seal Saints will likely respond with, “That doesn’t make sense. It beckons the following questions, *“If the Catholic Church is the true Church, and the Bible predicted the unannounced and instantaneous removal of the true Church, then why,*

1. *Is the Catholic Church still on earth?*
2. *Not only on earth, but why is the leadership still chiefly in place and the global infrastructure of Roman Catholicism mostly still intact?*
3. *Also, why did some Catholics disappear, but not all Catholics?*
4. *It seems more realistic to think that Roman Catholicism was a false religion, can you convince me otherwise?”*

Roman Catholicism will undoubtedly have answers for these and many other related questions, but the fact that the Fifth Seal Saints exist clearly evidences that not everyone will be convinced by their explanations.

Roman Catholicism believes that as the true Church, they are the rightful world religion. They believe that they are ordained to consecrate the world to Immaculate Heart of Mary, with the goal of creating a suitable earthy environment for the Second Coming of Christ. As such, they have no place in their theology for the Rapture. They will dismiss the event by explaining it away somehow.

The disappearances of millions of believers, coupled with the supernatural signs and lying wonders, which will be forwarded by Satan, should strongly reinforce their claims as the rightful one world religion. Believing this is their ordained calling, Catholic leaders will not likely feel the need, nor consider it wise, to be religiously tolerant. With the support of their Blessed Mother, they will carry the torch forward to be Christ’s light of the world.

Those who deny Roman Catholicism the right to what it sincerely believes to be its calling, will put those dissenters at odds with the Catholic Church. They will be marked as blasphemers and martyred as examples!

I realize that some of the readers are appalled by the scenario depicted in these preceding paragraphs, but these statements will be supported by exposing what's said in the Catholic Catechisms and explaining what the Holy Scriptures point out.

The Three Periods of Post Rapture Christian Martyrdom

Before I officially indict Roman Catholicism as the Harlot World Religion, it's important to discuss the three periods of Christian martyrdom that occurs after the Rapture. The Fifth Seal Saints are the first group, but they are not the only one. This section will also explain why I made the earlier statement that the Fifth Seal Saints get saved before the Trib-period beings.

The two Christian killing crusades, first of the Harlot and second by the Antichrist, take place over the three primary Post-Rapture time periods. They are;

1. The Post-Rapture / Pre-Trib gap period,
2. The first half of the Trib-period,
3. The second half of the Trib-period, also referred to as the "Great Tribulation."

These time frames of martyrdom can be determined in part by interpreting Christ's response to the pleadings of the Fifth Seal Saints.

"When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" (Rev. 6:9-10)

Phase one of the killing spree perpetrated by Death and Hades is so deadly that these saints cry out with a loud voice for an answer as to how much longer it will continue. These saints have already been slain for the word of God and for their testimonies, but they are obviously concerned for their "*fellow servants*" who are still alive and experiencing this overflowing scourge.

The fact that they don't know how much longer stage one will continue, strongly suggests that they have been martyred during the Post-Rapture / Pre-Trib gap period. This period has no specific time attributed to it in the Scriptures.

The timing of the slaying of the Fifth Seal Saints can be logically deduced by realizing that if the seven-year Trib-period had already started, they would be able to calendar the days remaining until the Second Coming of Christ. They don't know how much longer until Christ's return and that's why they ask Him this timing related question?

Other martyred saints, like the innumerable multitude mentioned in Revelation 7:9-17 who come out of the "great tribulation," don't ask this timing question. There is no need because they already know that the great tribulation, which they come out from, only spans the final three and one-half years of the Trib-period. They're not confused about their placement on the prophetic timeline.

However, the setting for the Fifth Seal Saints is different. The situation on earth is so dire, that their timing inquiry can hardly be classified as a naive question. It is doubtful that they ask this question out of prophetic ignorance. They likely realize that the Trib-period only lasts for seven years. I mean, these men and women were slain for the word of God. The fact that the Trib-period lasts for seven years is repeated numerous times in several different ways in the Scriptures. They must know that the Trib-period is coming, they just don't know "how long" until it starts.

By the way, if the Rapture happens soon, you probably know some of these men and women that will be asking this "how long" timing question of the Lord. Undoubtedly, you have important people in your lives that have not accepted Christ yet as their personal Lord and Savior. This puts them at risk of being left behind.

Perhaps you personally haven't made your decision to receive Christ as your Savior. If not, I encourage you to read the appendix entitled, "The Sinner's Salvation Prayer." This appendix will walk you through the process of getting saved. Don't put it off for even another chapter because at any given time you are only one heartbeat away from your eternal destiny.

Back to the question of, “*How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?*” Christ’s response to their question is interesting. He sums up the metric of time by identifying their Christian condition. Christ says that He will return when the full number of believers who are martyred for their faith is complete. Christ identifies the three phases of Christian martyrdom for them.

“Then a white robe was given to each of them; (*Group 1*) and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of “*their fellow servants*” (*Group 2*) and “*their brethren*,” (*Group 3*) who would be killed as they were, was completed.” (Rev. 6:11; emphasis added)

The three phases of Christian martyrdom after the Rapture apparently, breakdown in the manner described below.

1. The Post-Rapture / Pre-Trib gap period: (*Group 1*) - This phase is when the *Fifth Seal Saints* are slain. It has previously been established in this thesis, that they are killed by Death and Hades. They are likely among those killed by the Harlot, who is “the woman” in Revelation 17:6, who is “drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.”
2. The first half of the Trib-period: (*Group 2*) - The second phase involves the “*fellow servants*” of the *Fifth Seal Saints*. They are killed during the first half of the Trib-period by the same executioner as the *Fifth Seal Saints*. The Harlot is drunk with their blood also. The fact that they are martyred by the same hands appropriately classifies them as *fellow servants* with the *Fifth Seal Saints*.
3. The second half of the Trib-period: (*Group 3*) - The final phase of martyrdom involves the “*brethren*” of the *fellow servants* who previously died in the second phase. By the time the *brethren* are martyred, the Harlot will have been desolated by the ten kings in Rev. 17:16. This means the *brethren* are killed by a different source. The *brethren* are beheaded by the Antichrist for refusing to worship him by taking his “Mark of the Beast.” The fact that they die during the Trib-period

adequately categorizes them with the *fellow servants*, who also died in the Trib-period, as *their brethren*.

Why is the Catholic Church Cast into the Great Tribulation?

It's important to start this section by looking at an unfulfilled Bible prophecy that appears to find association with Roman Catholicism. The prediction is written in the letter to the Church of Thyatira. The prophetic link between Thyatira and Roman Catholicism is explained in the appendix entitled, "The Seven Letters to the Churches," and elsewhere in this book.

"Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, (*Roman Catholicism*), because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, (*The Blessed Mother*), which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants, (*Catholics*), to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her, (*the Harlot world religion*), into a bed, and them that commit adultery (*idolatry*) with her into great tribulation, (*The second half of the Trib-period*), except they repent of their deeds. And I WILL KILL HER CHILDREN WITH DEATH; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins (*minds*) and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works. (Rev. 2:20-23, KJV; emphasis added)

Hold everything, before I complete the Scripture quote in the letter to Thyatira, let's hit rewind. Did God just say that He "WILL KILL HER CHILDREN WITH DEATH?" I apologize for pausing in the middle of these passages, but I'm sorry, these above verses seemingly state that God will kill children of one of the seven churches and that He will do it during the great tribulation, which seems to assign these killings during the second half of the seven year Trib-period.

A commentary by John Gill explains this verse to mean,

"And I will kill her children with death,.... Her popes, cardinals, priests, Jesuits, monks, friars, and all that join in the Romish apostasy, they shall be killed with death; there shall be an utter extirpation of them in God's own time;..."^{vii}

John Gill, (November 23, 1697-October 14, 1771) was an English Baptist, a biblical scholar and the first major writing Baptist theologian. He says that “*in God’s own time,*” that He will kill with death “*all that join in the Romish apostasy,*” including the Catholic hierarchies. I explain shortly that God’s own time appears to be during the great tribulation time-period.

This implies that, the institution of Roman Catholicism, as Thyatira, will still exist on the earth after the Rapture. That’s interesting because it’s counterpart, the Church of Philadelphia, seemingly ceases to exist after the Rapture. Per Revelation 3:10, Philadelphia is kept from experiencing the seven-year Tribulation period, but Thyatira experiences it in its entirety. If that’s not terrible enough, not only do they experience the wrath of God taking place during the great tribulation, but they are going to be purposely afflicted by it!

These verses are addressing the children of Thyatira, which apparently alludes to the faithful followers of Roman Catholicism, rather than literal children. The Bible speaks of the “children of Israel” about 600 times and most of those references refer to the Jewish people in general, rather than singling out their kids.

Unless I’m misinterpreting this, the question is why? Why would God kill followers of Roman Catholicism with death? Considering that God is a just God, the answer becomes obvious. They are being killed because they have done something deserved of death. A likely reason that this Church merits being “cast into the sickbed of the great tribulation,” and therein be killed, is because it must be guilty of killing God’s people.

The Greek words used for kill, which is “*apokteino,*” and death, which is “*thanatos,*” can only be translated as to kill or slay someone to the point of their death. They are the same two words used in Rev. 6:8, which says that Death, “*thanatos,*” and Hades have authority over a fourth of the earth to kill, “*apokteino,*” the Fifth Seal Saints of Rev. 6:9-11.

This is not talking about Islam, which has a history of killing God’s people, rather this is specifically alluding to the Church of Thyatira. The historic and prophetic

connections that justifies this bizarre pronouncement are probably identified in the Catholic inquisitions of the past and in Revelation 17:6 of the future.

The Catholics have a bloody history of killing Christians, who they had identified as heretics. Presently, they are no longer committing these heinous atrocities, but do they deserve no punishment for their bloody past? God is merciful, so perhaps He gives them a pass, but Revelation 17:6 becomes the issue.

I interpret this verse elsewhere in the book, but it says the Harlot is drunk with the blood of the saints AND THE MARTYRS OF JESUS! My concern is that the Catholic inquisitions may repeat themselves again in the future!

I realize that it's hard to imagine that God would kill the precious Catholic Mother Theresa's of the world that are caring for the orphans in India, and I'm not saying that these nuns are going volunteer to be on the front lines to slaughter the Fifth Seal Saints with AK 47's. However, if any Catholic gets left behind from the Rapture they are in jeopardy of being cast into the great tribulation and being killed!

During the Catholic Inquisitions, there were nuns who knew that the executions of the so-called heretics were occurring. They didn't necessarily do the slaying, but the fact that they remained faithful to their Catholic faith, rather than excommunicate themselves, made them guilty by association.

Generally, the Christians were sentenced by the Catholic authorities, but then turned over to the secular authorities for their executions. This process might repeat itself, Christian killings will not likely be done by the Catholic hierarchies, rather the martyrs of Jesus could be sentenced by some future Catholic inquisition court and then turned over to the civil authorities for their executions.

For more understanding into this prophecy it's important to pick up where I left off in the letter to Thyatira. The next verse contains some good, but also some dreadful news.

But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.” (Revelation 2:20-24; KJV, emphasis added)

Let’s hit rewind again, what are “the depths of Satan!” This can’t be a good thing! How would you like to be a member of a Church that is steeped in Satanic doctrine? This is apparently what the letter to Thyatira says. Thyatira, has allowed Satan to insert terrible false doctrines within Roman Catholicism. One of these erroneous teachings deals with a demonic feminine figure possessing similarities to Jezebel of the Old Testament. The only possible female candidate throughout the entire Church age that comes to mind is the Queen of Heaven, otherwise known as the Blessed Mother, the Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Fatima and many more titles. I compare the striking similarities between Jezebel and the apparition of Mary in the commentary of the chapter called, “Two Witnesses Prepare for the Tribulational Period.”

So, the letter to Thyatira contains some dreadful claims that should severely concern Catholics today. The buzz words and phrases are, “Jezebel,” “great tribulation,” “kill her children with death” and “depths of Satan.”

The Greek words for “*great tribulation*” are, “*megas thlipsis*.” The first tandem use of these words together is in Matthew 24:21, and they identify the timing of prophetic events that happen during the second half of Daniel’s 70th week.^{viii} This is one of the verses that some Bible teachers point to as a proof text for the great tribulation alluding to the latter three and one-half years of the Trib-period.

Concerning the great tribulation and its associated time frame, Dr. David Reagan of Lamb and Lion Ministries says this;

“This view is based primarily on a statement Jesus made that is recorded in Matthew 24. According to this passage, Jesus referred to the last half of Daniel’s 70th week of years as “*the great tribulation*” (Matthew 24:21).^{ix}

Megas thlipsis appears together a total of four times in the New Testament and three of them are associated with events that find fulfillment in the latter half of the Trib-period. These three are found in Matthew 24:21, Rev. 2:22 and Rev. 7:14. The one

instance that does not is in Acts 7:11. This verse explains the great suffering associated with the historical famine that came over Egypt and Canaan at the time of Jacob. Most Bible versions translate Acts 7:11 as a great, affliction, suffering or trouble, rather than calling it the “great tribulation.”

All four New Testament uses of *megas thlipsis* deal with specific time-periods. One was in the past, but the three others occur in the future within the second half of the Trib-period. Therefore, the great tribulation mentioned in Rev. 2:22 pertaining to the Church of Thyatira, should not simply be viewed as a period of great suffering that occurs during some undisclosed time-period.

I point out these four usages of *megas thlipsis* to emphasize that Thyatira apparently enters into the great tribulation period. It's important to compare the translations of Rev. 2:22 provided in the American Standard Version and the New King James Version.

“Behold, I cast her, (*Thyatira*), into a bed, and them that commit adultery, (*idolatry*), with her into great tribulation, except they repent of her works.” (ASV)

“Indeed I will cast her, (*Thyatira*), into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery, (*idolatry*), with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.”

These two translations emphasize that Thyatira is cast into great tribulation, like a stowaway might get involuntarily cast off a ship into the sea. Moreover, what better place to punish an adulteress harlot than to confine her to a bed, which is her customary place of business. The NKJV calls it a sickbed, because the great tribulation period is the most sickening of time-periods.

Roman Catholicism became the religious institution that Satan found most suitable to introduce a female type of Jezebel into its theology. This erroneous teaching, which appears to be associated with Mariology, causes the Roman Catholic Church to be cast into the worst three and one-half years ever, which is the “great tribulation” period. Those Catholics who believe in this Jezebel deception, rather than repent of it, will likely be left behind. If they continue to subscribe to this form of idolatry they run the risk of being killed with death during the great tribulation.

How will these killings take place?

How Will God Kill the Children of Thyatira?

This section will explain how God plans on killing the children of Thyatira. There might be multiple means. One of them could understandably be by pouring out His wrath in the great tribulation period, but more than likely, He intends to use the ten prominent political leaders of the end times to fulfill this purpose.

“And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. For GOD HAS PUT IT INTO THEIR HEARTS TO FULFILL HIS PURPOSE, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. (Rev. 17:16-17; emphasis added)

God apparently employs His proven method of the past, of using pagan Gentiles to accomplish His greater purposes. The Babylonians were used to discipline the Jews during their seventy years of Babylonian captivity. Then, He empowered the Persians to conquer the Babylonians so that the Jews could return from exile back into Israel. In the instance of the Harlot, He plans on killing her followers through the ten kings.

Will these ten kings only target the Pope, Cardinals, Bishops and Priests, and leave the kind-hearted nuns alone to feed and clothe the poor? Is that a realistic scenario? Or, will the armies executing the commands of their kings ravish and kill these helpless ladies, who happen to be mostly virgins? The verses above say that the Harlot is made desolate and naked, which should concern a Catholic nun dressed in her traditional habit garb at the time.

I apologize for painting a graphic portrayal, but these verses also say that the armies of the ten kings will eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. Burning with fire is reminiscent of the Catholic inquisitions. Many of the martyred Christians at that time were burned at the stake.

The Main Obsessions of the Blessed Mother

The next couple sections of this thesis explore what the devil has pre-planned for the Post-Rapture future of Roman Catholicism. What is the grander satanic plan that will unfold after the Rapture, when Satan is no longer restrained from performing supernatural signs and lying wonders, during the reign of the Harlot religion?

First, it is important to realize that the apparition of Mary is obsessed with at least five main issues. These must be matters of extreme importance to the Queen of Heaven! They all require her intercession and future intervention, which likely means that Satan's not done with the Virgin Mary. Satan's potential end game for the Marian apparitions is explained in the commentary of the chapter entitled, "The Queen of Heaven Appears Globally."

The Blessed Mother's main obsessions are;

1. Becoming the Co-Redemptrix, Mediatrix and Advocate,
2. Catholics praying the Rosary daily, (The Rosary was personally initiated by this demonic female character centuries ago during one of her apparition appearances).
3. Creating World Peace through her,
4. Consecrating Russia to her Immaculate Heart,
5. The importance of the Eucharist in the salvation process.

Various visionary messages delivered from the apparition of Mary throughout time have often centered upon these topics above. One of my favorites is the apparitions quest to become the Co-Redemptrix, Mediatrix and Advocate. How convenient is it for Satan to position this imposter of the biblical Mary as a mediator between the Catholic and Christ? If the Devil wants to interfere with a personal relationship between Christ and a potential believer, one great way to accomplish this is to have a demonic intermediary. It has already been established in this thesis, that the apparition of Mary, as a type of Jezebel, is a creation from the "depths of Satan."

These five fixations of the Blessed Mother are addressed in various places within this book, so your thorough reading of the novel and commentary will acquaint you with the devilish deception linked to these topics.

Satan's Plan to Influence Mankind Through the Harlot

“In the beginning, there had been one will, the will of God, the Creator. After the rebellion of Lucifer there had been two wills, that of God and the rebel. *But now there are billions of wills.*” (Donald Grey Barnhouse, from his book, *The Invisible War*).^x

This Barnhouse quote illustrates one of the Devil's critical dilemmas, especially when he is no longer hindered by the restrainer of 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12. These 2 Thessalonian verses, which pertain to the end times, inform that Satan plans on employing supernatural signs and lying wonders to deceive people living on the earth. Satan's goal will be to influence the *billions of wills*, representing the mindsets of mankind, to believe in what the Bible refers to as “the Lie.”

The Devil's predicament is that God created man as a free moral agent with the ability to exercise his own will and make his own choices. Presently, the Devil exerts a strong influence over the *billions of wills*, but he does not control them.

“We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies *under the sway* (not the control) *of the wicked one.*” (1 John 5:19; emphasis added)

However, when the restraint is removed, it appears that Satan has a clever multi-faceted plan in place to gain greater control over the *billions of wills* within mankind. Signs and lying wonders working in tandem with the existing doctrines, dogmas and catechisms of Roman Catholicism should better align the free wills of man with Satan's diabolical plans, which are to put *billions of wills* into spiritual bondage.

The first phase of Satan's two phased plan to dominate the will of man, is the Harlot world religion of Revelation 17. In the second phase the Harlot will be replaced by the religious system of the Antichrist in Revelation 13. These are two differing satanic systems that are custom designed by the Devil to meet his needs for each time-period. The Harlot system prevails during the Post-Rapture / Pre-Trib gap period up to the midpoint of the Trib-period. The Antichrist reign is during the great tribulation period.

During the first phase of the Harlot, lawlessness will abound and misleading supernatural events will make the *billions of wills* who have been left behind susceptible to spiritual deception. Mysterious disappearances of millions of Christians, signs and lying wonders from Satan and generally chaotic world events will present people with uncertain futures. The *billions of unsaved souls* should be more religiously inclined then, than they are now. Mostly, people will probably stop denying or questioning the existence of god, rather they will be deciding which one to worship. Satan will employ supernatural deception to influence their decision in favor of the Harlot world religion.

Amidst this backdrop, the Harlot enters in to soothe the sojourning souls seeking a more stable and predictable future. Nothing like a Blessed Mother, with her promises of world peace, to comfort the wearied *billions of wills* that are trying to survive in a war-torn world that is becoming increasingly lawless.

The paranormal will become the new normal and the supernatural will defy the natural and, as such, people's perceptions of reality should be dramatically altered. This becomes further complicated by the defeat of the Gog of Magog invaders in Ezekiel 38-39 via supernatural forces, which could find fulfillment around this time. Israel wins this Mideast war against a massive Russian coalition without hardly firing a shot according to the details in Ezekiel 38:18-39:6.

As temporal existence becomes more threatened, eternal security becomes of greater interest to the *billions of wills*. Salvation of the soul is what the Harlot will offer. So, how does Satan accomplish this through the Harlot world religion?

Salvation Comes Through the Roman Catholic Church

“In order to be saved, I (*one*) must be baptized in the Catholic Church, belong to the One True Church established by Jesus, obey the Ten commandments, receive the Sacraments, pray, do good works and die with no mortal sin on my (*their*) soul.”^{xi}

According to the teachings of Roman Catholicism, salvation can only be obtained through their religious institution via the means that they prescribe. This quote was taken from the book called, *A Catechism for Adults*, which was written by Willam J.

Cogan. Father Cogan was a priest and author of the twentieth century, serving the diocese of Chicago. His book, which was published in 1951, received the coveted “Nihil Obstat” and “Imprimatur” around 1958.

“Nihil Obstat,” in the Roman Catholic Church, is a certification by an official censor that a book is not objectionable on doctrinal or moral grounds. The “Imprimatur” is an official license by the Roman Catholic Church to print an ecclesiastical or religious book. Thus, the quote above and the ones below from Cogan’s book represent the bonafide teachings of Roman Catholicism.

The quotations below are formatted in a question and answer format and are numbered to correspond identically with the related numbers in Cogan’s book. Some of the unbiblical answers below illustrate how Roman Catholicism could easily be used by Satan to put people into spiritual bondage. By comparison, the biblically supported answers to these salvation related quotes are provided in the *Apocalypse Road* appendix entitled, “The Sinner’s Salvation Prayer.”

“Lesson 14

Q-23: *Will I not be saved by accepting Jesus as my personal Saviour?*

A-23: No, I will not be saved merely by accepting Jesus as my personal Saviour or merely by believing in Him. (Cogan answers this question in the first person by using the word “I,” which means neither he or anyone else can get saved by merely accepting Christ as their Savior. It requires more than that).

Lesson 16

Q-3: *Has the Catholic Church ever changed its teaching?*

A-3: No, in the 2000 years of its history, the Catholic Church has taught without change the same things taught by Jesus.

Q-4: *Could the Catholic Church ever teach error?*

A-4: No, the Catholic Church could never teach error, because it is the only church which Jesus promised to protect from error.

Q-14: *Can the Pope make an error when teaching?*

A-14: No, the Pope cannot make an error when teaching religion as the head of the whole Catholic Church.

Q-15: *Do all Catholics have to obey the Pope?*

Q-15: Yes, all Catholics all over the world have to obey the Pope because he has the authority of Jesus to rule the whole Church.”

The answers above establish the fact that the Catholic Church dogmatically teaches that it is the one true church and that the Pope is infallible. Moreover, the teachings of the Catholic Church are never wrong and they have not changed over time. Most importantly a person can't be saved by simply accepting Jesus Christ as their Savior, they must also do the things dictated by the Catholic Church.

With those facts established the remainder of the answers to key questions about Catholic teachings from Cogan's book are summarized below.

Lesson 17, A-9: The Catholic Church can never be destroyed.

Lesson 10, A-3 to 6: There are two types of sins, mortal sins are big sins and venial sins are little sins. If someone dies with a mortal sin on their soul, they will be sent to hell forever. Mortal sins can be forgiven and they include;

1. Refusing to accept all of God's teaching,
2. Never praying,
3. Telling serious lies,
4. Not going to Mass on Sundays or Holy Days of Obligation,
5. Getting very drunk,
6. Killing an unborn baby in the womb,
7. All sins of sex,
8. Stealing something expensive.

Lesson 2, A-20: Since attending Mass is essential to avoid going to hell forever, a person must go to Mass every Sunday and on the six Holy Days of Obligation.

Lesson 15: A-17-22: Protestant churches were established by men who broke away from the Catholic Church. There are around 200 Protestant Churches, like Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Baptist, Methodist, Adventist, etc. All Protestant churches are false man-made churches. None of the men who established the Protestant churches had any authority whatsoever to start churches of their own. Everyone has an obligation to obey the Catholic Church because it alone has the authority of Jesus to rule and to teach. To disobey the Catholic Church knowingly is a sin, just as much as disobeying Jesus or His apostles.

Lesson 18: A-3 to 9: It is impossible for a soul to be saved outside of the Catholic Church! It is a serious matter to become a Catholic because, in so doing, a person commits themselves completely and forever under the authority of the Catholic Church. A committed Catholic must always believe everything that the Catholic Church teaches. It is a mortal sin to quit the Catholic Church because it amounts to the rejection of the authority of Jesus Christ.

Need I say more? These teachings compel people to become Catholics and faithfully attend Mass or else they run the genuine risk of going to Hell forever. These doctrinal themes are also included in the Baltimore Catechism, which was the Gold Standard of Catholic education from 1885 to the 1960s. It was commissioned by the Third Council of Bishops in Baltimore.

Below is a quote explaining the Baltimore Catechism from EWTN.com, which is a global, Catholic Television, Catholic Radio, and Catholic News Network.

“The Catechism with which we, (Catholics) are, perhaps, most familiar in pre-Vatican Council days, is known as the Baltimore Catechism. This catechism was collaborated on by the Bishops of the United States in the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore, which took place in 1884. It was put together and finally issued in 1885 by Cardinal Gibbons who, at the time, was the head of the American hierarchy. It took the American Bishops from 1829 to 1885 to put together the

Baltimore Catechism, which in turn, derived from what was called the Roman Catechism or the Catechism of the Council of Trent. This document, similar to the Catechism of the Catholic Church which came out on June 22, 1994, was issued in 1565 by Pope Saint Pius V, and was to be the basis of various national catechisms and textbooks.... The new Catechism of the Catholic Church should be read and understood in the light of its (the Baltimore Catechism's) history, especially Catechesis Tradendae and the General Catechetical Directory."^{xii}

The quotes below from the Baltimore Catechism reinforce Cogan's claims and the unchanging teachings of all other Catechisms in the past and present. At their core, these catechisms are designed to compel people to become Catholics.

- Lesson Twenty-Ninth: On the Commandments of God.
#1125 - "It is not enough to belong to the Church in order to be saved, but we must also keep the Commandments of God and of the Church."^{xiii}
- Lesson Thirty-Fifth: On the First and Second Commandments of the Church.
#1325 – "The commandments of the Church are also commandments of God, because they are made by His authority, and we are bound under pain of sin to observe them."^{xiv}

#1327 – "The chief commandments of the Church are six:

- (1) To hear Mass on Sundays and (the six) holy days of obligation.^{xv}
- (2) To fast and abstain on the days appointed.
- (3) To confess at least once a year.
- (4) To receive the Holy Eucharist during the Easter time.
- (5) To contribute to the support of our pastors.
- (6) Not to marry persons who are not Catholics, or who are related to us within the third degree of kindred, nor privately without witnesses, nor to solemnize marriage at forbidden times."^{xvi}

#1329 – "It is a mortal sin not to hear Mass on a Sunday or a holyday of obligation, unless we are excused for a serious reason..."^{xvii}

Some Catholics categorize sins in three categories, which are mortal, grave and venial. Mortal and venial sins were previously defined, but what are grave sins? Some ecclesiastical documents, like the Code of Canon Law and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, regularly use the phrase "grave sin" to mean "mortal sin," but are they really the same? What if a sin has been committed that has grave matter but lacks the knowledge and consent needed to make it mortal?

Fortunately, in 1984, Pope John Paul II answered this question once and for all and since, according to Cogan's claims, the Pope can never be wrong, the quote below is the final truth on this matter. The Pope wrote the following,

"During the synod assembly some fathers proposed a threefold distinction of sins, classifying them as venial, grave and mortal. This threefold distinction might illustrate the fact that there is a scale of seriousness among grave sins. But it still remains true that the essential and decisive distinction is between sin which destroys charity and sin which does not kill the supernatural life: There is no middle way between life and death."^{xviii}

The article from which this quotation was taken goes on to conclude with this statement, *"Hence, in the (Catholic) church's doctrine and pastoral action, grave sin is in practice identified with mortal sin."*

The point made by the Pope is that there is no distinction between mortal and grave sins. There is no middle ground! Mortal sin and grave sin are synonymous. Call the sin that kills supernatural life whatever you want, but if you commit a mortal sin as defined by Roman Catholicism, you go to Hell forever! Eight of these mortal sins, such as aborting a baby, telling serious lies, stealing something expensive and getting very drunk, were previously listed. Have any of you ever committed one of these mortal sins? Per Roman Catholicism, if you have, you are at risk of going to Hell!

At their core, these catechisms and Cogan claims identified in this thesis are designed to compel people to become Catholics. The explanations below make this conclusion relatively obvious.

1. Roman Catholicism is the One True Church. The Protestant churches are false. I point out in the commentary of the chapter called, "The Vatican Global Council Meeting," that the Second Vatican Council, (October 11, 1962 – December 8, 1965), made the Catholic Church slightly more Protestant friendly, but did not substantially change the core doctrines of Roman Catholicism.
2. Salvation comes primarily through the Catholic Church, rather than merely receiving Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.
3. People can go to Hell forever if they don't receive forgiveness for their mortal sins in the manner prescribed by the Catholic Church.
4. To be saved a person must,
 - a. Become a Catholic
 - b. Faithfully partake of the Mass in the acceptable manner defined by the Catholic Church, which is;
 1. Take the Mass every Sunday, and on the days of obligation,
 2. Perform it inside the Catholic Church,
 3. Receive the Eucharistic elements by the Catholic Priest.

The plausible way that Satan can gain greater control over the *billions of wills* that have been left behind is to prop up the Catholic Church as the world's One True Church. He can accomplish this by using signs and lying wonders to deceive people, who are already vulnerable to spiritual deception because of the supernatural activities that are occurring in the world at that time.

If people who are left behind from the Rapture don't want to be banished to Hell forever, they need to seek forgiveness through the Catholic Church. The fear of eternal damnation will compel, and the satanic deception will encourage, many people to become Catholics. Even then, their eternity is only as secure as their commitment to the catechisms of the Catholic Church. They will need to take the Mass continually or run the risk of dying with a mortal sin attached to their soul.

This type of spiritual bondage can be easily manipulated by Satan, who has already infused demonic doctrine into Roman Catholicism as per the letter to the Church of Thyatira.

“Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden. (Rev. 2:24)

Stage two of Satan’s plan of deception involves the Antichrist. Since this phase is executed primarily during the Trib-period, the commentary about this segment will be provided in the next book of this series, which deals with that seven-year period.

The False Covenant of Death in Agreement with Sheol

In addition to Daniel 9:27, Isaiah 28:15, 18 provides more details about the infamous false covenant. Whatever the true content of this false covenant contains, it is so problematic that it triggers the start of the seven year Trib-period.

Before interpreting portions of Isaiah 28 in this section, let me caveat that some commentaries believe that the prophecies contained in Isaiah’s verses were fulfilled historically with the destruction of the Northern Kingdom of Israel by Assyria in 722 BC. and the Southern Kingdom of Judah by the Babylonians in 586 BC. A few problems with this view are in the following passages:

1. Isaiah 28:5, which addresses the faithful remnant of the Jews. The remnant of Israel is a theme that often finds association with the last days.
2. Isaiah 28:15-18, which informs of;
 - a. The ratification and ultimate annulment of the false covenant of Daniel 9:27.
 - b. The prior coming of Jesus Christ in typology as the *tried* and *precious cornerstone* of the Temple’s *sure foundation*. These verses appear to state that the first coming of Christ had already happened in history. The coming of Christ happened over 500 years after the destruction of Judah, which nullifies the possibility that all of the prophecies of Isaiah 28 concluded in 586 BC.
3. Isaiah 28:21-22, which declares that the Lord will perform an awesome work. It is an unusual act that involves a “*destruction determined even upon the whole*

earth.” This judgment happens during the Trib-period when the Lord pours out His wrath on a Christ rejecting planet.

Considering the above qualifiers, this implies that some of the predictions in Isaiah 28 may remain unfulfilled. From that perspective, my interpretation of portions of Isaiah 28 is summarized below.

Isaiah 28:14 forewarns that the leadership of Israel at the time the false covenant is confirmed is a contemptuous group of scornful scoffers. They represent Israel in a condition of power after the wars of Psalm 83 and Ezekiel 38, but in unbelief that Jesus Christ is the Messiah.

Their response to their empowered national condition will not include recognizing Christ, but rather they plan to build their Third Temple and reinstate the Mosaic Law. They believe this is what needs to happen for the betterment of Israel. They will become a signatory to the false covenant to accomplish this. This thinking is pointed out in the verses below. These passages also include God’s warning to them about this dangerous national mindset.

“Therefore hear the word of the LORD, you scornful men, Who rule this people who *are* in Jerusalem, Because you have said, “We have made a covenant with death, And with Sheol we are in agreement. When the overflowing scourge passes through, It will not come to us, For we have made lies our refuge, And under falsehood we have hidden ourselves. Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: “Behold, I lay in Zion a stone, (*Jesus Christ*), for a foundation, A tried stone, (*Christ’s first coming*), a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; Whoever believes will not act, (*Concerning the false covenant*), hastily. Also I will make justice the measuring line, And righteousness the plummet; The hail will sweep away the refuge of lies, And the waters will overflow the hiding place.” (Isaiah 28:14-17; emphasis added)

Isaiah 28:5-13 had previously explained that by the time the false covenant gets ratified, that the prophets, priests and rulers in Jerusalem were unschooled in the ways of God. The Word of God, which was measured out one precept at a time and was intended to be the guiding principle of their leadership, was not adequately understood

by them. Isaiah 28:9 likened their spiritual maturity to that of a baby, “*just weaned from milk*” and “*just drawn from the breasts.*”

Would anyone want a toddler to be the man of their house, let alone rule a thriving nation, especially in the critical last days? Heaven forbid!

Proverbs 25:2 says, “*It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings is to search out a matter.*” The scornful leadership of Israel at the time they sign the false covenant represents childish infants rather than glorious kings. They haven’t thoroughly searched the Holy Scriptures to understand the totality of Gods prophetic word. They likely understand parts of the Old Testament (OT), but not in correlation with their related applications in the New Testament (NT).

Isaiah 28:10 is repeated in Isaiah 28:13 to emphasize that God’s word is completed in both portions within the Bible. “Precept upon precept (OT), precept upon precept (NT), Line upon line (OT), line upon line (NT), Here a little (OT), there a little (NT).” According to 2 Timothy 3:16, which says that all Scripture is given by the inspiration of God, that means God’s word is purposely distributed, a *little* in the Old Testament and a *little* in the New Testament.

Isaiah 28:15 says these deceived leaders are panicked by an overflowing scourge that is sweeping through the world. In order to avoid being overtaken by it, they hastily sign a treaty with the perpetrator of the scourge. God says this is a covenant of death that is originated from the pits of Hell, (Sheol in this instance). Concerning Isaiah 28:14-15, Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum explains,

“In verse 14, God calls the ones making this covenant scoffers. Verse 15 gives the reason for this and provides God’s viewpoint of the covenant itself. It is obvious that the leaders of Israel will enter into this covenant to obtain some measure of security and to escape the overflowing scourge. Hence they will believe that entering the covenant will free them from further military invasions. However, God declares that this is not a covenant of life, but a covenant of death. It is not a covenant of heaven, but a covenant of hell.”^{xix}

Even worse, these scornful leaders of Israel realize that their underlying motive for covenanting is based upon deceit. Isaiah 28:15 exposes this when it says, “*For we have made lies our refuge, And under falsehood we have hidden ourselves.*”

The motivation for covenanting is not only to avoid the scourge, but may also include the unrestricted ability to build the Third Jewish Temple. The Temple could be built before the false covenant gets confirmed, perhaps after Israel’s victory over its Arab enemies in the Psalm 83 war. However, shortly I will provide the Scriptural clues that infer that the construction of the Jewish Temple may be one of Israel’s stipulations contained within the false covenant.

The First Jewish Temple took Solomon twenty years to construct, (1 Kings 9:10). Legend has it that the Second Temple took forty-six years for the Jews to complete, (John 2:20). However, some suggest that the Third Temple could be built in one to two years.^{xx}

Presently, there are three prevailing points of view about when the Third Jewish Temple should be rebuilt.^{xxi}

- a. The Temple will miraculously float down from heaven and settle in its appropriate place.
- b. The Messiah will come and facilitate the building of the Temple.
- c. The Temple will be built and then the Messiah will come.

The odds are that the Temple will not be floating down from heaven any time soon. Moreover, the Messiah is Jesus Christ and He’s not coming back just so the Jews can build their Third Temple. Thus, we can eliminate both of these scenarios. Therefore, the only viable alternative is that the Jews will seek to construct the Temple to hasten the coming of their Messiah, not accepting that He already came over 2000 years ago, in the person of Jesus Christ.

The correlation of the Temple and the coming of Messiah is the important point to the Jews. The coming of the Messiah eventually segues into the establishment of His Messianic Kingdom. The predictions and promises that are destined to find fulfillment during this messianic age epitomize the high point of unfulfilled Old Testament

prophecies. The world essentially gets restored to a utopian condition during the Messianic Kingdom.

The probable thinking of the scornful rulers is driven by the belief that whatever it takes to hasten the coming of the Messiah must be done, and without further delay. If it means signing a covenant with a hellish party that's perpetrating a terrible scourge on the earth, then so be it. The means justify the ends because they can accomplish several things through this covenant;

1. Avoid the overflowing scourge,
2. Build the Third Temple,
3. Hasten the coming of the Messiah,
4. End the overflowing scourge, because the Messiah must make an end of it before establishing His benevolent kingdom on earth.
5. Enter into the glorious Messianic Kingdom age.

Isaiah says the covenant is based upon *lies* and *falsehood* and the Jews will believe they have found a *hiding place* by becoming a party to it. However, Isaiah says that like flood waters, the overflowing scourge will come upon them. He warns that their covenant will be short lived.

“Your covenant with death will be annulled, And your agreement with Sheol will not stand; When the overflowing scourge passes through, Then you will be trampled down by it. As often as it goes out it will take you; For morning by morning it will pass over,

And by day and by night; It will be a terror just to understand the report.” (Isaiah 28:18-19)

What is the True Content of the False Covenant?

Isaiah 28:15 and 18 identify two deadly phases of the overflowing scourge, but before I explain what these phases seem to be, I will address what appears to be the true content of the false covenant. Isaiah 28 and Daniel 9 provide several of the contract particulars, but they don't clearly identify the actual content of the false covenant. What exactly is it that Israel and Death and Sheol agree to? Israel is trying to avoid a scourge, but how does Death and Sheol benefit from the deal?

Some Bible prophecy experts believe that the covenant has something to do with resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict. They suspect that the content spells out some acceptable arrangements for a Palestinian state that can harmoniously co-exist alongside a secure Jewish state. Below are the problems with this teaching;

1. Nowhere in the covenant related scriptures does it say anything about an agreement between the Arabs and the Jews. Isaiah 28:15, 18 says nothing about the Arabs and neither does Daniel 9:27. However, Daniel does say that the one who confirms the false covenant and ultimately makes an end of it comes from the revived Roman Empire.
2. The Arab-Israeli conflict gets resolved militarily in Psalm 83 and other related verses, rather than diplomatically through a peace plan.
3. Scriptural clues suggest that the covenant may have something to do with the construction of the Third Temple.

Identified below are some hints that suggest the false covenant has something to do with the construction of the Third Temple.

The first clues are contained in Isaiah 28:16-17. These two verses are sandwiched in between Isaiah 28:15 and 18, which are the verses referring to the false covenant. These passages use terms like a “tried stone,” a “precious cornerstone,” a “sure foundation,” a “measuring line” and a “plummet.” These are terms that can find association with constructing a Jewish Temple.

To build the Temple, you start with a *tried stone* that becomes the *precious cornerstone*. This *cornerstone* has a *sure foundation* built around it. The length and width dimensions of a building needs to be calculated with a *measuring line*, and the vertical accuracy of a structure is determined with a *plummet*, (plumb-line).

I interpret Isaiah 28:16-17 as a warning to the scornful rulers that drag Israel into being a signatory of this dreadful covenant. These leaders seem to think that they are going to build a Temple and hasten the coming of the Messiah, but Isaiah cautions them not to hastily enter this covenant, because the Messiah has already come as the, *tried stone, precious cornerstone and sure foundation*.

A second clue is found in Daniel 9:27, which also is a proof text verse regarded with the false covenant.

“Then he, (*the Antichrist*), shall confirm a covenant with many (*Israel and Death and Sheol*) for one week; (*of seven years*), But in the middle of the week, (*after three and one-half years*) He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering, (*taking place in the Temple*). And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate.” (Daniel 9:27; emphasis added)

Jesus Christ foretells that this event predicted by Daniel happens in the holy place, which represents the Third Jewish Temple at the time.

“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand), “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.” (Matthew 24:15-16)

The intimations in these related verses above, are that by the middle of the Trib-
period the Third Jewish Temple will exist. The Antichrist will make a bold statement by entering this Temple and stopping the priestly sacrifice and offering occurring therein. This is in fulfillment of Isaiah 28:18, which says the false covenant will be annulled. What better way to dissolve a covenant than to void out its terms? If the true content of the false covenant allowed the Jews to build their Temple and perform sacrifices and offerings inside of it, then the action taken by the Antichrist to go into the Temple and stop the sacrifice and offering terminates the contract.

A third interesting clue is in the book of Revelation. Several important details are provided in these passages below concerning the benefits to both parties of the covenant. These verses describe what happens in the immediate aftermath of the ratification of the false covenant.

“Then there was given me a measuring rod like a staff; and someone said, “Get up and measure the temple of God and the altar, and those who worship in it. Leave out the court which is outside the temple and do not measure it, for it has been given to the nations; and they will tread under foot the holy city for forty-two months. And I will grant *authority* to my two witnesses, and they will

prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.” (Rev. 11:1-3, NASB)

The time frame of “*forty-two months*” is associated with one-half of the seven years of tribulation. The same increment of time is used in the ensuing verse but worded differently as, “*twelve hundred and sixty days.*” It is commonly taught that both usages allude to the first half of the Trib-period.

Thus, the very first thing that appears to happen as part of the implementation of the covenant, is that the Temple gets measured for its construction. The apostle John is given a measuring rod and instructed to measure the temple of God, alluding to the Third Temple. If the covenant called for the construction of the Temple, then this would be one of the first order of events. Measure it so that it can be built.

Some of you might wonder if John is measuring an already existing Temple, but why would he be instructed to do that? That would be an arduous process with the measuring rod he is provided. It would make more sense to simply go to City Hall to get the measurement of an already existing Temple. A building of that magnitude certainly must have its blueprints approved by the city planning commission before it can be constructed. John could get the accurate measurements straight from the blueprints.

Moreover, the measuring process does not take place in the second half of the Trib-period because John, being a Jew and therefore representing the Jews at that future time, would be fleeing from the persecution of the Antichrist, rather than measuring the “temple of God and the altar.” In fact, per Matthew 24:15-19, Jesus Christ instructed the Jews to flee from Judea when the Antichrist goes into the temple and commits the abomination of desolation. Jesus did not command the Jews to get a measuring rod to measure the temple of God.

Notwithstanding, the architectural instructions include some restrictions. In other words, the agreement contains some caveats about the building of the Temple that benefit the other covenanting party. The other party are Gentiles who must have some claims to the Temple’s outer court and Jerusalem because they are given authority over the outer court, and access to trample through the holy city of Jerusalem.

The Greek word used for “Gentiles” in Rev. 11:2 is “*ethnos*.” It is used over 150 times in the New Testament and can be translated as Gentiles, nations, pagans or people.^{xxii} The Greek word in that same verse used for “trample,” is “*pateo*,” which can also be translated as “tread under foot.”^{xxiii}

Thus, another possible way to translate this verse is, *the pagans will tread under foot, the holy city of Jerusalem*. They will need this access to make their way to the outer court of the Temple mount, which is given over to these pagan Gentiles. This is an important concession for these pagans. It implies that whoever they are, that they have valid claims to these sacred areas. Presently, the Old City of Jerusalem is divided into four quarters: Christian, Armenian, Jewish and Muslim. The Christian category includes Roman Catholicism.

When the covenant gets confirmed and the Gentiles get awarded access to Jerusalem and authority over the outer court, several Bible prophecies will have likely happened. Two important ones will be Psalm 83 and the Rapture, not necessarily in that order. After Psalm 83, the Muslims will probably lose substantial control over their quarter in the Old City and after the Rapture some Christian and Armenian sections will be vacated by the true believers that resided there. This leaves the Jews and probably a strong Vatican contingency.

It was pointed out earlier in this thesis that Roman Catholicism appears to remain mostly intact after the Rapture. It has also been pointed out that Roman Catholicism represents the Harlot World Religion. Therefore, the pagan Gentiles controlling the outer court and treading Jerusalem under foot are most likely the Catholics, who were not Raptured.

These three clues above seem to suggest that the true content of the false covenant has something to do with the building of the Third Jewish Temple. They also suggest that the covenanting parties are the Jews and the Catholics. But why? Why would the Jews cut a deal with the Catholics? Moreover, why would the Catholics deal with the Jews, especially if they have emerged as the dominant world religion of the Harlot?

The answer would likely be that at the time, Judaism and Roman Catholicism are at loggerheads with each other. The Jews will be following Judaism and they will not convert to Catholicism. They will be empowered from their Psalm 83 and Ezekiel 38 victories and on a quest to build their Temple, reinstate the Mosaic Law and hasten the coming of the Messiah. However, they will be troubled by the overflowing scourge that is being perpetrated by the Harlot world religion, which is probably why they come to the negotiating table. The Harlot is killing true Christian believers throughout the world at the time as per Revelation 17:6

On the flip side, the Vatican will be feeling somewhat invincible because Satan will be propping up Roman Catholicism after the Rapture via supernatural signs and lying wonders. The Vatican will also have the powerful allegiance of the Antichrist and his developing global political infrastructure.

With this global geo-political scenario, probably in place at that time, we can better understand the two phases of the overflowing scourge in Isaiah 28;15, 18.

The Two Deadly Phases of the Overflowing Scourge

This is my two cents worth on explaining the two deadly phases of the overflowing scourge. If you haven't read the entire thesis, but have just skipped ahead to this part, then you will undoubtedly think I'm crazy after you read this section. So please, consider reading this entire thesis before you read my commentary below.

Phase One of the Overflowing Scourge – Isaiah 28:15

“Because you have said, “We have made a covenant with death, And with Sheol we are in agreement. When the overflowing scourge passes through, It will not come to us,

For we have made lies our refuge, And under falsehood we have hidden ourselves.” (Isaiah 28:15)

The first phase of the scourge, *as I interpret it*, is when Israel signs the false covenant with the Harlot world religion so as not to be its next religious victim. The Harlot, represented by Roman Catholicism is drunk with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus because their biblical narrative is problematic for the advancement of the Harlot's choke hold on humanity.

The Harlot is not religiously tolerant, which sincerely troubles the Jews. They will not buy into her lies, because they are sold out on their own. They practice Judaism and its trappings contained in the sacrificial system of the Mosaic Law. They don't realize that true Christianity is the completion of Judaism. Jesus is the Messiah who already came, but they are in denial about this reality.

“Therefore the, (Mosaic) law was our tutor *to bring us* to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.”
(Galatians 3:24-25; emphasis added)

The fact of the matter is that the law was fulfilled by Christ, (Matthew 5:17-18), which rendered it inoperative. Now people are saved by faith through the gift of God's grace, rather than by the works of the law, (Ephesians 2:8-9). Aren't you glad that's how God has now made salvation available to you?

By locking arms with the Harlot, the Jews believe that they can appease her temporarily. They believe that she will not attempt to be drunk with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus and, also the blood of the Jews. The Jews are willing to concede some sacred holy territory by giving the Harlot authority over the outer court and access to tread Jerusalem under foot, because they will be able to build their Temple and hasten the coming of their long-awaited Messiah.

The Jews reason that the means of signing this deceitful covenant justifies the ends of invoking the coming of the Messiah. In their estimation, once the Messiah comes He eliminates the pagan Harlot system. They believe that in the end, it's the Harlot and not them, who gets the short end of the stick in this seven-year covenant.

After the ratification of the covenant the Jews build their Temple and enjoy a temporary period of pseudo peace. They await the imminent coming of their Messiah to destroy the Harlot and usher in His Messianic Kingdom, which is the high point of all Old Testament prophecy.

Phase Two of the Overflowing Scourge – Isaiah 28:18

“Your covenant with death will be annulled, And your agreement with Sheol will not stand; When the overflowing scourge passes through, Then you will be trampled down by it.” (Isaiah 28:18)

However, something goes horribly wrong for the Jews and that's phase two of the overflowing scourge. This is a good place to lay out the likely chronological sequence of events that happen in the middle of the Trib-period. These prophecies set the stage for the second phase of the overflowing scourge.

1. Satan loses a war in heaven, which forces him and his fallen angels to depart from heaven and flee to the earth, (Rev. 12:7-9).
2. Realizing his time is short, (Rev. 12:12), Satan commands his political point man on earth, the Antichrist, to exalt himself above all gods, (Daniel 11:36-37), and to ally with the False Prophet to usurp the religious system of the Antichrist over all others, (Rev. 13:11-17). Thus, the Antichrist needs to do several things, which are;
 - a. Form an alliance with ten powerful political leaders, (ten kings), to desolate the Harlot religion, (Rev. 17:16), and replace it with his own religious system,
 - b. Personally, go to Jerusalem and kill the Two Witnesses, (Rev. 11:7),
 - c. Personally, enter the Third Jewish Temple and make an end of the Jewish sacrifices and offerings, which annuls the false covenant, (Matthew 24:15, Daniel 9:27 and 12:11),
 - d. Begin a genocidal campaign of the Jews and in so doing end the religion of Judaism, (Zechariah 13:8),
 - e. Force people to worship the Antichrist by taking the "Mark of the Beast," (Rev. 13:14),
 - f. Martyr biblical Christians for not taking his beastly mark. (Rev. 13:15, Rev. 20:4).

It is phase two of the scourge that Jesus warned about in Matthew 24:15-22. He instructed the Jews to flee immediately to the mountains, alluding to Petra in Jordan. He issued this command because He wanted to protect the Jews from the final genocide attempt against them, which will be executed by the Antichrist. This was predicted in Zechariah 13:8 with imagery of the scenario provided in Isaiah 28:19-20. A faithful remnant of Jews will emerge in Petra Jordan, and Jesus ultimately comes for them there according to Isaiah 63:1-8.

Summary of the Two Phased Overflowing Scourge

The overflowing scourge has two phases and each phase is carried out by different sources. The perpetrator of phase one is the Harlot world religion and the executioner of phase two is the Antichrist. Both phases involve martyrdom of biblical Christians, but only phase two involves the killing of the Jews.

The irony for the Jews in Isaiah 28:15-18 is that they will trust the Antichrist to confirm the false covenant, but shortly thereafter he will betray their trust by annulling the covenant that he brokered. The warning from the prophet Isaiah in these verses might be restated as follows:

“Behold you scornful rulers of Jerusalem that become signatories of the false covenant. You are making a grave mistake on behalf of Israel. This devilish deal will bring death upon your people. It has been designed by Satan out from the pits of Hell (Sheol). The political leader you believe will guarantee your national security, will betray you. He will first eliminate the other covenanting party of the Harlot world religion, and then he will commit genocide of the Jews. If you would have searched all the Scriptures thoroughly, you would have understood that Jesus Christ is the Messiah! You would not have acted in haste to sign this covenant with the hopes of hastening the coming of some other messiah. You would have known better!”

Congratulations, you have completed the reading of the Post-Rapture / Pre-Trib Thesis. I encourage you to read the Companion’s Commentary next. The commentary will provide additional details to this thesis.

ⁱ Fruchtenbaum quote came from this website: http://lastdayscalendar.tripod.com/twenty_four_elders.htmThe website quoted from his book called, *The Footsteps of the Messiah*, p.114

ⁱⁱ Definition of mystery is taken from the New American Standard Exhaustive Concordance.

ⁱⁱⁱ The flag of Mohammed is described at this website: <http://kenraggio.com/KRPN-GreenHorse.html>

^{iv} The flag association between Saudi Arabia and the fourth horseman is made at this website: <http://kenraggio.com/KRPN-GreenHorse.html>

^v This website also associates Islam with Death and Hades of the fourth seal: <http://www.hope-of-israel.org.nz/GreenMustang6.html>

^{vi} Joel Richardson quote taken from this website: <http://www.joelstrumpet.com/?p=5731>

^{vii} John Gill quote taken from the internet on 12/15/16 from this website: <http://biblehub.com/commentaries/gill/revelation/2.htm>

^{viii} Daniel’s 70th week is located in Daniel 9:27. This 70th week is also commonly referred to as the Tribulation Period.

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- ^{ix} Dr. David Reagan quote was taken on 12/14/16 from this website: <http://christinprophecy.org/articles/the-great-tribulation/>
- ^x Barnhouse quote taken from this website on page 88 of the PDF.
<http://timothytanministries.yolasite.com/resources/eBook/The%20Invisible%20War%20-%20Donald%20Grey%20Barnhouse%20iPad.pdf>
- ^{xi} Quote taken from the book called, “*A Catechism for Adults*,” page 43.
- ^{xii} EWTN quote taken from this internet site on 12/15/16:
<http://www.ewtn.com/library/CATECHSM/NCOFCC.HTM>
- ^{xiii} Baltimore Catechisms: Page 256 from this website: https://www.pcpbooks.net/docs/baltimore_catechism.pdf
- ^{xiv} Baltimore Catechisms: Page 290 from this website: https://www.pcpbooks.net/docs/baltimore_catechism.pdf
- ^{xv} Six days of holy obligation are on Page 292 / #1333 of this website:
https://www.pcpbooks.net/docs/baltimore_catechism.pdf
- ^{xvi} Baltimore Catechisms: Page 291 from this website: https://www.pcpbooks.net/docs/baltimore_catechism.pdf
- ^{xvii} Baltimore Catechisms: Page 291 from this website: https://www.pcpbooks.net/docs/baltimore_catechism.pdf
- ^{xviii} Pope John Paul II quote came from this website: <http://jimmyakin.com/2010/05/grave-sin-mortal-sin.html>
- ^{xix} Dr. Fruchtenbaum quote taken on 12/7/16 from this website: http://chafer.nextmeta.com/files/v6n1_3.pdf
- ^{xx} The timing determined to build the third temple is at this website: <http://www.ldolphin.org/gano.html>
- ^{xxi} The three prevailing views about the timing of the Third Temple are identified at this website:
<https://www.breakingisraelnews.com/48944/age-old-biblical-debate-searches-to-answer-which-comes-first-messiah-or-the-temple-jewish-world/#4krHI3HdfclpOBW1.97>
- ^{xxii} Ethnos translations taken from the New American Standard Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries under G1484.
- ^{xxiii} Pateo translation taken from Strong’s Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries under G3961.