

A large wooden ark is under construction on a sandy beach at sunset. The ark is made of dark wood and has a curved roof. In the foreground, there are stacks of logs and a wooden fence. The sky is a mix of orange and blue.

AS IN THE DAYS OF NOAH

October 11, 2017 Part 8 Pastor Grant Williams

In this series we've studied that from the time of Adam and then passed down to the first 10 generations of men to the Days of Noah, they knew that there would be judgment by a Flood.

The Flood was restrained from coming until 3 things happened, just like Jesus will not return or is restrained from returning until some "things" happen. At the return of Christ, all 3 of the same "things" that prevented the Flood from coming until it happened are seen in a pattern that must happen for return of Jesus Christ.

Ecclesiastes 1:9-10 KJV

9 The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.

10 Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us.

Here are some of the Jewish historical signs of the Flood...

3 Things That Restrained The Flood:

1. The fullness of time - 100 years to prepare - Genesis 7:6

Genesis 7:6 KJV

6 And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth.

2. The assignment (Ark) had to be complete - Genesis 7:1

Genesis 7:1 KJV

7 And the Lord said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.

3. The right people and animals had to be inside - Genesis 7:16

Genesis 7:16 KJV

16 And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the Lord shut him in.

Matthew 24:3 KJV

3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

Here are the “things” that must happen or that restrain Jesus from coming until His Word is fulfilled:

3 Things That Restrain The Return Of Christ:

1. The Fullness Of Time

Ephesians 1:10 KJV

*10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times **He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth;** even in him:*

This is referring to the catching away of the saints, being caught up together or the Rapture of the Church. This ***gathering together*** in Ephesians Chapter 1 takes place when the fullness of time comes.

This gathering together is what we read about in 1 Thessalonians Chapter 4 along with several other passages in the Bible as biblical proof for the pre-tribulation “gathering” or “rapture”.

First Thessalonians is the first of 14 letters that Paul wrote. This is important because in the New Testament they are not put in chronological order - **this is the very first letter.**

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 KJV

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

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be **caught up together** with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

It is very important that we understand that the revelation that there was a “coming messiah” was revealed in the Old Testament all the way back to the days of Jacob.

Who Is Jacob ?

His father was? Isaac

His mother was? Rebekah

His brother was? Esau

His Grandfather was? Abraham

Jacobs new name was? Israel

Jacob had a famous son? Joseph

When Jacob was blessing His sons Genesis 49:10 He said...

Genesis 49:10 (KJV)

10 The **sceptre** shall not depart from **Judah**, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, **until Shiloh come**; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.

Judah was Jacob’s son, but He would also become the royal tribe of Israel. The Word ***sceptre*** is very interesting...

Numbers 24:17 KJV

17 I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a **Star out of Jacob**, and a **Sceptre shall rise out of Israel**, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.

The word “sceptre” here is talking about royalty, a royal position, the identity of kingship. So, a royal king is going to arise in Israel and that prophecy goes all the way back to Jacob (4060 years ago) and tells us that **He will come from the line of Judah.**

Judah At The Time Of The End

At the end of the Tribulation, Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords says, enough is enough - the seven years is over and prophecy must be fulfilled.

Zechariah 12:2 KJV

2 Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem.

Zechariah 12:9 KJV

9 And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

This judgment is not talking about the War of Gog and Magog, but the Battle of Armageddon.

Revelation 16:16 KJV

16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

Before this last battle (Armageddon) in the Valley of Jezreel on the Plains of Megiddo, Jesus goes out by Himself to 2 different locations to free the remnant and kill the anti-christ armies in those areas. That first stage is the Judah stage...

Judah At The Time Of The End

Zechariah 12:7-9 KJV

7 The Lord also shall save the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem do not magnify themselves against Judah.

8 In that day shall the Lord defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the Lord before them.

9 And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

Why Judah first? Because that is His tribe, that is His territory, that is where He is from. He is called the Lion of the Tribe of Judah.

Revelation 5:5 KJV

5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

Going back to Genesis 49:10, there's another prediction given...

Genesis 49:10 KJV

10 The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.

The second part of this prophecy - the first being *the sceptre shall not depart from Judah* is "**until Shiloh comes**". Shiloh according to rabbinical teaching is a title for "the messiah".

In the book of Daniel (9:25-28) the word “Messiah” in the King James translation is mentioned two times. The hebrew word there is *mashiach*. Mashiach means “the anointed one”.

Daniel 9:25-27 KJV

25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

When you say that Christ is the Anointed One in Hebrew, you are saying that “He is the Messiah” because that is how it is interpreted or translated in the book of Daniel two times. The messiah, the prince that shall come.

In the New Testament we see the words “Jesus Christ” or the “Lord Jesus Christ”. That is significant because that word Christ in the Greek is Christos, and Christos means “the anointed one”.

When you read Christ or Jesus Christ, it is not referring to God or man but specifically to the Messiah that was spoken of in Daniel and that revelation of the Messiah goes back to Jacob.

It was known in the Old Testament that this “Messiah” would set up a kingdom that would not end. The book of Daniel brings this out in his prophecies. It says that the “most high” and the “saints of the most high” would possess a kingdom that would not end.

So, it was known unto the Jews that there would be a man coming, “mashiach” who would be the anointed one. This man would raise the dead, He would be a king and He would have the ability or power to forgive them of their sins. That’s the concept that the Old Testament scribes had of the mashiach or messiah.

Jesus comes along and fulfills the prophecies of the Bible. But, the idea of the messiah setting up the kingdom is where it all starts to get interesting. The Jews were taught a resurrection, but they were also taught that when the Messiah comes His kingdom is set up on earth.

Every Old Testament Jew looked for the Messiah to set up an earthly kingdom in Israel / Jerusalem. The part that they did not understand, which is revealed to the New Testament believer, is that there is a Kingdom of God here on the earth but that there is also a kingdom of heaven in heaven.

Matthew 3:2 KJV

2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Matthew 4:17 KJV

17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand

The New Testament reveals that there is a heavenly kingdom in which believers who believe in Mashiach will go to prior to Mashiach setting up His kingdom on earth.

This was hidden in the Old Testament and then revealed by the Apostle Paul in this first letter where the Lord would descend from heaven and we (followers or imitators of Christ) would be ***caught up together*** in the clouds to meet the Lord up in the air.

I'm often asked, "where in the Bible does it talk about the Rapture Of The Church?" I want to show you 4 main passages in God's Word that deal specifically with **being caught up together** or the **coming of the Lord** for the Church. In general, this is called the "Rapture" as referred to by English theologians and in the first 7 English translations of the Bible.

The Translations Before The King James Version

Many people do not realize that the King James Bible was not the first Modern English translation. There were actually 7 other translations published before the KJV. The 7 Modern English translations leading up to the KJV were all translated from various editions of what we call today the Greek "Textus Receptus", (the correct Greek textual tradition). As a result, they are consistent with the KJV, the modern versions, on the other hand, are dramatically different. The King James Bible is the culmination of the 6 Bibles that led up to it. It is the culmination of almost 100 years of scholarship and sacrifice that gave us our English Bible. That is why the 7 earlier translations eventually went out of print, and the KJV became the standard English Bible used by virtually all Christians until recently.

The significance of these passages or terminology is that everyone shows up in one location. This is important about understanding these 4 passages in the New Testament because it's the dead and the living joining together in one place. We are not in one place now.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 KJV

13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

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

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

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

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 AMPC

13 Now also we would not have you ignorant, brethren, about those who fall asleep [in death], that you may not grieve [for them] as the rest do who have no hope [beyond the grave].

14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will also bring with Him through Jesus those who have fallen asleep [in death].

15 For this we declare to you by the Lord's [own] word, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord shall in no way precede [into His presence] or have any advantage at all over those who have previously fallen asleep [in Him in death].

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a loud cry of summons, with the shout of an archangel, and with the blast of the trumpet of God. And those who have departed this life in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we, the living ones who remain [on the earth], shall simultaneously be caught up along with [the resurrected dead] in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so always (through the eternity of the eternities) we shall be with the Lord! 18 Therefore comfort and encourage one another with these words.

So the two (dead in Christ and those living) are coming together. That's why gathering, gathering together or coming together is used when its is talking about Jesus coming back for His people.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 KJV

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

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Key Word: Caught up together

The meaning: To seize or pluck up by force

The Greek translation : harpazó

Phonetic Spelling: (har-pad'-zo)

Part of Speech: Verb

Definition: to seize, snatch, obtain by force, to take by an open display of force, yank out of dangers way,

Before the tribulation comes, He (God) wants to snatch us out of harms way - yank us out by force so we don't go through it.

Ephesians 1:10 KJV

10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

Key Word: Gather together in one

The meaning: To sum up together in one

Greek Translation: anakephalaioó

Phonetic Spelling: (an-ak-ef-al-ah'-ee-om-ahee)

Part of Speech: Verb

Definition: to sum up, to summarize, gather up in one place

This is the act of summing it up, or summarizing, gathering it all together once and for all in putting everything that is out there collectively in one location.

2 Thessalonians 2:1 KJV

2 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

Key Word: Gathering together

The meaning: A complete collecting of

Greek Translation: episunagóge

Phonetic Spelling: (ep-ee-soon-ag-o-gay')

Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine

Definition: a gathering (collecting) together, assembling of the living and the dead all in one location.

Among the Jews of the Old Testament, this “episunagoge” was called the great assembly.

Hebrews 12:22-24 KJV

22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

Key Word: General assembly

The meaning: To assemble all

Greek Translation: panéguris

Phonetic Spelling: (pan-ay'-goo-ris)

Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine

Definition: a festival assembly or to assemble all, universal meeting.

When are our spirits going to be made perfect? At the resurrection of the dead or the coming of Christ. What he's saying here is that there are living people caught up and dead people who are raised. He is calling this the general assembly and the church of the first born.

So who is going there at this general assembly?

1. The dead in Christ.
2. The living that have been changed from immortal to immortality.
3. The angels
4. Jesus Christ
5. God the father

Dead saints, living saints, angels, Jesus, and God the father all gathered together in one location in the heavenly throne room.

The word “panéguris” meaning a universal meeting as well. It is not just one selected location, it’s everybody universally coming together in one place. The Old Testament Jews called or used this word as the “great assembly”.

After the destruction of Solomon's temple the Jews went into Babylonian captivity. After 70 years when they returned from captivity they came back to Israel and rebuilt the temple.

The Bible has 2 main books that deal with this and that is the book of Ezra and the book of Nehemiah. All the Jewish sources in history will identify the same teaching of this...

A group of elders met from 410 BC to 310 BC (a period of 100 years). These elders were members of the Jewish Sanhedrin that had 70 members. Ezra and Nehemiah decided to expand it to 120 members.

So, this 120 members were brought together by the scribe Ezra (scribe meaning: the person who wrote the book of Ezra). These men kept what was called the “oral tradition” and this is what it means:

There are many things that are written in the Torah (which is the first five books of the bible) but there are many things that are not written as well. In the four gospels there are many things written about Jesus but the Bible says in John that if all the works that He did could be written while He was living all the earth couldn’t contain in books what Jesus did.

John 21:25 KJV

25 And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

In order that the “oral tradition” (these are things that Moses taught Joshua then Joshua taught the elders which taught their kids) would not be lost, they wrote these “things” down. This is called the Jewish “oral tradition” in which the Jewish people study to this day and it came out of this special meeting.

This is what happened, these men put together the Hebrew bible: the Torah, the prophets and the writings and they formalized all the prayers that would be prayed around the Jewish temple and around feast days which the Jews celebrate to this day and still keep them even though they don't have a temple.

Then, they gave the Bible or the scrolls to the common man in the synagogue in order to be read. This is what this group, called the great assembly did. Haggai was part of it, Zechariah, Malachi, Ezra and Nehemiah were part of this during the 100 year period.

Now, this is where it gets even more interesting...today there is the Israeli Knesset. The word kneset means assembly and it just so happens there is 120 members. Where did they get this from? They got it from Ezra and Nehemiah assembling the 120 members or elders together back in the Old Testament. That's where the kneset originates from in Israeli politics.

The Knesset Defined

The Knesset (Hebrew: the gathering or assembly;) is the unicameral legislature of Israel, located in Givat Ram, Jerusalem. The legislative branch of the Israeli government, the Knesset passes all laws, elects the President and Prime Minister (although the latter is ceremonially appointed by the President), approves the cabinet, and supervises the work of the government. In addition, it also recommends a candidate for the State Comptroller to the President, who appoints someone to the post. It also has the power to waive the immunity of its members, remove the President and the State Comptroller from office, remove a Prime Minister convicted of an offense involving moral turpitude, and to dissolve itself and call new elections. The Prime Minister may dissolve the Knesset. However, until an election is completed, the Knesset maintains authority in its current composition.

Now, I want to show you a parallel of the Great Assembly in the New Testament. Because, if the Great Assembly is a picture of the rapture, if it's a picture of the gathering together of the saints and the church then there should be some links... the Jews who wrote the New Testament knew about this Ezra and Nehemiah assembly.

1. First, Jesus knew that the temple would be destroyed.

1 Corinthians 3:16 KJV

16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

The body is the temple of the Holy Spirit...

2. Who organized/started the New Testament church?

Acts 1:15 KJV

15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty)

The New Testament church was started and organized by the 120 that were gathered in the upper room. This is not a random number...this is the number of people who were in the great assembly (Ezra and Nehemiah).

The apostles held unto the “oral stories” or “oral traditions” of Jesus ministry and what did they do with it? They said this is going to be lost unless we write it down.

They wrote the gospels and they gave them away so that the scriptures would be given to the common man and they could pass them down to their children. The way that the church was formed (The New Testament Church) is the same way that The Great Assembly was formed by Ezra and Nehemiah.

The Jews in the upper room were paralleling what they knew already existed because they understood this was a new organism in the earth being formed by God.

So, in the Fullness of Time the Rapture will take place. Remember, the first English translations of the bible used the word Rapture prior to the 1611’s English translation of the bible which is the King James version.

That word rapture is used to describe the events written in God's Word called "gather together in one", "gathering together", "caught up together" and the "great assembly". Another term in the Bible is the "general assembly of the first born".

The "**general assembly**" or the "**general assembly of the first born**" was a great assembly that happened every 7 years among the Jews (men/women) at the Temple Mount area in Jerusalem.



A special bema (Greek word meaning elevated platform/seat for dignitary/judge) was built in the temple area and when the king arrived he would climb or ascend up to the bema (or platform).

The king was then handed a scroll (called a torah scroll). Then the king would hand it to the synagogue president and he would hand it over to the high priest. The high priest then blessed it and handed it back to the king who then opened up the scroll. He, the King, was the only one who could open it.

When the scroll was opened he began to read publicly what was written in the scroll and this is the only time gold trumpets were used.

There are other instruments that were used as well for different events: Shofars were always used during new moons and feast days. Silver trumpets were used during Yom Kippur and the long silver trumpets were used for the calling of the camps and for the journey of Israel out to the wilderness.

This is the only time in the history books that you will find a gold trumpet being made and/or blown is at this time, which is the beginning/end of the 7th year - a very special gold trumpet.

What does this have to do with the rapture of the church? There is a trumpet of God that sounds at the rapture - it says the trump of God, not the trump of the 7th angel. It's not the trumpet of an angel but its a shout of the archangel and its the trumpet of God.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 AMPC

13 Now also we would not have you ignorant, brethren, about those who fall asleep [in death], that you may not grieve [for them] as the rest do who have no hope [beyond the grave].

14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will also bring with Him through Jesus those who have fallen asleep [in death].

15 For this we declare to you by the Lord's [own] word, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord shall in no way precede [into His presence] or have any advantage at all over those who have previously fallen asleep [in Him in death].

*16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a loud cry of summons, with the shout of an archangel, **and with the blast of the trumpet of God.** And those who have departed this life in Christ will rise first.*

17 Then we, the living ones who remain [on the earth], shall simultaneously be caught up along with [the resurrected dead] in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so always (through the eternity of the eternities) we shall be with the Lord!

18 Therefore comfort and encourage one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18KJV

13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

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

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

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

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Note: God's metal is gold. Gold is and represents deity. Silver is and represents redemption while brass is and represents humanity.

The trumpet sounds **of God**, which makes sense that it will be a gold trumpet (logically speaking). Then, the crowd gathers in the heavenly temple and that's where the Bema Judgement Seat of Christ is, or the Judgement Seat (Bema in the greek, for raised platform where the king stood).

What do you see in the book of Revelation? You see Jesus being introduced on the throne room floor as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. That is not His priestly position, a lamb is His priestly position.

He (Jesus) suffered as a lamb, bought redemption by His blood. So the lamb represents Him as a priest - the priest offered as a lamb.

But, He is also a King! He is coming back as King of Kings and Lord of Lords and that is why in chapter 5 of Revelation, John says that I saw a lamb but He was a lion of the tribe of Judah.

Revelation 5:1-13 KJV

1 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

*2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, **Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?***

3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

*5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the **Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David**, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the **seven seals** thereof.*

6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

7 And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

8 *And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.*

9 *And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;*

10 *And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.*

11 *And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;*

12 *Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.*

13 *And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.*

Revelation 5:1-13 AMPC

1 *And I saw lying on the open hand of Him Who was seated on the throne a scroll (book) written within and on the back, closed and sealed with seven seals;*

2 *And I saw a strong angel announcing in a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the scroll? And [who is entitled and deserves and is morally fit] to break its seals?*

3 *And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth [in the realm of the dead, Hades] was able to open the scroll or to take a [single] look at its contents.*

4 *And I wept audibly and bitterly because no one was found fit to open the scroll or to inspect it.*

5 *Then one of the elders [of the heavenly Sanhedrin] said to me, Stop weeping! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root (Source) of David, has won (has overcome and conquered)! He can open the scroll and break its seven seals!*

6 *And there between the throne and the four living creatures (beings) and among the elders [of the heavenly Sanhedrin] I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God [the sevenfold Holy Spirit] Who have been sent [on duty far and wide] into all the earth.*

7 *He then went and took the scroll from the right hand of Him Who sat on the throne.*

8 *And when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders [of the heavenly Sanhedrin] prostrated themselves before the Lamb. Each was holding a harp (lute or guitar), and they had golden bowls full of incense (fragrant spices and gums for burning), which are the prayers of God's people (the saints).*

9 *And [now] they sing a new song, saying, You are worthy to take the scroll and to break the seals that are on it, for You were slain (sacrificed), and with Your blood You purchased men unto God from every tribe and language and people and nation.*

10 *And You have made them a kingdom (royal race) and priests to our God, and they shall reign [as kings] over the earth!*

11 Then I looked, and I heard the voices of many angels on every side of the throne and of the living creatures and the elders [of the heavenly Sanhedrin], and they numbered ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands,

12 Saying in a loud voice, Deserving is the Lamb, Who was sacrificed, to receive all the power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and majesty (glory, splendor) and blessing!

13 And I heard every created thing in heaven and on earth and under the earth [in Hades, the place of departed spirits] and on the sea and all that is in it, crying out together, To Him Who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb be ascribed the blessing and the honor and the majesty (glory, splendor) and the power (might and dominion) forever and ever (through the eternities of the eternities)!

So Jesus, King Jesus, the Lion of Judah, ascends to the platform and just like the Jewish people starting back in the Old Testament, He had to be handed the scrolls and the King had to open and read the scroll.

This is all right here in chapter 5 of Revelation - praise God!!! There is going to be a 7 sealed book that they will be wondering who can open it and the King who was the lamb, and is now the Lion is the only one who will be able to open it - King Jesus.

Jesus will be reading the 7 sealed book in front of the congregation of the assembly - **He will be reading all that is within the 7 sealed book.**

This “fullness of time” when speaking about the rapture of the church, final judgment and the Time Of The End is not some “thing” new. This has always been preached...

Acts 3:20-21 KJV

20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

Part of this fullness of time is the restitution of all things. In the greek, restitution means: to balance accounts, to repair, to restore property back to it's original owner.

I believe that the restitution of all things spoken of by the prophet has to do with Israel being restored as a nation, the Jews coming back to Israel, Jerusalem becoming the capital and this has all happened since 1948 to the present time. Israel has been in it's complete restitution which is another sign of the soon returning of the Lord because it is part of the fullness of time.

Next week - There is another fullness in the earth that needs to take place and that is the fullness of Iniquity....

