

THE WORLD TO BE

PART 7

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PERSECUTION AND SUFFERING

It is a severe blow to dissenters and Christians when the false prophet announces that all citizens of the World Federation must receive a biometric ID in conjunction with the Universal Registration Number (URN). The supreme leader banned every religion – beside the Kabbalah – eight years earlier following his miraculous resurrection. Shortly thereafter churches and parochial schools were shut down.

The biometric ID is yet another attack on the Christian community and presents a dilemma. How is a man supposed to care for his family and remain true to God? The need to provide for his wife and children presents an agonizing choice. If he does not take the mark of loyalty, where will they go and how will he continue to make a living?

A small group of fundamental Christians are adamant in their belief not to compromise and join the URN system. They have absolutely no intention of taking the mark of loyalty and ignoring God's warning. They believe that the Bible is unchanging in its promises and warnings, taking solace in Jesus' words not to leave or forsake them, reckoning that their Savior will take care of them – however that works out.

“...and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” (Matthew 28:20b)

The remainder of the Christians are liberal and not very strong in their faith. They use church to leverage their image, gain power, benefit from the networking, and acquire wealth. They rarely ever read the Bible or pray and none are baptized in the Holy Spirit. Having no biblical foundation from which to exercise discernment, they foolishly chose to submit to the biometric ID, falsely believing that God wants them to provide for their family – even if it means disregarding Scripture.

“And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.” (Revelation 14:9-11)

Bibles are scarce since the World Federation started confiscating and burning them. Many pastors have been killed and there is a lack of leadership in the ten provinces. Born again believers gather in homes to worship together and take communion. Some of the home groups still have access to a Bible which is read and treated with reverence. They believe Jesus' warning about the Mark of the Beast is genuine, recognize the subdermal implant is a fulfillment of prophecy, and have no intention of displeasing their Lord and Savior. They fully recognize this is an irreversible decision from which there is no repentance. Taking the supreme leader's mark of loyalty carries an eternal consequence with no possibility of forgiveness.

During the one-year grace period, Christians gather to discuss what they are going to do. Those from liberal denominations like the Presbyterians, Methodists, and Episcopalians have never heard about an Antichrist and are clueless as to what Jesus said about the matter. Most of them want to take the biometric implant since they desire to keep their lives intact and not lose access to their homes, jobs, medical care, and the ability to purchase food. To avoid any last-minute rush at the end of the deadline, they take their families to the local government building early in an effort to avoid having stand in long lines.

The Roman Catholics fare even worse. None of them are born again, never having experienced the new birth. The traditions of Romanism and its liturgies are useless, leaving them spiritually unprepared to face the ultimatum of the World Federation. The last pope urges his followers to conform, which allows them to remain part of society, but also seals their fate in the Lake of Fire.

There are dozens of Baptist denominations; some are liberal, some are staunch conservatives, and others somewhere in the middle. The hardcore Baptists strongly believe in the need to be born

again and the second coming of Christ with the Antichrist appearing first. Only the middle group decides to reject the loyalty mark; however, since they also reject the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the nine associated gifts, they figure that it's up to them to fend for themselves and therefore do not count on any help from heaven.

The evangelical denominations have liberals in their ranks who have no qualms about taking the loyalty mark. The conservatives do not like the idea of the subdermal implant, but possess no strong conviction on the matter since there has never been any teaching on the subject due to the fact that they consider the Book of Revelation to be an allegory. Faced with inevitable deadline, they weigh the two outcomes and both groups opt for the security of the implant that promises to make their lives easier, safer, and more efficient.

The Pentecostal denominations are more informed about the régime of the supreme leader, correctly identifying him as the infamous Antichrist, along with his False Prophet pushing the mark of loyalty. But as informed as they are, amazingly there are heated discussions about the pros and cons of taking the implant. What happens to the people with diabetes who need insulin? What about people with different sicknesses that need daily medication? What are they going to eat with no ability to buy from grocery stores?

Those who are weak in faith break down, believing God will understand if they become slaves to Lucifer temporarily in an effort to simply survive. But there are many who have been baptized in the Holy Spirit who take heart in the fact that Jesus cared for three million Hebrews when they left Egypt and wandered in the wilderness for forty years. They believe that God can and will do the same thing for them. He supplied water and manna on a daily basis for the

children of Abraham, and they believe Jesus is certainly capable of doing the same thing again.

CHRISTIAN EXILES

Thousands of bible-believing Christians take what they can carry and leave the cities for rural areas and set up makeshift camps. Those not baptized in the Holy Spirit find it difficult to survive. They love the Lord, but it is a war of attrition and their numbers dwindle because they don't believe that God works like He did with the early church. A premature death on earth leads to disappointment in heaven when they realize their lives could be been so much more impactful on earth.

“And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?”

And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.” (Revelation 6:10-11)

Some are caught for a variety of reasons, and rather than letting it serve as defeat, they use it as an opportunity for public testimony. Their faith demonstrates total trust that life and death belong to God. When their accounts are retold by survivors, these testimonies become spiritual seeds for other Christians. Capture becomes a statement: You can take my life, but not my loyalty to Jesus!

“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.” (Revelation 12:11)

The International Defense Force (IDF) wages a deadly game of cat and mouse in its hunt to eliminate those that the supreme leader brands as

terrorists. Many are caught and publicly executed to deter further resistance.

“...and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands...” (Revelation 20:4b)

*You can take my life, but
not my loyalty to Jesus!*

For the Christians baptized in the Holy Spirit, the Word of Knowledge becomes indispensable in avoiding the nefarious efforts of the IDF who come perilously close to catching them in attempt after attempt. The Holy Spirit is their best friend, telling them when to move and He reveals infiltrating spies sent by the World Federation. The bands of Christians shift around as needed and God is faithful in the midst of the chaos to continually provide for their needs.

“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.” (Hebrews 13:8)

Just like the Hebrews that left Egypt thousands of years earlier who were supported with manna and water for decades, the Christians thrive in the rural and wilderness areas, setting up camps in the jungles, and any place deemed too difficult to live by the World Federation. God is faithful as food and water is supplied supernaturally. Their little ones grow up, raised in the knowledge that God is their source. The Book of Acts comes alive as they pray for the sick, cast out demons, and are protected from venomous snakes and wild animals. They read their Bibles and eagerly await the second coming of Jesus.

DURATION OF THE ANTICHRIST

Some 30 years have passed since World War III and the formation of a new world order. There is immense prosperity for the citizens of the World Federation. The Christians who took the biometric implant don't have any regrets about their decision because their lives have flourished serving the supreme leader and Lucifer. They mistakenly equate prosperity with God's approval.

The Christians living as outcasts wonder how long it will be until Jesus acts. Why is the Antichrist being permitted to reign for such a long time? Why is evil being allowed to triumph? When will Jesus return for His people? When is the Great Tribulation going to begin? These questions express a sincere struggle to understand God's prophetic timeline and reflect a desire for transparency about the unfolding end time events, the beginning of the Great Tribulation, and the purpose behind God's allowance of such dark and difficult days.

The citizens of the World Federation feel that the supreme leader is the greatest thing that happened to the human race. Under his leadership, the world has been rebuilt following the horrific nuclear war, and everyone is prospering. No one is homeless or hungry, crime is non-existent, and medical breakthroughs have eliminated most ailments. Life is truly good on earth.

Humanity measures time in hours, days, and years, but God does not view time as we do. God is not linear; He is not bound by our clocks or calendars. His timing is perfect, even when it seems slow. How long is the Antichrist going to reign? This is a burning question that every Christian seems to be asking and the Bible's cryptic answer seems to lack sufficient clarity.

“And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive

power as kings one hour with the beast.”

(Revelation 17:12)

Jesus' revelation that the Antichrist is going to rule the world for one hour seems rather anti-climactic because of the short time span. What can be accomplished in a single hour? An hour is certainly enough time to transform a situation, start a new project, or have a conversation. But to rule the world? There simply isn't enough time. The supreme leader's rise to power was not something that did unfold in an hour, let alone provide enough time to rule satisfactorily and set in motion the events that have taken place thus far.

Given the extensive timespan of the supreme leader's reign of power, the exiled Christians continue to search the scriptures to resolve the matter because it is clear that the traditional understanding of seven years or three and a half years are both inaccurate given the fact that thirty years have come and gone since the Man of Sin rose to power. No one can establish world domination, much less rule the earth during a single literal hour. There simply isn't enough time. What is the explanation? The apostle Peter stated that one day in heaven is the equivalent of a thousand years on earth.

“But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.” (2 Peter 3:8)

Scripture verifies that God does not experience time the same way as mankind. The key to understanding Revelation 17:12 is realizing that John was taken to heaven where time does not operate in the same manner as earth. This principle is affirmed in Daniel's vision, where the angel used an unknown time measurement.

“And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his

*right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swear by him that liveth for ever that **it shall be for a time, times, and an half**; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.*

And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things?

And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.”

(Daniel 12:7-9)

Daniel’s words show that he did not grasp the time frame, yet the angel assured him that understanding would be revealed in the end times. That clarity was later given to the apostle Peter, serving as a fulfillment of the promise made to Daniel. One day in heaven equates to a thousand earthly years. Dividing one thousand years by twenty-four hours produces the following results:

- ❖ One hour with God corresponds to 41.67 years for mankind.
- ❖ One minute with God corresponds to 8 months and 8 days for mankind.
- ❖ One second with God corresponds to 3 days and 22 hours for mankind.

It is disheartening when the Christians discover that the supreme leader will rule the earth for 41.67 years. Thirty years having passed, it is decidedly unpleasant to realize this ungodly man will rule for yet another 11.67 years.

Coming out of Egypt long ago, the Israelites wondered how long it would take before they entered the Promised Land. They dreamed about the virtues of the fruitful land they would possess while wandering in a seemingly aimless fashion in the wilderness. In similar manner, the Christians speculate how long they will remain as exiles. The Bible is rife with judgments during the Great

Tribulation. When is the Antichrist and his World Federation going to be judged? When is Jesus returning? This last question is the most important because the Bible states the removal of the saints precedes the Great Tribulation.

“For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Thessalonians 5:9)

THE CATCHING AWAY

The catching away, often called the rapture, refers to an event when Christians are suddenly taken up from the earth to meet Jesus in the air. The word rapture itself comes from the Latin *rapturo*, which translates the Greek term *harpazō*, meaning to snatch, seize, or catch up suddenly.

“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: 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.” (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)

The catching away features several steps:

1. The Son of God descends from heaven.
2. The dead believers are raised first.
3. Living believers are instantly transformed and caught up.
4. Both groups meet Jesus in the air.

What is the purpose of the catching away? To deliver the Christians alive on earth from the coming judgment on the Antichrist system.

“Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.” (Revelation 3:10)

To unite believers – living and dead – and fulfill Jesus' promise not to abandon the church and to bring born again believers to Himself.

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” (John 14:3)

The dead in Christ rise first in glorified bodies, then the living receive new immortal bodies that are immune to sin and incorruptible.

“Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

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

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.” (1 Corinthians 15:51-53)

A single line of light appears, thin as a thread, but brighter than lightning, stretching from horizon to horizon. It ripples, expands, and breaks open like a curtain being torn from top to bottom. Just like the Bible predicts, the catching away happens quickly and without warning. The armada of spaceships do not descend, but simply appear as though reality itself has parted to reveal something that has been present all along. Vessels of impossible beauty hover in high orbit, glimmering like crystal cities suspended against the black void. Some shine like molten gold, others flicker like living fire, while others feature wings of light that ripple outward. So much activity surrounds them, though everything happens without a sound.

The heavens have been split open and the radiant armada of Jesus hangs in perfect formation above the earth, when a second tremor rolls through creation that is deeper, stronger, unmistakable. The light in the sky intensifies, not like sunrise,

but like a curtain of brilliance being drawn aside to reveal a greater glory behind it. Before any eye can comprehend the change, a thunderous voice tears through the silence. Michael the archangel's shout is not a cry of alarm, but a proclamation of triumph. It echoes across continents, vibrates through mountains, and pulses through every human soul. Walls cannot stop it and distance cannot diminish his voice. It is heard in deserts, cities, prisons, palaces, oceans, and wilderness alike. It is the command of God's chief warrior and his shout signals the end of the age. It is the declaration that heaven's King is about to appear.

Michael's shout signals the end of the beginning.

As Michael's voice fades, a single point of light appears at the center of the heavenly armada. It is small at first, like a star breaking into view, yet grows with unstoppable brilliance. The vessels of heaven move aside as though bowing, creating a corridor of radiant glory. The light expands, unfolding like the dawn of a new creation. And then Jesus steps forth.

The Son of God does not emerge from a ship – He outshines them. His appearance is brighter than all the armada combined, as though every vessel merely reflects a fraction of His radiance. His eyes blaze like fire. His face shines as the sun. His robe glimmers with purity beyond earthly white. Upon His head rests many crowns signifying authority unmatched, unquestioned, and eternal. The heavens respond to Him and the armada adjusts in perfect formation around Him. The light of every heavenly vessel bends toward Him like worship. This is not a silent arrival. This is the moment when heaven itself announces: “The King is here!”

And then comes a trumpet blast, pure and commanding, rolling through the atmosphere like the voice of eternity itself. It vibrates through every barrier so that every person hears it. Every Christian recognizes it instantly. Every citizen of the World Federation hears it with trepidation. Every human – citizen and exile – knows instantly that no government, power, or deception can withstand what is unfolding.

The second coming of Jesus is every bit as glorious as people have dreamed. It is visible and powerful as the Groom has come for beloved His bride. Excitement spreads across the earth as Christians realize the appointed time has finally arrived. The glory of Jesus is on display for all to see and there is nothing that Lucifer and the supreme leader can do about it. The Groom has come to whisk His bride away before divine wrath is poured out upon the earth.

As the shout of Michael and the trumpet call fades across the earth, the ground itself begins to respond. The satellites orbiting the earth reveal all kinds of unusual activity on the planet's surface – even among the polluted areas left uninhabitable from the nuclear munitions of World War 3. Graveyards suddenly come alive with motion. This is not like the shattering of tombs in a horror movie. There is no chaos, violence, or fear. Instead, graves open as though unlocked from within by an unseen hand. Dust stirs, stones shift, and the soil loosens in gentle waves as believers from every era rise in glorified perfection. Their resurrected bodies shimmer with a purity that earthly flesh could never possess. They rise with purpose, lifted by divine power, ascending toward the Redeemer they love. The soul and spirit of each man and woman that have come from heaven with Jesus are united with the newly formed incorruptible body. The reunion of the body, soul, and spirit

makes them triune again as they float in the sky with Jesus, whole once again, waiting for the next phase to begin.

Men like Noah, Abraham, Job, Moses, Isaiah, and Daniel lived and died before the Redeemer arrived. Their faith in the Messiah ensured they went to paradise when they died.

Prior to the resurrection of Jesus, those who died, lost their physical bodies and were taken to paradise or hell, both of which are located in the earth. The spirit realm operates as a parallel dimension. The souls in paradise could see into hell and vice versa, but they were separated by an impassable chasm or ravine.¹

Jesus emphasized that God the Father is God of the living – whether physically on earth or with their souls in paradise/hell. He is not the God of the dead. There are no dead humans, only dead bodies.²

Paradise was a very pleasant place where people waited – up to 4,000 years – for the Messiah to be incarnated and perform His redemptive work. Only then could they move on to heaven.

The day arrived when Jesus completed His forty days with the disciples and each person in paradise finally ascended to heaven with their soul and spirit.³

This is the purpose of having the dead in Christ rise first – to merge the soul and spirit with the resurrected physical body.

Across the world, Christians feel a change begin within them. It is not a process, but a moment. A holy metamorphosis. One heartbeat they are mortal; the next heartbeat they are not. Pain dissolves. Disease vanishes. Age reverses. Strength floods their bodies like living light. Eyes sharpen

¹ Luke 16:19-31

² Mark 12:26-27

³ Ephesians 4:8-10

with clarity they've never known. Hearts beat with perfect rhythm. There is no fear. Their earthly bodies are changed into glorified, incorruptible forms which have not been copied or replaced, but completely transformed in the twinkling of an eye. They are the same person. They possess the same identity. They have the same soul and spirit. The only difference is that they are now completely perfected. They look upward instinctively, their spirits drawn like metal to a magnet. Every redeemed believer knows what is happening without a word being spoken.

*Jesus has come for His
bride. This is the moment
we have waited for!*

When the dead have risen and the living have been transformed, a great gathering begins that is effortless, beautiful, and unstoppable. It is not chaotic, violent, or frightening. It is like the upward drift of glowing embers in a night breeze, except in this case, each ember is a redeemed soul clothed in glory. They rise from every place on earth. They ascend with joy, lifted by the same divine power that raised Jesus from the dead. No force on earth can hinder their ascent, not even gravity or the orders of the supreme leader.

The redeemed are pulled steadily upward toward the radiant King, drawn into the formation of the heavenly armada. They are not scattered, but united in the presence of Jesus. Every believer from every age coming together at once to finally see the fulfillment of the promise to "ever be with the Lord." As they rise, the earth becomes smaller and the glory ahead grows brighter. Voices join in praise. Tears fall in pure joy from the Christians who have been transformed. Sorrow dissolves as they realize the earthly struggle was worth it. Fear disappears because the love of God cancels it out.

Every believer – new and old – has their eyes fixed on the Son of God.

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

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:

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. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." (1 Thessalonians 4:14-18)

The arrival of the saints in heaven is a scene overflowing with joy, wonder, and excitement. Those alive and those who have already gone before come together in a moment that erases centuries, distances, and the separation caused by death. The newly transformed believers caught up by Jesus are reunited with loved ones who already passed into glory, their faces radiant, their bodies transformed, filled with a joy no earthly experience has ever matched.

Potential tears of grief are replaced with shouts of praise as families, friends, and fellow believers embrace outside the shadow of sin and all that it entails. Every saint rejoices in seeing loved ones again, but also in seeing each person whole, healed, and glorified. Gone is the frailty, sickness, and pain. It is a great cloud of witnesses testifying to the power of God. In that vast company, the redeemed stand side by side, united by the blood of Christ and the fulfillment of His promise!

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” (John 14:3)

Everyone looks with awe as they stand in the presence of the Creator and Redeemer. The Son of God has brought them home just as He promised. Their joy is not merely the joy of reunion with loved ones, but the delight beholding and being the presence of the Savior who has made this magnificent reunion possible. The hope that once lay in the future now stands fulfilled. The longing for heaven that ached in the soul has blossomed into celebration. It is the moment when faith becomes sight, when separation becomes reunion, and when the family of God stands together in the presence of Jesus – the Lamb of God – who has made it possible.

“After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.” (Revelation 7:9-12)

REACTION TO THE RAPTURE

The autocratic régime of the supreme leader is thrown into immediate crisis. The sudden disappearance of so many dissidents creates a confusing situation, but also offers a golden opportunity. To preserve control, the government moves swiftly to seize the narrative. The supreme

leader announces that a global phenomenon is responsible for the vanishing. He offers no explanation because it is impossible to deny the loss of so many people – even if they are terrorists. Despite the immediate clarification, there are many conspiracy theories to explain the disappearance of so many people. Some think it was a mass abduction by the International Defense Force (IDF), others an unexplained energy surge, while some believe it was some kind of cosmic event. The false prophet sticks to the narrative, refusing to lend any credit to it being a divine event, and credible talking heads are paraded on television to parrot the official explanation. Any attempt to frame the global phenomenon as the fabled rapture of the Bible is instantly labeled extremist propaganda, misinformation, and a threat to global stability.

When the majority of the dissenters suddenly disappear from the surveillance net, the members of the IDF are confounded and the rest of the world begins to take an acute interest in the rejects of society due in part to the hushed whispers of the former Christians. These accursed men and women with the biometric mark of loyalty stoke the rapture story with their conversations. The supreme leader uses the crisis to tighten his grip; emergency powers are enacted, surveillance is increased, and new draconian laws are passed “for the safety of the population.” Citizens are urged to unite behind the supreme leader and anyone caught spreading extremist propaganda is arrested and executed.

The false prophet claims the vanishings were caused by those who resisted global unity to create justification for further persecution. The supreme leader presents himself as the one capable of restoring order. His message is simple. “I can protect you. I can explain this. Trust me.” Meanwhile, he uses the crisis to gain absolute loyalty as the false prophet employs Luciferic signs, lying wonders, and supernatural

manifestations to validate the claims of the supreme leader and calm the rising panic. The fear among the citizens of the World Federation becomes the foundation from which strong delusion grows.

“And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:” (2 Thessalonians 2:11)

People cling to the supreme leader’s narrative, no matter how absurd, because fear makes lies comforting and the truth terrifying. The supreme leader’s words become unquestioned. His claims become “science.” His denials become “fact.” The delusion matures into devotion. The supreme leader, once viewed as just a political leader, reinforces his image as humanity’s savior, protector, and divine figure. People worship him passionately. Anyone who dares to speak truth becomes the enemy and the delusion grows into a violent hatred of anything connected to God. Lies become “revelation,” and deception becomes “enlightenment.” Humanity accepts one truth: the supreme leader is right, and anyone who opposes him is a threat. The delusion develops into total spiritual blindness as the undeniable act of God only serves to provoke deeper rebellion.