Have at it Satan!

Good morning Seekers! I wanted to start this morning by giving you a real quick synopsis of last weeks message, and take just a few moments giving you the link between the title “**The Comedy of the Cross**”, and the study material.

It was simply this… Christians have chosen to celebrate Resurrection Day, the rising of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, after being massacred by Satan’s emissaries, in concert with the Satanically based, and ancient secular Holiday of Easter. We looked at the roots of all of the traditions…the bunnies, the eggs, the pretty dresses, and the family time around a great meal of ham, and all the fixins; and compared it to the painful, and gruesome life that our Lord had to live, in order that we may be saved.

We examined each painful step of Jesus trek to fulfill His Godly calling; and decided that our focus, and our family’s focus should be mainly upon remembering His sacrifice, and not all of the foolishness, of this Pagan tradition. We read multiple Scripture, which showed the rebellion, and utter disrespect, that those of Jesus day, heaped upon Him.

My point of using the title “**The Comedy of the Cross**” was just this. If we choose to adopt the Godly lifestyle that Jesus, and Paul, and so many others who paved the Christian way for us, modeled; we also will be seen as foolish, and humorous by the world. We will become the laughing stock. We will also be shown total disrespect; and as the world continues to deteriorate morally, we could be jailed, or killed, for our stand. We will be “laughed to scorn” as they did with Jesus. You will become a joke to your friends, family, and co-workers; whether they express it openly, or not…you will be!

**1 Corinthians 1**

18For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. [**19**](http://biblehub.com/1_corinthians/1-19.htm)For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”[***c***](http://biblehub.com/niv/1_corinthians/1.htm#footnotes)[**20**](http://biblehub.com/1_corinthians/1-20.htm)Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? [**21**](http://biblehub.com/1_corinthians/1-21.htm)For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. [**22**](http://biblehub.com/1_corinthians/1-22.htm)Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, [**23**](http://biblehub.com/1_corinthians/1-23.htm)but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, [**24**](http://biblehub.com/1_corinthians/1-24.htm)but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. [**25**](http://biblehub.com/1_corinthians/1-25.htm)For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

My question… **[Q]** Are you game, or will you choose to just keep on “celebrating Easter” (I mean that in the broadest sense, of your total lifestyle) with the enemies of the Cross? Next question…**[Q]** Can you think of anyone who thinks you’re a fool, because of Him?

We can continue to blindly follow the easy path, and Satan’s religious smokescreens, and distractions, or get very serious about the mission He has entrusted us with, and tell the world. Our results will be the same as Jesus’, and Paul’s.

**[Q]** Will we be popular? (Absolutely not) **[Q]** Will we be blessed for doing so? (Absolutely)

OK…let’s get to this morning’s message. We are going to totally shift gears. We are currently living in the last of the last days…especially for those who are Gentiles (anyone other than a Jew). The last phase of God’s amazingly intricate plan to draw the world to Himself, is about to unfold; and most people we know, are totally oblivious to the dangers that lie at their doorstep, as they get out of their beds this morning; and attempt to navigate an increasingly dangerous, and deteriorating world scene.

The title of this morning’s message is “**Have at it Satan!**” I am going to make you aware of a total shift in God’s focus, as He wraps up the 7000 year plan of man; and brings the utter contempt of this world, and its far-reaching hatred for Him to a screeching halt. I don’t know about you, but I am sick of Him being maligned. I am sick to death of smart-alleck, and disrespectful, men using His name as a profanity! **[Q]** What is His next move?

God gave us a sneak peak, in approximately 165 B.C., through a vision, and prophecy given to a Godly man named Daniel. He was one of the captives taken after Jerusalem was defeated, and ransacked, during the reign of King Nebuchadnezzar. He was taken back to Babylon, and through many trials, and God’s providence, became one of the top leaders of that nation, and a trusted confidant of King Nebuchadnezzar himself. Let’s read that vision, and see if we can determine how it applies to you and I in 2017…

**Daniel 9**

1In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes[***a***](http://biblehub.com/niv/daniel/9.htm#footnotes) (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian[***b***](http://biblehub.com/niv/daniel/9.htm#footnotes) kingdom— [**2**](http://biblehub.com/daniel/9-2.htm)in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the Lord given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. [**3**](http://biblehub.com/daniel/9-3.htm)So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes. [**4**](http://biblehub.com/daniel/9-4.htm)I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed: “Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, [**5**](http://biblehub.com/daniel/9-5.htm)we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws. [**6**](http://biblehub.com/daniel/9-6.htm)We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes and our ancestors, and to all the people of the land.

[**7**](http://biblehub.com/daniel/9-7.htm)“Lord, you are righteous, but this day we are covered with shame—the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, both near and far, in all the countries where you have scattered us because of our unfaithfulness to you. [**8**](http://biblehub.com/daniel/9-8.htm)We and our kings, our princes and our ancestors are covered with shame, Lord, because we have sinned against you. [**9**](http://biblehub.com/daniel/9-9.htm)The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him; [**10**](http://biblehub.com/daniel/9-10.htm)we have not obeyed the Lord our God or kept the laws he gave us through his servants the prophets. [**11**](http://biblehub.com/daniel/9-11.htm)All Israel has transgressed your law and turned away, refusing to obey you.

“Therefore the curses and sworn judgments written in the Law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against you. [**12**](http://biblehub.com/daniel/9-12.htm)You have fulfilled the words spoken against us and against our rulers by bringing on us great disaster. Under the whole heaven nothing has ever been done like what has been done to Jerusalem. [**13**](http://biblehub.com/daniel/9-13.htm)Just as it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come on us, yet we have not sought the favor of the Lord our God by turning from our sins and giving attention to your truth. [**14**](http://biblehub.com/daniel/9-14.htm)The Lord did not hesitate to bring the disaster on us, for the Lord our God is righteous in everything he does; yet we have not obeyed him.

[**15**](http://biblehub.com/daniel/9-15.htm)“Now, Lord our God, who brought your people out of Egypt with a mighty hand and who made for yourself a name that endures to this day, we have sinned, we have done wrong. [**16**](http://biblehub.com/daniel/9-16.htm)Lord, in keeping with all your righteous acts, turn away your anger and your wrath from Jerusalem, your city, your holy hill. Our sins and the iniquities of our ancestors have made Jerusalem and your people an object of scorn to all those around us.

[**17**](http://biblehub.com/daniel/9-17.htm)“Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, Lord, look with favor on your desolate sanctuary. [**18**](http://biblehub.com/daniel/9-18.htm)Give ear, our God, and hear; open your eyes and see the desolation of the city that bears your Name. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. [**19**](http://biblehub.com/daniel/9-19.htm)Lord, listen! Lord, forgive! Lord, hear and act! For your sake, my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name.” *(This should be each of our prayers, individually)*

**The Seventy “Sevens”**

[**20**](http://biblehub.com/daniel/9-20.htm)While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the Lord my God for his holy hill— [**21**](http://biblehub.com/daniel/9-21.htm)while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice. [**22**](http://biblehub.com/daniel/9-22.htm)He instructed me and said to me, “Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding. [**23**](http://biblehub.com/daniel/9-23.htm)As soon as you began to pray, a word went out, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed. Therefore, consider the word and understand the vision: ”[***l***](http://biblehub.com/niv/daniel/9.htm#footnotes)*{****Keep your finger here****}*

What we have just read is just one of many “PROPHECIES”, that God has given to mankind, so they can have some idea of how His plan will continue to fold out unto the end. **[Q]** What is prophecy? A foretelling; prediction; a declaration of something to come. As God only knows future events with certainty, no being but God or some person informed by him, can utter a real prophecy. The prophecies recorded in Scripture, when fulfilled, afford most convincing evidence of the divine original of the Scriptures, as those who uttered the prophecies could not have foreknown the events predicted without supernatural instruction.

**[Q]** Has God given us glimpses of what is yet to come, through Godly men of old; and have they proven to be true, time after time, after time? (100%)

**[Q]** Are there false prophets out there, who will tell you what they say is going to happen, but then never materializes? (Absolutely) Listen to what Jesus Himself said…

**Matthew 24**

24For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. [**25**](http://biblehub.com/matthew/24-25.htm)See, I have told you ahead of time.

**Matthew 7**

15“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. [**16**](http://biblehub.com/matthew/7-16.htm)By their fruit you will recognize them.

Let’s look at just a couple of them. These are prophecies from Religious leaders…notice, I didn’t say “Christian leaders”.

Let’s see what Joseph Smith, the founder of the Mormon movement prophesied…

He stated on Sept. 22, 1833 that God told him that the Temple of the New Jerusalem shall be built upon their lot in Western Missouri. **[Q]** What happened? (He got run out of Missouri on a rail…still no temple in Missouri)

He also prophesied in 1835 that the Lord would return in 56 years…NADA!!!!

I like this one…"The inhabitants of the moon are more of a uniform size than the
inhabitants of the earth, being six feet in height. They dress very much
like the Quaker style and are quite general in style or fashion of
dress. They live to be very old; coming generally near a thousand years.
This is the description of them as given by Joseph [Smith] the Seer, and
he could see whatever he asked the Father in the name of Jesus to see" -

He received his prophecies from the Lord by putting his head inside a top-hat, and meditating.

**[Q]** How about the undisputed world champions of false prophecy…the Jehovah Witnesses? Charles Taze Russell, their founder… prophesied in 1880 that the Time of the Gentiles would be over in 1914, and God would set up His universal Kingdom on Earth. WHOOPS!!! When that passed, they then said God told them that it would be 1925, for the fall of Satan’s empire.

Muhammed, Ellen White (Founder of 7th Day Adventism), Oral Roberts, and so many others have uttered false prophecies, and by Old Testament Bible law, should have been killed for doing so.

Enough of that…My point is this: The prophesies that come directly from the Living God, through His true Prophets, NEVER fail. They just keep being fulfilled, to this very day.

Jesus, Himself, is the very best illustration of Bible prophecy being fulfilled. The Prophet Micah predicted the city He would be born in 700 years prior to His birth; and was 100% correct.

There were well over 300 Old Testament prophecies fulfilled by Jesus. A very intelligent mathematician figured that with just 8 of those prophecies being fulfilled exactly, the probability of those 8 happening would be the same as spreading silver dollars two feet deep over the complete State of Texas…put a red X on just one of them…Blindfold a man, and tell him to go anywhere he wishes in Texas, and somehow pick up that marked silver dollar. The chances are the same as for just 8 prophecies to be fulfilled.

Probably one of the greatest modern-day prophecies to be fulfilled happened on May 14, 1948 when Israel, was reinstated as a nation, in one day, just as was prophesied. The prophets Amos, Ezekiel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Moses all prophesied that Israel would be reinstated as a nation at some future point; and beyond that NEVER to be rooted out of it again. No one thought that would ever happen again, after being out of their homeland for 1878 years.

Naysayers had a field day with that one…that is up until May 14, 1948.

Now, let’s look at the prophecy which we read in the Book of Daniel quickly, and I will see if I can help you put it into perspective…

The first 17 verses were an amazing example of how a person, who is front-row serious about their Faith, should be repenting, and not only themselves, but for their country. This was a very humbling, and heart-felt prayer. Daniel had a heavy burden for seeing his Jewish brothers and sisters set free from bondage…even though it was their own doing….they had it coming. The prophecy we will look at starts immediately after this prayer…

**Daniel 9**

**24**“Seventy ‘sevens’***[c](http://biblehub.com/niv/daniel/9.htm%22%20%5Cl%20%22footnotes%22%20%5Co%20%22Or%20%27weeks%27; also in verses 25 and 26)*** are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish[***d***](http://biblehub.com/niv/daniel/9.htm#footnotes) transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place.[***e***](http://biblehub.com/niv/daniel/9.htm#footnotes)

Here is what this prophecy says will happen someday very soon…It revolves around the nation Israel, and the Holy City of Jerusalem, and 70 weeks of years (called Heptads/7 of something)…or 490 years for the completion of the plan of mankind. Basically God is telling Daniel that he will put an end to all sin…give the transgressors what they deserve …and bring everlasting peace to this war-torn world. Prophecy, and visions, will no longer be needed; and Jerusalem will become the Holy City, it was meant to be, once again.

He even goes into further detail, to make it more understandable…

 25“Know and understand this: From the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One,[***f***](http://biblehub.com/niv/daniel/9.htm#footnotes) the ruler, comes, there will be seven ‘sevens,’ and sixty-two ‘sevens.’ It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble.

[**26**](http://biblehub.com/daniel/9-26.htm)After the sixty-two ‘sevens,’ the Anointed One will be put to death and will have nothing.[***g***](http://biblehub.com/niv/daniel/9.htm#footnotes) The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. [**27**](http://biblehub.com/daniel/9-27.htm)He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’[***h***](http://biblehub.com/niv/daniel/9.htm#footnotes) In the middle of the ‘seven’[***i***](http://biblehub.com/niv/daniel/9.htm#footnotes) he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple[***j***](http://biblehub.com/niv/daniel/9.htm#footnotes)***,***he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.

Let me explain this now for you… 70 weeks of years, or 7 X 70 (490 years) 7 sevens + 62 sevens= 69 sevens. This totals 483 Jewish years, or 173,880 days, which will begin with a decree to restore, and rebuild Jerusalem, which was in ruins. God used a man named Nehemiah, who was a cupbearer for King Artaxerxes of Persia, and because of an amazing set of circumstances, the King agreed to give Nehemiah all he needed to rebuild Jerusalem. Nehemiah did so. The decree was issued on March 14th, 445 B.C. which started the Jewish prophetic stopwatch going on the Seventy Weeks of Jewish Years. What we also have to know is that the Jewish lunar calendar was 360 days, not 365 like our Julian calendars of today.

If you count forward 173,880 days, you will find that it ends up on April 6th, 32 A.D., which is the very day that Jesus triumphantly rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, and was crucified (or cut off, as the prophecy states). The prophetic stopwatch then stops on 483 (picture a stopwatch that has 490 marks on it). It stopped 7 years, or 1 week of years short of being completed.

It then tells us that the city (Jerusalem) will be destroyed, which happened in 70 A.D.; and war with the Jews begins, and never stops; as we still see today.

Next, we learn that there will be someone who confirms a covenant (peace treaty) for 7 years with the Jews, but breaks it half way through, or 3 ½ years later. The Bible calls him the Anti-Christ (Satan in a man’s body). He stops the Jews from making sacrifices (in their new temple), and sets up his own throne in the Holy of Holies. Finally it says the end will come, and God will pour out His wrath upon him.

Other prophecies fill in many of the in-between details. Jesus speaks of this event called the “Abomination of Desolation”, and tells the Jews to run for their lives, and don’t come back until He has defeated the Anti-Christ, and his allies.

So, in a nutshell, here is what is about to happen. Remember…the Jewish Prophetic Stopwatch, stopped after 483 ticks (years) in 32 A.D., and there are 7 ticks left. Those final seven are the period the Bible refers to as the Tribulation Period.

**[Q]** What has happened between the cutting off of the Messiah, which stopped the stop-watch, and when this last 7 years begins? We have had almost 2000 years of what is referred to as the “Gentile Age”. God’s focus has been on saving the Gentile population, but whenever the Anti-Christ signs this pseudo peace treaty between the world and Israel, God will hit the button, and the Jewish Prophetic clock starts once again, and His focus returns to the Jewish nation. The clock will tick 7 more times (years), before everything comes to an end, at the end of the Tribulation Period, and Jesus descends from the clouds to defeat the Anti-Christ, and his vast armies.

So, some of you, who are new to Christianity, may be setting here this morning wondering what all of this looks like, and where it fits into our day. You may also wonder what any of it has to do with you personally. You will not believe how very important this is to you, considering where you currently stand with Christ. Trust me…it has EVERYTHING to do with you!

**[Q]** What is the next big thing to happen on the Gentile Prophetic Clock? (One of two things. Either we will see a coalition of forces sneak attack Israel, and be defeated on her mountains; OR the rapture of the church will take place, and the stage will be set for the final 7 year Tribulation Period. I am not sure if we will see the war, or it will come after Rapture)

Let’s look at both very quickly; just so you know I am not making this stuff up. FIRST, the Rapture of the Church…

**1 Thessalonians 4**

13Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. [**14**](http://biblehub.com/1_thessalonians/4-14.htm)For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. [**15**](http://biblehub.com/1_thessalonians/4-15.htm)According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. [**16**](http://biblehub.com/1_thessalonians/4-16.htm)For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. [**17**](http://biblehub.com/1_thessalonians/4-17.htm)After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. [**18**](http://biblehub.com/1_thessalonians/4-18.htm)Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Now for the war that will be coming to Israel very shortly…

**Ezekiel 38**

1The word of the Lord came to me: [**2**](http://biblehub.com/ezekiel/38-2.htm)“Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of[***a***](http://biblehub.com/niv/ezekiel/38.htm#footnotes) Meshek and Tubal; prophesy against him [**3**](http://biblehub.com/ezekiel/38-3.htm)and say: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I am against you, Gog, chief prince of[***b***](http://biblehub.com/niv/ezekiel/38.htm#footnotes) Meshek and Tubal. [**4**](http://biblehub.com/ezekiel/38-4.htm)I will turn you around, put hooks in your jaws and bring you out with your whole army—your horses, your horsemen fully armed, and a great horde with large and small shields, all of them brandishing their swords. [**5**](http://biblehub.com/ezekiel/38-5.htm)Persia, Cush[***c***](http://biblehub.com/niv/ezekiel/38.htm#footnotes) and Put will be with them, all with shields and helmets, [**6**](http://biblehub.com/ezekiel/38-6.htm)also Gomer with all its troops, and Beth Togarmah from the far north with all its troops—the many nations with you.

7“ ‘Get ready; be prepared, you and all the hordes gathered about you, and take command of them. [**8**](http://biblehub.com/ezekiel/38-8.htm)After many days you will be called to arms. In future years you will invade a land that has recovered from war, whose people were gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate. They had been brought out from the nations, and now all of them live in safety. [**9**](http://biblehub.com/ezekiel/38-9.htm)You and all your troops and the many nations with you will go up, advancing like a storm; you will be like a cloud covering the land.

[**10**](http://biblehub.com/ezekiel/38-10.htm)“ ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: On that day thoughts will come into your mind and you will devise an evil scheme. [**11**](http://biblehub.com/ezekiel/38-11.htm)You will say, “I will invade a land of unwalled villages; I will attack a peaceful and unsuspecting people—all of them living without walls and without gates and bars. [**12**](http://biblehub.com/ezekiel/38-12.htm)I will plunder and loot and turn my hand against the resettled ruins and the people gathered from the nations, rich in livestock and goods, living at the center of the land.[***d***](http://biblehub.com/niv/ezekiel/38.htm#footnotes) ” [**13**](http://biblehub.com/ezekiel/38-13.htm)Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish and all her villages[***e***](http://biblehub.com/niv/ezekiel/38.htm#footnotes) will say to you, “Have you come to plunder? Have you gathered your hordes to loot, to carry off silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods and to seize much plunder?” ’

[**14**](http://biblehub.com/ezekiel/38-14.htm)“Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say to Gog: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: In that day, when my people Israel are living in safety, will you not take notice of it? [**15**](http://biblehub.com/ezekiel/38-15.htm)You will come from your place in the far north, you and many nations with you, all of them riding on horses, a great horde, a mighty army. [**16**](http://biblehub.com/ezekiel/38-16.htm)You will advance against my people Israel like a cloud that covers the land. In days to come, Gog, I will bring you against my land, so that the nations may know me when I am proved holy through you before their eyes.

[**17**](http://biblehub.com/ezekiel/38-17.htm)“ ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: You are the one I spoke of in former days by my servants the prophets of Israel. At that time they prophesied for years that I would bring you against them. [**18**](http://biblehub.com/ezekiel/38-18.htm)This is what will happen in that day: When Gog attacks the land of Israel, my hot anger will be aroused, declares the Sovereign Lord. [**19**](http://biblehub.com/ezekiel/38-19.htm)In my zeal and fiery wrath I declare that at that time there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel. [**20**](http://biblehub.com/ezekiel/38-20.htm)The fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the beasts of the field, every creature that moves along the ground, and all the people on the face of the earth will tremble at my presence. The mountains will be overturned, the cliffs will crumble and every wall will fall to the ground. [**21**](http://biblehub.com/ezekiel/38-21.htm)I will summon a sword against Gog on all my mountains, declares the Sovereign Lord. Every man’s sword will be against his brother. [**22**](http://biblehub.com/ezekiel/38-22.htm)I will execute judgment on him with plague and bloodshed; I will pour down torrents of rain, hailstones and burning sulfur on him and on his troops and on the many nations with him. [**23**](http://biblehub.com/ezekiel/38-23.htm)And so I will show my greatness and my holiness, and I will make myself known in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the Lord.’

This is going to be a bloodbath of all nations represented. You will have no more need to worry about ISIS. They will be history. **[Q]** Who are these nations Ezekiel calls out in Verses 1-6? **Gog & Magog** (Russia); **Persia** (Iran): **Cush** (Southern Egypt/Northern Africa); **Put** (Libya); **Gomer** (Germany); **Beth Togarmah** (Turkey). These are the leaders, but it says there will be other nations with them also…my guess is Iraq & Syria.

**[Q]** What happens to them? (5/6 of them get wiped out; and God also does damage in each country represented in attacking His people) You can find this by reading further in Ezekiel 38, and into 39. The King James tells you that a 1/6 part of this force is left.

This will be devastating to the world; and I believe it sets the stage for the Anti-Christ to make his appearance, and create a peace treaty with Israel, and her enemies.

 THIS is REAL God-breathed prophecy, and just as every other bit of prophecy that has been recorded in His 100% perfect book, it WILL happen; and I believe we are right on the cutting edge of seeing it. So the next question has to be this…

**[Q]** What does it have to do with everyone sitting in this sanctuary today, and how important is it to us? (Extremely)

You have to understand much more Scripture, and further prophecy, than what we have just read to get the full picture; but let me put it in a nutshell for you. If the Rapture of the Church comes first…depending upon your status with the Lord Jesus Christ, here are one of two scenarios for you.

Understand, that the Lord is now done focusing upon the Gentiles; and His focus moves to the final act of human history, and it revolves around His people, the Jews. That does not mean that there won’t be Gentiles saved during the Tribulation Period, but it does mean that it will be much harder, and will be full of tremendous struggle, and pain. The Bible tells us that these will be the worst years this world has ever seen.

Let’s just take for granted that the Rapture takes place a **12:00 Noon today**. Here are the two scenarios… **#1**- You will be whisked away, off of this earth, in the twinkling of an eye, to meet Jesus in the clouds, and forevermore be with Him. THAT is an amazing consequence, and one every one of us sitting here wants for ourselves, our children, grand-children, extended family, friends, and co-workers.

**[Q]** What is the other option? (If you don’t truly have a personal relationship with Jesus, you will be looking at 7 more years, on this Earth, which the Bible calls the Tribulation, and Great Tribulation Period. You will have a 7 in 10 chance of not living through the complete 7 years. Here is what Jesus said about this period…

**Matthew 24**

22“If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.

You may be one who has yet to make the decision to repent of your sins, and ask God’s forgiveness. You may have every intention of becoming a Christian someday in the future; but good intentions will not get anyone into Heaven. You may see all of the benefits of doing so, but the earthly consequences for doing so, are holding you back. You may be thinking…”OK, I get it, and realize that it will be really hard on me, but I am going to keep on living life as I always have, and if I see the Rapture take place, I will then jump on board, and just tough it out.

Unfortunately, many think that way, but even more unfortunately, they only think that way because no one has ever taught them the Truth of God’s Word concerning that dangerous decision. It is not just dangerous…it is DEADLY…ETERNALLY DEADLY!!!

Let me show you why… In Paul’s day, there were professing believers who had been lied to, and told that they had missed the Rapture. They were alarmed, and disheartened greatly. Paul reasons with them, and reminds them of what he had taught them earlier.

**2 Thessalonians 2**

1Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, [**2**](http://biblehub.com/2_thessalonians/2-2.htm)not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come.

[**3**](http://biblehub.com/2_thessalonians/2-3.htm)Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness[***a***](http://biblehub.com/niv/2_thessalonians/2.htm#footnotes) is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. [**4**](http://biblehub.com/2_thessalonians/2-4.htm)He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

[**5**](http://biblehub.com/2_thessalonians/2-5.htm)Don’t you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? [**6**](http://biblehub.com/2_thessalonians/2-6.htm)And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. [**7**](http://biblehub.com/2_thessalonians/2-7.htm)For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. [**8**](http://biblehub.com/2_thessalonians/2-8.htm)And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. [**9**](http://biblehub.com/2_thessalonians/2-9.htm)The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, [**10**](http://biblehub.com/2_thessalonians/2-10.htm)and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. [**11**](http://biblehub.com/2_thessalonians/2-11.htm)For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie [**12**](http://biblehub.com/2_thessalonians/2-12.htm)and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

Let me make this as plain as I possibly can for you; for this purpose…you need to understand that you, nor anyone one else, will have **NO SECOND CHANCE**, after the Rapture of the true Church, to make the decision to follow Christ. Let me prove it…

Here is the synopsis of what Paul just told the Thessalonicans must happen…

* Satan’s final rebellion will begin with the entrance of the Anti-Christ (Satan in a man’s body)…not just demon possessed, but actually Satan possessed.
* ½ way through the Tribulation, he will set himself up in the Third Temple, as God
* The Holy Spirit is currently holding Satan back from making this entrance, and he cannot do so until the Holy Spirit is removed from Earth
* He will splendidly be overthrown at the end of this 7 year Tribulation Period by no other than Jesus Himself, who Satan thought he had killed
* Throughout the 7 year period, the Anti-Christ will be working unbelievable miracles, further convincing everyone on Earth, that he is God
* These people who follow him, and are deceived by him, will all perish for eternity in the Eternal Lake of Fire
* Why will they perish? (They rejected the Gospel message when they had the chance, and chose to continue to follow Satan)
* They perished for one reason…because they didn’t believe the REAL Truth.

Let me make it very plain. For every person on Earth, who had heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and did not believe it…when the Rapture takes place, they will not be taken. It does not matter whether they were religious, or not…they must have been Born Again, and supernaturally transformed, as we have studied hard over the past few weeks.

**Verse 11:** God is incredibly plain in saying that He, personally, will blind their eyes, so that they cannot, and will not, be able to be saved. [Q] Why? (Because they had their chance, and blew it. They waited too long. When convicted, they put it off, and said they would do it “someday”. Someday never came…but Rapture did…their loss; and OH WHAT A LOSS!!!

**[Q]** Is this fair? (Absolutely) Jesus said this…

**Matthew 24**

36“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son,[***f***](http://biblehub.com/niv/matthew/24.htm#footnotes) but only the Father. [37](http://biblehub.com/matthew/24-37.htm)As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.[**38**](http://biblehub.com/matthew/24-38.htm)For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; [**39**](http://biblehub.com/matthew/24-39.htm)and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.[**40**](http://biblehub.com/matthew/24-40.htm)Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. [**41**](http://biblehub.com/matthew/24-41.htm)Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.[**42**](http://biblehub.com/matthew/24-42.htm)“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

**Verse 37**: As it was in the days of Noah… **[Q]** How was it?

**Genesis 7**

11In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, on the seventeenth day of the second month—on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. [**12**](http://biblehub.com/genesis/7-12.htm)And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.

[**13**](http://biblehub.com/genesis/7-13.htm)On that very day Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark. [**14**](http://biblehub.com/genesis/7-14.htm)They had with them every wild animal according to its kind, all livestock according to their kinds, every creature that moves along the ground according to its kind and every bird according to its kind, everything with wings. [**15**](http://biblehub.com/genesis/7-15.htm)Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life in them came to Noah and entered the ark. [**16**](http://biblehub.com/genesis/7-16.htm)The animals going in were male and female of every living thing, as God had commanded Noah. **Then the Lord shut him in**.

**[Q]** Who was inside the Ark? (ONLY Noah, and his family)

17For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth. [**18**](http://biblehub.com/genesis/7-18.htm)The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. [**19**](http://biblehub.com/genesis/7-19.htm)They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. [**20**](http://biblehub.com/genesis/7-20.htm)The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than fifteen cubits.[***a***](http://biblehub.com/niv/genesis/7.htm#footnotes) [***b***](http://biblehub.com/niv/genesis/7.htm#footnotes)   [**21**](http://biblehub.com/genesis/7-21.htm)Every living thing that moved on land perished—birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. [**22**](http://biblehub.com/genesis/7-22.htm)Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. [**23**](http://biblehub.com/genesis/7-23.htm)Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; people and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark.

**[Q]** Who died? (**EVERYONE** who wasn’t inside the Ark) BTW… Jesus is our New Test. Ark

**[Q]** Had they been invited? (Absolutely… 2 Peter 2 states that Noah was a preacher of righteousness, who was blameless in God’s sight; and was totally distressed by their wicked lives) They refused…They didn’t believe Noah, or God. They paid the ultimate price.

**[Q]** Did Jesus say that, at the Rapture of the Church, it would be just like what happened in Noah’s day? (Yes, He did)

**[Q]** Did those people in Noah’s day get a second chance? (Absolutely not)

**[Q]** Will He give you a second chance if you miss the Rapture? (Absolutely not; and the answer to my earlier question is this…It would not be fair to give you a second chance, if you have continued to reject Him. He would have to apologize to all of those who drowned during Noah’s day)

Final Scripture…

**2 Corinthians 6**

1As God’s co-workers we urge you not to receive God’s grace in vain. [**2**](http://biblehub.com/2_corinthians/6-2.htm)For he says,

“In the time of my favor I heard you,

and in the day of salvation I helped you.”[***a***](http://biblehub.com/niv/2_corinthians/6.htm#footnotes)

I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation.

Don’t take any chances…if you do not know Jesus Christ personally…**do it TODAY!**