Messiah is coming soon!

Yahshua our Messiah warned that there will come a time when people will say that He already came, saying in Matthew 24: 26, 'If therefore they say to you, 'Behold, He is in the wilderness, do not go forth, or, 'Behold, He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe them.' In fact we see from 2 Thessalonians 2: 1 – 2 that false teachers started proclaiming the idea ever since His death and resurrection, as follows: 'Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Master Yahshua Messiah, and our gathering together to Him, (2) that you may not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Master has come." We see further from verse 3 how Rav Shaul refuted this false assumption, saying: 'Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction.' Reading verse 3 carefully, we realize that Rav Shaul warned that there must yet come a further falling away from the truth, before the return of our Messiah Yahshua.

Yahshua Messiah also spoke about a type of deception to occur before His return in Matthew 24: 5, 11, 24 and Revelation 6: 2, as follows: "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Messiah,' and will mislead many. (11) And many false prophets will arise, and will mislead many. (24) For false Messiahs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. (Revelation 6: 2) And I looked, and behold, a white horse (false horse), and he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him; and he went out conquering, and to conquer.' The last verse reminds me about the way the Crusaders use to try and spread Christianity – proclaiming a different gospel to the one Messiah proclaimed and killing those opposed to it! In addition Yahshua the Revelator (as per Revelation 1: 1), used a symbol of a rider on a white horse to depict false ministers and prophets claiming to represent Messiah or His ecclesia, trying to convert everyone they came across. This is what happened during the middle ages when people were forced into 'baptism' to become Christians. In Germany and in Portugal, Jewish people were baptized and given new German or Portuguese sounding names such as Schultz, Schiltz and Scholtz; or Ferreira, Perreira and Merreira.

The real Messiah will also come on a white horse, but instead of a bow in His hand, He will be returning with a sword coming from His mouth, as witnessed in Revelation 19: 11 – 15, in this way: 'And I saw heaven opened; and behold, a white horse, and He who sat upon it is called Faithful and True; and in righteousness He judges and wages war, (12)And His eyes are a flame of fire, and upon His head are many diadems; and He has a name written upon Him which no one knows except Himself. (13) And He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood; and His name is called the Word of Elohim. (14) And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. (15) And from His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may smite the nations; and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of Elohim, the Almighty.' The sword coming from Messiah's mouth will be the word of Elohim (the Scriptures) as recorded in Hebrews 4: 12, as follows: 'For the word of Elohim is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.' It is important to understand that the perversion of Elohim's truth marks only the beginning of a long succession of events covering more than 1900 years, concluding when Messiah returns to establish the Kingdom of Elohim.

Prior to His resurrection, Yahshua made it clear that His Kingdom was not during the time that He was on earth, nor would ever be 'of this world', in John 18: 36, saying: "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting, that I might not be delivered up to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm." Therefore could any or all of the churches of the world constitute Elohim's Kingdom as they claim? History reveals that the churches are very much a part of this age! They are busy in political struggles and caused the shedding of much innocent blood. Therefore if the churches of this world constitute the Kingdom of Elohim, then that kingdom is part of this world, and Yahshua Messiah was a liar! When Yahshua's disciples asked Him if He is going to restore the Kingdom of

Israel in their day in Acts 1: 6, He replied in Acts 1: 7 – 8, saying: "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; (8) but you shall receive power when the Set-apart Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even the remotest part of the earth." We see from Yahshua's answer that the power His disciples were to receive was not of a political nature, but of a spiritual nature, because the Kingdom of Elohim was also not to be set-up at that time. Whilst Messiah was away in Heaven to receive His crown, He gave them and their successors the Set-apart Spirit, because He promised that He will be with them until the end of this age. We see from first Corinthians 15: 50 that the Kingdom of Elohim could not have been established during this age, in this way: 'Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of Elohim; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.'

Some modern day Christians believe that Messiah will only return after peace and harmony filled the earth for a thousand years. However, this cannot be true since Messiah Himself said in Matthew 24: 21 & 22 that He will return during a time of the greatest tribulation known to mankind, to come and save us from ourselves, as follows: "For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall. (22) And unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days shall be cut short." The earth will be in utter chaos, not at peace, before Messiah's return. Messiah will come to put an end to mankind's misrule to establish the Kingdom of Elohim on earth. Even though Messiah's disciples anticipated that the Kingdom of Elohim would be established in their time, as witnessed from Luke 19: 11,in this way: 'And while they were listening to these things, He went on to tell a parable, because He was near Jerusalem, and they supposed that the kingdom of Elohim was going to appear immediately.' Yahshua answered them in verse 12, saying: "A certain nobleman went to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself, and then return." Obviously the nobleman in this parable refers to Messiah Himself and the far country refers to heaven where He returned to after His resurrection.

Yahshua told His disciples clearly that He will only receive the kingdom whilst He is in heaven, as is also depicted in Daniel 7: 13 & 14, in this way: "I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. (14) And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations, and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed." The parable in Luke 19 includes the time from Messiah's ascension to heaven, until He returns one day on a Feast of Trumpets (Yom Teruah) to rule the world from Jerusalem. We understand from reading the parable that whilst Yahshua is away, His servants must remain profitable using and increasing the talents which He gave them, as witnessed in verse 13 of Luke 19, as follows: "And he called ten of his slaves (the lost ten tribes which He came to bring back to the Father), and gave them ten minas, and said to them, "Do business with this until I come back." What business should we be about until Messiah returns? We read the answer in Matthew 24: 14, in this way: "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come."

A short time prior to Messiah's ascension to heaven, He made it clear that He would only return after a fixed sequence of events. He outlined these events to His disciples on the Mount of Olives in Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21. According to Luke 21: 34 & 35 Yahshua told His disciples that Elohim's intervention in world affairs will come suddenly catching most people unawares, saying: "Be on guard, that your hearts may not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day come on you suddenly like a trap; (35) for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth." In fact Yahshua compared the time of His return to Noah's day in Matthew 24: 37, saying: "For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah." People before Noah's day did not expect Elohim's intervention in their lives, as Yahshua explained further in verses 38 & 39, saying: "For as in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, they were marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, (39) and they did not understand until the flood came and took

them all away; so shall the coming of the Son of Man be." It is clear from this that nobody will know the exact timing of Messiah's return. Even though we know that His return will be one day on the Feast of Trumpets, but we do not know the year of His return. Since we cannot know the year or the exact hour of His return, Yahshua said we will nevertheless know very close to the actual time of His return in verses 32 & 33 of Matthew 24, saying: "Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender, and put forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; (33) even so you too, when you see all these things (the things Yahshua mentioned in the preceding verses of Matthew 24), recognize that He is near, right at the door."

Yahshua will return as a thief in the night, as Rav Shaul wrote in first Thessalonians 5: 2 &3, saying: 'For you yourselves know full well that the day of Master will come just like a thief in the night. (3) While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like birth pangs upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.' However, Rav Shaul indicated that true believers should remain alert, so that it doesn't catch them unawares in verses 4 – 6, saying: 'But you, brethren are not in darkness, that the day should overtake you like a thief; (5) for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; (6) so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.' Messiah is also pictured as coming as a thief in Revelation 16: 15, in this way: "Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his garments, lest he walk about naked and men see his shame." This does not mean that Messiah will come invisibly, but it indicates that He comes at night when the household is asleep and catches the residents off their guard. People never know when a thief is coming, but if they knew they would be prepared for him.

Messiah's coming would therefore be similar to that of a thief. He will not come invisibly, but He will come unexpectedly. No one will know exactly when He is going to come! This is why Yahshua explained in Matthews 24: 42 – 44, saying: "Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Master is coming. (43) But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. (44) For this reason you be ready too; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will." So Messiah compared His coming to that of a thief in respect of the time of His arrival with an element of surprise. But we see from Matthew 24: 30 & 31 that Messiah's return will definitely not be invisible, as follows: "And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. (31) And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other." From verse 27 of Matthew 24, we see that Messiah's coming will be like lightning, coming from the east and flashing to the west.

We see further from Revelation 1: 14 - 16 why His coming is compared to lightning, in this way: 'And His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire; (15) and His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been caused to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters. (16) And in His hand He held seven stars; and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.' The phrase 'those who pierced Him' as used in Revelation 1: 7 does not mean that the Roman soldier who pierced Yahshua's side, or the Jews of His day will see Him, but all of humanity alive at His return will – since it was because of the sins of all of humanity that He had to die. So obviously, nobody will be able to miss his coming. Messiah's return to earth will be visible for all to see, but there in not a single word mentioning a secret, preliminary rapture of believers to heaven. Even though some believe that the visible loud coming is a second phase of Messiah's return. When Yahshua returns on the Feast of Trumpets one day in the near future, the dead in Messiah will be resurrected as described in first Thessalonians 4: 15 & 16, as follows: 'For this we say to you by the word of the Master, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Master, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. (16) For the Master Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of Elohim; and the dead in Messiah shall rise first.'

The trumpet blown here in first Thessalonians 4: 16 is the very same trumpet blown in Revelation 11: 15, where we read: 'And the seventh angel sounded; and there arose loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Master (YHVH) and His Messiah; and He will reign forever and ever."' In fact we see from verse 18 of Revelation 11, that Rav Yochanan was inspired to write that the blast of the seventh trumpet will be the time of the first resurrection. Those who believe in the rapture theory claim that the Greek word 'parousia' translated as coming in Matthew 24: 27 does not mean 'coming' at all. They believe that it refers to Messiah's 'secret nearness' and when His disciples asked him about His coming, they were actually asking for a sign of the 'rapture'. This brings us to the word 'parousia' which leads to the question: Does it specify a preliminary secret coming after all? The Greek word 'parousia' simply means presence or coming and is translated as 'coming' in many different scriptures, first Thessalonians being one example. Think for a moment; if Messiah had gone into such integrate details to answer His disciples' question in Matthew 24: 3, would He not have mentioned the 'rapture' or His 'invisible presence' to them? The fact is Messiah is coming to execute judgment at His 'parousia' – His visible coming in power and glory to earth!

So far we've seen that prior to Messiah's return, a great tribulation is going to occur on earth. But we see further from verse 29 of Matthew 24, that His return will also be preceded by heavenly signs, in this way: "But immediately after the tribulation of those days the SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken." Yahshua told His disciples in Luke 21: 20 & 21, saying: "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is at hand. (21) Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are in the midst of the city depart, and let not those who are in the country enter the city." Even though this is what Nazarene believers in Messiah did when Jerusalem was destroyed during 70 CE, the prophecy is also for believers in Judea at the end of the age. If there would be a 'secret rapture', Messiah's followers would not have to be worried about invading armies or anything else for that matter. However, Messiah did promise to keep true believers in His ecclesia safe during the coming tribulation in Revelation 3: 10, saying: "Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell upon the earth."

A woman symbolizes an ecclesia in the Scriptures. We read accordingly from Revelation 12: 14 – 16, in this way: 'And the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, in order that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. (15) And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood. (16) And the earth helped the woman and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon poured out of his mouth.' We see that the earth helps the woman, and no mention is made of a secret rapture here. This means the ecclesia of Elohim will be on earth during the great tribulation – not in heaven as supporters of the secret rapture believe. Even so, when Messiah returns in the same way as He left when He ascended to heaven, His saints – true believers – will come with Him, as recorded in Zechariah 14: 4 & 5, as follows: "And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south. (5) And you will flee by the valley of My mountains, for the valley of the mountains will reach Azel; yes, you will flee just as you fled before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then YHVH, my Elohim, will come, and all the holy ones with Him!"

This agrees with what Rav Shaul wrote in first Thessalonians 3: 12 & 13, saying: 'And may the Master cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all men, just as we also do for you; (13) so that He may establish your hearts unblamable in holiness before our Elohim and Father at the coming of our Master Yahshua with all His saints.' But reading from first Thessalonians 4: 13 & 14, we see that Rav Shaul wrote about Messiah's saints who are sleeping in death, in this way: 'But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no

hope. (14) For if we believe that Yahshua died and rose again, even so Elohim will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Yahshua.' As we've read before from verses 15 & 16, those who have fallen asleep in Messiah will be resurrected with the voice of the archangel and the trumpet of Elohim. Continuing in verse 17, we read: 'Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Master in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Master.' Both the resurrected dead and those alive (changed to immortal beings) will meet Messiah in the air, but will like Messiah who went up in a cloud when He was resurrected will descend in the same way on the Mount of Olives, as the two angels said in Acts 1: 11, in this way: "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Yahshua, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven." We see from Mark 8: 38 that Messiah will also be accompanied by His angels when He returns, as follows: "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." So not only will Messiah's saints accompany Him when He returns, but He will also be accompanied by a great army of angels.

When Messiah came almost 2,000 years ago, He came as a lamb to be slain for the sins of the world. But when He comes again, He will be angry and wrathful against all evil, as witnessed in Revelation 6: 15 - 17, in this way: 'And the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; (16) and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the lamb; (17) for the great day of their wrath has come; and who is able to stand." For almost 6,000 years Elohim has given mankind a chance to repent and turn to Him and His ways of peace and happiness. But, even though many say they believe in Messiah, they have refused to follow the perfect example that the Father gave us to follow. Instead men waxed worse and continued to devise forces which are now threatening to destroy all life on earth. As a result, in a similar way as a parent punishes his children that will not obey him, so Elohim is going to punish the world to bring it back to its senses. We read from Zechariah 14: 1 - 3 that Messiah will fight the world's hate-filled armies when He returns and stand upon the Mount of Olives opposite Jerusalem, as follows: 'Behold, a day is coming for YHVH when the spoil taken from you will be divided among you. (2) For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the woman ravished, and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city. (3) Then YHVH will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle.'

We see further from Revelation 14: 14 - 20 that much blood will be spilled on this day of battle, in this way: 'And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and sitting on the cloud was one like a son of man having a golden crown on His head, and a sharp sickle in His hand. (15) And another angel came out of the temple, crying out with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Put in your sickle and reap, because the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth is ripe." (16) And He who sat on the cloud swung His sickle over the earth; and the earth was reaped. (17) And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, and he also had a sharp sickle. (18) And another angel, the one who has power over fire, came out from the altar; and he called with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, put in your sharp sickle, and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, because her grapes are ripe," (19) And the angel swung his sickle to the earth, and gathered the clusters from the vine of the earth, and threw them into the great wine press of the wrath of Elohim. (20) And the wine press was trodden outside the city, and blood came out from the wine press, up to the horses' bridles, for a distance of two hundred miles.'

The Scriptures show clearly that Messiah will come back for all those alive at that time to see. Yes, He is coming back with great power to a world that have rejected Elohim's way of life, to save them from themselves. His spectacular return to earth will usher in the beginning of His millennial rule on earth. Mankind will finally learn to lead happy, abundant lives under Messiah's righteous rule. That will be the time when the entire world will receive Elohim's plentiful blessings. Halleluyah!

Scriptures Study: The return of Messiah to come and rule the world from Jerusalem.

Has Messiah already come?

Let's see the warnings of Messiah Himself regarding His promised return.

Did Yahshua warn that some would claim He had already come before His true return would take place? Matthew 24: 26 & Mark 13: 21.

Did false teachers proclaim that very idea after His resurrection? 2nd Thessalonians 2: 1 & 2 (The King James rendering, *"is at hand,"* in verse 2 is misleading. Other translations render this more accurately as *'has come.'*) Did Rav Shaul emphatically refute this false assumption? Verse 3.

Did Rav Shaul go on to warn that there must yet come a further falling away – an apostasy from the truth – before the return of Yahshua Messiah? Same verse. Did Yahshua also speak of this as something which had to occur before He returned? Compare Matthew 24: 5, 11, 24 with Revelation 6: 2.

Comment: Yahshua, the Revelator (Revelation 1: 1), used the symbol of a rider on a white horse to picture false teachers and prophets claiming to represent Messiah or His ecclesia. The real Messiah comes on the white horse described in Revelation 19: 11. Notice that Messiah pictures Himself as returning with a sword – the Word of YHVH (Revelation 19: 15; Hebrews 4: 12) – whereas Satan's counterfeit is pictured with a bow in his hand (Revelation 6: 2).

Notice, too, that the perversion of Elohim's truth marks only the beginning of a long sequence of events (covering over 1900 years) culminating in Messiah's return and the establishment of the Kingdom of Elohim.

Before His resurrection, did Yahshua make it clear that His Kingdom was not at that time, nor ever would be, "of this world"? John 18: 36. Therefore, could any or all of the churches of this world constitute Elohim's Kingdom, as so many seem to think? Same verse.

Comment: This "world" or system (Greek cosmos) encompasses all that is characteristic of the age of man. And certainly, as history reveals, the churches are a PART of this age! They have engaged in political struggles, ruled empires, and caused the shedding of much blood, especially in the middle Ages. Therefore, if the churches of Christendom constitute Elohim's Kingdom, then that kingdom is a part of this world, and Yahshua did not know what He was talking about!

Yahshua stated plainly: "But now is my KINGDOM not from hence [did not begin at that time]." His ecclesia started in the wilderness as confirmed in Act 7: 38. So Yahshua Messiah emphatically denied, in advance, the false concept that later formed the basis for church-political dominance in the middle Ages.

When asked by His disciples if He would restore the Kingdom in their day, what did Yahshua reply? Acts 1: 6 – 8. But were they shortly to receive power that was NOT of a political nature? Verse 8. What were they to do with this power? Same verse and Matthew 28: 18 -20.

Comment: Notice that the apostles were not given to know the time of the establishment of the Kingdom, but were to be filled with the Set-Apart Spirit on Pentecost.

Yahshua's disciples did not at that time receive political power to rule the nations. The Kingdom of Elohim was not then to be set up. But they were to receive spiritual power that would enable them to be "WITNESSES" to the world of Messiah's resurrection, and to "teach all nations" the ways of Elohim.

While Yahshua Himself was AWAY IN HEAVEN, He promised He would be with them (and their successors) in spirit only until the end of this age — until the end of this present world of human misrule — until His return to set up the Kingdom of Elohim on earth.

What scripture proves conclusively that the Kingdom of Elohim could not have been established on earth yet? 1 Corinthians 15: 50. Would you say the people attending the various congregations are still flesh and blood?

When Messiah WON'T Return

Another and more modern concept is that Yahshua will come AFTER peace and harmony permeate the earth for a thousand years, with all the nations in perfect accord. Could this possibly be true in the light of the Scriptures?

What does Acts 3: 21 tell us concerning the restoration of all things?

When Yahshua returns, what will the ambassadors of peace be doing, and what will the general condition of the earth be like. Isaiah 33: 7 & 8.

Comment: Obviously the earth will be in utter chaos – not at peace – before Messiah returns.

What scriptures prove beyond all doubt that Messiah returns before, and not after, peace and harmony fill the earth for a thousand years? Revelation 5: 10 & 20: 4.

Comment: The Scriptures shows that Messiah does not come after a millennium (1000 years) of perfect human rule. To abolish human misrule and establish the Kingdom – the rule of Elohim is the reason Yahshua returns a second time. Since resurrected believers will reign with Messiah for a thousand years, He obviously must come before the 1000 years commence.

End-Time Commission Must First Be Fulfilled

Before His crucifixion, did Yahshua's followers anticipate that the Kingdom of Elohim would be established very soon? Luke 19: 11. What did Yahshua say in answer to this mistaken idea? Verse 12.

Comment: In this parable the 'nobleman' refers to Yahshua. The 'far country' is heaven, to which He returned after His resurrection, and the 'servants' are true believers.

Will Messiah receive a kingdom while away in heaven? Compare Luke 19: 12 with Daniel 7: 13 – 14.

Comment: The parable in Luke 19 covers the time from Messiah's ascension to heaven until His return to establish the Kingdom of Elohim on earth.

While the nobleman is away, must the servants become profitable by increasing their talents? Luke 19: 13 & 15, and Matthew 25: 15 - 19.

What duty must the servants especially fulfill before the end of this age and the second coming of Messiah? Matthew 24: 14 & 28: 18 - 20.

Comment: Yahshua made it plain that the gospel of the Kingdom must go to all nations before His return.

Can We Know the Exact Time?

Shortly before His ascension to heaven, Yahshua also made it very plain that He would return after a fixed sequence of events. He gave an outline of these events to His disciples upon the Mount of Olives. In Lesson 2 we studied that outline as it is recorded in Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21. You should reread Matthew 24 and note all the events which were prophesied to occur prior to Messiah's return.

Can we really determine from these prophecies the exact time of His coming? Will Elohim's intervention in world affairs and the second coming of Messiah be universally expected? Luke 21: 35.

To what period in earth's history did Yahshua compare His return? Matthew 24: 37. Did the people before the flood really expect Elohim's supernatural intervention? Verses 38, 39. Will people today expect Elohim's intervention and the second coming of Messiah? Same three verses.

Will those who are watching and preparing know the day and hour of Messiah's return? Matthew 25: 13.

Comment: These utterances of Yahshua have often been taken to mean that only the apostles would not know the day or the hour, but that we in these last days would know it. This is emphatically NOT true!

Notice Rav Kepha (Peter) ask Yahshua if He meant only the apostles would be unable to know the day or the hour, or if He meant all – even those of us today – would not know? Luke 12: 40 -41. What was Yahshua's reply? Verses 42 – 43. Is Yahshua's warning especially for our generation – those alive "when he comes"? Notice again Yahshua's reply in verse 43.

Comment: How plain that Yahshua meant His servant of this generation would NOT know the day or the hour!

Since we cannot know the day and hour, can we nevertheless know very near the actual time of His return? Matthew 24:32-33.

Comment: Recall that Yahshua had already given in this chapter the signs that would precede His second coming.

How Messiah Will Return

How will Messiah return? Will He come silently, invisibly, as a "thief in the night"? Is He returning to secretly "rapture" away His ecclesia?

Is Messiah coming in two phases – once "for" His saints to secretly take them to heaven – and then "with" them to set up His Kingdom?

Scriptures gives us the clear, concise answers.

What does 1st Thessalonians 5: 2-3 say is to come on the world as a "thief in the night"? Are Believers to be vigilant so this period of upheaval – the "day of YHVH" – doesn't catch them unawares? Verse 4-6.

And yet is Messiah also pictured as coming as a "thief"? Revelation 16: 15. Does this mean He will return secretly – invisibly – in a clandestine manner?

Comment: That's a fair question. But here's another question to ponder: When thieves or burglars rob a home, do they come INVISIBLY? Of course not!

A thief, however, usually comes at night when the household is away or asleep. He catches them unaware, off their guard — SURPRISES them! You never know WHEN a thief is coming. If you did, you would call the police and be prepared for him. The big question you would want answered if you already knew a thief was planning to rob your home; would be when?

So it is with the coming of Messiah! He will not come invisibly – any more than a thief comes invisibly. But He will come UNEXPECTEDLY! No one will know exactly when He is going to come.

Yahshua Himself explained: "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Master doth come. But know this that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also READY; for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh" (Matthew 24:42-44).

And so Yahshua likened His coming to a "thief" in respect to the time of His coming and the element of SURPRISE! How plain!

Now turn to Matthew 24. Does Yahshua describe a tremendous noise which will rend the air at His coming? Matthew 24: 30 - 31, Isn't this the time when He "gathers together His elect"? Verse 31.

Will Messiah's return from heaven also be accompanied by a tremendous shout? 1 Thessalonians 4: 16. Is this the time the saints are "caught up" to be with Him? Verses 16, 17.

Comment: Obviously Messiah's coming will NOT be a clandestine, secretive event at all!

To Come VISIBLY!

When Messiah returns will He be visible to everyone? Matthew 24: 27; Revelation 1: 7.

Comment: The Greek word 'astrape' used in Matthew 24: 27 may mean the lightning of thunderstorms, or any brilliant illumination. Now what brilliant light "comes out of the east and shines even unto the west"? The SUN, of course! Messiah's presence will be "as the Sun Shineth in his strength" (See Revelation 1: 16). It will be obvious – nobody will be able to miss it!

The expression "and they also which pierced him" in Revelation 1: 7 does not prove that the ONE ROMAN SOLDIER who literally pierced Yahshua's side, or the Jews who were living then, will be able to see His coming. It actually refers to the entire human family – all of us! Our sins took Messiah's life. Revelation 1: 7 simply indicates that all who are alive when He returns will be able to see Him. All the rest of humanity will see Him later, when they are resurrected.

Did the angelic messenger who spoke to the disciples right after Messiah's ascension from the Mount of Olives affirm that He would return "IN LIKE MANNER" as He left? Acts 1: 10 & 11. What was the manner of His leaving? See verse 9. Will He at His return again become visible "in the clouds"? 1 Thessalonians 4: 17.

Finally what does Zechariah 14: 4 have to say about Messiah's return to that same Mount of Olives, near Jerusalem, from which He ascended? Then He will not make a "near miss" and turn right around and go back to heaven for three and a half or seven years, will He? Obviously not!

Comment: Messiah's visible, advertised, unmistakably coming in plainly described in Scriptures – in great detail – but there is not one word mentioning a secret, preliminary "Rapture" of Christians to heaven!

Only ONE "Second Coming"!

Some will still contend that this visible and audible coming is the second phase of Messiah's return. Here is more proof that this idea is utterly false.

Does the resurrection of the dead in Messiah clearly take place at His return? 1 Thessalonians 4: 15 & 16. Does it occur at the exact moment the trumpet ("trump") mentioned in verse 16 blows? 1 Corinthians 15: 51 & 52.

Is the trumpet mentioned in 1 Thessalonians 4: 16 and 1 Corinthians 15: 52 the same as the one blown in Revelation 11: 15? Revelation 11: 18.

Comment: Some will claim that the last trumpet mentioned in 1 Corinthians 15: 52 is different from the seventh or last trump mentioned in Revelation 11: 15. But notice in Revelation 11: 18 that Rav Yochanan was inspired to write that the seventh trump is the time of the resurrection! Rav Yochanan is describing the same momentous event Rav Shaul did in 1 Thessalonians 4 and 1 Corinthians 15. Therefore we see that Messiah will return and the believers in Him will be resurrected at the mighty blast of the great trumpet which will be heard by all the earth!

The Story Flow of Revelation												
The Seven Seals	1st Seal	White Horse: False Prophets - Revelation 6: 1 - 2 & Matthew 24: 3 -5										The F
	2nd Seal	Red Horse: War - Revelation 6: 3 - 4 & Matthew 24: 6 - 7										our Ho
	3rd Seal	Black Horse:	Famine - Revelation 6: 5 - 6 & Matthew 24: 7								Apocalypse	The Four Horsemen of the
	4th	Pale Horse: I	le Horse: Pestilence - Revelation 6: 7 - 8 & Matthew 25: 7 - 8									
	5th Seal	The Great Tribulation - Revelation 6: 9 - 11 & Matthew 24: 9 - 10 & 21										
	6th Seal	The Heavenly Signs - Revelation 6: 12 - 17; Matthew 24: 29 & Joel 2: 30 - 31										
		The Seven Trumpet Plagues - Revelation 8: 6										The Day of YHVH - One year period of Elohim's
		Silence in heaven for half and hour (Revelation 8: 1 - 6)										Day
		1st Trumpet	pet Hail, fire and blood; one third of trees & grass burnt (Rev. 8: 6 -7)									호
		2nd Trumpet	One third of sea becomes blood (Rev. 8: 8 - 9)									
		3rd Trumpet	One third of fresh water becomes bitter (Rev. 8: 10 - 11)									≨
		4th Trumpet	One third of light obscured (Rev. 8: 12)									<u>-</u>
		5th Trumpet	Satan inspired war (Rev 8: 13 & 9: 1 - 12) 1st Woe								١	ne
		6th Trumpet	200 million army; one third of mankind killed (Rev. 9: 13 - 21) 2nd Woe								wrath.	y e
		7th Trumpet	Return of Yahshua Messiah -1st resurrection; all 7 vials begin within 24 3rd Woe								Ι .	ar
			hrs. Rev.11: 15 - 19, 19: 1 - 21, Matt. 24: 30 - 31, 1 Cor. 15: 51 - 52, 1 Thes. 4: 16, Zech 14: 3 - 4									per
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			1st Vial	2nd Vial	3rd Vial	4th Vial	5th Vial	6th Vial	7th Vial			으
					Fresh water				Greatest	1		든
			Inflicted by awful sores	Sea turns to blood	turns to	Scorching by Sun	Darkness and pain	Euphrates dried up	Earth quick			ři
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Significance of the Greek Word "Parousia"

Those who insistently adhere to the rapture theory claim the Greek word "parousia', translated as 'coming' in Matthew 24: 27, does not mean coming at all. They say it refers to His 'secret nearness,' so that when Yahshua's disciples asked Him for the 'sign' of His coming, they were actually asking for a sign of the rapture.

However, the scriptures that we have already studied clearly show the manner and approximate time of Messiah's return. But what about this word 'parousia'? Does it really indicate a preliminary secret coming after all?

The Greek word 'parousia' (number 3952 in 'Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible') is translated 'coming' in many different scriptures. 1 Thessalonians 3: 13 is one example. Does this verse say Messiah's parousia is 'with' all His saints? Then could it possibly be referring to a secret coming for His saints three and a half or more years before He returns openly 'with' them?

Comment: Wouldn't you think that after Messiah had gone into such detail to answer the disciples' questions (Matthew 24: 3), that He would have at least mentioned the 'rapture' or His 'invisible presence"? But no such mention is found in this chapter of the Scriptures.

Even so, notice another scripture. At His 'coming' (parousia), what will Messiah do to 'that Wicked (one)' who has seated himself 'as Elohim' in the temple of Elohim? See 2nd Thessalonians 2: 4, 8.

Comment: Clearly, Messiah's coming to execute judgment is His parousia – His visible and powerful return to the earth.

Notice that not only does this verse show that the wicked one is to be destroyed at the parousia of Messiah, but it also speaks of the BRIGHTNESS of His parousia. Clearly, the parousia of Messiah is not a secret, clandestine, INVISIBLE event at all!

Where Will the Believers Be Protected From the Tribulation?

What did Yahshua say is to happen shortly before His one and only second coming? Matthew 24: 21, 29. And what happens next? Verse 30.

Comment: Here we find that before Messiah's coming a Great Tribulation is going to occur on earth. These verses show that Messiah will not return until after the Great Tribulation and after great heavenly signs occur!

What did Messiah tell His followers in Judea to do when they see a particular 'abomination of desolation' set up? Matthew 24: 15 - 20 and Luke 21: 20 - 21.

Comment: This is exactly what true believers did before Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 CE. But this prophecy is dual. It also gives believers in Judea at the end time instructions about what to do when the 'abomination of desolation' is set up. If there were to be a 'secret rapture', Messiah's followers would not have to be concerned about either the winter or the Sabbath or invading armies!

Does Messiah promise to keep the overcomers of His ecclesia safe during the 'hour of temptation' – the coming Great Tribulation? Revelation 3: 10.

In Scriptural language, a 'woman' symbolizes a Church (see 2^{nd} Corinthians 11: 1 -2, Ephesians 5: 23 – 29 and Galatians 4: 26). Will Elohim provide a 'place of safety' for the end-time true ecclesia, where they will also be protected from Satan (the 'dragon' of Revelation 12: 9)? See Revelation 12: 14 – 16. Where will this place of safety be – in heaven, as the rapture theory says? Same verse.

Comment: Notice that the 'earth' helps the 'woman'. There is no mention of a rapture or heaven here! Obviously, then, the 'saints' – true believers of Elohim's ecclesia of called out believers – will be on the earth during the Great Tribulation – not up in heaven as proponents of the rapture theory believe. But Messiah promises the 'saints' a place of safety – on the earth. However, note that not every believer will have qualified himself for this protection, and many will have to go through that Tribulation!

Who Returns With Messiah?

When Messiah returns to the Mount of Olives in the same manner as He departed (Acts 1:11), He definitely will not be alone. Notice who will come with Him: Will all the 'saints' (true believers) be with Yahshua Messiah when He returns to the Mount of Olives? Zechariah 14: 4 – 5. Observe the last few words of verse 5.

Did Rav Shaul speak of Messiah coming with His 'saints', who are now 'sleeping' in death? 1^{st} Thessalonians 3: 13; 4: 13 -14. Do they return from heaven or merely from the atmosphere of the earth – the clouds into which they will have risen to meet Him? 1^{st} Thessalonians 4: 15 – 17.

Comment: Both the resurrected dead in Messiah and the living believers (then made immortal) will not only rise to meet the returning Messiah in the air, but will then come down immediately with Him to the earth.

Will they stay with Messiah forever? 1st Thessalonians 4: 17. Where will He be? Turn to Zechariah 14: 4 and Revelation 5: 10; 20: 4 once again.

Who else is scheduled to come with Messiah at this time? Mark 8: 38 and Revelation 19: 14.

Comment: When Messiah came to earth the first time, He was scourged, mocked and abused (John 19: 1 – 3). But when He returns as King of kings to set up the Kingdom of Elohim, He will return with GREAT POWER AND GLORY (Matthew 24: 30), and a great army of angels will accompany Him!

What Messiah Will DO When He Returns

Yahshua Messiah came over 1900 years ago as a meek lamb to be slain for the sins of the world. But when He comes again, He will be wrathful – angry – against all evil! He will use His mighty power to change the ways which have caused all the sorrow and suffering on earth.

What does Revelation 6: 16 - 17 foretell concerning the time of Elohim's wrath on this world? Did Zephaniah foretell this same time? Zephaniah 1: 14 - 15; 2: 2 - 3. Also turn to Isaiah 13: 6 - 7 and Ezekiel 7: 19.

Comment: Most people have heard little or nothing about *'the day of YHVH'* – and yet the day of YHVH is described in more than 30 different prophecies scattered throughout both the Tanach and Renewed Covenant.

At the very time when the last (the seventh) trumpet sound (Revelation 11: 15), and Messiah returns, is Elohim wrathful? Revelation 11: 18.

Comment: The wrath of the 'day of YHVH' manifests itself are unleashed consecutively over a period of months (Revelation 8; 9; 11: 15 - 19) and culminates in the second coming of Messiah and the administering of the seven last plagues (Revelation 16).

Is the great personage mentioned in Revelation 19: 11 to make war? What is His title? See verse 16. What else is he called? Revelation 17: 14. Who is the 'Lamb' of Elohim'? John 1: 29.

Comment: These verses clearly show that Messiah will come with an army of angels to punish and conquer the rebellious nations of the earth.

Exactly why will Elohim have to punish mankind? Revelation 11: 18, last few words, and Zephaniah 1: 17.

Comment: Messiah will be angry at the sins of mankind. To save the human race alive (Matthew 24: 22), He is coming to punish in love! Otherwise, man would destroy all life upon the earth!

For nearly 6,000 years Elohim has given stubborn, rebellious, misguided human beings every chance to turn to His ways of peace and happiness, Instead, we have turned our backs on our Creator. We have refused to follow the ways which would result in the fulfillment of our desires for peace. Men continue to devise forces which now threaten the annihilation of all life!

Consequently, as any loving parent will punish his disobedient child, so Elohim will have to punish this world to bring it to its senses. The glorified Messiah is coming in all the splendor, power and glory of Elohim to stop escalating wars, nuclear mass destruction, human pain and suffering. He is coming to usher in peace, abundant prosperity, happiness and joy for all mankind.

Will the nations of the world also be angry at this time? See Revelation 11: 18 once again.

Comment: This world doesn't want to change. Man desperately wants to preserve the society he has established upon this earth. Men do not want Elohim to intervene and teach them the way to world peace and prosperity. Instead, they want peace on their own terms – even though man's ways to 'peace' lead inevitably to more wars and eventually to self-destruction.

When Yahshua Messiah comes to stop world suicide, the nations will quickly drop their own quarrels. The joint military forces of the world will then turn their efforts against Messiah and attempt to fight and destroy Him!

The returning Messiah will be forced to deal with the nations of this rebellious world in the only language they will understand – overwhelming force! What an irony that man will at first have to be forced into trying the way of Elohim that leads to happiness, prosperity and abundance!

What Is "Armageddon"?

'Armageddon' is a term associated with the wrath of Elohim. Almost everyone has heard of it. World leaders and scientists frequently use the Scriptural term when speaking of the inevitability of nuclear warfare, and the destruction of all life on earth.

Yet few know what 'Armageddon' really is. Like most other topics of Scriptural prophecy, what is popularly taught about this subject has been generally accepted without question, and as with most other Scriptural subjects, people have been turned away from the truth and led to embrace fables.

When World War 1 broke out, many excitedly proclaimed 'This is the Armageddon war'! Then a generation later many assumed that World War II was the war that would end with 'Armageddon.'

Later the commonly accepted idea was that 'Armageddon' would be the last battle of a coming war between the Western democracies and Communism. It was supposed to be a battle between atheistic Communism on the one side, attacking Jerusalem; with the British, American and allied forces on the other side, defending it. And at that precise instant of this battle, it is believed, the second coming of Messiah occurs.

But is this really what Scriptural prophecy foretells? You may be surprised at who will be fighting whom at Messiah's coming, and where!

Make no mistake. World War III is on the way! World Wars I and II were merely small forerunners of the utter destruction which will break suddenly upon the nations. This time it will be so hellish, only the second coming of Messiah will be able to save mankind from extinction.

That is why Elohim commands us to 'watch' (Luke 21: 36) – to watch world conditions and news in order to be aware of fulfillment of Scriptural prophecy, and to be accounted worthy to escape the nuclear holocaust about to be unleashed upon a careless and negligent world.

In what is the wrath of Elohim 'filled up'? See Revelation 15: 1.

Comment: The seventh or last trumpet (Revelation 11: 15) completes Elohim's wrath. How? By announcing the terrifying 'seven last plagues"! The New American Standard translation renders the last part of Revelation 15: 1, "because in them (the seven last plagues) the wrath of Elohim is finished."

What are these plagues of wrath compared to? Revelation 15: 7 (Some translations use the word 'bowl' instead of 'vial'.) Upon what will they be poured? Revelation 16: 1. Will they cause great suffering upon unrepentant men? See verses 2-11.

Comment: Despite this severe punishment, the nations will adamantly refuse to repent of their sins!

What will occur when the sixth symbolic vial of Elohim's wrath is poured out? Revelation 16: 12. Notice from which direction these kings will come. What else happens at this time? See Verses 13, 14 & 16. Let's carefully examine what is being depicted by these verses.

World's Armies Assemble

Against whom will the kings of the earth fight? Revelation 17: 14. We have already seen that the 'Lamb' is Yahshua Messiah.

Who will incite the nations to fight against their Creator? Revelation 16: 13 - 14. Who is the dragon? Revelation 12: 9. Are these 'spirits' therefore Satan's demons?

Comment: The word 'devils' in the King James Version ought to be rendered demons. There is one fallen archangel (Isaiah 14: 12 - 14 and Ezekiel 28: 12 - 17) called the 'devil', but there are many fallen angels (Jude 6 and Revelation 12: 7) of lesser rank called 'demons' in the Scriptures.

Are these demons responsible for gathering the armies of all nations together? Revelation 16: 16.

Comment: At this time, the demons mentioned in verse 14 will stir up worldwide resistance to Messiah. The proper translation of the Greek used in Revelation 16: 16 should be as follows: "And they gathered then together..." This verse is sometimes rendered incorrectly "And he gathered them together..." Notice the battle is actually stirred up, not by men or nations alone, but by three spirit demons of Satan the devil.

What will these evil spirits do to cause the armies to gather? Revelation 16: 14.

Comment: Notice that these spirits directly influence the leaders of nations – deceiving them with miracles – stirring them to a fever-pitch of hatred to fight this 'invader from outer space' – namely Messiah!

Exactly where do the devil's demons cause the armies of the nations to be GATHERED TOGETHER in preparation for the great battle against Messiah? Turn again to Revelation 16: 16. Then where does the actual battle take place? Zechariah 14: 2.

Comment: The nations will marshal their armies at a place called Armageddon. 'Armageddon" is not an English word. Rather it comes from the Greek rendering of the Hebrew name transliterated as 'Har Megiddo' – the Hebrew prefix 'Har' means mountain or hill.)

Megiddo was a strong fortification dating from ancient times, situated approximately 55 miles north of Jerusalem. The mound that remains is a few miles southeast of Haifa – a natural port and industrial center providing ideal facilities for landing troops.

The ruins of Megiddo are located on the edge of the plain of Megiddo; an oval-shaped valley once called the Plain of Esdraelon, but now commonly called the Valley of Jezreel. It is a large flat area ideal for the assembling of military equipment and personnel.

The hill of Megiddo was strongly fortified as long ago as the days of King Solomon (1 Kings 9: 15). It was a literal fortress rising above the surrounding plain. The fortress hill Megiddo serves as a type, or forerunner of the bristling armaments that shall soon envelop the whole surrounding area.

Historians have said that more battles have been fought in the Valley of Jezreel than anywhere else on earth. However, when Messiah returns, the armies will only gather here. From this natural staging area they will advance southward toward Jerusalem to fight against Him. The final battle will then take place in the surroundings of Jerusalem!

The Great "Battle of Elohim Almighty"

What is the name of the climactic battle that determines WHO will rule the earth? Revelation 16: 14, last part.

Comment: The battle that ensues will reveal whether MAN or ELOHIM shall rule the earth for the next thousand years. It is called the "Battle of That Great Day of Elohim Almighty" – often misnamed the "Battle of Armageddon"!

This battle is described in Revelation 19: 11 – 21. Who shall fight whom? Verses 14, 19. Will the U.S.S.R. and her Communist satellites fight against British and American armies, as so many have assumed? Or will it be the armies of a union of nations from the "east" (Revelation 16: 12) **and** the armies of "the whole world" – many of them led by the symbolic "dragon," "beast" and "false prophet" – attempting to fight against Messiah? Turn to Revelation 16: 13 – 14 once again.

Comment: The nations, already engaged in an all-out struggle for world dominion, will be angry and furious when they see a heavenly "invader" has come to intervene in human affairs. In a frenzy of rage, these nations will prepare to do battle with and attempt to destroy Messiah and His armies!

Exactly where do the Scriptures say this battle will take place? Joel 3: 1 - 2, 9 - 14. Compare verse 13 with Revelation 14: 18 - 20; 19: 15.

Comment: "Jehoshaphat" means "Judgment of YHVH" The focal point of the battle will be in the Valley of Jehoshaphat, also called the "Valley of Decision" in the Scriptures. This valley is a deep ravine having very steep sides. It borders the city of Jerusalem on the east. According to Unger's Dictionary of the Bible, the Valley of Jehoshaphat, which is situated between Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives, is now known as the "Kidron Valley".

Zechariah 14: 1-4 plainly says the Messiah will fight earth's hate-filled armies when He returns and stands upon the Mount of Olives, just east of Jerusalem. And notice that Revelation 14: 20 specifically states that the blood of these enemies – symbolically represented by the juice of grapes being pressed out in a winepress – will flow "without [outside] the city." There will be so much bloodshed that the blood will rise (in some places) as high as horses' bridles!

Messiah Is Coming Soon!

Awesome times are ahead. It may seem incredible, but prophecy in the Scriptures is very plain.

This IS indeed the very END TIME of prophecy in the Scriptures! You have seen that Elohim, through His prophets, apostles and servants, has revealed a sequence of events leading up to the dramatic return of Yahshua Messiah.

These events are as certain to occur as the rising and setting of the sun!

Therefore, you need to "watch" (Luke 21: 36) world events as never before! Be vigilant. Keep abreast of world news. Try and read at least a news magazine every week. But also watch yourself, aligning the way you live, with Torah and the way of Elohim!

You have clearly seen in your Scriptures that Messiah will come visibly, and with great POWER to an Elohim-rejecting world to save it from itself. His dramatic coming will usher in the beginning of the Millennium $-\,1\,$ 000 years of peace and prosperity for all mankind!

People will finally learn to lead brimful, happy and abundant lives under the righteous rule of Messiah. Under His guidance and rulership the whole world will receive Elohim's abundant blessings.