

# *Smoke Rising from the Pit*

**Last Days of the Church – Part 2**

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## **THINGS CHANGE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHRIST**

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It should be understood that we are never able to get a perfect understanding of the future aspects of the Word of God until that part is fulfilled. At that time it becomes history and we can then plainly see. The understanding may not always come out perfect, but the spirit of revelation is always true. How to explain or express what we feel or see in the Spirit is sometimes difficult.

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## **THE TWO WITNESSES' MINISTRY – THE FIRST 3 ½ PERIOD**

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As we finished up part one of this message we tried to explain, who the two witnesses were, the purpose of their ministry, and the purpose of other ministers in the first 3 ½ years of the last week of Daniel.

Let us look at the closing days of the ministry of the two witnesses, as can be seen in the scriptures.

*Rev 11:7-14 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. And the*

*same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven. The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.*

Let us also go back to Daniel to see what is to happen,...

*Daniel 9:27 ... and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.*

As the church approaches this time, some in the body of Christ who have heard and received the message of the Lord, will have made themselves ready.

*Rev 19:7 ... and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.*

At the same time, others in the body of Christ will continue to reject the Word of God and continue to live as they did before. This was forewarned in the Thyatira church age.

*Rev 2:21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.*

It has always been that a part of the church, which includes both saints and ministers, will not take it seriously. These will not make the effort to wake up and prepare their garments to be without spot or wrinkle. It seems that these cannot ever get free from the drunkenness of the world, the cares of life and leaning on the world for their needs. During this time, some of the church and the world will be glad to see the two witnesses killed, because their message and accompanying plagues will have taken away their peace and prosperity.

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**A SEALING IN THE FOREHEADS**

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*Rev 9:2-6 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads. And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion,*

*when he striketh a man. And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.*

This manifestation of what is coming out of the pit is happening in two separate stages. The **first stage** is the pit was opened and out came **smoke to darken** the sun and air. This began to happen in the mid 1900's when iniquity began increasing and is now choking the life from the saints and is keeping us from seeing the full light of God in this present day. This smoke is and will affect all believers of every persuasion and all levels of dedication to the Lord. The smoke has no real power to overcome, but it can deceive, mislead and entice one to go down a wrong path that leads to destruction.

The **second stage** is the **locust** comes out of the smoke and is now **giving power to hurt** those without the seal of God. This power has not yet been given to the adversary but it will soon. It is at this time, these spirits being turned loose will be given power to ravage or spiritually assault God's people who were not sealed in their foreheads. Those who were not sealed will not have any power to stop or resist this assault, until it has finished its course and God's purpose is accomplished. The best example of this is when the people of Israel lusted after meat in the wilderness. They could not stop their lustful desires so God sent them meat which they consumed in their lust, until it came out of their nostrils.

This seal of God in their foreheads in this passage, is the same seal on the 144,000, as is seen Rev 7:3. The 144,000 is referred to again in Rev 14:4 as the undefiled and firstfruits unto God. This group of saints I have referred to as the firstfruits, are the only ones kept from this time of torment. One can also see this in Ezek 9:4 when a mark was put upon the forehead of those who were crying out to God because of the abominations in Jerusalem, and this seal or mark protected that individual from the wrath of God. This should not be confused with the purpose of the seal of the Holy Ghost, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession Eph 1:14.

*Rev 7:3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.*

*Rev 14:4 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.*

*Ezekiel 9:4 And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.*

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## EFFECTS UPON NATURAL ISRAEL

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We see the ministry of the two witnesses ending up in natural Israel. The scripture tells us that the beast that comes up will kill the two witnesses in Jerusalem.

*Re 11:8 And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.*

As Jesus is reaching out during this first 3 ½ years to all who are in the world, He will also be reaching out to the nation of Israel. Paul said in...

*Ro 11:23, 25, 26 And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again. For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.*

So all Israel thru Jesus Christ (both Jew and Gentile) will be saved. But the nation of Israel will reject Jesus Christ again, just like they did 2000 years ago. God does have a remnant in natural Israel today and he will bring his remnant out of the religious system of Babylon that rules natural Israel. This is the same Beast system which ruled Israel in Jesus' time. At this time God will have finished his purpose for the natural Israel. Just as it is said in...

*Ge 28:15 And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.*

For God's kingdom is not after a natural seed, but is after the seed of Abraham through faith in Jesus Christ. This body of believers known as the Church makes up the Israel of God where King Jesus is sitting upon the throne of David. This Israel of God consist of those who have followed his voice and obeyed his word as it was spoken thru Moses, the Prophets, Jesus and the Apostles.

Any rising up of worship that takes place in natural Israel in the last 3 ½ years, will not be of God, but the Beast system. Just as in Jesus' time when the Beast system built Herod's temple and controlled the priesthood for political purposes.

But if during this time of the two witnesses, the natural people of Israel will turn to God thru the Lord Jesus Christ, they shall be saved. Not only natural Israel, but all shall be delivered who will turn to the kingdom of his dear son and turn from their wicked ways and the influence of Satan in their life.

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## CHANGES IN CHRIST'S MINISTRY

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Somewhere around the time of the closing of the first 3 ½ years and the start of the second 3 ½ years, there will be a change in the ministry of Christ. Suddenly, at about the same time, several things will be done at or near the midst of the week. This was prophesied in several scriptures both in the Old and New Testament.

Time would fail to try to give an in depth explanation of how these passages are specifically fulfilled during this time period. But the objective is rather to give an overview of what the Lord is doing at this particular time as the **Church is moving from a time of plenty to a time of famine, ...from a day of light to the day of darkness, ... from the day of salvation to the day of vengeance.** As seen in...

*Amo 8:11-12 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.*

*Isa 54:7-9 For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer. For this is as the waters of Noah unto me:*

What we are seeing is an end of the church ages as we know it and the beginning of a period in which the light of God is removed from the world and the church. Satan will now come and set up his worship to its fullest. God does not intend for the true light to resist or fight against the darkness. He intends rather that his people step back or flee away, which will allow the darkness to come in like a flood. However, during this flood, the Lord will raise up a standard to protect his people from being destroyed.

*Re 18:23 And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in the...*

That is not to say that during this time, Satan will not be able to overcome and persecute the church. But Satan knows he has a short time, even less than 3 ½ years. As Jesus has said, that he would cut it short for the very elect's sake.

*Mt 24:22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.*

Let me see if I can explain what is happening and then give all the scriptures at the end of the explanation.

The ministration of Christ as a high priest, the time of the daily sacrifices, salvation, repentance, etc., has stopped. Satan has stood up and is now revealed in the sons of perdition, ...sitting in their temple (their bodies), where Jesus is supposed to sit and rule their vessel.

The glory of the Lord at this time fills the temple in heaven, stopping all daily sacrifices in the heavens until the 7 plagues are poured out. Jesus is no longer able to receive our offerings, as he does now. I hope that no one is thinking of a natural temple or that we are talking about, natural lambs or bullocks. He is speaking of our bodies, and the daily sacrifices which we bring to God in our worship and life through the spirit of Jesus Christ. Paul preached about this in his epistles.

At this time, the door of the ark or the ark of salvation has been shut. It is fixing to rain and the wind is fixing to blow. At this point in time, for those who are alive, our relationship of purifying ourselves before God will determine how we will be tried or tested in the days to come.

*Daniel 9:27 ... and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease...*

*2 Thes 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.*

*Dan 12:11 And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.*

*Rev 15:8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.*

*Luk 17:27 ... until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.*

*Re 7:2-3 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea. Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their forehead.*

*Ge 7:11 ... the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.*

*Rev 22:11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.*

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## SOME WILL EXPERIENCE GREAT TRIBULATION

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Those in the body of Christ who did not listen to the Holy Ghost leadership and had: their vessel, their garments, their spirit or their doctrine defiled, will be cast into great tribulation. These will be persecuted and some killed as they flee for their lives from the flood of evil.

Yet, if they yield and obey God, they shall be purified, made white and clothed in white robes.

This is what is happening at the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> trumpet sounded in Rev. 9. The pit is opened and the adversary is turned loose on these people of God, as seen in the following passages.

*Zec 13:9 And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.*

*Re 7:14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

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## SATAN SITTING IN THE TEMPLES OF GOD

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For the devil and his angels were cast out of heaven, as seen in...

*Rev 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*

At which time they will come and take their abode in the bodies or **temples of the rebellious church.**

*Mark 13:14 But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains.*

*Luk 17:36 Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.*

*2Th 2:3-4 ... and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition. Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.*

*2Th 2:7-8 only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.  
And then shall that Wicked be revealed...*

We also see a type of this in the son of perdition, when Satan entered Judas at the last days of Jesus. This does not mean that he will not fill the wicked. Satan is looking for a vessel or temple that has had the life of God in it, but that life has been corrupted or perverted, and God has rejected it. The same as it happened to Satan. Satan took the life of God in him and corrupted it, and God cast Satan out of his kingdom. Now Satan takes this corrupted life of the rebellious church and gives it to the beast.

We are already seeing the image of the beast today in the religious charismatic image of Christianity. Now, the beast will be giving this corrupted life and will set up his worship of the image, which God's people are warned to stay away from.

*Rev 13:11-15 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon..... so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.*

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**SOME WILL BE SEALED & PROTECTED**

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The firstfruits believers, as mentioned earlier in this message, will be given a place of spiritual or natural refuge, being sealed from the flood of evil. This sealing does mean to imply that they are in heaven watching all this and feeling no affects of this suffering unto death. Their protection is to abide in that place of refuge where God has instructed them to go during this time.

*Re 12:14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.*

*Isa 26:20-21 Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.*

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## THE SUN & MOON ARE DARKENED – THE LIGHTS GO OUT

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We have seen in the scriptures how the sun was darkened by the smoke that ascended out of the bottomless pit, bringing iniquity and a false spirit filled movement. We that are spiritual see this smoke today and its effect on the saints and ministers. We see how that Christianity as a whole has backslidden in the last several decades; ministries have turned aside for gain and honor. This time of darkness is to allow the saints to make a choice of their dedication and obedience to God in the face of gross iniquity, temptations and religious perversion.

Now at this time it goes further or to a different level of darkness. Here the Lord will also pull back his presence or Spirit, dry up or withhold the river of the Lord, and stop his light from shining in the world and through his church. We see this in the following scriptures.

*Joh 9:4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.*

*Rev 16:12 And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.*

*Re 18:23 And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in the...*

*Isa 13:7-10 Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt: And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames. Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.*

The pulling away of God's light during this time, is what gives way for the Beast to bring forth his last great deception upon the world as spoken of in Rev 13:11-18. This deception of false anointing and gospel, will try to deceiving the church also.

For Jesus is not showing his light or manifesting his glory during this time to the church or the world. There is no preaching of the Gospel from the Lord. At this time the Devil and Beast are performing great signs and wonders that would deceive the very elect of God, if it were possible. But there will be a false gospel that will be preached by the False Prophet, which is the corrupt ministry that exists today, but their rebellion toward God has now caused them to turn themselves over to the Beast for a season. It will be just like it was in Jesus time

and during the Catholic Church. Both had a religious system, traditions and ministers, but the light of God was not in them, and it was full of deception and false hope.

Jesus warned us that during this time, we are not to believe the message, the signs, the wonders and the miracles that are being done, because God is not in it. It is a perverted doctrine, and it is a strange fire that did not come from God's altar.

We can even see a type of the first 3 ½ years and the last 3 ½ years of our suffering, in Jesus' cross. During the time of his suffering on the cross, so that he might enter into his glory. There was light for the first half and darkness during the last half. During the time of darkness, the Father left him alone that he might finish his sufferings.

Blessed is he that has an ear to hear what the spirit has to say to the church.

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