## A GODLIKE OVERVIEW OF APOCALYPSE

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Do you know the real meaning of the Apocalypse?

What will happen when the cosmos is shaken? And what will be the "unveiling" when the cosmic storms are crashing down on Earth?

Take a look at any newspaper in this world, and you'll find appalling reports of an increase in natural disasters. . . a vast multitude of catastrophic accidents. . . the discovery of frightful new diseases. . . an increased occurrence of grotesquely unnatural murders and abominable sexual violence. . . babies born with shocking physical defects. . . old people and others meeting a tragic death in suddenly hostile weather that appeared because of bizarre climactic changes...

In your newspaper, you'll read of more and more people who are taking anti-depressant drugs, of others who are having nervous breakdowns, and a great number of people who are now committing suicide (at record-high levels), because of a fear and dread they now feel in the midst of the awful distress of this world.

We live today on a devastated Earth, in a scary environment of incessant catastrophes and irrational violence. Misfortunes, perversions, insanities, and injustices are spreading like evil wildfire over the face of our sad planet, destroying every possible hope of mental peace or spiritual tranquility!

While the good people of humble means are being oppressed and victimized year after year, cruel bosses, dictators, and ruthless men are gleefully running amok in our world! And in many ways, these wicked persons are actually prospering, despite their evil behavior toward a huge number of good persons whom they ceaselessly abuse! Their competition-obsessed Supervisors are totally unconcerned about the suffering of the workers that they exploit.

The **mutilated victims** cry out their repetitious pleas for God's help and rescue, but seem to get **no response** whatsoever.

We live today in a time of great TRIBULATION, in a frightful and oppressive environment of incessant catastrophes and irrational injuries that afflict all the people of Earth. We find ourselves living in a cruel world that shows a callous disregard for the suffering of human beings. Misfortunes and insanities are spreading like wildfire over the face of our planet, and these are victimizing millions of people, who cannot even begin to comprehend why such things are happening to them!

Everyone is asking, "Why me? Why have I been so horribly, terribly victimized?"

This will be a time-period of severe calamities worse than all our world has ever seen! In the midst of all these disasters and the seemingly chaotic conditions here on Earth, Christians (and even pastors!) are not immune from these trials, but are forced to suffer equally with all the other persons living on this troubled Earth. We can expect things to get worse before it gets better!

If you have been reading your daily newspapers carefully, you will surely know that due to the appalling distress found in the conditions of our contemporary world, even some of our Christian ministers are now found to be taking anti-depressant drugs. . . in an effort to cope with chronic depression. In our modern world, there are even a few Christian pastors who have had nervous breakdowns from the stress they've endured. And there are still other reports of even Christian ministers who have recently committed suicide.

How can such awful things be happening in our world — things so horrifying or frightful that even Christian pastors are trying to cope with the symptoms of severe depression?

The Bible and its authorities teach us that these terrible catastrophic conditions, now seen worldwide and easily visible to everyone on Earth, are going to get more and more severe. . . things are going to get worse and worse — until finally the whole Earth is to be utterly destroyed in a cataclysmic series of awesome catastrophes!

Jesus Christ predicted of our future that "On the Earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the sign of the Son of Man [God The Son, Jesus] coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up, and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

[Luke 21:25-28]

In a previous tract, we considered why God will allow such horrible plagues and catastrophes to overwhelm the entire Earth. In this tract, we briefly discuss the Great Tribulation that's now seen to be coming on the Earth, and we next reflect on the Unveiling of God which is going to occur in the midst of the cataclysms. . .

Then we will reveal for you the only reliable means by which you may find a hope of survival in a world such as this one of the Last Days.

Jesus Christ predicted these current catastrophes nearly two thousand years ago. He did so when he declared of this future time that "Then there will be a great tribulation on Earth, a time of distress unequaled from the beginning of the world until now. . . and never to be equaled again." [Mt. 24:21-22]

How could God have created an Earth that was only headed for catastrophic destruction?

To understand our present age, you must recognize the **Catastrophic Momentum** that now carries the Earth forward to its ultimate fate.

What is the **meaning** of this term "Catastrophic Momentum" which we are now using? Well, it's like this: God originally created a perfect and flawless Earth, but when the Destroyer [Satan] entered His Creation and caused havoc on Earth, our Earth became what the Bible calls "a Fallen World."

Ever since that early time, this present Earth has been not only "a Fallen World" but also "a Crashing World" — one that is destined to crack up in the flaming crash of its ultimate destruction!

Another way to describe it would be to say that our Earth is "a Collapsing World," because it is a world that has been slowly undermined through all the centuries of its long existence. . . and it is progressively breaking up in a millennia-spanning chain-reaction of catastrophes. The cumulative effect of millions of catastrophes has done lethal damage to our world.

Physicists claim that the Universe is slowly losing energy by a mere "entropy" effect. But the progress of **Catastrophic Accumulation** has done far more injury to the Earth than any mere Entropy Effect!

The Earth's foundation is today cracked and unstable; the pillars of truth that once supported the heavens are crumbling now and beginning to topple. The roof above us is beginning to cave in, and the stars will soon come crashing down. God's Own Truth is no longer regarded by any nation as a Solid Rock Foundation for laws and government. The stars are about to start falling from the sky: Our Earth is a Broken World that is destined to crash into pieces, doomed to ultimate destruction.

This world of ours has long been deteriorating, has been degenerating for countless centuries, and soon it will come crashing down around us as the frightful Final Catastrophes come upon the Earth.

In the very midst of these awesome catastrophes which are starting to come upon the Earth will be a panic-stricken humanity, perceiving that the heavenly bodies are **shaken** in a violent upheaval. With a darkened Sun and Moon, and with the stars already falling in upon us, we humans will have to look to the sky for the sign of Christ Returning.

Jesus is the Royal Star of God, a being of brilliant light who will appear in the darkened sky at the time of this world's greatest tribulation!

There is an old saying that "It's always darkest just before the dawn," and that is just how it will be at the time when Jesus Christ returns to Earth. When the evil darkness and sickness that envelops our world has reached its blackest and most hopeless condition, then at last things will be changed.

The world called Earth will then be suddenly illuminated by the brilliant Light of Christ as He appears in the sky above us.

The awesome Light which appears in the skies over our dark Earth at that point in time is none other than Jesus Christ, the Son of God glorified and descending to the Earth. He will at that time seem brighter than any Sun we have ever seen in the past.

The brilliance of His grand entrance into our Earth's atmosphere will make Him seen by all peoples on the Earth, and everyone on Earth will then recognize Jesus Christ as the awesomely powerful Light of the Universe — the Son of God, and God Incarnate!

Many will be overjoyed to see that new day arrive! But many people also will be afraid even to see that brilliant Light of the Earth's New Dawn, because they know that their evil deeds are then to be brought into the light of God's judgment.

The word *Apocalypse* means "an unveiling," and this time of great tribulation on Earth, in this period of the greatest darkness that the world has ever known, is the appointed moment for the great "unveiling" of the Apocalypse! It is then that God Himself is unveiled and revealed clearly to all people on Earth -- and the Light of God's Unveiling will be awesome to behold!

God will then be in the sky above us as a Superbeing of blindingly brilliant Light. . . and He will have a face that somehow resembles that of Jesus Christ, and of God The Father, and of God The Spirit all now rolled into one!

At Christ's Returning He will be an awesome entity whom we will simultaneously admire and fear, hoping for mercy from His strangely different face. His face will be different than many expect, because it will carry both the loving expression of His Jesus side and the wrathful (angry or judgmental) expression of His Jehovah side.

Together with these two aspects of the Trinity, there will also be in His face the Brilliant Light now visibly emanating from His Spiritual Force radiation— a spiritual radiation that we may call the expression of His Holy Spirit side. So we will be seeing the expressions of all three faces of the Triune God at that time.

This is the awesome revelation that we can expect when God's Unveiling is displayed to all humanity in the midst of the horrible darkness of Earth's greatest tribulation!

This is the spectacular Sign which will appear in the heavens to herald the return of Christ! His first appearance on the Earth came with the birth of the baby Jesus... with God The Son embodied as a tiny human infant born on the surface of planet Earth. It was an astounding, cataclysmic occurrence of endless significance. And it too was accompanied by a wonderful Sign of Light appearing in the night sky.

That first entry by God into the world of Earth was then accompanied by the brilliant light of the Star of Bethlehem floating in the sky over the small town of Bethlehem -- a Sign of Light. It signaled the coming to Earth of God Himself. . . God Almighty, who is the true Light of the Universe, would soon be walking upon the Earth in a human form.

The Star of Bethlehem was a Sign of Light in the heavens that God The Father (as a proud new father) had designed to visibly mark that cataclysmic event. It was doubtless the Father's tribute to His Son, meant to commemorate the birth of Jesus.

Jesus was very special, and not at all like God's ordinary children on Earth. Jesus was God's supernaturally born Son... His Only True and Completely Faithful Son. This was the Holy One who was destined by God's will to be the Savior of humanity and (someday) King of Kings.

That small baby Jesus was actually God The Son, who had willingly volunteered to descend to Earth. . . where He knew He would suffer a lifetime ending with humiliation, torture, and an unjust execution. They both knew all these things were destined to happen on that dark planet Earth but even so, God The Son had still volunteered. . . in order that He might thus show humanity God's willingness to forgive.

God The Father was even willing to give up His Only Supernaturally Born Son, to die horribly as a self-sacrifice on the altar-like surface of a sinful planet. God The Son was willing to go down there and be tortured for Earth, to even die for those whom He would call His friends. He did this in order that the people of Earth might be redeemed and be rescued from a fate worse than death — an eternity of separation from God.

God The Father was understandably proud of His Son at that moment in history, and He used the Sign of the brilliant Star of Bethlehem to show all the Earth, and all the watching angels, that He was truly pleased and proud over the bravery of His Son. Jesus Christ (God The Son), in faithful submission to the will of God The Father, would willingly sacrifice Himself in the great battle against the forces of Darkness.

Jesus would one day die on the cross for the sins of the Earth, and be shortly after resurrected from the grave, in order that the Light would ultimately prevail.

Another Sign of Light appears at the beginning of the Second Advent (second entrance) of God Almighty into the sindevastated environment of Earth. . . It will be Jesus Christ Himself who is suddenly visible in a totally black sky!

He will appear in our skies as a brilliant Light which will signal an end to the long Dark Ages of Earth, and the beginning of a New Dawn for the Earth! This next time the Sign of Light will be Jesus Christ Himself, in His new glorified form, descending to Earth in the utter brilliance of His divinity!

The bright beauty of the Star of Bethlehem was merely a pale foreshadowing of that future date when the Royal Star of God would Himself appear in the night skyfloating in the dark atmosphere of Earth like a miniature Sun that will suddenly bring warmth to a cold and nearly dead world!

But God has planned an additional Sign which is to appear in the Earth's sky on the occasion of the Return of Jesus Christ: At that time the Earth's familiar Sun and its Moon will be darkened, as will the stars.

Jesus Christ predicted this nearly two thousand years ago, saying "Immediately after the distress of those days, the Sun will be darkened and the Moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time the Sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky. . . and all the nations will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory."

[Mt. 24:29-30]

[ Regarding the term "the Son of Man" which Jesus uses for Himself here in the Gospel of Matthew, be aware that Jesus often referred to Himself this way, almost as if talking of a third person. Because He was God The Son funneled into a human form, fully God and yet fully Man, He spoke of Himself with detachment as God's Son Through Man, "the Son of Man." For plenty of examples of Jesus openly declaring Himself to be **God Incarnate**, be sure to read the Gospel of John! ]

God has predetermined that when Jesus Christ next appears over the skies of Earth, there will be no longer be any other lights there! There will not be any other lights there to distract anyone from the glory of God's descent to Earth!

As Jesus once ascended from the Earth to the Heaven of God, soon He will descend from Heaven and return to Earth, in order to finish a task which He began long ago!

The crowd watching the Returning Christ descend to Earth will be vastly larger than the 500 or so people who watched Him first ascend to Heaven (almost 2,000 years ago) in the glorified body of His resurrection.

That previous audience got to see Him float upward through the Earth's atmosphere. . . but every eye on Earth will see His descending through the air at the hour of His Return.

Christ Returning will be the Triune God, radiating the emanations of His Holy Spirit to all the Earth — looking to us like an awesome **new star**, but with His own sun-like brilliance! He will be uniquely brilliant, yet clearly God and clearly the great Light of the whole Universe! So all humans will recognize Him then and bow to the brilliant light of Truth.

And with God The Son will come also a bright "cloud" of angels that join Him for His descent. All humans living on Earth at that time will clearly see and recognize the brilliant Light of God Incarnate in Jesus Christ!

# Are you aware of the Bible's' New Lifeboat?

It's your only chance for survival when the cosmos is shaken and the cosmic storms come crashing down on Earth!

JESUS is THE DIVINE INTERFACE that makes salvation possible. God made Him a Savior who can rescue you from the punishment of sins.

God reveals His Son Jesus and Himself to us whenever we read or hear the truths that He has planted in the Holy Scriptures of the Bible. A seed of His truth, buried in you now, can start to grow in His Light, or perish in your darkness.

You can see it grow by placing Jesus Christ, who in the Trinity of God created our Universe, upon a throne at the center of your heart! He deserves that position and that kind of respect. He was first God The Son, but when born in human flesh He became the only sinless and righteous person who ever lived. Yet He sacrificed Himself on a cross for your sake, taking all guilt and sins upon Himself, in order that you and I — that all people — that whoever wishes for salvation might be rescued from the due punishment of sins.

All it really takes is a simple but sincere little prayer -- one that you should make up in your own words. The prayer for deliverance and for God's leadership should come from your own heart!

#### Some important elements that you might include are:

- 1) your desire to turn away from the wrongness or evil of your past life, and your remorse over the sins of your previous life,
- 2) your desire for God's forgiveness and mercy through the act of sacrifice of His Only Begotten Son (Jesus Christ),
  - 3) your desire to know God's leadership in your life,
  - 4) your desire to learn more of God's truth through Bible study,
  - 5) your desire to find fellowship with genuine believers.

It's also important for all of us to remember this:

- 1) WE SPEAK TO GOD by our prayers.
- 2) **GOD SPEAKS TO US** by the words of Holy Scripture.

So we must try to read His words and His Book just as often as we possibly can!!

God wants to bless you for all your long efforts to understand this very confusing and difficult Universe in which we live -- so let Him reward your search with the grace of His forgiveness and enlightenment!

### THIS GUIDE WAS WRITTEN FOR YOU BY. . . Ken Street, a baptized follower of the Way.

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