

translated before the tribulation why would it be necessary to shorten the days? Matt. 24:22. And if the Church were taken out before the tribulation, how could the "Beast" make war against the saints? Rev. 13:7. And why would God give the saints that awful warning in Rev. 16:15, Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame." After six of the vials of the wrath of God have already been poured out upon the world?

Note also in Rev. 9:3, "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 tree; but only THOSE MEN WHICH HAVE NOT THE SEAL OF GOD IN THEIR FOREHEAD."

So it is implied that there will be those having the "SEAL OF GOD" in their forehead on the earth at that time.

Then we have a wonderful picture of the order of events in Jesus' own words, beginning at Matt. 24:27. "For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be. For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TRIBULATION OF THOSE DAYS shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall be shaken: And then shall appear the Sign of the Son of Man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. AND THEY SHALL SEND HIS ANGELS WITH THE SOUND OF A TRUMPET (last trump), AND THEY SHALL GATHER TOGETHER HIS ELECT, from the four winds, from one end of

heaven to the other." (After the tribulation they shall be gathered together.)

But some one will say, "That refers to the elect, not to the Christians, just to the elect Jews." To which we must ask, "Is there difference between Jew and Gentile? either before or after conversion.

For God hath concluded them All in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all." Rom. 11:32. (No difference before conversion.) And if you are still unconvinced that the Church today is Israel in fact, not "spiritual Israel" but Israel in fact, notice that the New Testament refers to the Church specifically as "The ELECT OF GOD." "Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, barbarian Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all and in all. Put on therefore, as THE ELECT OF GOD, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering:" etc. Col. 3:11-12.

Another point: A careful study of 2 Thess. the 2nd Chapter will disclose that two things must occur before our gathering together unto Him. There must be a "Great Falling Away first" and "That Man of Sin be revealed, the Son of Perdition."

Also, "So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and TRIBULATIONS THAT YE ENDURE: which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be COUNTED WORTHY OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD, for which ye also suffer." 2 Thess. 1:4-5. So the Church must "endure tribulation" to be counted worthy of the Kingdom of God.

We don't like to hear such preaching as this. We like to be patted on the back, and told that now, just because we are "born again" or "sanctified" or "had the baptism of the Holy Ghost," we are