



# THE HERALD OF TRUTH



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*Volume 57 no 2*

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# A Biblical Perspective on Places of Safety and Our Ultimate Refuge in Christ Rights

**Byron Lee Sanchez: Editor-in-Chief**



**Isaiah 57:1–2 (ESV)**

*“The righteous man perishes, and no one lays it to heart; devout men are taken away, while no one understands. For the righteous man is taken away from calamity; he enters into peace; they rest in their beds who walk in their uprightness.”*

Throughout Christian history, believers have wondered how God might protect His people during times of intense tribulation. One theory points to a physical “place of safety,” often identified as Petra in Jordan. While some interpret biblical prophecy to suggest an earthly refuge, Scripture’s central message is that our true security is in Christ alone. Moreover, the sobering reality is that for some believers, the safest place may be the grave, where they rest until the resurrection. In this article, we will explore the possibility of a literal refuge in end times, while

emphasizing that our ultimate hope transcends any earthly location.

## **Biblical Suggestions of a Wilderness Refuge**

**Revelation 12:6 (ESV)** says, “the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God,” and later, **Revelation 12:14 (ESV)** adds, “the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness.” Many see these verses as prophecies indicating that faithful believers will be taken to a protected location. Petra, with its towering rock walls, has drawn special attention as a possible fulfillment of this “wilderness” imagery. Historically, Petra served as a fortified city, often difficult to penetrate, and its hidden pathways naturally evoke thoughts of safety in a chaotic future.

However, whether Petra is the actual place or simply representative of divine protection, the emphasis is on God's sovereign provision rather than the location's own defenses. Throughout Scripture, God often preserves His people in unlikely circumstances. In Exodus 16, He fed Israel with manna in the desert. In 1 Kings 17, He sustained Elijah by ravens near a brook. If a literal refuge does come into play in the last days, it will be God's power, not geography alone, that ensures survival for those whom He calls there.

### God's Protective Power

Psalm 91:1 (ESV) promises, "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty." The psalmist declares that God is our shield against terror, plague, and destruction. This imagery points to a deeper truth: physical refuges mean nothing if God is not our ultimate protector. Even the strongest fortress pales beside the safety we find in Christ. Jesus assures us in John 10:28–29 (ESV), "I give them eternal life, and they will never perish... no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand." While some might escape the ravages of end-time turmoil by fleeing to a particular place, believers everywhere can rest in the certainty that Christ holds them now and forever.

### When Death Becomes Our Refuge

Scripture also reminds us that sometimes God's people are called to suffer or even die for their faith. Jesus warned in Matthew 24:9 (ESV), "They will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death." Church history shows that martyrdom has accompanied the faith since the earliest days. Though unsettling, the Bible affirms that even in death, we find safety in Christ. Revelation 14:13 (ESV) says, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord... that they may rest from their labors." For these faithful ones, the grave becomes a place of peace as they await the resurrection. We are reminded that in God's plan, death is not defeat; it is a transition to eternal life in His presence.

The apostle Paul embraced this reality: "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21, ESV). If we maintain this eternal perspective, we can see that the grave can serve as a unique refuge, free from the darkness of the world's final convulsions. Far from being abandoned, these believers are precious to the Lord (Psalm 116:15). Thus, whether

we stand in an earthly sanctuary or rest in the earth itself, Christ ensures our ultimate security.

### The Role of Faith Over Fear

Sensational discussions of an end-time place of safety can stir up anxiety. Some worry they might not reach that location in time or be deemed worthy. Others spend more energy strategizing survival tactics than cultivating their relationship with Christ. Yet the Bible reminds us again and again: "Do not fear" (Isaiah 41:10). God's people are called to stand firm in faith, trusting in His plan above all else.

When we fix our eyes too firmly on an earthly haven, we can forget that trials may be part of God's refining process. The apostle Peter wrote that suffering tests and strengthens our faith, resulting in praise and glory at Christ's return (1 Peter 1:6–7). If our hearts are grounded in Christ, no earthly tribulation—or absence of a physical shelter—can rob us of God's ultimate deliverance.

### A Balanced View of Prophecy

While believers wrestle with apocalyptic teachings, it helps to maintain a balanced approach. Scripture does not give explicit directions on fleeing to Petra or any other physical spot. Instead, it highlights readiness: "Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming" (Matthew 24:42, ESV). Readiness means spiritual vigilance, moral purity, and devotion to Christ rather than obsessing over logistics.

Planning or preparing for trials is not inherently wrong. Even Joseph stored grain ahead of famine (Genesis 41). But biblical wisdom calls us to trust God's leading. If a "wilderness" refuge is part of His plan, He can guide His people there. If, on the other hand, He calls us to persevere in place or even seal our testimony with our blood, we know our reward is eternal (Revelation 2:10). By keeping our spiritual eyes on Jesus, we guard against distraction and fear.

### Looking to Church History

Historically, many believers sought refuge during persecution—whether in catacombs, mountain hideouts, or remote forests. God often used these places to shield His people temporarily. But countless others did not escape. Martyrdom has been a consistent thread in the church's tapestry, underscoring that physical safety is never guaranteed to every believer. Despite these realities, the gospel has flourished. Those who hid often emerged stronger

*When we fix our eyes too firmly on an earthly haven, we can forget that trials may be part of God's refining process.*

in faith, and those who died bore witness to Christ's power over death. This historical perspective guards us from presuming that we must secure a place to escape tribulation at all costs. God can indeed provide a haven, but He might also glorify His name through our suffering.

### True Rest in Christ

One of the most comforting images is Jesus' promise in John 14:1–3 (ESV): "Let not your hearts be troubled... I go to prepare a place for you." While some look for a place prepared in the desert, the greater promise is that Christ has prepared an eternal dwelling. Here lies our final refuge—far beyond any earthly fortress. As we wait for His return, we hold these dual realities: God may well provide physical deliverance for some, yet He may allow others to be martyred. In both scenarios, we remain in His care. Our union with Jesus anchors us whether we are in a fortress, fleeing tribulation, or breathing our last breath. Romans 8:38–39 (ESV) assures us that nothing "will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." That love is our genuine security in all things.

### Practical Steps for Believers

How should we respond?

1. **Focus on spiritual growth:** Cultivate prayer, Scripture reading, and fellowship. These disciplines strengthen our faith, enabling us to trust God's plan.
2. **Embrace God's sovereignty:** Recognize that He may use a physical haven like Petra—or He may not. Either way, His faithfulness is unchanging.
3. **Reject panic:** While preparation and awareness can be wise, do not be driven by

fear. God calls us to "be anxious for nothing" (Philippians 4:6, ESV).

4. **Remember our eternal hope:** If our lives end before Christ's return, we rest in Him, awaiting resurrection glory.
5. **Encourage and support others:** Like the early church, we should help and pray for one another, especially those facing persecution right now.

### Concluding Thoughts

The idea of a physical place of safety, such as Petra, holds fascination for many. It resonates with the biblical narrative that God may lead His people into the wilderness to protect them from the darkest hour of history. Yet, we must never lose sight of the deeper scriptural teaching: our true safety is—and always will be—found in Christ. Even if God leads a portion of believers to an earthly stronghold, some will face death. In either case, the arms of our loving Savior are our real shelter.

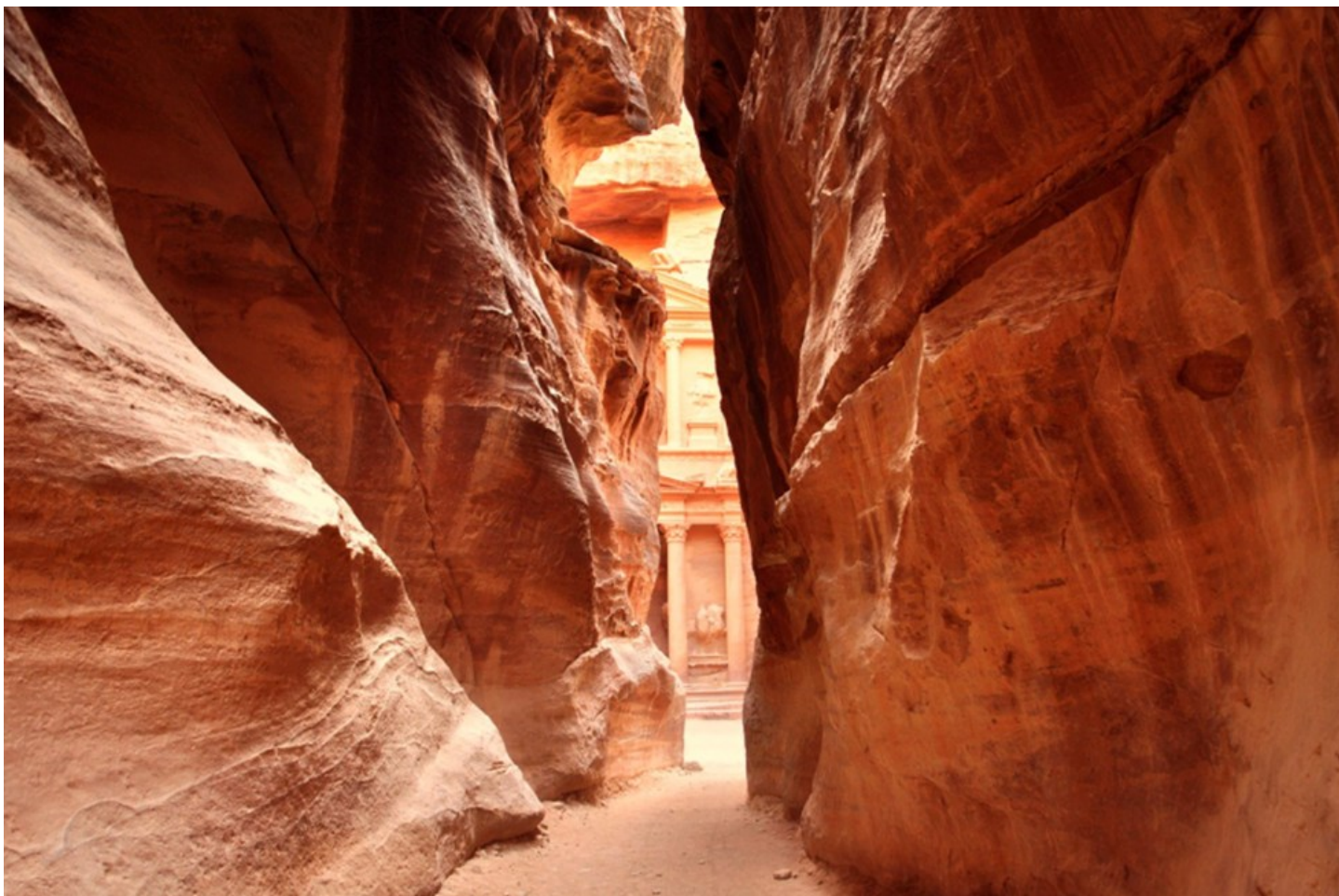
Every believer shares the hope of eternal life, secured by Christ's death and resurrection. Whether we find ourselves safeguarded in the wilderness or resting in the grave, the Lord's promise remains unbreakable. He will gather His saints, raise them up on the last day, and usher them into the everlasting inheritance He has prepared (1 Thessalonians 4:16–17). That is our ultimate place of safety: not a city in the desert, but the presence of the King who has overcome the world. Always remember: if there is a literal Petra for some, it is God's hand that leads them there; if others find the grave, it is Christ who will call them forth. In the end, our security is the same—safe in the Savior who conquered death itself.

# ACTS

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## Where Is the Place of Safety?

Abraham Joseph Sanchez

One of the most common and timeless principles told throughout scripture is that **God protects his people**. Whether it is the story of Joseph, King David, Daniel or Esther, God delivers the righteous in the day of trial.

Beginning with the Flood account we learn that because of the faithfulness of Noah, God spared him and his family (Heb 11:7 ;Gen 6:9). We know from 2 Peter 2:7 that God “*delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked*” and that “*the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations*”. Because Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were faithful to God and would not bend the knee to a golden idol, they were delivered from the fiery furnace. (Dan 3:25) And there are numerous other examples of deliverance throughout scripture.

However, this is not to say that our Christian walk is

an easy one. Many times we face an uphill battle trying to maintain our values in an immoral world. Fighting the good fight quite often **is a fight!** Also, as we know, God chastens every son he loves and gives us trials and tests to refine us as gold is refined in the fire. However, we know God is faithful, who will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we can bear but with the temptation will also make the way of escape. (I Cor 10:13).

*Many are the afflictions of the righteous, **But the LORD delivers him out of them all.** He guards all his bones; Not one of them is broken. Evil shall slay the wicked, And those who hate the righteous shall be condemned.* Psa 34:19-21 NKJV.

God is not going to break us under a pressures of a horrible trial and does deliver His people in the day of trial- **especially** when that trial is a punishment

brought upon the wicked. And there are multiple examples of this as well in scripture.

When Abraham learned that the cities of Sodom and Gomorah were to be destroyed, in his plea to the LORD, he states:

*“would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it? **“Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”** Gen 18:24-25 NKJV.*

Abraham makes it clear that God is not indiscriminately punish the righteous with the wicked. **He is precise in his punishment or his wrath would not be justified.** And as we apply this principle to Bible prophecy it is clear to see in the scriptures that **God will provide a way of escape for the saints at the end time.** Notice Revelation chapter 3:

*Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will **keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.** Rev 3:10 NKJV.*

As we read through chapters 2 and 3 of Revelation Christ warns all seven of the Churches, but it was only Philadelphia that had been faithful to keep His word and had not denied His name (3:8). God promises to protect his church during the tribulation if they persevere— **if they are faithful.** Again, in the book of Zephaniah, we see God offers protection to his people during “The great day of the Lord”:

*Gather yourselves together, yes, gather together, O undesirable nation, Before the decree is issued, Or the day passes like chaff, Before the Lord’s fierce anger comes upon you, Before the day of the Lord’s anger comes upon you! Seek the LORD, all you meek of the earth, Who have upheld His justice. Seek righteousness, seek humility. **It may be that you will be hidden in the day of the Lord’s anger.** Zep 2:1-3 NKJV.*

It is very clear from the context of the book of Zephaniah that “The great day of the LORD” being referred to here (Zep 1:14) is none other than The

Great Tribulation. And even though He plans to “utterly consume everything from the face of the land,” he also offers protection to those who have **upheld justice** and seek **righteousness** and **humility.** There are prerequisites to escaping the Great Tribulation!

Notice again in during the Ovellet prophecy, Christ offers a way of escape to those who watch and pray.

*“Watch therefore, and pray always that **you may be counted worthy to escape all these things** that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.” Luke 21:36 NKJV.*

Here we read of even more requirements to be accounted worthy to escape. So far we have learned that we need to persevere (Rev 3:10), uphold justice and seek righteousness (Zep 2:3) and now also to “watch and pray” (Luke 21:36). Another requirement to escape is described in Psalms 91:

***He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall** abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, “He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust.” Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler And from the perilous pestilence. Psa 91:1-3 NKJV.*

Here we read protection is provided to those who dwell in the “secret place”. Although Psalms 91 is ambiguous about what, where and how we get to this “secret place”, when we compare it to Revelation 12 many more pieces of the puzzle come together.

*“Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.” Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, **he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child.** But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, **that she might fly into the wilderness to her place,** where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. Rev 12:12-14 NKJV.*

In multiple places in scripture the church is referred to as a woman. (Is 54:5-6; 2 Cor 11:2; Rev 19:7-9; Eph 5:25-27). And so from this passage we learn that



the church is supernaturally protected from the wrath of the dragon where she is taken to her place where she is nourished for 3-1/2 years. It is interesting to note that in the Hebrew of Psalms 91 and in the Greek of Revelation 12 that the words used for “place” is singular in both instances. Neither passages allow for it to be translated as “places”.

We learn even more about this place of nourishment in Isaiah 42. Keep in mind as you read these verses that the context of the chapter is clearly at the time of the end where the “LORD shall go forth like a mighty man”(v13) and “will lay waste the mountains and hills”(v15). During this time of destruction we learn that there is **a place** where the inhabitants sing praises to God:

*Sing to the LORD a new song, And His praise from the ends of the earth, You who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, You coastlands and you inhabitants of them! Let the wilderness and its cities lift up their voice, **The villages that Kedar inhabits.***

***Let the inhabitants of Sela sing, Let them shout from the top of the mountains. Let them give glory to the LORD Isa 42:10-12 NKJV.***

The two places mentioned where the inhabitants “will sing to the LORD a new song” is Kedar and Sela. Numerous sources identify Sela as the Edomite city Petra which historically was located on the border of Moab. This is confirmed by multiple bible commentaries and dictionaries such as:

- Easton’s Bible Dictionary
- Smith’s Bible Dictionary
- International Bible Dictionary
- Barnes Notes on the Bible

Kedar was the 2nd son of Ishmael (Gen 25:13) whose descendants are the Bedouin Arabs that dwell throughout the Middle East-including present day Jordan where Petra is located. They are identified





easily by their black tents. Here they are seen here camped just outside of Petra.

Also note that in Isaiah 42, it is not necessarily Kedar that is singing to the Lord but the villages in which they dwell in- which would include Sela or Petra!

More is described about Sela during the time of the end in Isaiah 33. Like chapter 42, the level of destruction and judgment brought upon the earth described in chapter 33 can refer to no other event than The Day of the Lord. Especially when this chapter refers to the fact that we will “see the King in His beauty”(v17) and that “The LORD is our King; He will save us”(v22)- it is impossible to interpret this chapter as any other than **end time bible prophecy**. Here in Isaiah 33 it states:

*The sinners in Zion are afraid; Fearfulness has seized the hypocrites: “Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?” He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly, He who despises the gain of oppressions, Who gestures with his hands, refusing bribes, Who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed, And shuts his eyes from seeing evil: He will dwell on high; **His place of defense will be the fortress of rocks**; Bread will be given him, His water will be sure. Your eyes will see the King in His beauty; They will see the land that is very far off.* Isa 33:14-17 NKJV.

The phrase “the fortress of rocks” is rather obscure in most English translations. However the word translated “rocks” here is none other than the Hebrew

word “sela”. The Septuagint translation refers to this as “petra”. It is also interesting to note that from the mountain Jubal al Kura that over looks Petra, on a clear day, you can easily view Jerusalem. Jubal al Kura stands at 4038 ft where as by comparison Mt. Zion of Jerusalem is only 2510 ft and is less than 100 miles away. From Petra it is very easy to “see the land (Israel) that is very far off.”

From these clues from Isaiah 33 we learn that at the time of the end when “the highways lie waste”(v8), “the earth mourns”(v9) and “nations are scattered” the Saints will be protected and provided food and water at the fortress of Sela or Petra. This passage sounds very similar to Revelation 12:14 where the woman is nourished in the wilderness during the 3-1/2 year tribulation.

This scenario is described again in Isaiah chapter 16 where the people of God are protected in the Wilderness of Sela at the time of the end.

*Send ye the lamb to the ruler of the land **from Sela to the wilderness**, unto the mount of the daughter of Zion. For it shall be, that, as a wandering bird cast out of the nest, so the daughters of Moab shall be at the fords of Arnon. Take counsel, execute judgment; make thy shadow as the night in the midst of the noonday; **hide the outcasts; betray not him that wandereth. Let mine outcasts dwell with thee, Moab; be thou a covert to them from the face of the spoiler: for the extortioner is at an end, the spoiler ceaseth, the oppressors are consumed out of the land. And in mercy shall the throne be established: and he***

**MY PASSEOVER LAMB**

By Zona Sandford

Blessed Jesus, I thank You,  
You're my Passover Lamb!  
How could You love me so much,  
When You're the Great I AM?  
  
Why was Your life taken,  
Why was Your blood shed,  
When we both know,  
How I deserved it instead?  
  
And to think how Your body  
Was so broken for me,  
That I might be whole,

That I might be free.  
  
It seems so unbalanced,  
This sacrifice for me,  
The degree of my sin,  
Compared to Your purity.  
  
Nothing I have done  
Could be worthy of You,  
Surely, it's only Your grace,  
And Your love so true.  
  
But, Oh, I want to thank You  
For ending my strife,

For giving me joy,  
Being my "Bread of life."  
  
May Your "Blood of the New  
Testament"  
Flow in my soul,  
May praising You, loving You,  
Be my one goal!  
  
*(Zona Sandford is the wife of Paul Sandford, a former Board Member of the Seventh Day Church of God. She resides in Spokane Valley, WA.)*

*shall sit upon it in truth in the tabernacle of David, judging, and seeking judgment, and hasting righteousness.*

Isa 16:1-5 KJV.

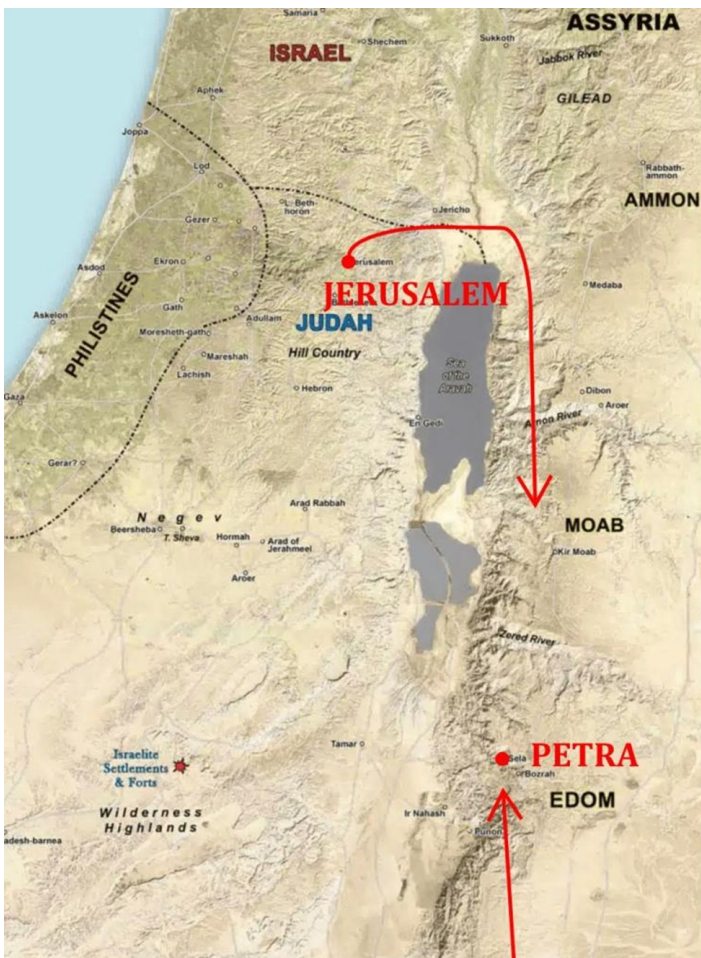
Once again all of the same elements are being described together: Sela and the wilderness are being compared to Moab, to which Petra is on the boarder of. The shadow is hiding the escaping outcasts who are being sheltered and protected from the face of the spoiler. If the spoiler referred to here is the Dragon, then the wilderness of Revelation 12 is the same wilderness of Isaiah 16. Notice Daniel 11:

***“At the time of the end** the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through. “He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: **Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon.** Dan 11:40-41 NKJV.*

Daniel chapter 11 describes the battles between the king of the North and the King of the South. Beginning with verse 40 we learn that at the “time of the end” the King of the North (The Beast of Revelation) will prevail and will conquer the Holyland(v41) and the surrounding areas of the Middle east. However, there are three areas that will be spared from the King of the North: **Edom, Moab and Ammon.** If you are escaping Israel (Mat 24:16), you will need to travel through Ammon and Moab to get to Petra. If you are coming from the South you will need to travel through Edom to get to Petra.

After the Exodus of Egypt, when the children of Israel had come to the promised land, there is an interesting pattern that emerges. Twice the Israelites came to the land of Promise 40 years apart. The first approach to the Land of Promise is described in Numbers 12 where each tribe had sent in a spy.

*So Moses sent them from the **Wilderness of Paran** according to the command of the LORD, all of them men who were heads of the children of Israel. Num 13:3*



According to the Brown-Driver-Briggs Bible Dictionary, Paran means “place of caverns” and that the majority of the wanderings of the Israelites were in this area. Numbers 13:26 tells us that after viewing the land the spies brought back word to the congregation at Kadesh.

*Now they departed and came back to Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the children of Israel in the **Wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh**; they brought back word to them and to all the*



*congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land.*  
Num 13:26

The congregation of Israel had encamped at Kadesh which is more specific than the “region” of the Wilderness of Paran. Kadesh according to Brown-Driver-Briggs Bible Dictionary simply means “Holy”. However, by the time we come to Deuteronomy, 40 years later, Kadesh is now referred to “Kadesh Barnea”.

*So we departed from Horeb, and went through all that great and terrible wilderness which you saw on the way to the mountains of the Amorites, as the LORD our God had commanded us. Then we came to Kadesh Barnea.* Deu 1:19

Deuteronomy chapter 1 is a recap of Numbers 13. Here Moses is retelling the previous story of when the children of Israel prepared to enter the promise land. But now after 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, Kadesh is renamed as “Kadesh Barnea”. Kadesh means “Holy place”. The Hebrew word Barnea means son (bar) of a wanderer (nua- .(נֹאֲדָב Kadesh Barnea can be translated as “**Holy place of the children of wandering**”. Remember that in Isaiah 16:3 that God’s people were referred to as a wanderer (nadad- .(נָדָד

According to Josephus in the Antiquities of the Jews (4.4.7), Jerome and Eusebius, Kadesh Barnea is the same as Petra and Sela. And from scripture we have very good reasons to believe this. We know that Petra sits on the border between Edom and Moab. Numbers 20:16 is clear that Kadesh Barnea also is at the border between Edom and Moab.

*When we cried out to the LORD, He heard our voice and sent the Angel and brought us up out of Egypt; now here we are in Kadesh, a city on the edge of your border.* Num 20:16

Also we know that Aaron the priest died just outside of Kadesh as described in Numbers 20:22.

*Then the children of Israel, the whole congregation, journeyed from Kadesh and came to Mount Hor. And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron in Mount Hor by the border of the land of Edom, saying: Aaron shall be gathered to his people, for he shall not enter the land which I have given to the children of Israel*

To this day Mt. Hor and the Tomb of Aaron can be located on any map- including [Google](#) maps as being

located less than three miles just West of Petra. Just to the east is [Wadi Musa](#) which means “Valley of Moses” in Arabic. Evidence of the Children of Israel is everywhere. **What this tells us that twice the Children of Israel dwelt in Petra to prepare for entering into the promised land.**

And so as we compile all of the scriptural evidence it becomes quite compelling that **Petra is The Place of Safety:**

- The Most High provides protection to his people in his secret place (Ps 91)
- the outcasts of God who wander are going to dwell in Moab to hide from the spoiler (Isa 16)
- the church will go into the wilderness to be nourished in her place for 3-1/2 years (Rev 12)
- Edom, Moab and Ammon will be protected from the Beast of Revelation (Dan 11)
- The place of defense for the righteous will be the Fortress of Rocks (Petra) where they will be nourished and can see “The Land” before the return of the King (Isa 33)
- The inhabitants of Sela (Petra) will sing at the time of the end (Isa 42)
- Twice the Children of Israel used Petra as the staging area to prepare before entering into the promised land. (Deut 1 & Num 13).

The Apostle Paul makes it clear that the day of the Lord comes as a thief in the night. Those who watch and prepare will escape. But those who live in darkness will be taken by sudden destruction.

*But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the **day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.** For when they say, “Peace and safety!” **then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman.** And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. **Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.** 1Th 5:1-6 NKJV.*

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# The Ultimate Place of Safety

By Pastor Wes Higgins

Where in all this world will be the ultimate place of safety for God's Saints?

Paul comforts us with these words:

“But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For is we believed that Jesus dies and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.” 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, NKJV.

Paul here is describing the Resurrection of the Saints of God, the Firstfruits in Christ. “These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.” Revelation 14:4, NKJV. These are in the First Resurrection. “Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.” Revelation 20:6, NKJV.

In 1 Thessalonians 5, Paul writes about the timing of the First Resurrection and how God's people should be alert and watching.

“But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, 'Peace and safety!' then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman, And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night

nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you are also doing.” 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, NKJV.

Jesus's Return will come suddenly, but being children of the light, these are events that we should be aware of and prepared for. The timing of the First Resurrection is also pictured in Revelation 11, during the early part of the Tribulation, between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpets when the Two Witnesses having been killed are resurrected in view of the whole world, apparently being the first to ascend to the Cloud to Jesus.

“Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, 'Come up here'. And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them. In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake, seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven. The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.” Revelation 11:11-14, NKJV.

In Matthew 24, we see the disciples questioning Jesus Christ about the end-time events, and how they will take place. Jesus describes His Return this way:

“For as the light of day, which comes forth from the East and shines as far as the West, so also shall the coming of the Son of man be. — But immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken. And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in the heavens; and then shall all the tribes of the earth



mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming upon the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet; and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” Matthew 24:27, 29-31, Faithful Version.

So the Return of Christ will be visible to the whole earth as a bright shining cloud, and they will mourn as they see the Son of man coming. And apparently they will be able to see the form of Christ sitting upon His throne “And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave, and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!'" Revelation 6:15-16, NKJV. Not only will Christ be visible to those on earth, but after the Resurrection of the Saints they too will be visible with Christ. “And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God.” Revelation 15:2, NKJV.

This is not the first mention of a sea of glass, or it's equivalent. In Revelation, chapter four is a vision of God's Throne in heaven. “Before the throne, there was a sea of glass, like crystal.” Revelation 4:6, NKJV. But even this isn't the first mention. In the Book of Exodus we see something similar when Moses and the 70 Elders came into the presence of God on Mount Sinai. God appears to them in the form of a man standing on a clear, sparkling surface. “Then Moses went up, as did Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and they saw the God of Israel. And there was under His feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and it was like the very heavens in its clarity. But on the nobles of the children of Israel, He did not lay His hand. So they saw God, and they ate and drank.” Exodus 24:9-11, NKJV.

So what is happening while the Saints are with Christ on this cloud, this “sea of glass mingled with fire”, Revelation 15:2? Take note as we look into what the Word reveals, always remember Paul's advice: “For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.” 1 Corinthians 13:12, NKJV. Daniel, when he asked for understanding what

was revealed to him, was told that “the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end”. He was also told that the wise — those who follow God — will come to understand as time goes on. See Daniel 12:9-10.

There are a number of events that are revealed taking place on this sea of glass. As such, it appears that the Saints will be on the sea of glass for a period of time as they prepare to return to earth with the conquering Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ's Return to earth is pictured as taking place in two separate parts. Part number one is the resurrected Saints meeting with Christ in the air on the sea of glass, as described in 1 Thessalonians 4. Part number two is described in Revelation 19 as Christ descending from the cloud with His armies clothes in white, conquering the world and replacing Satan as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The saints being included in the second coming of Christ has been prophesied by Enoch before the Flood. “Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, 'Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.'" Jude 14-15, NKJV.

Here is a list of some of the events that are prophesied to take place while the Saints are on the sea of glass, not necessarily complete nor given in any particular order:

1) As described by Paul in 1 Thessalonians 4, there will be a great meeting, a reunion, as it were, of all the Saints from the beginning of time — Hebrews chapter 11 gives us the names of some who will be included.

2) In Revelation chapter 15, we have a picture of the saints on the sea of glass celebrating with joy, music and song and praise, and worship all taking place as this reunion of the saints meeting with Christ gets underway:

“And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: 'Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your

ways, O King of the saints! Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested.” Revelation 15:2-4, NKJV.

3) The Saints will be receiving their rewards: “For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works”, Matthew 16:27, NKJV.

4) The Saints will receive a new name: “He who as an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone, a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.”... “He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My god, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.” Revelation 2:17 and 3:12, NKJV.

5) The Saints will receive their assignments as Kings and Priests: “And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.” Revelation 5:10, NKJV. “And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.” Luke 22:29-30, NKJV. “Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters?” 1 Corinthians 6:2, NKJV.

6) It will be a time of preparation and instruction for Christ's Return – how are you at riding white horses? See Revelation 19:14.

7) As the Holy day Atonement will fall sometime during the saint's stay on the sea of glass, it is possible that at one point the Father may come down and the Saints be presented to Him face to face. “For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.” 1 Corinthians 13:12, NKJV.

8) The marriage of the Lamb will take place on the sea of glass: “Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” Revelation 19:7, NKJV.

9) The Saints will receive clean, bright, and fine linen: “And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine

linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.” Revelation 19:8, NKJV.

10) The marriage supper with witnesses: “Then he said to me, 'Write: “Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!” ' And he said to me, 'These are the true sayings of God.’” Revelation 19:9, NKJV.

11) While these things are happening, the seven last plagues will be taking place on earth. “And out of the temple came the seven angels having the seven plagues, clothed in pure bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands. Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever. The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple til the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.” Revelation 15:6-8, NKJV.

And, finally, Christ is crowned King of Kings and Lord of Lords and the armies of heaven are gathered to battle. “Now I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.” Revelation 19:11-16, NKJV.

Though seen through a mirror dimly, a fantastic picture is painted for us. If we but endure to the end. “But as it is written: 'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.' But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.” 1 Corinthians 2:9-10, NKJV. “In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” John 14:2-3, NKJV.



# Mr. Murrey's Q. & A.

*"You got questions,  
Al's got Biblical answers."*

(NKJV)



Let us begin by reviewing what James wrote:

Jas 1:1 James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, **To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad:** Greetings.

According to Strong's Dictionary, the Greek word for scattered is diaspora, which means dispersion, that is, the Israelites resident in Gentile countries, or scattered.

After the captivity of the tribes by Assyria and Babylon, the majority of the tribes remained in Assyria and Babylon for years. Babylon allowed Judah, primarily the tribes of Judah, Levi, and some of Benjamin, to return to Jerusalem or Israel. But the tribes in Assyria eventually migrated North and West, eventually to Europe. The migration of the ten tribes has been traced by Steve M Collins in his book, "The Lost 10 Tribes of Israel...Found". You can order a copy of this and other books by Mr. Collins by going to his website, [stevenmcollins.com](http://stevenmcollins.com).

His book on the lost ten tribes follows their fascinating migration and where they likely settled. Historians, in general, consider the 10 tribes as lost. They are considered lost by society because, for most people, it is unknown where they are today. But those who have their eyes open to see, the 10 tribes are not lost!

The knowledge of the whereabouts of the 10 tribes is not a matter of salvation. But it does reinforce our faith to see that God fulfilled His promises about them that He gave in Genesis 49 and other scriptures.

I hope this helps in your understanding of the so-called lost 10 tribes of Israel.

Sincerely,

Team Member, Al

## QUESTION:

Thank you, it's been explained to me that the ten northern tribes of Israel are lost, yet James, in his epistle, addresses his letter to the 12 tribes, 'scattered'. Is scattered the same as lost? It doesn't appear to me that James considered the 10 tribes lost if he's sending them a letter. Any ideas??

Greetings, Thanks for sending your question to BibleStudy.org. Scriptural citations are from the New King James Bible.

# REDEMPTION

By Dorothy Ogren

What does the word *redemption* mean to you? When I was a kid, the stores and gas stations gave out green stamps – one stamp for every dollar of purchase. We would take those stamps home, lick them, and paste them in the books that came with them. When you had enough books of stamps, you could *redeem* them for merchandise at the stamp store. Three or four full books of stamps could purchase some fairly nice items, and 10 or 12 books could be *redeemed* for appliances, furniture, etc.

But this is not the kind of *redemption* that I am writing about today. Redemption is something far bigger than “green stamps.”

The Book of Ruth in the Old Testament is a fascinating story. It is far better to read than any Christian fiction novel. This is a non-fiction story that each of us can identify with in some way and has a wonderful, deep spiritual context for us to absorb.

To recap the story, Elimelech, his wife (Naomi), and his sons (Mahlon and Chilion) were Israelites living in the town of Bethlehem. Famine hit their area, so they left Bethlehem and went into Moab to find work. (To compare that to modern times, I remember back in the late 70s or maybe it was the early 80s when construction work almost came to a standstill in Idaho. Many builders and contractors left Idaho and went to CA and WA to find work. The housing market was still booming in those areas. Eventually, the housing market rebounded here in Idaho, and people came back home to their families and picked up where they had left off.) Looking back to Elimelech and his family, it may not have been such a wise choice to go to a pagan nation. They were in Moab for 10 years. Their sons chose wives from the Moabite people. Apparently, things were going well and they were settled in there. But then disaster struck – Elimelech died, leaving Naomi a widow. But she still had her sons – until tragedy struck again, and they both died, leaving Naomi not only a widow but childless.

The grieving Naomi made the decision to return to Bethlehem when she heard that the famine was over. Her two daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth,

must have loved Naomi dearly, for they decided to travel back with her. They packed up and started the journey to Naomi’s homeland. Not long into the journey, Naomi realized that it was asking a lot to have her daughters-in-law leave their homeland and families, so she urged them to return to Moab. After all, she told them, she had nothing to offer them – no home, no money, no more sons, etc. She assured them she would be fine traveling alone. At Naomi’s urging, Orpah returned to Moab, but Ruth would not leave Naomi. She declared her allegiance to Naomi, and not only to Naomi but to Naomi’s God. She would turn her back on the pagan gods that she had grown up with, and she declared that “...where you go, I will go; and where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God.” (Ruth 1:16 KJV)

Upon arrival in Bethlehem, Naomi was received by her people with great joy and excitement.

Even after 10 years of being absent, they still loved and respected her. It doesn’t say where Naomi and Ruth stayed, but apparently, there was a house – or a room – for them somewhere in Bethlehem. Even so, they had no income. But it was barley harvest time in Bethlehem, so Ruth, at

Naomi’s instruction, went out to glean in the fields of Boaz, who was a relative of Elimelech.

When Boaz noticed a foreigner gleaning in his field, he inquired as to who she was. After learning she was with Naomi, he directed his foreman in charge of the reapers, to give favor to Ruth – and he ordered that his young male workers were not to touch Ruth. Boaz became Ruth’s protector when she had no one else because she had given honor to her mother-in-law and embraced her God. Do you think all this happened by chance?? There is a lesson here: When we embrace God and leave behind the world and our old life and do right in God’s eyes, then God will give us great favor.

Ruth continued gleaning in Boaz’s fields through the barley harvest (this would be in the spring of the year because we know that barley was ripe during the Passover season).

When Naomi saw Boaz’s kindness to Ruth,

What a beautiful story of redemption is told in the Book of Ruth that points directly to our spiritual redemption in Christ.

she was inspired with another brainstorm – she directed Ruth to present herself to Boaz, seeking him to marry her... So according to instruction, Ruth went into Boaz’s dwelling, uncovered his feet, and laid down after he was asleep. When he was startled awake and discovered Ruth at his feet, she asked him to “cover her because he was a near kinsman.”

In Israel, it was a law that the closest relative could redeem a widow so she could carry on the family name and inheritance. Boaz realized that he was in line to do that for Ruth, but there was one closer that had to be given the chance first. Whichever one was willing to redeem the piece of land that Elimelech had previously owned, must also take Ruth as his wife. So, that morning they sought out that man that was a closer relative. He was very keen on redeeming the land, but he didn’t want Ruth, so he passed the option of redemption on to Boaz. All the inheritance that had been Elimelech’s and should have passed on to Mahlon and Chilion, became Boaz’s that day, including taking Ruth as his wife.

But the blessing and wonder didn’t stop there – the Lord blessed Boaz and Ruth with a son that they named Obed. Obed blessed Ruth with a grandson named Jesse. And Jesse fathered a son named David, who became the beloved king of Israel. Have you ever wondered if Ruth, great-grandmother of King David, ever held him as a baby? Maybe she told him the story of when she left Moab and embraced the true, living God as her own. Maybe her story so impressed David that it influenced his relationship with God and encouraged him in his walk with the Lord. Yes, this is just speculation, but possible.

So what does this story have to do with us today? Plenty, because it is full of spiritual symbolism.

Naomi represents a believer who needs a refreshing and a revival of joy in her heart. When she returned to Bethlehem, she wanted to be called “Mara” because she had deep bitterness in her soul. Naomi, once a believer, needed to experience redemption and the love of God anew.

Ruth represents those of us who need to be redeemed from our past of living in unbelief, sin, barrenness, and of worshiping other gods. She needs a “relative” who will make her a part of the family and restore to her the inheritance.

Boaz represents our Redeemer, Jesus Christ, who showed us great kindness and love when we had great need. He (Jesus) is the One who paid the debt so we could receive our inheritance that had been stolen from us.

This story of Ruth takes place during the barley harvest, the season of Passover. God sent His Son, Redeemer Jesus, to take our sins and die on the cross in our place so that our redemption would be complete – no loopholes in it. It is an honest and fair contract that He made for us. The contract Boaz made for Ruth was done in public in the hearing of many witnesses. Jesus hung on the cross in the sight of many witnesses, buying our inheritance for us, and making our redemption complete. Jesus is our nearest kinsman – our elder Brother, according to the Bible. When Ruth lay at the feet of Boaz, he became her covering. When we kneel at the feet of Jesus, He becomes our covering – our Savior – our Redeemer – and our Bridegroom.

What a beautiful story of redemption is told in the Book of Ruth that points directly to our spiritual redemption in Christ.

What if Ruth had returned to Moab with Orpah? There would have been no redemption nor inheritance for her. What if you or I stayed in our Moab (our sins), enjoying the fruits of fleshly pleasure, but never receiving the joy and inheritance of spiritual redemption? How many rich blessings would we cut ourselves off from?

“Seek ye the Lord while He may be found ... Call upon Him while He is near” (Isaiah 55:6). “Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10:13). It is imperative that we individually claim the blood of Jesus as our covering and let His life be our claim to our eternal inheritance.

God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to earth as a baby, to dwell with a family that descended through Ruth - a family that knew the value and blessing of redemption. Jesus Christ is the Redeemer for all mankind, but individual persons must ask for His redemption. Can you declare today, as Ruth did so long ago, “Your God shall be my God?”

When we leave the “land of Moab” behind, redemption and inheritance lie ahead for us.

Yes, Naomi had bitterness over losing her husband and sons in death. But God provided Ruth to fill the emptiness in Naomi’s heart. What joy Naomi obtained through Ruth and the birth of Obed, predecessor to the Lord Jesus Christ. Naomi was the means by which Ruth received a great inheritance and redemption, thus bringing her great joy. And when we bring someone to faith in Jesus, joy overtakes us, as well as that person.

May we all be under the blood covering of redemption through Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.



# The Life of a Christian

By Gladys Maples



We go to a building, call it a church; sing songs, call that worship, listen to a sermon, go home, try not to sin, and go back to the building the next week. And the cycle goes round and round. This is the life of many modern day "Christians".

What has happened to us? Where are the Christians of the Bible? In scripture the word Christian is only used a few times. The disciples were called Christians, Paul was called a Christian, and we were told in 1 Peter 4:16 that if we suffer as a Christian to glorify God in it. Are we who call ourselves Christians, following the examples given in scripture? Are we walking like the Disciples? Willing to sit in jail, roam the desert, be hated by most, live and die for what we say we "believe"? People say they believe in God, but believing is not enough, we must follow Him. The demons believe and tremble, we believe and ignore God, and ask Him to forgive us when we do something obviously wrong. Shouldn't we tremble? Shouldn't we fall on our faces in Surrender?

Christians are supposed to be the church (not the building). Jesus told a parable about 10 Virgins which we believe describes the church.

There were  
5 prepared (extra oil) and  
5 unprepared (no extra oil) virgins resting.

When the Bridegroom was coming, the unprepared left to go get oil. Even though they thought they were the bride, they waited with the bride, they wanted to be the bride, they were not there when the

Bridegroom arrived, and when they got back it was too late, the door was closed. So, will we be the bride when He comes back or just WITH the Bride?

At that building many focus on what they call worship, some people won't even go to your "church" if they don't like the music you play, that's what a lot of Sunday mornings are all about so many churchgoers. Worship is not all about music, the first time it's mentioned in The Bible is in Genesis 22:5 when Abraham went up the mountain with Isaac, He was going to sacrifice his son, and he called that level of surrender "worship". He was walking in obedience to what God had asked of him. Worship is surrender; it's bowing down; it's falling at the feet of Jesus; it's giving our whole lives to the service of an Almighty God. This kind of worship should be our identity as Christians.

A cry has gone out, we know He is coming, are we the Prepared Church, or will we be too late. We have been asleep far too long. We are called to deny ourselves and pick up our cross and follow Him. We must surrender all. We can't just be believers of Christ anymore; we must be followers also. Faith without works is dead, so if you believe but don't follow, your belief is also dead.

It's time to wake up, Church.

"Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light."  
— Ephesians 5:14

## PASSOVER MOON

By Zona Sandford

I can see you tonight, while shining so bright,  
As you witness up there in the sky.  
You seem extra near, this time of year,  
And somehow, I think I know why.

Two thousand years ago, you bent very low,  
And listening, you heard our Lord pray  
Those unselfish words, His love you heard,  
"Not My will, but Thine," He did say.

Our Creator was kneeling, great agonies feeling,  
You saw His blood fall to the ground.  
How could HE, King of all, be servant of all?  
It was awesome such love could be found!

You shone extra bright, with your heavenly light,  
As He stood, "Master," and walked away.  
Now it all could be done, His battle was won,  
"Father, forgive them" He'd be able to say.

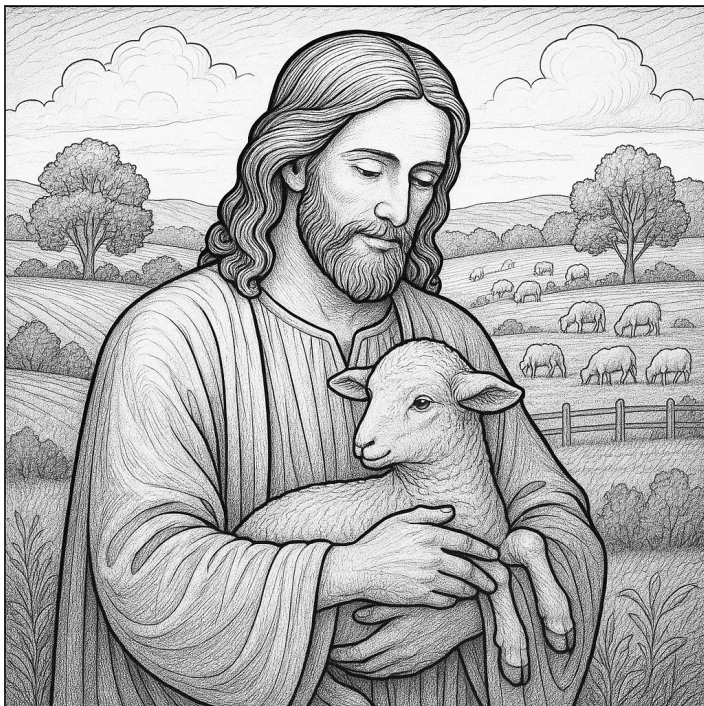
Your light did not miss the betrayal kiss,  
Nor the disciples who fled away.  
You were there with your light, shining all night,  
Till the cock crew at breaking of day.

Again you shine bright, this Passover night,  
And I'm wondering, what do you see?  
I hope you see praying, His people saying,  
"Thy will, not mine, be done in me."

*(Zona Sandford is the wife of Paul Sandford, a former Board Member of the Seventh Day Church of God. She Resides in Spokane Valley, WA.)*

# SAFE WITH HIM

Pastor: Byron Lee Sanchez



There's great comfort in knowing that no matter what happens in this world—whether wars rage, economies collapse, or the end of the age draws near—we are always safe in the arms of Jesus Christ. The world is unstable. Governments rise and fall. Disasters and rumors swirl. But Scripture reminds us that our safety is not tied to circumstances, but to the steadfast love of our Savior.

Jesus said in John 10:27-29 (ESV), **“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father... is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.”** Our safety doesn't depend on our strength, but on His grip. The world can't pry us away. Satan can't overpower Him. We are secure because we belong to Him.

Psalms 46:1-3 declares, **“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear though the earth gives way... though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea.”** Trouble comes. Calamity happens. But the

psalmist doesn't fear, because God is still his refuge, even when the world crumbles. We are never outside His reach.

Some Christians today worry that we're seeing the end times unfold. Yet Jesus told His followers in Luke 21:25-28, **“There will be signs... people fainting with fear... And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now, when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”** While the world panics, we stand tall because we know who holds the future.

Hebrews 13:5,6 reassures us, **“I will never leave you nor forsake you.”** So we can confidently say, **“The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?”** Even if society turns against righteousness, we are not abandoned. His presence remains our strength.

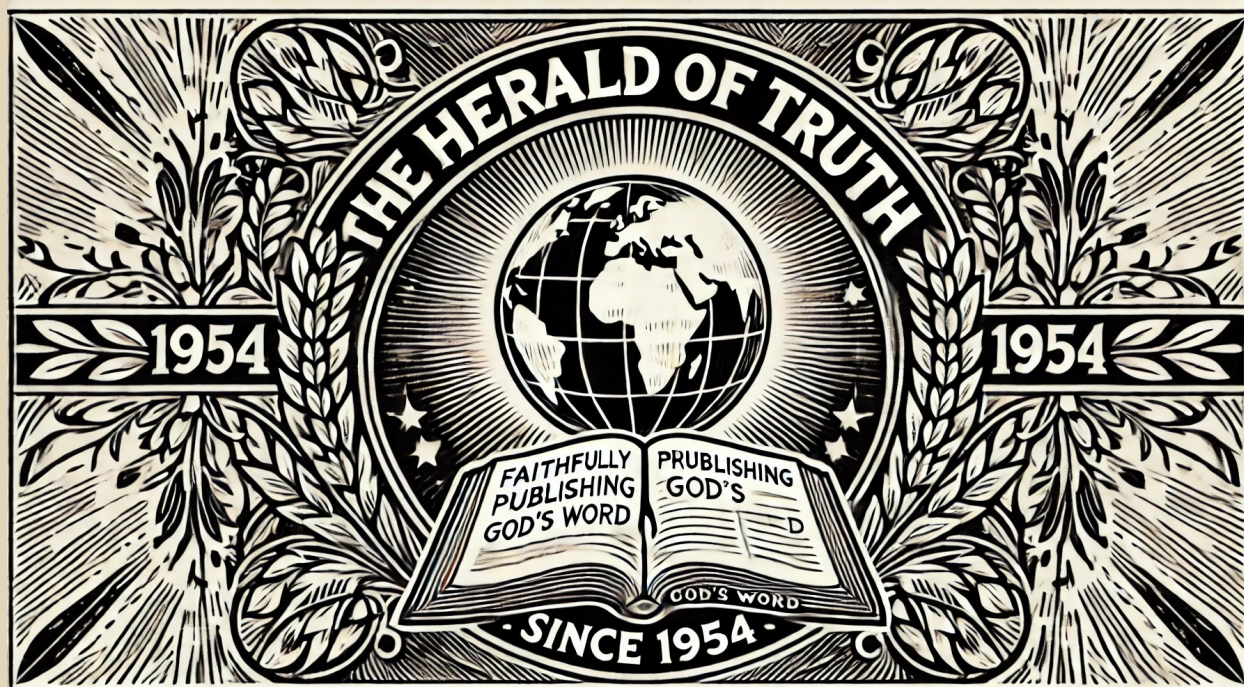
But while we experience His protection now, our ultimate safety isn't about surviving world events. Our true “place of safety” is the Kingdom of God. Philippians 3:20 reminds us, **“But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.”** No earthly nation is our home. No bunker or fortress compares to the security of being part of His eternal Kingdom.

Revelation 21:3-4 gives the final promise: **“Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man... He will wipe away every tear... death shall be no more.”** That's the safety we long for—not just escape from trouble, but eternal peace under Christ's reign.

Until then, we rest in Psalm 91:1-2, **“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.”** The world may swirl with chaos, but we are hidden in Christ. And in the end, **“The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom”** (2 Timothy 4:18).



## THE HERALD OF TRUTH



### Reaching the World Together! *Byron Lee Sanchez*: Editor-in-Chief

We recently took a leap of faith and made the financially risky decision to publish the 70th Anniversary of the *Herald of Truth*, which had been out of circulation for several years. I am pleased to announce that your kind donations covered the production costs and also made it possible for us to produce this current issue.

Your financial offerings have truly multiplied our reach, advancing the gospel in line with Jesus' call to "go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation" (Mark 16:15). Each contribution supports the mission of equipping believers and sharing the good news with those seeking truth. As Paul encourages, "God loves a cheerful giver...so that having all sufficiency...you may abound in every good work" (2 Corinthians 9:7-8). Through your generosity, we're able to place this resource in more hands, reminding us all of the power of united faith in spreading God's Word.

We're excited to offer a PDF version of the *Herald of Truth* both on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/7thDayCoGA/> and available at [theheraldoftruth.org](http://theheraldoftruth.org), and encourage you to share it digitally with friends, family, and church communities. Every shared copy is another opportunity to fulfill the Great Commission together, extending the reach of this ministry. Thank you for being part of this vital work. May God our Father richly bless and multiply each act of generosity, "not overlooking your work and the love you have shown for His name" (Hebrews 6:10).

## THE HERALD OF TRUTH ONLINE

<https://theheraldoftruth.org/>

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