

10 YRS. AFTER GOD'S WAKE-UP CALL

On Sept. 11, 2001, an alarm was sounded across America and around the world. A decade later, have God's children responded to His call?

HE THAT SHALL COME WILL COME

Jesus promised that He would come again, and even though it has been nearly 2,000 years since His ascension, He will surely come as He said.

THY KINGDOM COME ON EARTH

While many anticipate their departure from the earth, God has promised that the meek shall inherit the earth.

The Bible Guys

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The People of Truth

A Holy Nation

10 years after God's wake-up call

by David M. McNabb

September 11, 2011 marks the 10th anniversary of the terrorist acts that shook this nation and the world. Almost everyone remembers where they were, and the emotions they felt on that fateful day.

While the world was reeling from the horror, confusion and uncertainty of that day, the saints of our small congregation in South Hadley, Mass., gathered to seek answers in the one place we knew they could be found: God's holy Word.

We gathered at the home of my parents, Pastor Elden and Sis. Zena McNabb, and watched some of the news, prayed and searched the Scriptures. Is it possible that such a world-affecting event would be foretold in the Bible? Is it possible that it was not?

Then the Word of God opened itself up, and the answer was right there: God had spoken of that day by His holy prophet Zephaniah.

Because of His people's disobedience, the wickedness of their leadership, their idolatry and their pride, God was determined to pour out His wrath upon them. However, He would first provide an alarm, and instructions to avoid the anger of the Lord. What would that day look like? "And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord, that there shall be the noise of a cry from the fish gate, and an howling from the second, and a great crashing from the hills. Howl, ye inhabitants of Maktesh, for all the merchant people are cut down; all they that bear silver are cut off." "A day of the trumpet and alarm against fenced cities, and against the high towers" (Zeph. 1:10-11,16).

Three things were to happen on the day of the Lord's alarm: a noise of a cry from the fish gate, a howling from the second, and a crashing from the hills. This would bring an alarm against the fenced cities (the defenses) and the high towers. While this prophecy did not allow for one to anticipate the date of these events, it certainly provided enough information to recognize the events when they unfolded.

The "noise of a cry from the fish gate" was fulfilled when American
Airlines Flight 11 and United Airlines
Flight 175 struck the north and south
towers of the World Trade Center in New
York City, New York, just blocks away
from the Fulton Fish Market, the second-

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He that Shall Come Will Come

by C. Elden McNabb

"Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His servants the prophets. The lion hath roared, who will not fear? the Lord God hath spoken, who can but prophesy?" (Amos 3:7-8). The scriptures cannot be broken. Therefore, when the time of Jesus' second coming draws near He will, most certainly, first reveal it to at least one of His Apostles or prophets, and tell them the place and the time of His coming.

Furthermore, God has declared that "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven" (Eccl. 3:1-8). Then He named the twenty-four seasons and times of which He spoke. David also sang a Psalm, saying to the Lord, "The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season" (Psalm 145:15). That "meat" is the spiritual food of the Word of God, as He said, "He revealeth the deep and secret things" (Dan. 2:22; Eph. 3:1-5). So Jesus came in God's appointed season, at His appointed time, to redeem men from their sins and provided us many other benefits as well. Now the appointed time for Jesus' return is near, and Jesus shall come again and receive us unto Himself, and He will first reveal the hidden things to His appointed leaders.

So far, there have been three major seasons of approximately 2,000 years each, during man's presence on Earth. The first one was a Season which we might call "The Season of Minimal Control," and that with Satan loose in the world. During that time, God primarily left men to their own devises, and so proved that they could not — or would not — live soberly, righteously

and godly, under those conditions (Titus 2:11-14). So God destroyed all but a few of them with the flood.

The second two-thousand-year season began with the choosing of faithful Abraham, a man of great faith in God. It was a Season of "Covenants and Promises, and the Law of Moses." with Satan still loose in the world. During that time, God implemented a system of rules among them which He imposed upon the descendants of Abraham, who eventually became the nations of Israel and Judah. However, He proved that even with all of that knowledge and close communication with God, carnal man was unable to keep the rules and please God. And God destroyed that nation from off the Earth, except for a third of them which He scattered around the world (Ezek. 5:1-12).

During the third two-thousand-year season, Jesus came and purchased our redemption with His own blood. It has been the Season of "Spiritual Rebirth, and Sins Purged," and Satan is still loose in the world. God has again proven to the angels of heaven, and to men, that as long as Satan is loose, there will be no end of sinful living and wickedness among mankind, even among those who have been born again.

There was a notable feature with both of the first two seasons. At the point of about 1,656 years from Adam's creation, the population of the world had become so rebellious and wicked that God was provoked to destroy almost all of the inhabitants of the world. But He saved eight souls and a number of each species of animals. So, at the beginning of the third millennium, about 335 years after the flood, God chose Abraham and

separated him from the rest of the "world." The population of the world blossomed, and people began to spread out to almost every part of the world as wickedness and idolatry waxed worse and worse.

During the two thousand years of the second season, God was dealing specifically with "The seed of Abraham." Jesus was born near the end of that season, because He had to be born in the Old Testament era, near the end of the fourth millennium which was the time of the prophets. He came and paid the price of our redemption, with His own blood. The result has been great peace and joy for those multitudes who believed.

The majority of the people of Israel rejected Jesus and His message, and forced the crucifixion of the true "King of Israel." And, in A.D. 70, God destroyed the nation of Israel. However, in the process, He saved alive about a third of them by scattering them throughout the world. And there is yet one more call to be made to the descendants of Jacob, when "The fullness of the Gentiles be come in." At that time a remnant of Israel will be grafted in again to "their own olive tree" (Rom. 11:22-31).

We now approach the end of the third, and last, two-thousand-year season. Jesus shall soon come and sit to judge all of Christianity. He will carry out His plan to take a "bride," invite guests, have a marriage supper (Matt. 22:2-14), and get set to begin to conquer the world (1 Cor. 15:24-26). Those Christians who reject the invitation to the marriage supper will surely suffer the "wrath of the Lamb" (Rev. 6:16). Most Christians will not believe what is happening, and will

reject the Lord's invitation to the wedding, just as it was with the descendants of Seth in the days of Noah, and the destruction of the nation of Israel. God never changes (Malachi 3:1-6).

In a very short time now, God will launch another season, but it will be only a thousand years long this time. It will be a "Season of Maximum Control" which will be gradually imposed upon the whole world by Jesus Christ Himself. Satan will be locked away in a Pit, and peace will gradually come upon the Earth, as nation after nation submits their regime to the rulership of Jesus Christ: King of Kings. It will not be under the threat of violence, for Jesus will conquer the world in a peaceful way, just as He has developed The Kingdom of God these last 2,000 years. Of course, if the leaders of a nation reject Jesus' offer, Jesus will simply create a condition in their country which will cause the population to voluntarily move away to another country where there are better living conditions (Zech. 14:16-20).

We might assume that almost every Christian in the world has heard of the great flood which God caused to encompass the whole earth, and destroyed the wicked, the disobedient and the rebellious, even the descendants of His chosen lineage, the sons of Seth. But this time we will see something new. Jesus will usher in a season of world peace, with a show of wisdom and deliberation and care and great patience on His part.

When this predestined, six-thousand year period comes to a close this Fall, we will enter into the fourth and last season of God's lesson to the angels of Heaven about Satan. He will show them proof that whatever condition exists on the Earth, if Satan is not free to influence and tempt the people of the world, they become more docile, and controllable, and live more in peace than ever before. But whenever that devil is turned loose again he will still be the same and try again to destroy the works of God.

When that thousand years has gone by, that same Jesus, which had Satan bound before, will command him to be turned loose again for the grand finale. "Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them

together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went upon the breadth of the Earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them, and the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the 'beast and the false prophet' are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever" (Rev. 20:7-10).

When those faithful angels which had stood with God through Lucifer's (Satan's) rebellion see fully how Satan is, they will never again have any doubt of the fact of Satan's incorrigible character. Paul showed us that the New Testament Apostles were given partly for the same reason, saying, "For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed unto death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men." The work of God on Earth is apparently far more than an effort to get as many souls saved as we possibly can. It is awesome that God already had all of these things determined when He "breathed into Adam's nostrils the breath of life: and man became a living soul" (Gen. 1:1-2:7).

"Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and He that shall come will come, and will not tarry" (Heb. 10:35-37). Paul said that just under 2,000 years ago, and I believe that Jesus will appear at the appointed time, and that He will not be late.



10 YEARS *Cont. from page 2* largest fish market in the world after Tokyo's Tsukiji fish market.

The "howling from the second" was fulfilled when American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the apparent second target: the Pentagon.

Thirdly, as developing events were relayed to the passengers of United Airlines Flight 93, they attempted to seize control of the aircraft from the hijackers, which resulted in the plane crashing in the hills of Pennsylvania, far from any apparent desired target. But the fate of the fourth plane served to fulfill the Word of the Lord which said that there would be a "noise of a great crashing from the hills" on that day.

Any such acts of terror would have invariably affected the financial sector of the United States, and the world. The affect on the world markets was further multiplied since the attack was directly against the aptly-named World Trade Center. The prophet said that the merchants (sellers) and those bearing silver (buyers) would be cut off. As a result of the attacks, the stock exchanges were closed until September 17th. When they reopened, they saw the Dow fall by more than 14%, and U.S. stocks lost \$1.4 trillion that same week. \$2.8 billion in wages are estimated to have been lost in New York City alone. and 18,000 small businesses were destroyed or displaced. Add to that the trade that was affected nationally and worldwide, and the effect on the merchants was astonishing, and the Word of God was manifested to be true.

The successful attacks affected the financial sector, notably hitting the great symbols of American finance: the Twin Towers, and America's military: the Pentagon. This, too, fulfilled the Word of God, which said that there would be a trumpet and an alarm against *the*

fenced cities, and against the high towers.

With this prophecy unfolding before the eyes of this very generation, it must be guickly understood that 9/11 was not the end of the matter, but rather was an effort by the Lord to get our attention. As the prophet Zephaniah declared unto us the Word of the Lord against his rebellious people, he follows on to instruct us in what should be our next move. It is those who proclaim to be God's people - Christians - whose disobedience has come up before the face of God and moved Him to indignation, and it is our humility and conversion that He is seeking as our reaction.

The word of the Lord which came to Zephaniah, called to us in the aftermath of the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001: "Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired; Before the decree bring forth, before the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the LORD come upon you, before the day of the LORD's anger come upon you. Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD's anger" (Zeph. 2:1-3).

Today, in place of the old "fire and brimstone" preachers, we have instead a "touchy-feely" clergy that preach a feelgood gospel, and the churchgoers are often able to avoid any conviction of their own wicked ways. Additionally, the modern interpretation of the events surrounding the return of the Messiah, call for God's people to be absent as they play out. Today's common Christian believes he or she will be long gone before anything too bad happens. However, Zephaniah's words should give us all pause. First, he calls on us to get our hearts right before the Lord our God. But it is how he closes that admonition

that should catch our attention: "it **MAY BE** ye shall be hid in the day of the
Lord's anger."

Have you ever thought that you MAY BE hid in the day of the Lord's wrath, or have you always taken it for granted. September 11's warning to us was to seek righteousness and meekness, so that we might have a chance to be hid from God's indignation.

A decade has past, and the heightened sense of spiritual awareness that ensued in the days immediately following the terrible attacks has subsided. The alertness, urgency and unity our nation felt in those days has long since been replaced by the denial, apathy and division that had been building up through September 10, 2001. Politicians refuse to publicly acknowledge the enduring threat of the Islamists and their theology, going so far as to support the erection of a mosque in New York, near the very site of the attacks, while denying the participation of Christian clergy in 9/11 memorial services.

The churches continue to emphasize politics and prosperity, seemingly keeping their feet firmly in this world, while also proclaiming to have their heart fixed on heaven. But with their treasures evidently closer to the ground, it is impossible for their hearts to be very far away.

Ten years have past, and nothing bad has happened. One might suppose, "Perhaps the prophecy of Zephaniah is not related." It may be that the Bible's relevance to today is not as visible, and today's Christian generation can go back to "playing church" without any fear of consequences. Solomon declared, "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil" (Eccl. 8:11).

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It was precisely this attitude that God was addressing in Zephaniah's prophecy. "And it shall come to pass at that time, that I will search Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees: that say in their heart, The Lord will not do good, neither will He do evil" (Zeph. 1:12).

Likewise, the Lord warned us by the mouth of the prophet Amos. "Woe to them that are at ease in Zion, and trust in the mountain of Samaria" (Amos 6:1). And again, "Woe unto you that desire the day of the Lord! To what end is it for you? The day of the Lord is darkness, and not light" (Amos 5:18).

Peter foresaw our day, when many would say, "Where is the promise of his coming?" (2 Peter 3:4). Even Jesus paints a gloomy picture of the state of His people at His coming.
"Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8).

Malachi also prophesied of this generation, saying, "Your words have been stout against me, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, What have we spoken so much against thee? Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts? And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered" (Mal. 3:13-15).

But, as Zephaniah, Malachi gives us a glimpse of hope that, in the midst of the disobedient and backsliding generation, some will rise at God's word and answer His call. "Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not" (Mal. 3:16-18).

The alarm sounded 10 years ago.

Many Christians have since pushed the
"snooze" button and have returned to

sleep (Matt. 25:5). But we must heed the voice of God, and blow the trumpet among God's people, and get ready for the soon return of God's Son, Jesus Christ.

The Son himself has told us, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe" (John 14:27-29).

So, even while we are pausing to remember the terror of 9/11, let us not be ignorant of the terror of the Lord. And, knowing the terror of the Lord, let us persuade all men, "for we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (2 Cor. 5:10-11).

"Let me live according to those holy rules which Thou hast this day prescribed in Thy Holy Word...direct me to the true object, Jesus Christ, the way, the truth, and the life. Bless, O Lord, all the people of this land." *George Washington*

"Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath? I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that his justice cannot sleep forever." Thomas Jefferson

"My custom is to read four or five chapters of the Bible every morning immediately after rising. It seems to me the most suitable manner of beginning the day. It is an invaluable and inexhaustible mine of knowledge and virtue." John Quincy Adams

"QUOTABLE"

"We recognize no sovereign but God, and no King but Jesus!" *John Adams*

"I am profitably engaged in reading the Bible. Take all of this Book upon reason that you can, and the balance by faith, and you will live and die a better man." Abraham Lincoln

"The rights of man come not from the generosity of the state but from the hand of God." *John F. Kennedy*

"Within the covers of the Bible are the answers for all the problems men face." Ronald Reagan

Two thousand years ago, two men showed up in Judea with the same message. Their message was not "repent and miss hell" as some would have us believe. John the baptizer came, preaching, "Repent for the kingdom of God is at hand," and when his time was fulfilled, Jesus began His ministry, preaching the same message. His Father was ready to begin setting up His kingdom here on earth as He has it in heaven. To those who believe the message of the kingdom and become a part of it, they will miss hell, and have everlasting life.

"Thou, even thou, art LORD alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee" (Neh. 9:6). It is God who has everything: it is His dominion. This world was made to worship Him, and it is His will to have a kingdom here on earth, just like the one He has in heaven. He devised a plan to set this in motion from the foundation of the world. God created man in His image to give man the control and dominion of the earth (Gen. 1:26-28).

How many of us, as believers, have prayed or said what is called the Lord's Prayer? These words which Jesus taught were not necessarily a repeat after me prayer, but, as He said, "After this manner therefore pray ye." He gave us an outline of how we can reach God. First, we address God as "our Father Which art in heaven." Second, Jesus gives us an example to praise the Father and glorify His name "Hallowed be Thy name." Third, we are to ask God to fulfill His purpose and will on this earth. "Thy kingdom come, Thy

will be done in earth as it is in heaven" (Matt. 6:9-13).

These three things come first in importance before our needs and requests. The Kingdom of God on earth was God's plan since the creation of man. Jesus did not come just to save sinners, though it is a faithful saying. He came and died for our sins to enable us to become a part of His kingdom. Jesus even told Nicodemus, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12).

Jesus' death and resurrection allows mankind to attain a condition of spiritual holiness, enabling us to be a part the kingdom that God will have here on earth. When Nicodemus asked Jesus, "How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" Jesus answered, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again" (John 3:4-7).

The point Jesus is making is that to enter the kingdom of God, one has to be born both naturally and spiritually. When a child is ready to enter the world, his mother's water breaks, and the child comes forth. Afterwards, one has to be "born again" to see what the kingdom of God is and enter it.

"The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD'S: but the earth hath he given to the children of men" (Psalm 115:16). God sent His Son to earth in the form of man, because the He has given the earth to man. He will also fulfill His promise to David. "Now therefore, O LORD God of Israel, keep with thy servant David my father that which thou hast promised him, saying, There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit upon the throne of Israel; yet so that thy children take heed to their way to walk in my law, as thou hast walked before me" (2 Chron. 6:17). The promises of God the Father are sure: they cannot fail. There will be a man to sit on the throne of David, even Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

God's plan, after Lucifer's rebellion, was to populate the earth with men to worship Him, and to give the angels that remained in God's heavenly kingdom a visual lesson of how grievous the insurrection of Lucifer was. But, while in the Garden of Eden, the first Adam relinquished his dominion of the earth to Satan by disobeying the commandment and will of God by eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

On the day of Pentecost, when it had fully come, Peter, filled with an unction of the Holy Ghost, preached to the crowd that Jesus was raised from the dead to immortality. God did not leave his body in hell to see corruption, so that there would be a man to sit on the throne of David (Acts 2:25-31).

I often hear believers talk of heaven and the desire to go there. They can't wait to "go home and be with Jesus." The songs they sing, and the books they write, are all filled with pictures of endless walks on the streets of gold with family and friends. What happened to the promise to Abraham that he would be heir of the earth? Or the blessing in Matt. 5:5 that Jesus gave to the meek that they also would inherit the earth? I hear the words, "Thy kingdom come Thy

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will be done in earth," as it is in heaven. If it is on the earth, then just where is His kingdom on earth?

Jesus said to the Pharisees when they demanded of Him when the kingdom should come: "The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:20-21). Many have read these words of Jesus, and have gotten the idea that once you are born again the kingdom of God is in you. I would question this doctrine, and ask, "Why was Jesus saying this to some unsaved Pharisees?" He was saying it to them, because God had chosen the children of Israel to be His kingdom on earth, and even though they had been under a foreign country's rule from the time of the Babylonian empire, they were still, as King David thought when he fought Goliath, "the armies and kingdom of the living God" on earth (1 Sam. 17:26,36).

Jesus also knew the Jews of His day had the kingdom, when He was teaching the chief priest and elders in the temple. He spoke to them in the parable of the householder who planted a vineyard and hedged it, letting it out to husbandmen. He sent servants to receive the fruit, and the husbandmen killed them. He sent others, and they beat and stoned them. Then, last of all, he sent his son. They said among themselves, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance." And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him.

Jesus then asked the question, "When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen? They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons. Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof" (Matt. 21:33-46).

Here we see Jesus letting the Jews of His day know they were going to lose the kingdom of God, and God would give it to another people (nation), who, when He comes, will have fruits of that kingdom.

By their rejection of the Son of God, and having Him killed on the cross, they sealed their judgment; and at the death of the testator the covenant, the ten commandments which God made with Israel, was annulled. As Paul said, "The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord" (1 Cor. 7:39). At the death of Jesus, God took the kingdom from the Jews, and in 70 A.D., He took the promised land and scattered the Jews around the world.

The promise Jesus made, that there will be a nation rise up with the fruits of the kingdom of God, will come to pass. In

Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the image, (from the head of gold, to the feet mixed with iron and clay), God reveals that He will set up a kingdom in the days of those kings (ten toes), which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever (Dan. 2:31-35).

We are living in the days of the ten toes and the beast (the G10 and the UN). A little stone (a small nation), will come out of the mountain, which will smite the feet of the image. The stone will become a great mountain and fill the whole earth.

"That in the dispensation of the fulness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him" (Eph. 1:10). We are living in the fulness of times. Are you expecting our Lord to return to rule and reign on this earth? The message is the same as it was two thousand years ago, we still have time to repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand, and He is ready to gather His wheat into His barn. Are you ready, are you bringing forth the fruits of God's kingdom??? It's time to hear the trump of God and gather unto Him. Get ready saints, the Kingdom of God is at hand!

"And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever" (Rev. 11:15).