



**INDIGENOUS TRAINING MINISTRIES, INC.**  
**REVC'S NEWS & VIEWS**

by  
**RevC**

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TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!

**FEAR & DOUBT**



I pray this finds you well, safe, at peace, strong in faith, and standing on God's Word. The covid-19 virus is an eye opening experience for many, a small sample of what I believe is ahead for everyone, believer and non-believer alike.

This will be a different kind of newsletter, more of a Bible study. I encourage you to get your Bible and follow with me. **FEAR & DOUBT** are Satan's favorite weapons. Remember, he comes to **kill, steal, and destroy (John 10:10)**. He wants to destroy the **"things"** we trust (stock market, etc.), steal our peace and joy, and ultimately kill our bodies. He is a real enemy, knowing his time is growing shorter by the day. We must expect and be prepared for his attacks.

These past few weeks we have witnessed and perhaps even participated in the **FEAR** that has driven people to empty store shelves in a matter of minutes, argue over toilet paper, hand sanitizer, bread, chicken, sell their stocks, and on and on. Folks, this is nothing compared to what is coming. Satan has succeeded in causing many to **DOUBT** God's promises and give in to **FEAR**. Satan knows that FEAR takes away FAITH. Jesus stated this in **Mark 4:35-40**. **Verse 40** asks, **"Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith?"** **Fear is an enemy; Faith conquers Fear**. I believe God is using this stormy time to give us a wakeup call to prepare ourselves and our families for the tsunami that is coming. This virus will pass worse things will come.

Let me share briefly my belief concerning the end time events which will set the stage for the scripture passage I will end with. Remember we are pilgrims merely passing through and we have a home prepared for us that is much better than here. There are practical things we can do but we also need to prepare mentally and spiritually for the challenges we may face as believers in a fallen world.

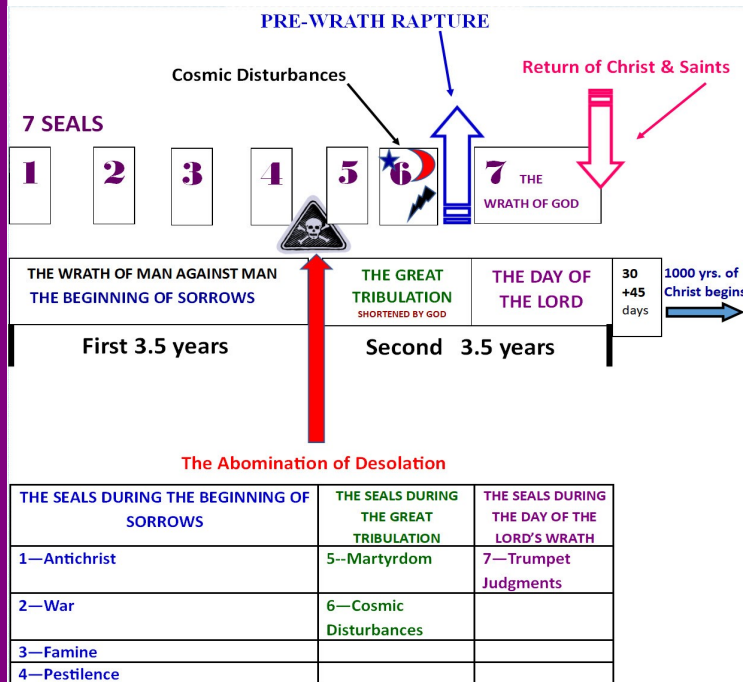
For many years I believed that the followers of Christ would be raptured (taken from the earth) just prior to the beginning of Daniel's 70th week. That week is commonly referred to as "the tribulation period," seven years which many believe will begin with the signing of a seven year peace treaty between Israel and its enemies. After some study, I moved my theology of the rapture to the middle of the period and then to the very end of the period because of the teaching that "the church—the body of Christ on earth—those who **truly** follow Jesus" **would not face the wrath of God (1Thessalonians 5:9)**.

My theology changed again after I read Marvin Rosenthal's book, *The Pre-Wrath Rapture of the Church*, which I

wholeheartedly recommend. I don't agree with everything he has to say, but I do believe his timing is correct. I always had a hard time believing that "the church" should for some reason be spared suffering that has faced believers throughout history (**Romans 8:17**) and often separated true followers from those who only voiced empty words of faith. At the same time, I felt true believers and followers were not destined to face **the wrath** of Almighty God (**Romans 5:9**).

Marvin points out that the first six seals from the book of Revelation chapters 6 and 7 **are not the wrath of God** but **the wrath of man against man** and the corresponding result of wars, shortages that bring famine, disease, and much, much death. In fact, in **Rev. 6:7-8**, the 4th seal says as many as **25%** of the earth (**about 2 BILLION people**) will die **in that seal alone**.

In **The Revelation** we don't see the word "wrath" until **Rev. 6:16-17** which comes at the end of the sixth seal to announce the coming of God's wrath about to be poured out with the opening (**Rev. 8**) of the seventh seal. That seal contains the seven trumpets and seven bowls of God's wrath. If Marvin is right, and I believe he is, "the church" will experience all of the first five seals and perhaps all of the sixth before being raptured in **Rev. 7:9-17** prior to God's wrath being poured out by His angels in **Rev. 8**. The fifth and sixth seals are the **"Great Tribulation,"** shortened for the sake of the elect (**Matthew 24:22**). Perhaps this diagram will help:



Turn in your Bibles with me to **Exodus 12:12-13**. You all know this story of the final plague against Egypt, a type of the world. The death angel was to pass through, taking the life of every first born child and beast except for those inside the homes that had the **“blood of the sacrificed lamb,”** a type of Christ, on their lintel and doorpost. Pay special attention to the words **“... and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you...”**. To be spared, they were to be inside under the protection of the **LAMB’s** blood where it was safe; a type, as we are members of one body, the body of Christ (**I Cor. 12:12-14**) where we are safe from anything that is not a part of God’s plan for our lives. God was protecting His people from the plagues that the rest of Egypt experienced, just as He is able to do today for those in Christ Jesus. Is it possible for a believer to get the virus and die? Yes, but not outside of it being a part of God’s plan for that person (**Jeremiah 29:11-14a**). We will all face death at some time as **“it is appointed unto man once to die...”** (**Hebrews 9:7**). Thus, I choose not to live in **FEAR** but in **FAITH**, knowing that God is able to keep what I have committed to Him (my life) until it is my time to be with Him (**2 Timothy 1:12**).

Turn finally to the story of Jesus walking on the water in **Matthew 14:22-33** which takes place after Jesus had just fed a multitude who wanted to make him a king (**John 6:15**). Please read each passage and then my commentary:

**14:22** Jesus had just fed well over 5000 and the people were excited, wanting to make him a king. Thus, the disciples were not wanting to leave in a boat and Jesus had to constrain them to do so. There are times when we are reluctant to do what God wants and we need to remember that He is God and we are not. If the disciples had gotten their way, they would have missed out on one of the greatest miracles in the scripture. I also believe that Jesus knew He was sending them into stormy weather. Certainly there are times when doing God’s will is difficult, filled with uncertainty, and hard to see Him because of the stormy conditions we are dealing with. Things may seem impossible at times but with God all things are possible our job is to stand in faith.

**14:23** Jesus likely prayed for six or seven hours before walking on the water. No doubt part of that time He was interceding for the disciples, knowing they were in the storm. My paraphrase of **Hebrews 7:25** says that He is able to save us, no matter the situation, and lives to make intercession for us. It is comforting to know that Jesus is interceding for us as we face the storms of life. I also believe that the Holy Spirit prays through those who pray in the spirit.

**14:24-25** I’m sure the disciples were fearful as their boat was being tossed about by the wind and waves. It is at times hard to see God when you’re in the middle of a storm that is

raging on every side. Our eyes tend to get fixed on the storm and not God. Jesus comes to the disciples, walking on the water. He was with them in the storm; they just couldn’t see Him yet. **Hebrews 13:5** reminds us **“... I will never leave you or forsake you.”** He is always with us; His Spirit lives in every true believer.

**14:26** Jesus is mistaken for a “ghost” or “spirit” and notice their fear level now is such that they are crying out due to **FEAR** of the unknown. If the storm had not evaporated their sense of still having some control over their situation, this did. The fear of the unknown is often worse than the reality we end up dealing with because the unknown has no limits. But then, neither should our **FAITH!**

**14:27-29** Jesus speaks words meant to comfort and remove **FEAR** because this kind of fear has torment (**I John 4:18**) and God has not given us the spirit of **FEAR** (**2 Timothy 1:7**). When we trust God’s love for us, we won’t walk in fear as there is **NO fear** in love and perfect love casteth out **FEAR**. Note that Peter quickly opens his mouth and speaks. He wants to walk on the water and needs only one word from God to hang his faith on: **“Come.”** With that, Peter is walking on the water. **Hebrews 11:6** reminds us that **“...without faith it is impossible to please God.”** We are to be the children of faith, not fear. Many times the scripture says fear not.

**14:30-31** As long as his eyes were on Jesus and not the storm, Peter was walking on water! To walk on water during your storm, keep your eyes on Jesus, not the storm! The storm had not yet stopped. Even with Peter’s momentary failure, God was still there to save him (**II Chronicles 16:19**). He will us as well! Notice it was **DOUBT** that caused Peter to begin to sink. Faith that wavers is like a reed tossed about by the wind. We need to learn to stand in faith as worse times are coming. We can prepare, but faith will still be required.

**14:32-33** Perhaps the most valuable thing the disciples did was worship Him, undoubtedly with all their hearts, as from this experience they knew Jesus was God. May God help us to stand in **FAITH &** to love Him more than our own lives.

Vicky’s brother, sister in law, and their three kids are living with us. They came to pioneer a Spanish church in our area and literally got the last plane out of Ecuador. They have been interceding daily for the world in the midst of this virus storm, releasing God to work His will in our lives and situations. Be encouraged! We along with our Lord are praying for you too! We love you and the work of God will continue to move forward until He calls us home! Please consider how you can help us continue to make a difference. We count on your prayers and support. We always need help sponsoring the CTC locations, and some special projects as they come. We do our best to invest your giving wisely with God’s help!  
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