

# The Blessed Hope!

**“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;” –(Titus 2:13)**

*Diamond & Nugget #63*

## **What is a Mystery? Part 2**

In Diamond & Nugget #62, I noted what many consider a rather unusual fact about the word **“Mystery”** and **“Mysteries”**. I noted that the Hebrew alphabet has 22 letters and 5 final forms of specific letters (these are used as a grammatical signature for the end of a sentence or paragraph). These letters originally served for punctuation purpose indicating the end of a sentence or a pause for a paragraph. They are known as **“Sofit”** letters.

This is one of the most interesting finds throughout the New Testament. Each letter of the Hebrew alphabet [aleph-beit] has both a numerical value assigned to it as well as a “theme.” In the Hebrew, **“aleph”** is the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet. In Hebrew **“aleph”** is the letter for **“God as Creator and King.”** Its numerical value is 1. In this study, we are not going to be dealing with the numerical values. That is for another study.

As you read the designated passage or segment and see if you can recognize the “theme” associated with that specific portion of Scripture with the appearance of the English word **“mystery”** or its plural form **“mysteries”**. Some are obvious such as Mark 4:11. Others are a bit more of a challenge, in that exact or specific words do not always make the connection. Sometimes the meaning is nuanced and can be missed depending on your language knowledge. The 22 letters will be in alphabetic order, **“Aleph to Tav”** beginning with Mark 4:11.

Just below is the verse of Mark 4:11. If you read the specific verse you will find the reference for this themed letter meaning: **“The mystery of the kingdom of God!”**

**“And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables:”** - (Mark 4:11).

The KJV has: **"Unto you it is given to know the mystery...."** Actually, the disciples had not been given "to know" the mystery, they had been given the mystery, which in a sense was Jesus Christ himself. In the New Testament a "mystery" means a divine secret (whether a thing or person) revealed to those with eyes to see and ears to hear. **"To those outside all things are in parables"** (literal), not just the parable about the sower, but also everything Jesus said and did; His healings, exorcisms, His preaching about the Kingdom and, above all, His forgiveness of sin.

The second letter of the Hebrew alphabet is **"beit"** and it means **"house or Temple"**. Below is Romans 11:25-27. Read the passage and note the message meaning: **"The mystery of the house and Temple."**

***"For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. <sup>26</sup>And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: <sup>27</sup>For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins."***

In his characteristic way, Paul draws attention to this important truth as he used the words "ignorant," "mystery," "blindness," and "fulness."

On six occasions Paul declared, **"I would not have you ignorant"** -(Romans 1:13; 11:25; 1 Corinthians 10:1; 12:1; 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 1:8; 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:13). In this verse Paul refers to ignorance concerning a mystery. The word "mystery" refers to a truth, once hidden, now revealed, the understanding of which requires spiritual perception. What is that mystery? That Israel's blindness and rejection will continue "until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in." This connects with the statement of James at the Council in Jerusalem -(Acts 15:14).

The third letter of the Hebrew alphabet is **"gimmel"** and it is the letter for **"loving kindness and culmination."** Below is Romans 16:25. Read the passage and note the message meaning: **"Loving kindness and culmination."**

***"Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,"***

The "mystery" of verse 25 was the divine secret that Gentiles would be fellow heirs with Jews in the body of Christ -(Ephesians 3). The gospel brought Gentiles to glory, and so glory came to God. This mystery is now being made known to all nations.

The fourth letter of the Hebrew alphabet is **"dalet"** and it is the letter for **"the door."** Below is 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2:6-8. Read the passage and note the message meaning: **"the door."**

***“Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: <sup>7</sup>But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: <sup>8</sup>Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”***

Paul continued to demolish step-by-step the foundation of natural wisdom on which the Corinthians were tempted to build. In thus comparing spiritual wisdom with natural wisdom, Paul noted that among "perfect" or "full-grown" believers the gospel is recognized as wisdom. These mature thinkers have freed themselves from the world and its values and so can acknowledge and pursue truth. God's wisdom is not dependent on the world, for it is permanent, and the world is on its way to a foolish, nonsensical end. True wisdom is not governed by leaders who set the patterns of this world in general. Yet while noting that this simple gospel is free from human additives, we must also recognize that in another sense it is the most brilliant "philosophy" to ever appear.

Because it does not come from men it appears as a mystery, a secret which man by himself could never unfold. But when Paul used it in his epistles he used it in the sense of something long hidden, but now revealed. Indeed, when Christ came the mystery of the gospel was unfolded by God himself. Thus, Paul told the Corinthians that while they had been toying with the idea of abandoning this simple wisdom, in reality they were possessors of great benefits and the only true wisdom in all the world.

The fifth letter of the Hebrew alphabet is **“hay”** and it is the letter for the **“Breath of God.”** Below is 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:42-52. Read the passage and note the message meaning the **“Breathe of God.”**

***“So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: <sup>42</sup>It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: <sup>43</sup>It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: <sup>44</sup>It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. <sup>45</sup>And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. <sup>46</sup>Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. <sup>47</sup>The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. <sup>48</sup>As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. <sup>49</sup>And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. <sup>50</sup>Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. <sup>51</sup>Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, <sup>52</sup>In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”***

Paul applied this to those who might have wondered if they had to die before they could be changed. **"Behold"** calls for emphatic attention to the declaration that would follow. "Mystery" speaks of a secret that is impossible for man to penetrate. Man can only know it as God has chosen to make it known. Man could never have discovered what will happen at the resurrection, but God has revealed it. This passage is one of the four major Rapture passages in the New Testament.

**"We"** is used generally. Paul lived as though Christ might come at any time, even though he did not know when He was coming, nor did he claim to. Some believers will not die, but whether among that group or not, dead or alive, **"we shall all be changed."**

The sixth letter of the Hebrew alphabet is **"vav"** and it is the letter for **"completion and redemption."** Below is Ephesians 1:7-12. Read the passage and watch for the message of **"completion and redemption."**

***"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; <sup>8</sup>Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; <sup>9</sup>Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: <sup>12</sup>That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ."***

The term "mystery" (**mustērion**) refers to something kept hidden until a certain time, something only God could reveal. It does not describe something mysterious, but something that remains hidden until God chooses to reveal it. Paul used it mainly in Ephesians to describe the fact that in the New Testament Church no distinction exists between Gentiles and Jews.

The seventh letter of the Hebrew alphabet is **"zayen"** and it is the letter for **"focal point of sustenance and struggle."** Below is Ephesians 3:1-3.

***"For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, <sup>2</sup>If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: <sup>3</sup>How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words,"***

"To make all men see" actually means "to bring to light" or "to turn on the light." This Greek infinitive comes from the word which translates into English as photo and serves as the prefix for many English terms. Paul did not picture himself in some small room turning on a light. His vision went far beyond that limited idea. The apostle pictured himself in the center of the earth, exposing to the entire world the revelation that God

had made known to him. The Lord made it very clear to His disciples in His commission to them -(Matthew 28:19, 20) that believers have two main responsibilities relative to people in this world. One is to evangelize them. The apostle Paul took this challenge seriously.

The second responsibility Jesus gave His disciples was to help other believers to mature in their faith. Again, Paul took this matter seriously, and much of his ministry was involved in training people to minister to others.

The eighth letter of the Hebrew alphabet is “**chet**” and is the letter for “**transcendence, life and grace.**” Below is Ephesians 3:4-7.

***Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) <sup>5</sup>Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; <sup>6</sup>That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ by the gospel: <sup>7</sup>Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.”***

According to this verse, he had already mentioned this mystery. Perhaps he was referring to two previous statements in this epistle (1:9; 2:16). "Mystery" (*mustērion*) does not mean something mystical but something that is incomprehensible until God chooses to reveal it. The term for the "revelation" (*apokalupsis*) is the same word from which we derive the title of the last book in the Bible. In the New Testament it means something undiscoverable by humans unless God makes it known to them. It was a very common term to people of that day. For example, it was used of the unveiling of a statue the public had not seen until that time.

The ninth letter of the Hebrew alphabet is “**tet**” and is the letter for “**serpent and objective good.**” Below is Ephesians 3:8-11.

***“Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; <sup>9</sup>And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: <sup>10</sup>To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, <sup>11</sup>According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:”***

Paul's reflection on Genesis 2:24 probably caused the apostle to exclaim, "This is a great mystery." The fact that people could become one with Christ as members of His body was almost too much to comprehend. The same wonder applies to the wife-husband relationship. This concept using the wife-husband relationship is continued in the next letter.

The tenth letter of the Hebrew alphabet is “**yod**” and it is the letter for “**creation and metaphysical.**” Below is Ephesians 5:22-33.

***“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. <sup>23</sup>For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. <sup>24</sup>Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. <sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; <sup>26</sup>That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, <sup>27</sup>That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. <sup>28</sup>So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. <sup>29</sup>For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: <sup>30</sup>For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. <sup>31</sup>For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. <sup>32</sup>This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup>Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.”***

Paul's own experience illustrated this truth. All of his life until he reached approximately 30 years of age, religion had been uppermost. He was so zealous for what he thought pleased God that he persecuted the Early Church severely. Suddenly, because of the manifestation of Christ to him, all this changed, and for the first time in his life he was able to enjoy an intimate relationship with Christ.

The eleventh letter of the Hebrew alphabet is “**kaf**” and it is the letter for “**crowning accomplishment.**” Below is Ephesians 6:10-20.

***“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. <sup>13</sup>Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; <sup>15</sup>And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; <sup>16</sup>Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. <sup>17</sup>And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: <sup>18</sup>Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; <sup>19</sup>And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup>For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”***

Because Paul practiced what he preached, he asked the Ephesians to pray that God would help him proclaim the gospel, even though he was in chains. The apostle's request teaches an important lesson about the purpose of prayer. While there is no doubt that Paul also prayed for his own needs, the main emphasis of this prayer request was that God would give him the enablement to present the gospel message with boldness. This is consistent with Jesus' words to His disciples that His children should seek His kingdom and His righteousness first, and depend upon Him to supply their needs -(Matthew 6:33). Perhaps Christians would receive more answers to prayer if they followed Paul's example and prayed more for the power to proclaim the gospel, rather than always asking God for things for self.

The twelfth letter of the Hebrew alphabet is **“lamed”** and it is the letter for **“teaching and learning.”** Below is Colossians 1:25-26.

***“Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; <sup>26</sup>Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:”***

Paul was faithful to the divine commission God had entrusted to him -(Acts 9:15), but he made it clear in this passage that the revelation of this mystery was disclosed to the saints in general and not just to him. Paul had more to say about God's purpose for Christians in general in the first seven verses of chapter 2, but his brief reference here indicates the way he constantly reminded other people of their responsibility to proclaim the gospel. A careful search of the apostle's writings will reveal several passages where Paul first described his own responsibility to carry out the commission God gave to him, only then in turn reminded Christians of their responsibility to do the same. God will use anyone to propagate His message to the world. The obligation belongs to all believers. Truly the fact that Christ actually indwells believers constitutes one of the greatest mysteries the human race has ever known. He, of course, does so in the person of the Holy Spirit who indwells every believer -(Romans 8:9).

The thirteenth letter of the Hebrew alphabet is **“mem”** and it is the letter for **“water, revealed and concealed.”** Below is Colossians 1:27-28.

***“To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: <sup>28</sup>Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:”***

The fourteenth letter of the Hebrew alphabet is **“nun”** and it is the letter for **“faithfulness, soul, and emergence.”** Below is Colossians 2:1-3.

***“For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh; <sup>2</sup>That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the***

***full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; <sup>3</sup>In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”***

Paul began in verse 2 to express the purpose for this struggle in prayer for them. He prefaced his comments with a very strong Greek term (*hina*) often used to preface statements of purpose and usually translated "in order that." First, Paul coveted for them encouragement, comfort, or inner strength. Second, he desired that they be united or "knit together" in love (*agapē*). While error is divisive, true love that emanates from God himself is the motivating force that binds God's people together. Thirdly, he wanted them to have a full knowledge, or constantly increasing knowledge of what it meant to have Christ indwelling them, what Paul labeled here "the mystery of God." It is a marvelous mystery that Christ does indwell His people, but the more we understand God's work in the believers, the clearer this "mystery" becomes. This is an excellent reminder that our knowledge of Christ improves progressively throughout the Christian life. While all Christians "know" Christ because of the living relationship that exists between the Lord and His people, Christian maturity enables them to know Christ in an ever-increasing manner.

The fifteenth letter of the Hebrew alphabet is “**samech**” and it is the letter for “**support** and **Divine presence.**” Below is Colossians 4:2-4).

***“Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; <sup>3</sup>Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: <sup>4</sup>That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.***

The apostle certainly was not above asking other people to pray for him. However, this verse indicates his request was not for selfish ends. His statement reveals one of the most important purposes for prayer, liberty to proclaim the gospel message. No one can doubt that Paul's consuming desire was for the advancement of the gospel. The pronoun "us" no doubt includes his coworkers mentioned later in the chapter. He literally requested the Colossians to pray that God would "open... a door" for the Word. He may have been expressing his desire that the obstacles standing in the way of the preaching of the gospel be removed -(1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 16:9; 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 2:12), or he may have been asking for the Holy Spirit's help -(Ephesians 6:19, 20).

The sixteenth letter of the Hebrew alphabet is “**ayan**” and it is the letter for “**sight** and **insight.**” Below is 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2:6-11).

***“And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. <sup>7</sup>For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. <sup>8</sup>And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: <sup>9</sup>Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all***



***power and signs and lying wonders, <sup>10</sup>And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. <sup>11</sup>And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.”***

The many contradictory views on this verse emphasize how little any know. Some interpreters of the "historic school" have held that the masculine "he" refers to the Roman emperor, others the apostle Paul, and still others the popes who stepped into the gap after the fall of Rome. Modern post-Tribulationists may think the withholding power is "law and order." Most Pre-Tribulationists hold that the neuter form of verse 6 and the masculine form of verse 7, the power and character which "withholdeth" the Antichrist, is the Holy Spirit.

Some Pre-Tribulationists believe the power is the Christian Church. During this age the Holy Spirit works through believers, whose bodies are His temples. As a unit believers comprise a temple of the Spirit -(1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 3:16; 6:19). Thus the masculine words of verse 7 are thought to refer to the "gathered" believers who are caught up in the Rapture.

At least this much is clear: this passage speaks of a power and/or a person strong enough to withhold Satanic influences, so the man of sin cannot be revealed as long as this power is at work in the world.

The seventeenth letter of the Hebrew alphabet is **“peh”** and it is the letter for **“mouth and speech.”** Below is 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3:8-13).

***“Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; <sup>9</sup>Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. <sup>10</sup>And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless. <sup>11</sup>Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. <sup>12</sup>Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. <sup>13</sup>For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.***

In the New Testament the word mystery refers to a secret unknown to the masses but revealed to a believer or believers. For a parallel reading and an expansion of Paul's use of mystery, see Romans 16:25, 26. Connected with "faith" it means the truths of the gospel revealed in Jesus Christ. Deacons, knowing the tenets of faith (the truth found in the proclaiming of the gospel), should hold these with a "pure (clear, clean) conscience" (see 1:5, 19).

The eighteenth letter of the Hebrew alphabet is **“tzaddi”** and it is the letter for **“righteousness and humility.”** Below is 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3:14-16)

***“These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: <sup>15</sup>But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. <sup>16</sup>And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”***

"Truth" carries over from verse 15 as the focus of the great creedal hymn of verse 16. This hymn begins with the preexistent Christ and ends with His glorious ascension. The phrase "mystery of godliness" occurs only here. (For comments on "mystery" see verse 9.) In the hymn the first three statements are understood only by divine revelation. The last three are attested by historical records in the Gospel and Acts. "God (He who = Christ) was manifest in the flesh (emphasizes the humanity of Christ), justified in (vindicated by) the Spirit -(cf. Romans 1:3), seen of angels -(cf. Ephesians 3:10; 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:12), preached unto the Gentiles (the nations), believed on in the world, received up into glory (the Ascension)."

The nineteenth letter of the Hebrew alphabet is **“koph”** and it is the letter for **“holiness and growth cycles.”** Below is Revelation 1:20).

***“The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.”***

Jesus next explained the mystery, that is, the secret meaning, the inner meaning of the symbol of the seven stars and the seven golden lampstands. The seven stars are the angels or messengers of the seven churches. The Greek word (**angelos**) can mean either "angel" or "messenger." Some Bible students take these angels to be patron angels of the churches even though they are identified with the churches. (Compare Daniel 10:13; 12:1.) Others take them to be the pastors of the churches since John was to write the message to them. Still others take the angels to be visitors or delegates from the churches who would take the Book of Revelation back with them. -(See 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 8:23 where the messengers are delegates.)

The twentieth letter of the Hebrew alphabet is **“resh”** and it is the letter for **“the wicked.”** Below is Revelation 10:5-7).

***“And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, <sup>6</sup>And swear by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer: <sup>7</sup>But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.”***

"But" always indicates a strong contrast. Instead of any further delay, during the days of the sounding of the seventh trumpet (which was about to sound and which would continue sounding), the mystery of God, the good news about himself, which He announced to His servants the prophets, will be carried out, fulfilled, completed. Thus, the sounding of this trumpet will continue through a period of time, probably through the period of the outpouring of the seven bowls of God's wrath, the final defeat of the Antichrist, and the initiating of the millennial kingdom.

Some understand the "mystery of God" to mean salvation. The simplest way to take it is that it refers to a new understanding of the nature, plan, and purpose of God. The word "mystery" is often used in the Bible of something that is not fully revealed in the Old Testament, but in New Testament times was made clear.

"Declared" or "announced" are the most common words in the New Testament for preaching the gospel, announcing the good news of salvation in Christ. This salvation includes the believer's entire inheritance which they are to receive in its fullness when Jesus comes to earth again. Therefore, it includes all the prophets foresaw, including the future Kingdom and even the new heaven and the new earth. As these things occur the complete fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies will take place.

The prophets of the Old Testament made it clear that sin and corruption must be purged from the earth before God's kingdom can be established here. That the Kingdom must be brought in through judgment is therefore good news, for it means all that falls short of the glory of God in the present world system will be gone, replaced by the better things of the coming kingdom of Christ.

The twentieth-first letter of the Hebrew alphabet is **"shin"** and it is the letter for **"Divine power and provision."** Below is Revelation 17:5)

***"And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.***

The name written on her forehead indicates her character. "Mystery" may mean that up to this time her true nature and character have not been fully revealed.

According to Oates, the name "Babylon" was once thought to have originated from the earlier Sumerian name Ka-dinga. This Sumerian name was translated by the Akkadians as Bab-ilim and by the Hebrews as Bābēl. The city's earlier Akkadian name is now believed to be a secondary, popular spelling of Babil, the meaning of which is uncertain. In a later period the name appears in the plural form Bab-ilani, "gate of the gods." The Greeks then translated it Babulōn, thus the modern name Babylon (Ancient People and Places 94:60). It came to symbolize false religion, sorcery, astrology, the occult, human pride, and rebellion against the one true God. In 17:5 Babylon is the name given to the entire godless religious system that has dominated the world and that will climax in the religious system of the Antichrist and his false prophet.

Not only is her cup full of abominations, but she is the mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth. From her has been spawned all the false religions and false cults that have arisen from the time of the tower of Babel until now. The word "abomination" is used of anything that is detestable in the sight of God, especially everything connected with idolatry, astrology, fortune telling, spiritualist mediums, heathen magic, witchcraft, drug-induced experiences, and the occult. It can well be applied also to all the secular, humanistic, satanic, and new age philosophies and teachings that are spreading today.

The twentieth-second letter of the Hebrew alphabet is **"tav"** and it is the letter for **"Truth and perfection."** Below is Revelation 17:7)

***"And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns."***

The vision was no mystery to the angel. He assured John that he would explain to him the meaning of the woman and the wild beast that was carrying her. This was one mystery, not two. The beast and the woman are inseparably related. One cannot be understood apart from the other. The angel also said he would explain the meaning of the 7 heads and 10 horns. Special attention is drawn to them because of their importance to the understanding of the sentence of judgment on the great harlot.

We now move to the plural version of "mystery".

Five letters have two forms – the first form is used if the letter appears at the beginning or is in the middle of a word. The final form is used if the letter appears at the end of a word. The five final forms are: ***"kaf, mem, nun, peh, and tzaddi."*** These five final form letters carry essentially the same primary meaning as does the first form.

There are five letters for the plural of "mystery" or "mysteries".

Matthew 13:11 ***"kaf"*** letter for ***"crowning accomplishment."***  
***"He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given."***

Jesus gave His first reply to their question. He wanted to disclose the secrets of the Kingdom to the disciples, but not to the unbelieving crowds. The kingdom of peace has not yet completely arrived -(cf. 11:12; 12:28 with 10:26); therefore, some of its central features, remained concealed -(11:25-27). The full revelation came later. Divine truths are termed "mysteries" because no one can understand them apart from the Holy Spirit -(1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2:6-14). They are "mysteries" to those living in the world, but they are easily perceived by those open to the Spirit's instruction.

Luke 8:10 ***"mem"*** letter for ***"water, revealed and concealed."***

***“And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.”***

Parables gave all Jesus' hearers an external acquaintance with His teaching. But not all would fully understand the spiritual truths He presented. He said His disciples would "know the mysteries of the kingdom of God." A "mystery" is a fact or truth revealed only to the initiated. Those who have no spiritual discernment cannot understand God's truth. Thus, the disciples would see truth in the parables; others would only see them as entertaining stories.

In explaining this principle Jesus quoted Isaiah 6:9, 10. In that context God foresaw Israel's rejection of Isaiah's message. It would be as though they never heard at all. Parables clarify nothing for those who choose to reject truth. It is not that God is deliberately hiding truth from them. They just do not have the spiritual power to grasp the truth presented to them. Unless a person allows the Holy Spirit to anoint his understanding, the things of God are foolishness to him -(1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2:7-14). Until the Holy Spirit reveals the Truth, it is just words. Once a person becomes a believer, the Holy Spirit removes the invisible veil from their eyes, and begins to open and unpack the riches of God's Word things change. I have witnessed this with an unbelieving spouse who came to Bible Study with their believing spouse.

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 4:1 ***“nun”*** letter for ***“faithfulness, soul, and emergence.”***  
***“Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.”***

To us then, who are servants of Christ, comes the designation of stewardship. This is the practical outcome of unity, wisdom, and service. Paul was a "minister of Christ." While he might be too highly valued by some of the Corinthians, nevertheless, he was a minister and should not be considered too lightly. A balance is needed. Ministers are not lords, but their stewardship deserves respect.

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:1-2 ***“peh”*** letter for ***“mouth and speech.”***  
***“And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.”***

To understand the contrast Paul put forth issues between love and tongues, prophecy, understanding, knowledge, and faith in verses 1 and 2, it is necessary to take into consideration why chapter 13 is sandwiched between chapters 11 to 14. The larger context of chapters 11 to 14 is that of public worship. In chapter 11 Paul was concerned to draw limits for the proper role of women in church worship and how Christians should conduct themselves at the Lord's Supper. Chapters 12 and 14 have to do with the proper exercise of the gifts of the Spirit in church worship.

The apostle Paul was forced to deal with these issues specifically because various Corinthian Christians were exalting their "Christian liberty" and "knowledge" to such a degree that they made a mockery of orderly Christian worship. Paul insisted in chapter 13 that the model of Christian worship is love, not knowledge or any other special gift in which the Corinthians thought they excelled.

First Corinthians 13, therefore, is not a general treatise on the nature of love; it is a very specific instruction explaining how people are to relate to one another in public worship. Paul did not condemn the gifts of tongues or prophecy; rather, he insisted that they cannot be used indiscriminately or boastfully but must be subordinated to love.

Love is superior to great knowledge and understanding. This involves inspiration and prophecy: the work of the seer. Mysteries are known, truths that men could never learn and penetrate for themselves, but only because it pleased God to reveal them. "All" explains the extent of the knowledge. It is "nothing" without love. Love is superior to great faith, the kind of faith that moves mountain after mountain. Without love as the motive, even such miracle-working faith as this, exciting and successful though it may be, is of no value.

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:11-14:2 **"tzaddi"** letter for **"righteousness and humility."**  
***"For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.***  
–(1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:2)

Paul first explained the action and communion of tongues. There is adequate sound in "tongues," but there is not understanding. **"Tongues"** do not edify anyone else because no one can understand what is being said unless there is interpretation or, as occasionally happens, the "tongues" are in a foreign language understood by someone present. Only God understands. **"Not unto men"** shows that, whatever the intention, the person speaking in tongues still speaks only to God. If there is no interpretation, and no one present understood the language, then only God understands. **"In the spirit,"** on the basis of context and verses 14 and 15, may refer to the believer's spirit which is quickened and sanctified by the Holy Spirit. It is possible to speak **"in the spirit"** without the aid of the understanding. The public assembly is not the place for such "private" communion, unless the gift of interpretation is operating to produce edification.

This brings to a close one of God's most incredible and astonishing teachings on the meaning of the Hebrew alphabet. The **22** letters and the **5** final forms are akin to a word search, word find, word seek, mystery word puzzle; a word game that consists of the letters of words placed in a grid, which usually has a rectangular or square shape. The objective of this kind of puzzle is to find and mark all the words hidden inside the box.

Although somewhat different, this Biblical pattern is built on the word theme (**mystery**) associated with the letter meanings, it contains a "pattern design" indicative of a Divine Designer. There is an integral structure, invisible if you are not looking for it. This is not

the only time we find the concept meaning of the letters in front of our eyes. In the King James Bible, you will find the Hebrew letter above each 8-stanza of Psalm 119. Psalm 119 is the longest Psalm in the Bible, and it contains 176 verses divided into 22 8-verse stanzas. At the top of each 8-stanza you will find the Hebrew letter for that segment. The meaning of the Hebrew letter will be found in that particular segment. Take a look at Psalm 119 in the KJV Bible and compare it with an NIV, RSV, or any modern version of the Bible.

As to the purpose of this design structure, we know it was one way a Hebrew child would learn how to read and understand the Scriptures. To my knowledge, no other modern translation retained this key or learning guide, and thus raising the issue of Scriptural Integrity from the Hebrew Old Testament. As I have shared in this amazing study, we might see the Bible itself as a “Mystery” laid out before us as God’s way of speaking to us about His wonderful message! As a student of Scripture, I am always in awe and reverence of what I learn from the pages of God’s Holy Word.

When I was a seminary student at Asbury Theological Seminary, the Bible was the primary textbook in each and every class or course. We were encouraged not to use a Study Bible, but to allow the Holy Spirit to speak through the basic text of a Bible without study notes. It may have seemed strange to many but it taught us to place our reliance upon the Holy Spirit opening the treasures within the text.

This brings me to another area of the Bible that Michael Drosnin popularized back in 1996 with the book *‘The Bible Code’*. Excitement over that book has long died down except for a small group of those who continue to study through computer analysis of the Hebrew text. One of those who are associated as a Bible Code expert is a Jewish Rabbi [Matityahu Glazerson](#).

Last year, 2020, Rabbi Glazerson posted on his site, a Bible Code that has struck fear in the hearts of men and women. This could well be my last “Blessed Hope” article, and so I share this not to frighten you but rather hopefully to wake you to the reality that the Rapture is as real as the dawning of daybreak as I write this at 5:50 AM on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021. We have a new moon on July 10<sup>th</sup> and events occurring could be prophetic of the possibility of the **“Harpazo”** or our “Departure” on this date. I am constraining my excitement of such anticipation!

**Bible Codes: 2/3 of World’s Population will Die by Sept 2021 as Prophesied by Zechariah**  
by [Adam Eliyahu Berkowitz](#) | Nov 25, 2020 |



An expert in Bible codes found a shocking clue that the prophecy of Zechariah that most of the people alive today will perish is due to come about this year. Actually, according to one interpretation of the prophecy, this has already happened. Rabbi Matityahu Glazerson posted this past November, 2020, a terrifying picture of a future event!

### **Bible Codes: “In 5781 Most Living Things Exterminated”**

Rabbi [Matityahu Glazerson](#), an expert in Bible codes, [prepared a video](#) using [special software to find hidden clues](#) in equidistant letters in the Torah referring to a verse in Zechariah describing the end-of days.

Throughout the land —declares *Hashem*— Two-thirds shall perish, shall die, And one-third of it shall survive. That third I will put into the fire, And I will smelt them as one smelts silver And test them as one tests gold. They will invoke Me by name, And I will respond to them. I will declare, **“You are My people,”** And they will declare, **“Hashem is our God!”** [Zechariah 13:8-9](#)

Using a graph based on intervals of 1,480 letters, the rabbi discovered a table containing a multitude of clues in the book of Exodus. The rabbi found the sentence “החי רוב אבער תשפאבה” (In the year 5781, I will exterminate most living things). The location was also given in the code as the acronym ארהב (Artzot HaBrit; the United States). The Hebrew year 5781 is our year 2021.

### **Iran/Haman Intends to Use Nuclear Weapons**



The rabbi found a clue to what he called *“the real-but hidden- threat to the United States; Iran.”* Contained within the word ‘Iran’ was the word הרג (hereg, murder), which was directly over and parallel to the word אזהרה (azharah; warning) as well as the word איום (iyum; threat).

*“The Prophet Zechariah seemed to be talking just to Israel but make no mistake, he was talking to the whole world,”* Rabbi Glazerson said. *“The threat is endangering the entire world.”*

The source of the threat was explicit at the top of the graph in the word המני (hamani; haman like).

*“Iran is the descendants of Haman who still want to kill the Jews today,”* Rabbi Glazerson explained. *“But, for Haman and also for Iran, killing Israel is only the prelude to killing the whole world. That is why they want to build an atom bomb. For them, it is not a joke or just a gesture. Now that Biden is going to be president, they will establish the agreement which will allow them to do this.”*

As if to emphasize the point, directly under the hint to Haman is the word עמלק (Amalek).

### **Trump/Cyrus Stands Against Evil/Biden**

Rabbi Glazerson discovered a hint of what could save Israel and the world from the Biblical threats: קורש (Cyrus). President Trump has frequently been compared to Persian King Cyrus, the antithesis of Haman, who enabled the Jewish return to Israel and the building of the Second Temple in 516 BCE.

*“Trump stands against Biden’s anti-Israel and anti-Bible agendas, like abortion and gay marriages,”* Rabbi Glazerson said. *“It is very important to understand what Trump is in the world.”*

### **Poverty: Worse than Death**

The rabbi also found the word הקורונה (the corona), indicating what he called *“plague before the redemption.”* But corona was linked to another word; עניות (aniyut, poverty).

*“Poverty, to take away someone’s money and livelihood, can be instead of killing,”* Rabbi Glazerson said, citing Jewish sources. *“So what is happening, where they keep all the people from their jobs is ‘killing’ far more people than the coronavirus ever would.”*

The rabbi explained that this could be the manifestation of Zechariah’s prophecy; when two-thirds of the people in the world become impoverished and dependent on the other third.

This point is learned from Deuteronomy.

You must pay him his wages on the same day, before the sun sets, for he is needy and urgently depends on it; else he will cry to *Hashem* against you and you will incur guilt. [Deuteronomy 24:15](#)

The term “*urgently depends on it*” is translated from the Hebrew, “נִפְּשׁוֹתָ נִשָּׂא הוּא אֵלָיו”, which may be more literally translated, “*his soul carries it.*” In the Talmud this is interpreted as meaning that a man who withholds wages is as if he murdered the employee.

### **Solution: Double Repentance**

But the solution was also contained within the graph. Rabbi Glazerson found the word תשובה (repentance) twice in this graph, adjacent to the words משיח (Messiah) and ישועה (salvation).

*“To repent once is for an intellectual repentance,”* Rabbi Glazerson said. *“The next level is the repentance of the heart. Through a trick of the mind, Biden and his followers are doing terrible things. The mind by itself can go wrong. You need to repent with more than just the mind.”*

*“I presented this Torah code to other experts and they all agreed they have never seen one like this for clarity in all of the codes they saw before,”* Rabbi Fish said in his Hebrew language video. *“It contains a chilling and unmistakable message.”*

Revelation 9:15 and 9:18 speak to the death of one-third of man! Revelation 9:18 says that another third will die quickly also, this time in the Trumpet Judgment. “By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed, by the fire and smoke and sulfur coming out of their mouths.” This means that a third of 7.8 billion people will die.

John distinctively establishes the clarity of God’s promise to deliver the believer from all the violence and chaos that actually began over a year ago on March 21, 2020. Most denominational churches were oblivious to what had begun, and for the most part, they are encouraging their people to be Vaxxed with the Jesuit poison needle. Some of them have been so arrogant as to say that Jesus would take the Vaxx. That is the ultimate of blasphemy! To blaspheme is to speak with contempt about God or to be defiantly irreverent. Blasphemy is verbal or written reproach of God’s name, character, work, or attributes. In a previous article I referred to the like of Franklin Graham as Judas goats! Hiding behind their 501c3 tax exempt status will not save them from the wrath of judgment! An out of sight, out of mind attitude does not change the reality of God’s impending judgment.

***“Behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it ... Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly ...”*** (Revelation 3:8, 10, 11)

I regularly remind readers of this stand-alone promise of verse 10; but we do believe that these three promises are one in the larger sense.

The “open door” is to escape the Great Tribulation described in verse 10. The door refers to the Rapture -(1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:15-17), whereby the New Testament saints are taken to heaven before the beginning of the Tribulation. Note that the Rapture is held forth as a source of comfort to New Testament saints -(1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians. 4:18). If the Rapture occurred at the end of the Great Tribulation, it would not be a comfort, to say the least! In 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:1-9 we see that the day of the Lord will come upon the unsaved as a thief in the night, but that day will not overtake the believers because they are not appointed to wrath. Two distinctly different groups are described in this passage, **“they”** (unbelievers, 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:2, 7) and **“ye,”** “yourselves,” **“we,”** and **“us”** (believers, 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9).

The “hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world” is the day of the Lord described by Isaiah -(Isaiah 2:10-22), Daniel (Daniel 12:1), Joel (Joel 2:2), Malachi (Malachi 4:1), and Jesus -(Matthew 24:21). It is described in detail in Revelation 6-18. It is called “the time of Jacob’s trouble” -(Jeremiah 30:7), because God’s attention will be focused upon Israel and the fulfilling of Daniel’s 70 Week prophecy -(Daniel 9:24-27).

The object is **“to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy”** -(Daniel 9:24). The first 69 weeks of years have been fulfilled. During those weeks, Jerusalem and its wall were rebuilt after the Babylonian destruction, Christ came and was crucified as the atonement for sin (“cut off, but not for himself”), and Jerusalem was destroyed by Rome. Christ came unto His own, the Jews, and was rejected, and He turned to building the church, calling them out of all nations by the preaching of the gospel. He is visiting the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name -(Acts. 15:14). When the church-age saints are taken away, Daniel’s 70th Week will be fulfilled. **“And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate”** -(Daniel. 9:27). During this final week of seven years, the Antichrist will make a deceitful covenant with apostate Israel, and after 3.5 years he will break it and defile the third temple by exalting himself as God. This will be followed by desolations until the return of Christ in power and glory to establish His kingdom. The judgments that will be poured out at that time will bring Israel to repentance.

It is not possible that **“keep thee from the hour of temptation”** could refer to being kept through the Tribulation, as mid-tribulation or the post-tribulation teaches.

(1) The preachers who are on earth at that time are clearly identified as Jewish, selected from the 12 tribes of Israel -(Revelation 7).

(2) The Tribulation is the **“time of Jacob’s trouble”** -(Jeremiah 30:7); it pertains to Israel, not the church. See also Daniel 12:1, which connects Israel with the **“time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time.”**

(3) The saints on earth during the Tribulation are not preserved from severe persecution and martyrdom -(Revelation 6:9-11; 7:9-14).

(4) Christ promises to keep the faithful New Testament saints **“from”** (Greek **“ek”**) the Tribulation, not **“in”** (Greek **“en”**) or **“through”** (Greek **“dia”**) it. **Ek** has the explicit meaning **“out of.”**

(5) Christ promises to keep the faithful New Testament saints from **“the hour of temptation.”** He promises to keep them from that period of time, not merely to keep them from that temptation. “Illustrations of the use of ‘hour’ where emphasis falls on the experience within the time, not the period itself include -(Matthew 26:45; Mark 14:35, 41; John 2:4; 7:30; 8:20; 12:23, 27; 13:1; 17:1), are not relevant nor are they persuasive even if they were relevant”. Compare Jesus Christ’s words in John 12:27, **“Father, save me from this hour...”** (**“soston me ek tes horas tantes”**). “Of particular interest is the occurrence of the verb **“soston”**, a word akin to **“tereo”**, in referring to deliverance, combined with the phrase **“ek tes horas”**, the exact same phrase as in Revelation 3:10.

In this other passage John recorded that Christ prayed to be saved from the hour of His crucifixion, meaning obviously that, humanly speaking. He wanted to be delivered from the awful agony of that experience. In other words, He wanted to be spared the necessity of living through the time period when it took place. It was not that He prayed for strength to go through it without giving in or feeling its effects. This is a prayer for complete exemption from the hour of crucifixion. This meaning, transferred to Revelation 3:10, shows it to be a promise of complete exemption from ‘the hour of trial.’ In essence, the promise is, *‘I will protect you (at a place) away from the period of misery on earth.’* The contention that Jesus in John 12:27 has already entered into His hour of trial cannot be sustained. The hour referred to was the hour of His impending crucifixion, which was yet future -(cf. John 7:30). So the comparable construction and terminology from another book by John lends significant weight to the view of removal from the scene of tribulation.

(6) The words, **“Behold, I come quickly”** -(Revelation 3:10) immediately following the promise of keeping from the hour also is a promise of the Pre-Tribulational Rapture, as we will see in the study on “Christ’s exhortation to the church at Philadelphia.”

The promise to the church of Philadelphia is God’s promise to every born again believer who is alive when the church age ends and the “time of Jacob’s trouble” begins.

This promise also applies to the open doors that Christ sets before His people in this present life. As I read the news account daily, one certainly gets the impression that we

are already in the Tribulation but the Tribulation does not begin until the Antichrist signs the ***“Covenant with the Many”*** of Daniel 9:27. ***And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.”*** This has not happened as of yet; it remains on the shelf of the Oslo Accords. When the false messiah, Prince Charles of Wales puts his hand to the pen to sign this seven year treaty, the final clock countdown of those seven years begin; and the UN will make sure the world knows all about it. The media will be sure to celebrate this signing event!

There is nothing like Daniel 9:27 found anywhere in the entire Bible. It is the pinnacle point of the end of time for the world, marking a definite date the world will know when He returns with His saints and claims ownership of the planet as King. The late Dr. Chuck Missler used to say these four verses were the most important verses in the Bible [Daniel 9:24-27].

There are signs of physical instability of the land everywhere upon which we stand. Massive sink holes have appeared all around the world, even in Siberia. Massive Liquefaction takes place when loosely packed, water-logged sediments at or near the ground surface lose their strength in response to strong ground shaking. Liquefaction occurring beneath buildings and other structures can cause major damage during earthquakes. For example, the 1964 Niigata earthquake caused widespread liquefaction in Niigata, Japan which destroyed many buildings. Also, during the 1989 Loma Prieta, California earthquake, liquefaction of the soils and debris used to fill in a lagoon caused major subsidence, fracturing, and horizontal sliding of the ground surface in the Marina district in San Francisco.

We have had record volcanic activity this past year. The earthquake activity around the “Ring of Fire” area has been off the charts as well. All of the signs Jesus Christ spoke of it are here “in spades!” 6.0 point earthquakes once considered rare, occur almost weekly somewhere around the planet as to get our attention. Even an inactive volcano on a quiet mountain in Alaska in recent weeks began to sent plumes of ash and smoke into the atmosphere. Record-size hail stones fell in Texas a couple weeks ago that destroyed roofs of homes and buildings, destroying cars and property indiscriminately.

No one can say that God has not warned humanity of impending judgment. To ignore any warning is to defy good judgment. I sense this might be my last Blessed Hope article. I learned a long time ago that my purpose was to be obedient and faithful. If any of the 63 Blessed Hope series has had your attention, it has come through God’s grace and mercy. In one of his last benediction, Paul’s prayer for the Thessalonians is that He, the Lord of peace, would give them peace always in every way. Then he prayed, ***“The Lord be with you always.”*** Hence, it stands to reason that if He were always with them they would always have peace in every way—for He is the Lord of peace.

Blessings, Keep looking up!

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