## Scripture of the Quarter

"Unless the Lord of hosts had left to us a very small remnant, we would have become like Sodom, we would have been made like Gomorrah."

Isaiah 1:9 NKJV

## Will you be part of God's remnant when Jesus comes for His Bride without spot or wrinkle?

Lord, I give You all glory, honor and ! praise for this newsletter You instructed me to write for the December newsletter. God instructed me to write on His "remnant." When I write about the remnant I'm referring to God's people. Now I would like to define what a remnant is; Remnant means that which remains of an original body. In reference to God's people, it means those who are faithful to His original truth, despite apostasy (false teaching) which the devil will use against you to deceive you and lead you away from the truth. Ref. Matthew 24:4, 5, 11, and 24. We must remember we are living in the last of the last days, before Christ returns for His bride in the Rapture. Ref. 1st Thessalonians 4:16-17.

Let's talk about some stories in the Bible, which reveal how our God is faithful and merciful to save a faithful and righteous remnant from Judgment. The first story is found in Genesis 6:5-6 "Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth,

and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." V6"And the Lord was sorry that He made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart." I wonder what the Lord is thinking, when He looks down from heaven and observes man today? In verse 8 it states "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord."NKJV We must ask ourselves why did Noah find grace? The answer is simple he was a righteous man. Righteous means he obedient to all that God commanded him to do. In Chapter 7:1 this is confirmed by what the Bible states "Then the Lord said to Noah, come into the ark, you and all of your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this *generation.*" We all know the rest of this story, only Noah and his family, eight people (a remnant) were saved from God's Judgment. If you study the Bible numbers are very important. The number 8 means NEW BEGINNING! I have a copy of the book of Jasher in my library, which is mentioned in the

Bible in the books of **2nd Samuel** and in Joshua. The name "Jasher" in Hebrew means "the upright" or "correct record." It is not considered inspired. The most important value of this book is the large quantity of additional detail it gives to various accounts in the Old Testament. In the book of Jasher, which was translated from Hebrew into English in 1840, reveals that 700,000 people died, as a result of not listening to Noah when he preached for a hundred years that a flood was coming? Ref. Jasher Chapter 6, page 12. Remember he preached this message for one hundred years. Does this sound like today when the message of the "Rapture" is preached and some people mock and say "where is the promise of His coming." Ref. 2nd Peter 3:3-4.NKJV

The next Bible account which talks about a remnant is also found in Genesis, Ref. Chapters 18 beginning with V20 and ending with V30 in Chapter 19. We have all heard of Sodom and Gomorrah which was totally destroyed by the hand of God due to their sexual perversion. As in our society today, their Judges made a decision to allow sexual perversion to take place in the middle of the town square between young and old men. Look at the parallel in our society today. Our Judges, have passed laws allowing marriages between a man and a man and marriage between a woman and a woman. The Judges are saying that man's law is above God's law. One

of God's first sacred blood covenants marriage is between a man and a woman. Lot, who lived in the city of Sodom, was visited by two angels who advised him to take his family and leave. In v14 "So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, "Get up get out of this place; for the Lord will destroy the city!" But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking." God gives us warnings before His judgment is executed. God gave a specific command to Lot and his family, when you flee the city don't look back. Ref. V17. In V26 we see what happens to people who do not obey the Word of the Lord. V26 "But his wife looked back behind him and she became a pillar of salt." Again, God totally destroyed Sodom, and would have saved Lot's married daughters and his sons-in-law, but they refused to listen. So God saved a remnant Lot and his two daughters. There are many other stories in the Bible which talk about a remnant of God's people which will be saved. Now I would like to focus on the remnant that will be taken in the "Rapture." I have heard some people who mock the teaching of the Rapture and declare it will never happen. While others are teaching "ALL WHO CLAIM TO BE CHRISTIANS will be Raptured." The only problem with that is it does not line up with the parables of Jesus Christ. What is the definition of a true believing Christian? Jesus defined it this way in John 15:8 "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples". What type of fruit are you bearing for the kingdom of God? When you have an opportunity, are you witnessing to people about salvation found only in Jesus Christ, are you laying hands on the sick, and praying the prayer of faith, that reads the Lord will raise them up and if they committed sins they will be forgiven? Ref. James 5:14-15.

Here are two <u>misconceptions</u> about the flesh, (mind, will, and emotions) and the Rapture.

devil? Remember the "rapture of the

- 1. Everyone who says they are saved will go in the Rapture.
  - a. Only those who watch and pray (Luke 21:36)
  - b. Only those who look for Him (Hebrews 9:28)
  - c. Note the parable of the unprofitable servant (Matthew 25:30)
  - d. Note the parable of the ten virgins (Matthew 25)
- 2. Backsliders will have time to repent.
  - a. Three sounds occur at the Rapture

(1st Thessalonians 4:16-17)

- b. **1st Corinthians 15:51-52** changed in the twinkling of an eye. Blink, your eye, that is how quick it will be!
- c. Not all people heard the voice of God (John 12:29)
- d. They that "have an ear" will be able to hear (Revelation 2:7)

I will give you the Word of God and you decide. But let me give you a warning, Jesus warned that in the last days MANY will be deceived. In Colossians 2:8, "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the traditions of MEN, according to the basic principles of the WORLD, and not according to Christ." I have given you scriptures from the Word of God for the entire content of this newsletter. It is not what I think, it is what God says!

So the question remains <u>for all who call</u> these things that themselves Christians, have you overcome these three things; the world, the Luke 21:36 NKJV

devil? Remember the "rapture of the church" is a one-time event reserved for faithful overcomers! The same applies to people who say they are a Christian. Can people look at you and see the way you live and say you are a Christian? Or does your life style disprove your claim to be a Christian? What type of fruit is growing on your tree? Are you looking up everyday looking for Jesus? Do you have one foot in the world and the other in the kingdom of God? Are you making Jesus Christ first in your life above all other things? Matthew 6:33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." NKJV Another scripture which comes to mind is found in 1st Corinthians 10:21 "You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons." NKJV The scripture we should all be waiting to hear the Lord say to all overcomers is in Matthew 25:21 "His Lord said to him, Well done good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord." Glory to God! Now the question you must answer for yourself is this; Will I be part of the "remnant" that will be taken in the Rapture? Jesus said in Revelation 3:19, V21 "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. V21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

"Watch therefore and pray that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass and to stand before the Son of Man."

Luke 21.36 NKJV