

BEHOLD, I TELL YOU A MYSTERY

(a secret truth, an event decreed
by the hidden purpose or counsel of God)
(The Amplified Bible)

It was in the Garden that sin demonstrated itself with changes that affected the entire world. A special place where God would come to fellowship with our forefathers, became then a place where judgment was decreed, bringing to it a heavy atmosphere from then on. The serpent, Adam and Eve stood before God listening to their fate as a result of what they did. In Adam's and Eve's physical shame God provided for them a covering from long coats of skins and clothed them. (Gen. 3: 21). This is very significant in the fact that God's Son came many years past as the "Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world" (John 1: 29). Amazing love was displayed for the human being amidst their disobedience. God's plan of redemption was visible, when He provided "long coats of skin" to cover Adam's and Eve's nudity. Means of protection under the sovereignty of God. Because of men's rebellion against Him, the world was judged by means of water, and now waits for its judgment through fire. However, God has provided a way for their salvation through the death of His Son to redeem those who will accept Him.

In the space of time, God called Abraam to picture His future salvation, by telling him to sacrifice his son- the son of the promise. In Genesis twenty-two we read the story: [God] said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac... whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah and offer him there as a burnt offering upon one of the mountains of which I will tell you. On the third day of their trip to the mountain, Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering, and laid it on Isaac his son and he took the fire in his own hand and a knife and the two of them went on together. And Isaac said to Abraham. My father! And he said, Here I am, my son. Isaac said, see here are the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the sacrifice?" Abraham said, "My son, **God Himself will provide a lamb for the burnt offering.** So, the two went on together" (Gen. 2: 22).

Abraham's heart was touched by what God asked him to do, but at the same time, he believed in the resurrection of his son, due to God's promise that Isaac was the son of the promise. He was blessed at the end of his ordeal for his obedience and the Lord God said, In blessing I will bless you and in multiplying I will multiply your descendants like the sand on the seashore. And your Seed (YAHSHUA) will possess the gate of His enemies. And in your Seed (YAHSHUA) shall all the nations of the earth be blessed and by Him bless themselves; because you have heard and obeyed My voice (Gen.22). Here, my friend is the introduction of God's eternal salvation demonstrated by Abraham's and his son's obedience. Abraham represented God the Father and Isaac God the Son. That was the place chosen for the sacrifice of God's Son in a distant future. The region of Moriah is of great historical significance for the world. YAHSHUA didn't stay in that tomb, but He arose on the third day. Paul says He is the first fruit of all those who died in Him, in the first resurrection. Because He lives, we shall live also. YAHSHUA'S resurrection guarantees our resurrection. In its order, YAHSHUA'S first and then we believers. His

resurrection is the cornerstone of our faith. Without it, in vain is our faith, as Paul has emphasized. "And if Christ has not risen, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is devoid of truth and is fruitless" (I Cor. 15:13-14). In speaking of resurrection, Paul then said, "Take notice! I tell you a **mystery**. We shall not all asleep [in death]. But we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet call. For a trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable." (I Cor. 15:51-52). Do we have any idea how fast that is?

YAHSHUA rose Lazarus from the dead with a shout of the resurrection power: LAZARUS COME OUT! Compare this with the rapture when the trumpet of God will call the Lord's saints, which we read in I Thessalonians 4: "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a loud cry of summons, with the shout of an archangel, and with the **blast** of the trumpet of God. And those who have departed this life in Christ will rise first. Then we, the living ones who remain shall simultaneously be caught up along in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and always we shall be with the Lord!" Exodus 19 is another picture of the rapture as well. When the Lord descended on Mount Sinai in fire and the whole mount quaked greatly, as the trumpet blast grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and God answered him with a voice. The Lord came down upon Mount Sinai to the top of the mountain and the Lord called Moses to the top of the Mountain and Moses went up (Vs.18-19); and Revelation 4:1-2: "After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice which I had heard addressing me like [the calling of] war trumpet said, Come up here, and I will show you what must take place in the future. At once I came under the Spirit's power and behold a throne stood in heaven, with One seated on the throne!"

The trumpet is of great meaning to the nation of Israel. Its sounds speak about different ceremonies, it announces important events, religious ceremonies, warning during warfare; it heralds apocalyptic judgments and warnings. It will summons God's people at the time of the rapture. It will call us in this order: the dead in Christ first and then those who remain alive during that time will unite with the dead in Christ in the air to be with our Savior forever and forever (I Thess. 4). Death where is your victory? O death where is your sting? But thanks be to God, Who gives us the victory through our Lord YAHSHUA Messiah. (I Cor. 15). It has been thousands of years since this promise was given. Although, many ridicule and doubt it. Peter made the observation saying, nevertheless, do not let this one fact escape you, beloved, that with the Lord, one day is a thousand years and a thousand years as one day. The Lord does not delay and is not tardy or slow about what He promises, according to some people's conception of slowness, but He is long-suffering toward you, not desiring that any should perish, but that all should turn to repentance. But we look for new heavens and a new earth according to His promise, in which righteousness is to abide (II Peter 3:8-9, 13).

My friends, if you are children of light, children of day, that day will not take you by surprise; for we (the believers) belong to the day; therefore, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation; for God has not appointed us to wrath, but salvation through our Lord YAHSHUA Messiah, Who died for us so that whether we are still alive or are dead, we might live together with Him and share His life (I Thess. 5).

However, if you are children of darkness, you will not be participant of this glorious mystery. You will be caught by surprise when left behind at the trumpet call. Today is all you have to make a decision to eternity. The Lord is very patient; He is waiting for you to decide. Today is for you to answer. Do not take it for granted and miss the most important decision of your life that counts for eternity. Choose life!