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Last Updated : July 10, 2006

My UFO Study, Unusual Clouds In The Bible, Flexibility In Our Understanding, Moses And Children Of Israel In The Wilderness Pillar Of A Cloud, The Pillar Of Fire, Cloud Upon Mount Sinai Cloudy Pillar And The Tabernacle, Cloud Upon The Mercy Seat, Voice Out Of The Fire, Lord Rides Upon A Cherub, Cloud In The Temple And Glory Of The Lord, Clouds Are God's Chariot, Lord Rides Upon A Swift Cloud, Lord Covers Himself With A Cloud, Ezekiel's Wheel, God On His Throne, Cherubims, Wheels Within Wheels, Chariot Of Fire - Close Encounter Of The Third Kind

"While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud...they feared as they entered into the cloud" Matthew 17:5a, Luke 9:34b, KJV

A number of years ago, I undertook a study of New Age thought and the UFO phenomenon. This study lasted for approximately a two-year period. After concluding my study, I felt that it would be a good idea to put into an easily-readable form, many of the interesting verses which can be found throughout the Authorized King James Version of the Holy Bible. Being a Bible student of many years, I am familiar with many of the out-of-this-world events which can be found within its holy pages. With the aid of an electronic version of the Bible, I was finally able to compile these verses during 1997, and this current series is the result of my research. As the following passages clearly demonstrate, there appears to be a strong connection between clouds, the Lord's appearance, and other Heavenly Phenomena.

As you read this intriguing information, the questions which I would like to ask you to consider are these: Exactly what were these 'clouds of Heaven'; and what role might they play in our modern times and in our future? I hope to provide you with some possible answers to these questions in the pages that follow. Please bear in mind, however, that any comments I may make are only speculation on my part. In all honesty, I really don't know, nor fully comprehend, what the writers of the Bible were referring to when they wrote the various accounts of their experiences, because I was not there to experience them firsthand.

While none of us were eyewitnesses of these amazing events, one point which will become apparent to you, is that while many verses in the Bible describe what are obviously normal rain clouds, there are other odd passages, and many at that, which describe something very special indeed, and with very peculiar properties; and it is these odd verses that I think many people, Christian and non-Christian alike, will find most interesting. Of course, I realize that some Christians may object to my implication that these verses may in some

way be related to the UFO phenomenon. If that be the case, I offer you my apologies, with the knowledge that some people will be offended, regardless of what the truth might be.

For those Christians who may criticize me for suggesting this possible Bible-UFO connection, allow me to inform you that I have known the Lord, and have studied His Word, for a large part of the last thirty-two years. While I firmly believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, I also believe that as Christians, we do need to allow for a certain degree of flexibility in our views, and in our understanding, and consider other possibilities in some of its interpretation; particularly when it comes to passages such as those which are included in this series.

Before actually sharing this treasure chest of Scriptures with you, I would like to take a moment to thank the people at Project Gutenberg for their hard work and dedication in converting the King James Bible to a downloadable electronic format. Without them, this project would have taken me much longer to complete, and probably would not have been nearly as thorough as it is. Special thanks also go to Ken Hamel, the creator of the Macintosh version of the excellent Bible program, 'Online Bible'. It has truly been a blessing for many Christians such as myself.

Having said that, let us begin now to examine some of the interesting verses of which I have spoken. The following verses are excerpts from the story of Moses leading the children of Israel out of Egypt, through the wilderness and across the Red Sea. All of these verses are extracted from the Book of Exodus:

"And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:"
Exodus 13:21, KJV

"And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them: And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not near the other all the night...And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians, And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians."
Exodus 14:19-20, 24-25, KJV

"And it came to pass, as Aaron spake unto the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and, behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud." Exodus 16:10, KJV

"And the LORD said unto Moses, Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee for ever. And Moses told the words of

the people unto the LORD...And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled." Exodus 19:9, 16, KJV.

"And Moses went up into the mount, and a cloud covered the mount. And the glory of the LORD abode upon mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days: and the seventh day he called unto Moses out of the midst of the cloud...And Moses went into the midst of the cloud, and gat him up into the mount: and Moses was in the mount forty days and forty nights." Exodus 24:15-16, 18, KJV

"And it came to pass, as Moses entered into the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar descended, and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the LORD talked with Moses. And all the people saw the cloudy pillar stand at the tabernacle door: and all the people rose up and worshipped, every man in his tent door. And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle." Exodus 33:9-11, KJV

"And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD." Exodus 34:5, KJV

"Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And when the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the children of Israel went onward in all their journeys: But if the cloud were not taken up, then they journeyed not till the day that it was taken up. For the cloud of the LORD was upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was on it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys." Exodus 40:34-38, KJV

Turning to the Book of Leviticus, we find the following interesting verses:

"And the LORD spake unto Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they offered before the LORD, and died; And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy place within the vail before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark; that he die not: for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat." Leviticus 16:1-2, KJV

In the Book of Numbers, we also find these verses:

"And on the day that the tabernacle was reared up the cloud covered the tabernacle, namely, the tent of the testimony: and at even there was upon the tabernacle as it were the appearance of fire, until the morning. So it was alway: the cloud covered it by day, and the appearance of fire by night. And when the cloud was taken up from the tabernacle, then after that the children of Israel journeyed: and in the place where the cloud abode, there the children of Israel

pitched their tents. At the commandment of the LORD the children of Israel journeyed, and at the commandment of the LORD they pitched: as long as the cloud abode upon the tabernacle they rested in their tents. And when the cloud tarried long upon the tabernacle many days, then the children of Israel kept the charge of the LORD, and journeyed not. And so it was, when the cloud was a few days upon the tabernacle; according to the commandment of the LORD they abode in their tents, and according to the commandment of the LORD they journeyed. And so it was, when the cloud abode from even unto the morning, and that the cloud was taken up in the morning, then they journeyed: whether it was by day or by night that the cloud was taken up, they journeyed. Or whether it were two days, or a month, or a year, that the cloud tarried upon the tabernacle, remaining thereon, the children of Israel abode in their tents, and journeyed not: but when it was taken up, they journeyed." Numbers 9:15-22, KJV

"And it came to pass on the twentieth day of the second month, in the second year, that the cloud was taken up from off the tabernacle of the testimony. And the children of Israel took their journeys out of the wilderness of Sinai; and the cloud rested in the wilderness of Paran...And the cloud of the LORD was upon them by day, when they went out of the camp. And it came to pass, when the ark set forward, that Moses said, Rise up, LORD, and let thine enemies be scattered; and let them that hate thee flee before thee. And when it rested, he said, Return, O LORD, unto the many thousands of Israel." Numbers 10:11-12, 34-36, KJV

"And when the people complained, it displeased the LORD: and the LORD heard it; and his anger was kindled; and the fire of the LORD burnt among them, and consumed them that were in the uttermost parts of the camp. And the people cried unto Moses; and when Moses prayed unto the LORD, the fire was quenched. And he called the name of the place Taberah: because the fire of the LORD burnt among them...And the LORD came down in a cloud, and spake unto him, and took of the spirit that was upon him, and gave it unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, that, when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease." Numbers 11:1-3, 25, KJV

"And the LORD came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam: and they both came forth...And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, Miriam became leprous, white as snow: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, she was leprous." Numbers 12:5, 10, KJV

"And they will tell it to the inhabitants of this land: for they have heard that thou LORD art among this people, that thou LORD art seen face to face, and that thy cloud standeth over them, and that thou goest before them, by day time in a pillar of a cloud, and in a pillar of fire by night." Numbers 14:14, KJV

"And it came to pass, when the congregation was gathered against Moses and against Aaron, that they looked toward the tabernacle of the congregation: and, behold, the cloud

covered it, and the glory of the LORD appeared."
Numbers 16:42, KJV

This amazing tale of Moses and the children of Israel continues in the Book of Deuteronomy, where we also find evidence of some rather unworldly happenings:

"Yet in this thing ye did not believe the LORD your God, Who went in the way before you, to search you out a place to pitch your tents in, in fire by night, to shew you by what way ye should go, and in a cloud by day."
Deuteronomy 1:32-33, KJV

"And ye came near and stood under the mountain; and the mountain burned with fire unto the midst of heaven, with darkness, clouds, and thick darkness. And the LORD spake unto you out of the midst of the fire: ye heard the voice of the words, but saw no similitude; only ye heard a voice."
Deuteronomy 4:11-12, KJV

"And the LORD appeared in the tabernacle in a pillar of a cloud: and the pillar of the cloud stood over the door of the tabernacle." Deuteronomy 31:15, KJV

Leaving Moses and the wandering children of Israel behind, let us move up hundreds of years in Israelite history to the time of King David. In one of his songs of praise, which we find in both 2 Samuel chapter twenty-two, as well as in Psalm 18, David wrote the following verses:

"Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations of heaven moved and shook, because he was wroth. There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it. He bowed the heavens also, and came down; and darkness was under his feet. And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: and he was seen upon the wings of the wind. And he made darkness pavilions round about him, dark waters, and thick clouds of the skies. Through the brightness before him were coals of fire kindled. The LORD thundered from heaven, and the most High uttered his voice. And he sent out arrows, and scattered them; lightning, and discomfited them. And the channels of the sea appeared, the foundations of the world were discovered, at the rebuking of the LORD, at the blast of the breath of his nostrils." 2 Samuel 22:8-16, KJV

In 1 Kings chapter eight, we read of this amazing event occurring within Solomon's temple at the time when the Ark of the Covenant was transferred from the Tabernacle, to the Holy of Holies within the newly-built temple:

"And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD." 1 Kings 8:10-11, KJV

The above event is also described for us in the Second Book of Chronicles, chapter five, as we see here:

"And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the

holy place: (for all the priests that were present were sanctified, and did not then wait by course: Also the Levites which were the singers, all of them of Asaph, of Heman, of Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, being arrayed in white linen, having cymbals and psalteries and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them an hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets:) It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD; So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God." 2 Chronicles 5:11-14, KJV

Hundreds of years later, following the return of the children of Israel to Jerusalem from their seventy years of captivity in Babylon, we find Ezra the scribe and his companions reading from the Book of the Law, and reminding the Israelites of God's great acts in times past. During that time of great praise and fellowship with the Lord, he said in part:

"Moreover thou leddest them in the day by a cloudy pillar; and in the night by a pillar of fire, to give them light in the way wherein they should go...Yea, when they had made them a molten calf, and said, This is thy God that brought thee up out of Egypt, and had wrought great provocations; Yet thou in thy manifold mercies forsookest them not in the wilderness: the pillar of the cloud departed not from them by day, to lead them in the way; neither the pillar of fire by night, to shew them light, and the way wherein they should go." Nehemiah 9:12, 18-19, KJV

Turning our attention to the Book of Psalms, we discover yet further mention of the unusual clouds which were associated with the Lord during Biblical times:

"In the daytime also he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a light of fire." Psalms 78:14, KJV

"Clouds and darkness are round about him: righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne. A fire goeth before him, and burneth up his enemies round about. His lightnings enlightened the world: the earth saw, and trembled. The hills melted like wax at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth." Psalms 97:2-5, KJV

"He spake unto them in the cloudy pillar: they kept his testimonies, and the ordinance that he gave them." Psalms 99:7, KJV

"Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who maketh the clouds his chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind:" Psalms 104:3, KJV

"He spread a cloud for a covering; and fire to give light in the night." Psalms 105:39, KJV

As we have already seen, in his eighteenth Psalm, King David tells us that the Lord "rode upon a cherub, and did fly: and he was seen upon the wings of the wind". David repeats this same description of the Lord in Psalm 104, except this time, the King specifically uses the Hebrew word for chariot; that is, r@kuwb, or rek-oob', and says "who maketh the clouds his chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind." Following this thought, in the Book of Isaiah, the Prophet tells us that the Lord rides upon a "swift cloud", and that He will come "with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind", as we see here:

"The burden of Egypt. Behold, the LORD rideth upon a swift cloud, and shall come into Egypt: and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at his presence, and the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst of it." Isaiah 19:1, KJV

"Who are these that fly as a cloud, and as the doves to their windows?" Isaiah 60:8, KJV

"For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire." Isaiah 66:15, KJV

Earlier, we saw how the Lord spoke to the children of Israel out of a cloud, and how He observed their doings from within the pillar of the cloud. As we have just seen, King David also wrote that "clouds and darkness are round" the Lord, and that "He spread a cloud for a covering." Approximately one hundred and fifty years after Isaiah's time, the young Prophet Jeremiah likewise described how the Lord covers Himself with a cloud, as we see here:

"Thou hast covered thyself with a cloud, that our prayer should not pass through." Lamentations 3:44, KJV

Now we come to one of the most well-known, awe-inspiring events of the entire Bible; one which is familiar to, and which has been pondered by, even many secular people: the visions of the Prophet Ezekiel, commonly referred to as "Ezekiel's Wheel". While some of the Bible's authors may have observed the Lord from a distance, it seems that the Prophet Ezekiel was given a front row seat; what we might describe as a "close encounter of the third kind". Here is a description of this amazing event as it is recorded in the first chapter of the Prophet's writings:

"Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God. In the fifth day of the month, which was the fifth year of king Jehoiachin's captivity, The word of the LORD came expressly unto Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the hand of the LORD was there upon him. And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire. Also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four living

creatures. And this was their appearance; they had the likeness of a man. And every one had four faces, and every one had four wings. And their feet were straight feet; and the sole of their feet was like the sole of a calf's foot: and they sparkled like the colour of burnished brass. And they had the hands of a man under their wings on their four sides; and they four had their faces and their wings. Their wings were joined one to another; they turned not when they went; they went every one straight forward. As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle. Thus were their faces: and their wings were stretched upward; two wings of every one were joined one to another, and two covered their bodies. And they went every one straight forward: whither the spirit was to go, they went; and they turned not when they went. As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, and like the appearance of lamps: it went up and down among the living creatures; and the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning. And the living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning. Now as I beheld the living creatures, behold one wheel upon the earth by the living creatures, with his four faces. The appearance of the wheels and their work was like unto the colour of a beryl: and they four had one likeness: and their appearance and their work was as it were a wheel in the middle of a wheel. When they went, they went upon their four sides: and they turned not when they went. As for their rings, they were so high that they were dreadful; and their rings were full of eyes round about them four. And when the living creatures went, the wheels went by them: and when the living creatures were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up. Whithersoever the spirit was to go, they went, thither was their spirit to go; and the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels. When those went, these went; and when those stood, these stood; and when those were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels. And the likeness of the firmament upon the heads of the living creature was as the colour of the terrible crystal, stretched forth over their heads above. And under the firmament were their wings straight, the one toward the other: every one had two, which covered on this side, and every one had two, which covered on that side, their bodies. And when they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of great waters, as the voice of the Almighty, the voice of speech, as the noise of an host: when they stood, they let down their wings. And there was a voice from the firmament that was over their heads, when they stood, and had let down their wings. And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it. And I saw as the colour of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about. As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the

appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake. And he said unto me, Son of man, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak unto thee." Ezekiel 1:1-2:1, KJV

Even though I have read the previous description a number of times, each time that I read it again, it just really leaves me breathless, and filled with awe. If ever there was a clear description of what we today refer to as a UFO encounter with some kind of beings who are not of this world, surely this is it. It requires very little imagination to picture a luminous rotating flying disc, enveloped in amber light, approaching speedily from the north. Is it possible that the fire which infolded itself was the result of friction created when this "Celestial Craft" entered the Earth's atmosphere? What about the "eyes" Ezekiel saw within the huge rings? Is it possible that in reality they were brilliant landing lights around the craft's periphery, similar to the colored lights which are often reported on the circumference of many UFO's today?

I am reminded of some modern vehicles where the headlights can be hidden out of sight with the mere press of a button. Imagine for a moment if such a "Celestial Craft" were to approach the Prophet, and then conceal its landing lights after it had stationed itself upon the Earth. It would indeed give the appearance of brilliant eyes opening and closing, would it not? In fact, we have all seen cartoons where the artist will take an automobile, and change the headlights and grill into eyes and a mouth.

After describing this unworldly craft, Ezekiel then proceeds to tell us about the four unusual beings who seem to take their orders from none other than the Son of God, or perhaps even from God the Father Himself. In the tenth chapter, the Prophet provides us with a further description of these four amazing creatures, which the Bible refers to as "cherubims", from the Hebrew k@ruwb, or ker-oob'. Please observe that this Hebrew word is very similar to the Hebrew word for chariot; that is, r@kuwb, or rek-oob', which we looked at earlier. So it seems that what the Prophet is describing here, are the four charioteers, who formed a part of God's "Celestial Chariot"; that is, His "Chariot of Fire", which was somehow composed of wheels within wheels:

"Then I looked, and, behold, in the firmament that was above the head of the cherubims there appeared over them as it were a sapphire stone, as the appearance of the likeness of a throne. And he spake unto the man clothed with linen, and said, Go in between the wheels, even under the cherub, and fill thine hand with coals of fire from between the cherubims, and scatter them over the city. And he went in in my sight. Now the cherubims stood on the right side of the house, when the man went in; and the cloud filled the inner court. Then the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub, and stood over the threshold of the house; and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was full of the brightness of the LORD'S glory. And the sound of the cherubims' wings was heard even to the outer court, as the voice of the Almighty God when he speaketh. And it came to pass, that when he had commanded the man clothed with linen,

saying, Take fire from between the wheels, from between the cherubims; then he went in, and stood beside the wheels. And one cherub stretched forth his hand from between the cherubims unto the fire that was between the cherubims, and took thereof, and put it into the hands of him that was clothed with linen: who took it, and went out. And there appeared in the cherubims the form of a man's hand under their wings. And when I looked, behold the four wheels by the cherubims, one wheel by one cherub, and another wheel by another cherub: and the appearance of the wheels was as the colour of a beryl stone. And as for their appearances, they four had one likeness, as if a wheel had been in the midst of a wheel. When they went, they went upon their four sides; they turned not as they went, but to the place whither the head looked they followed it; they turned not as they went. And their whole body, and their backs, and their hands, and their wings, and the wheels, were full of eyes round about, even the wheels that they four had. As for the wheels, it was cried unto them in my hearing, O wheel. And every one had four faces: the first face was the face of a cherub, and the second face was the face of a man, and the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle. And the cherubims were lifted up. This is the living creature that I saw by the river of Chebar. And when the cherubims went, the wheels went by them: and when the cherubims lifted up their wings to mount up from the earth, the same wheels also turned not from beside them. When they stood, these stood; and when they were lifted up, these lifted up themselves also: for the spirit of the living creature was in them. Then the glory of the LORD departed from off the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubims. And the cherubims lifted up their wings, and mounted up from the earth in my sight: when they went out, the wheels also were beside them, and every one stood at the door of the east gate of the LORD'S house; and the glory of the God of Israel was over them above. This is the living creature that I saw under the God of Israel by the river of Chebar; and I knew that they were the cherubims. Every one had four faces apiece, and every one four wings; and the likeness of the hands of a man was under their wings. And the likeness of their faces was the same faces which I saw by the river of Chebar, their appearances and themselves: they went every one straight forward." Ezekiel 10:1-22, KJV

Regardless of how many times I read the previous verses, I will be honest and tell you that I simply cannot make sense of it all. I cannot even picture it all in my mind. It is simply too profound for my understanding. I think we would have to have seen it for ourselves to even begin to fully understand what Ezekiel saw on those occasions. Whatever he saw, similar to the Prophet Daniel and others who had like experiences, it must have frightened him terribly, and we are told that he fell upon his face. The only thing we can derive from these verses with any degree of certainty, is that God definitely seems to possess some very advanced form of transportation, and that whatever it is, it is manned by some very unusual creatures indeed.

As we continue this series in part two, we will continue our exploration of the Old Testament scriptures by taking a look at some of the amazing writings of the Prophet Daniel, as

well as the unworldly events surrounding the lives of two of the Lord's mighty Prophets, Elijah and Elisha. We will then turn our attention to some interesting verses which are also found in the New Testament, such as the story of the amazing events which occurred one day on the summit of the Mount of Transfiguration. I trust that you will join me.

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Last Updated : July 10, 2006

Veil Between Our Worlds, An Invisible Realm In Our Midst, Elisha's Chariots Of Fire, Elijah's Heavenly Chariot Ride, Bright Cloud Over The Mount Of Transfiguration, Hupnos - A Hypnotic State?, HAARP Project In Alaska, Daniel's Vision Of Jesus And The Ancient Of Days, Great White Throne Judgment, Skin And Feet Like Polished Brass, "Cocoon" Movies, We Shall Be Like Him, Coming In The Clouds Of Heaven, Great Power And Glory, A Physical Battle Of Armageddon?, Endtime Scoffers

If you are one who has never read the Bible, or who has been erroneously led to believe that it is just some boring book meant for old religious fogies, I hope that your opinion has begun to change. Far from being boring, the Bible is the most exciting Book I have ever read. Not only does it reveal God's Plan of Salvation, but as you are undoubtedly beginning to see, it also provides us with some rather amazing glimpses of that Other World which evades our normal human senses. It is as if God has purposely placed a sort of veil between our physical world, and the wonderful Realm of the Spirit; and it requires a certain "tweaking" of our perception, in order for us to see it and experience it.

As I explain in the series "Great Cloud Of Witnesses: God's Holy Ghosts?", many people, including some Christians, have been given the erroneous impression that Heaven is just some far off place lost somewhere in the depths of space. While I am of the belief that the Lord's Heavenly Headquarters, that is, New Jerusalem, is now located in some defined place which is beyond our current reach, we also know from the Scriptures that the Kingdom of Heaven is here and now. It is not only all around us, but it is within us as well, as Jesus clearly stated:

"And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, 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, KJV

So in essence, we are surrounded by it; but as I also said a moment ago, we simply cannot see it at this current time; unless the Lord temporarily lifts the veil from our physical eyes, and allows us to catch a small glimpse of it. This is exactly what happened with the servant of the Prophet Elisha; and what he saw that day fits in perfectly with the theme of this series. Consider the following story where the king of Syria sent his army to fetch the Prophet Elisha:

"And he [king of Syria] said, Go and spy where he [Elisha] is, that I may send and fetch him. And it was told him, saying, Behold, he is in Dothan. Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by

night, and compassed the city about. And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha." 2 Kings 6:13-17, KJV

The previous account is not the first mention of the Lord's amazing Chariots of Fire with regards to the Prophet Elisha. Four chapters earlier, we discover how Elisha came to acquire the Divine Anointing of his spiritual mentor; that is, the Prophet Elijah; and once again, it involves a fiery chariot drawn by Celestial Horses, and a mysterious whirlwind:

"And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me. And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so. And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces. He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan; And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the LORD God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over. And when the sons of the prophets which were to view at Jericho saw him, they said, The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha. And they came to meet him, and bowed themselves to the ground before him."

2 Kings 2:9-15, KJV

It is easy to see the common elements between these accounts and others we have already examined. There are the chariots of fire, and there is the mention of a mysterious whirlwind. So once again, we can only wonder if what the Prophets might have seen, was some kind of circular, fast-moving, rotating object which was enveloped by some type of brilliant aura; just like the UFO reports which have become so common in our current day.

Due to there being nothing on Earth which was even vaguely similar, how else could the writers of the Old Testament describe these "Celestial Craft" except to tell us that they appeared as swift-moving, brilliant clouds which rode upon the winds, and spun like whirlwinds? Is it even possible that in the case of Elijah, this "Chariot of Fire" drawn by horses came out of the "Celestial Craft", picked up their passenger, re-entered the disc, and then sped off to Heaven like a whirlwind at unimaginable speed?

This leads us to the books of the New Testament, where we find the amazing story of a mysterious "bright cloud" which hovered over the Mount of Transfiguration and boomed out the very Voice of God the Father. Consider the following verses taken from the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke:

"And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid. And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid. And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only." Matthew 17:1-8, KJV

"And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them. And his raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them. And there appeared unto them Elias with Moses: and they were talking with Jesus. And Peter answered and said to Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. For he wist not what to say; for they were sore afraid. And there was a cloud that overshadowed them: and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him. And suddenly, when they had looked round about, they saw no man any more, save Jesus only with themselves." Mark 9:2-8, KJV

"And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray. And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistering. And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias: Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem. But Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep: and when they were awake, they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him. And it came to pass, as they departed from him, Peter said unto Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias: not knowing what he said. While he thus spake, there came a cloud, and overshadowed them: and they feared as they entered into the cloud. And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him. And when the voice was past, Jesus was found alone. And they kept it close, and told no man in those days any of those things which they had seen." Luke 9:28-36, KJV

If you read the previous sets of verses carefully, you may have noticed a slight difference in Luke's account. Whereas

Matthew and Mark tell us that this luminous cloud merely overshadowed the Disciples, Luke tells us that not only were they overshadowed by it, but that they in fact entered into it. This begs the question: Does this mean that they were merely enveloped by some form of Heavenly cloud or mist, or does it mean that they literally walked into the cloud; that is, that they were actually allowed to board a "Celestial Craft"?

Whatever the case may be, and I honestly do not know one way or the other, this event sounds very similar to what Ezekiel experienced in the Old Testament. In the above story, we are told that after experiencing the "bright cloud", and hearing the Voice, the Disciples fell on their faces, and were full of fear, until Jesus touched them and told them "Arise, and be not afraid". Ezekiel likewise fell to the ground full of fear, until he too was told to get up, as we read here:

"...And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake. And he said unto me, Son of man, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak unto thee. And the spirit entered into me when he spake unto me, and set me upon my feet, that I heard him that spake unto me."
Ezekiel 1:28b-2:2, KJV

Returning to the amazing incident on the summit of the Mount of Transfiguration, I also find it rather interesting that once this "cloud" had disappeared, Jesus was found alone. In other words, it suggests the idea that Moses and Elijah may have actually been carried away in this "cloud". As you will see later in this series, this is by no means the only place in the Scriptures where we find such an occurrence.

There is one other point which is worthy of note regarding the above incident. You will notice that Luke tells us that Jesus' Disciples were overcome by a heavy sleep. I find it interesting that Luke is the only one to mention this fact. Why is this? Did the other two writers simply not deem this point important enough to mention it, or is it possible that being a physician, Luke suspected that there may have been something unusual about this state in which the Disciples found themselves? Remember; Luke was not an eyewitness to this event; so it must have been relayed to him by one of the actual participants; that is, Peter, James and John. Is it possible that Luke included this point because of the way in which the Disciple(s) later described this event to him?

We are given no indication in any of the three accounts at what time of day this incident occurred. Perhaps it happened very late at night, or just prior to dawn, when Jesus would sometimes go out and pray to His Father. If that is the case, then it makes perfect sense for the Disciples to have been heavy with sleep, and there is nothing more to discuss. But, being as I am going out on the limb with some of my personal speculations in this series, allow me to present you with one other possibility. In the New Testament, depending on the verse you are reading, the word "sleep" is derived from one of the following Greek words. I have included the frequency of use as well:

koimao - to cause to sleep, to put to sleep, to die - 18
hupnos - sleep - 6
exupnizo - to wake up, awaken out of a sleep - 1
exupnos - to be roused out of a sleep - 1

In Luke's account of the Lord's Transfiguration, the word "hupnos" is used. The Greek lexicon simply states that it means "sleep" and nothing else. This one-word definition may possibly be attributed to the fact that the lexicon also states that this word is an obsolete primary. However, there is another closely-related word, which is not obsolete, and which I suspect is probably derived from "hupnos". This word is the word "hypnos". Hypnos was the Greek god of sleep; and as you will probably recognize, it is also the prefix of a number of modern English words. My Random House Webster's Unabridged Dictionary defines "hypno" as "a combining form meaning "sleep", "hypnosis", used in the formation of compound words".

Having shared that information with you, allow me to propose the following question: Is it possible that the heavy sleep which was experienced by the three Disciples, was not merely a result of being tired, but rather an artificially-induced, trance-like, hypnotic state which overcame them as this event began to transpire? We have already seen how such spiritual events are indeed very hard on the human flesh. Some of the Lord's servants fell down as one dead when they had direct encounters with beings from the Spiritual World. In fact, as I have pointed out before, the Prophet Daniel even tells us that he was sick for days afterwards, as we see here:

"And I Daniel fainted, and was sick certain days; afterward I rose up, and did the king's business; and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it." Daniel 8:27, KJV

So it's worth considering the possibility that the Lord may have allowed them to temporarily enter some kind of altered state in order to protect their bodies from too much stress. If there is any truth to this theory, it may also help to explain why after offering to make three tabernacles, Mark wrote concerning Peter "For he wist not what to say; for they were sore afraid"; and Luke likewise states regarding Peter's reaction "not knowing what he said". Perhaps it was indeed merely a matter of fear and nothing more. It isn't too difficult to imagine Peter telling Luke sometime after the event had occurred "We didn't know what was happening, Luke. We were scared out of our wits, and I just began babbling like a madman". On the other hand, it could be too that the Disciples had become temporarily disoriented, as a result of this inter-dimensional experience.

Here again, we find a rather interesting parallel to alleged modern-day alien abduction cases. Anyone who has looked into these matters, as I did several years ago, will be aware of the fact that a certain number of common denominators have been reported between some of these cases. These include a temporary disorientation, a loss of memory, and an apparent loss of time. I am also reminded of certain information I came across regarding the US Government's HAARP project in the state of Alaska. For the record, given the nature of the Internet, I cannot possibly vouch for this information. It

could be true, but it could also be nothing more than the fabrication of someone's very creative mind. I will leave it up to you to decide.

According to the information I read at the time, the HAARP project utilizes a form of electromagnetic radiation known as ELF waves; that is, Extremely Low Frequency waves. Among other things, such as purportedly being used to alter the world's weather patterns, it has been claimed that ELF waves can be used to distort a person's mental perception, induce certain mood swings for the purpose of crowd control, create a dream-like state, and affect a person's speech. If there's any truth whatsoever to such claims, and I confess that I do not know that there is, then I must wonder if these things are a result of the ELF waves themselves, or if the effects might be a by-product of the waves creating a sort of rift in the space/time continuum; that is, a bridge between the physical plane, and the spiritual plane. As I already said, this question is based upon speculation, which itself is prompted by what may be nothing more than Internet rumors; and we all know how they abound.

Before returning to our study of the New Testament, allow me to draw your attention to another interesting verse which is found in the Book of Daniel, which also points to the fact that clouds are not always what they appear to be in the Scriptures. As I point out in other articles, the following verse appears to be describing Jesus, who is referred to as the Son of man, coming before the Throne of His Father, who is known as the Ancient of days:

"I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him."
Daniel 7:13, KJV

Notice that the verse states "and they brought him near before him". Who is this "they"? Is it possibly referring to the "clouds of heaven" which accompanied Jesus to the Throne of His Father? Interesting indeed. Equally as interesting is the fact that only a few verses earlier, in describing the end of this age when the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of Christ, Daniel mentions the very same wheels of fire, and the very same fiery Throne, which were seen by the Prophet Ezekiel, who was one of Daniel's contemporaries. Consider the following verses:

"I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened." Daniel 7:9-10, KJV

The previous verses are obviously describing the very same scene which the Apostle John describes for us in the Book of Revelation, as we see here:

"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it,

from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Revelation 20:11-15, KJV

Upon close examination, we discover that there is another common denominator between the visions of the Prophets John, Ezekiel and Daniel; and that is in their description of the beings they each saw. I discuss this very same issue in my article "God's Mercy, Judgment And Fallen Angels". Consider the following verses, paying special attention to the feet:

"And their feet were straight feet; and the sole of their feet was like the sole of a calf's foot: and they sparkled like the colour of burnished brass." Ezekiel 1:7, KJV

"And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it. And I saw as the colour of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about." Ezekiel 1:26-27, KJV

"And he brought me thither, and, behold, there was a man, whose appearance was like the appearance of brass, with a line of flax in his hand, and a measuring reed; and he stood in the gate." Ezekiel 40:3, KJV

"Then I lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a certain man clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with fine gold of Uphaz: His body also was like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like in colour to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude." Daniel 10:5-6, KJV

"His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:" Matthew 28:3, KJV

"And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters." Revelation 1:13-15, KJV

"And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass;"

Revelation 2:18, KJV

Personally, I can't even begin to imagine gazing upon such a being. From reading these various descriptions, we are given the impression that the Lord, and others who dwell in the Spiritual Realm, have skin similar to the color of brass. But it is not just a regular brass-like color. We are told that it sparkles, that it is highly-polished, and that it seems to glow, just as metal glows brilliantly when it is purified in a hot furnace. It reminds me of the "Cocoon" and "Cocoon II" movies which I saw quite a few years ago. While many movies today are nothing but time-wasters, occasionally a movie is released which contains some very interesting and inspiring messages for those who are in tune with God's Spirit. In my view, these two movies rank among them, even though they were of a secular nature, and contained quite a bit of comedy as well.

If you had the opportunity to see these two movies, then you will know what I am talking about. While the movies revolved around an alien/UFO theme, it became clear to me that those involved in their creation, were merely using the popularity of the UFO phenomenon, to convey an important message to the viewers regarding faith, or the lack thereof, life and death, the Resurrection, Heaven, etc. The idea of our bodies being vehicles for our spirits, was brought out very well in both of these movies. The appearance of the aliens themselves, who were known as Antarians, was indeed a brilliant spirit form, from which emanated a golden radiance. As I point out in the aforementioned article, if we can equate Spirit with Energy, then the appearance of these beings in the movies, bore some similarity to what we read in the verses I shared a moment ago. Of course, I am not saying that is exactly what Jesus and the Angels look like, as there were obvious differences; nevertheless, the movies were very inspiring.

While we may not know exactly what the Lord and other beings of the Spiritual Realm look like, one thing we do know for certain, is that whatever substance their bodies consist of, and however they may look, we have the promise that one of these days, we will be just like them. As the Apostles John and Paul wrote:

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." 1 John 3:2, KJV

"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." Philippians 3:20-21, KJV

What an exciting day that will be indeed, when we finally hear the Seventh Trump! Having shared that wonderful news with you, we are now going to make a very interesting link between the words of the Prophet Daniel, and Jesus' Endtime sermon which is found in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. You will recall that in describing his vision, Daniel stated that "the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven".

Is it just a coincidence, that in describing His own Return to the Earth when this age comes to an end, Jesus uses this very same phrase? Consider these excerpts taken from the Gospel of Matthew:

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."
Matthew 24:29-30, KJV

Two chapters later, in Matthew 26, Jesus says this very same thing again following His arrest when He is forcibly brought before Caiaphas the high priest:

"And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee? But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven."
Matthew 26:62-64, KJV

This mention of great power and glory seems to be a common theme which is found in a number of verses which describe the Lord's Return. We find similar accounts in the Gospels of Mark and Luke as well, as we see here:

"But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory."
Mark 13:24-26, KJV

"And the high priest stood up in the midst, and asked Jesus, saying, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee? But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven."
Mark 14:60-62, KJV

"And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." Luke 21:27, KJV

"Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." Mark 8:38, KJV

Please notice the subtle difference between the last verse, and the ones which precede it. Whereas the others stated that Jesus would come in the clouds of heaven, the Lord tells us that He will come in the glory of His Father with

the holy Angels; and that is the key. Is it possible that these clouds are in fact the Angels? Or better said, is it possible that these brilliant clouds are a vast "Celestial Fleet" which are maneuvered by the Angels, or Cherubims? Is it also possible that this great power, of which the Lord speaks, which will be used to subdue the corrupt leaders of the Earth, will be derived from these "Celestial Craft"?

It seems to me that the Bible describes the famous Battle of Armageddon as a very real physical battle, which will occur between God's Angelic Forces, and Satan's Earthly forces, in the northern plains of Israel. While there may be a certain degree of symbolism involved in describing this battle, it is already evident to many Christians, that events in the Middle East have already begun to shape up for this battle, whenever it finally occurs. In some unexpected way, will the fantasy of the "Star Wars" movies become reality when God's Forces use their super-advanced technology to defeat the Beast and his followers? Time will certainly tell.

Allow me to draw your attention to something else which is found in these verses. Exactly what does Jesus mean when He says that He will be coming in the Glory of His Father; and why is it that in describing His Return to the Earth for His children, He states "Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power"?

For many years, Bible scholars and teachers and preachers have been telling us that Jesus will be returning soon. They have pounded this into our heads over and over again. There is not a knowledgeable Christian alive today who has not heard that the Lord may be returning soon. Exactly what is meant by "soon" is a matter of personal speculation and our individual understanding of the Scriptures. Even a lot of secular non-believers know that we Christians are patiently awaiting the Return of Jesus Christ. Of course, many of them merely scoff at us, exactly as the Apostle Peter said that they would. Consider this:

"Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." 2 Peter 3:3-4, KJV

As we continue this series in part three, I will offer some possible answers to the questions I have just presented; that is, why are we told that Jesus will come in the Glory of His Father, and why are we told that Jesus will be sitting on the right hand of power? This will include sharing some final verses from the Book of Revelation, and then I will offer some additional observations and comments for your consideration. I trust that you will join me.

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Last Updated : July 10, 2006

On The Right Hand Of Power, Will Jesus And God The Father Come Together?, Vision Of God's Throne, Jesus The Slain Lamb Before The Throne Of God The Father, Beast Wars Against The Saints, Ancient Of Days Comes, Jesus Is Not God The Father, Jesus' Ascension And Mysterious Cloud, Under The Cloud, Jesus Led The Children Of Israel, Resurrection Of The Dead And The Rapture, Mystery Of God, He Cometh With Clouds, Chariots Of Fire, Two Sackcloth Witnesses, Jesus' Baptism, Voice From Heaven, Harvest Of Saints, God's Fiery Wrath, Moses On Sinai

The more I read all of these intriguing verses, the more I become convinced that we are not being told the whole story concerning the Lord's Return. Why? Because I don't believe that Jesus will be coming back alone. Yes, I know that He will be accompanied by the holy Angels, but that is not what I mean.

If Jesus is truly the central figure of the Endtime scenario as all of these teachers and preachers tell us, why does He tell us that He will be "sitting on the right hand of power"? One would expect Jesus to be in the "Driver's Seat", yet He isn't; so we must ask ourselves why not? Not only that, but why is He sitting, or what might He be sitting in? When He states that He will be sitting on the "right hand of power", is it possible that He means exactly that? Do you understand what I am saying here? If Jesus is sitting on the "right hand of power" in some great "Celestial Spacecraft", who do you think might be in the "Driver's Seat" of that vehicle?

Personally, as I believe I have mentioned in a few other articles I have written, I am becoming convinced that Jesus has already made it rather clear to us. When Jesus says that He will be coming in the Glory of His Father, I suspect that what He means by that, is that His Glory will be overshadowed by, and He will in fact be bathed in the greater Glory of His Father, who will be accompanying Him. In other words, Jesus the Son, and God the Father, will be coming together, in order to reclaim the Earth as a part of their Kingdom. If you doubt my words, allow me to offer you some additional support verses which may convince you of the same.

A moment ago I discussed the visions of the Prophet Daniel. In those visions, as I stated already, I believe that the One referred to as the Ancient of Days is God the Father. He is the One who sits upon the Fiery Throne. It is not Jesus. Jesus is the Son of man who comes to His Father's Throne. In a similar fashion, in Ezekiel's visions, he also plainly tells us in chapter ten that the One sitting upon the Fiery Throne above the four Cherubims and the wheels within the wheels, is the "God of Israel". Here again is the verse:

"This is the living creature that I saw under the God of

Israel by the river of Chebar; and I knew that they were the cherubims." Ezekiel 10:20, KJV

In the Book of Revelation, in the vision of the fourth chapter, I believe that it is also God the Father who sits upon the Fiery Throne. If you compare John's vision with the vision of the Prophet Ezekiel, you will see that they both saw the exact same thing 600-700 years apart. In Ezekiel's vision we are told that there was a rainbow about the Fiery Throne, and John sees the same exact thing. In Ezekiel's vision there are four winged Cherubims which have the faces of a man, of a lion, of an ox, and of an eagle. John also describes seeing four winged Beasts, except the word "calf" is used to describe one of the faces, instead of the word "ox".

Ezekiel and John both saw God the Father sitting upon His Fiery Throne, and not Jesus. That is why in chapter five of the Book of Revelation, we see Jesus, as the Lamb of God, approaching the Throne of His Father, in order to open the Seven-Sealed Book which His Father holds in His Hand. There is no doubt here that Jesus is the Lamb who was slain, and by Whose Blood we are all redeemed unto God, exactly as the following verses state:

"And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth." Revelation 5:1-10, KJV

Looking at all of the previous evidence then, it only stands to reason that when the "Celestial Fleet" visits the Earth one of these days, in order to save God's children from the wrath of the Beast, or "little horn" as he is referred to by Daniel, it is God the Father, or the "Ancient of Days", who will be in command of the Fleet, with Jesus His beloved Son sitting right next to Him on the Right Hand of Power. Jesus will indeed be coming, bathed in the Glory of His Father with the Holy Angels, exactly as He stated in the Gospel of

Mark. This is why in that same chapter, only a few verses later, where Daniel is describing how the kingdoms of the Earth will be crushed when Christ returns, he also writes the following:

"I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom."

Daniel 7:21-22, KJV

So Daniel informs us that it is when the "Ancient of Days" arrives at the end of this age, that the Beast, or Little Horn, and the Ten Horns, will be defeated, and the Saints will sit upon thrones and possess the kingdom. Again, this is the very same thing which John describes for us in Revelation chapter twenty, as we see here:

"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years." Revelation 20:4, KJV

Now, I realize that the idea of God the Father coming with Jesus Christ at the end of this age in order to destroy the evil upon this Earth, is not going to sit very well with certain Christians. Do you know why? Quite simply, because for a number of years now, a certain doctrine of devils has been popularized within the Christian body. Whether or not this has been limited to American Christendom, I really do not know.

At any rate, according to this false doctrine, Jesus is God. He is not just the Son of God, He is now God; and this is an idea which I personally soundly reject. Being as I discuss this in other articles, and will be discussing it even more thoroughly, and more convincingly, in an upcoming series, I will not be discussing it in depth here. Suffice it to say that there is ample Scriptural evidence to support the fact that Jesus Christ is not God; that is to say, He is not God the Father; He is an entirely separate entity, the Son of God; who to this day remains submissive to the Will of His Father. In short, if we accept that Jesus is God as these wayward people wish to believe, then there is no way that God the Father and Jesus the Son can be coming together at the end of this age, even though that is what the Scriptures appear to be saying; at least to me.

Having said that, let us continue now with our look at these unusual Celestial Events involving clouds found in the New Testament. We have already discussed the amazing events which occurred on the top of the Mount of Transfiguration. Let us turn now to the Book of the Acts of the Apostles, where we not only find Jesus returning to Heaven following His Resurrection, but where we are also given a clear hint of how He will return:

"And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he

was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." Acts 1:9-11, KJV

There are a number of interesting things to be said about the previous verses. First of all, notice that we are told that Jesus was taken up. This seems to be an indication that the Lord's Ascension was not something which He did by His own accord. The fact that He was taken, implies that there was something or someone else involved in the act. In like manner, I find the language "a cloud received him out of their sight" a little unusual. Obviously, a normal cloud cannot receive anything. Of course, it could have hid the Lord from their view as it passed by, but the words used here seem to indicate that this cloud, or whatever it was, was anticipating Jesus' arrival, so that it could receive Him.

Now, lest you begin to think that I am stretching the intended meaning of the previous verses, please consider the fact that the Greek word used there is "hupolambano", which is pronounced hoop-ol-am-ban'-o. According to my Greek lexicon, the primary meanings of this word are to take up in order to raise, to bear on high, to take up and carry away, to receive hospitably, to welcome. Now, if those meanings don't convey the idea of some kind of "Celestial Craft" arriving to welcome and carry away Jesus back to the bosom of His Father, then I don't know what does. Normal clouds simply do not do those kinds of things. You be the judge. I rest my case.

In his first Epistle to the brethren at Corinth, the Apostle Paul reminds them of how Moses and the children of Israel were all "under the cloud". It is from these verses that I derived the title for this series. Once again, these verses beg the question "Exactly what was this mysterious cloud which followed the Israelites wherever they went, which settled upon the Tabernacle, and which even protected them from the Egyptians?":

"Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ." 1 Corinthians 10:1-4, KJV

If you read those verses carefully, you will see that Paul answers our question for us by telling us plainly that it was Jesus Christ. Long before He ever appeared in the flesh in the New Testament, the Lord was back there leading the children of Israel. If we are told in the Book of Genesis that the Lord walked in the Garden of Eden in the cool of the day, why could He not also have been there watching over the children of Israel from a "Celestial Craft" hovering over them? Did we not read earlier in part one that the Lord

descended from above in a cloudy pillar in order to talk face to face with Moses? And did we not read that the Lord peered out of the pillar of fire in order to spy on the Egyptians? Interesting indeed!

Now we come to some verses of Scripture which are well-known to many Christians, because they deal with the long-awaited Rapture of the living and the dead Christians at the time of Christ's Return. In Paul's first Epistle to the brethren at Thessalonica, we find the following inspiring lines:

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, KJV

So, just as we read earlier that Jesus was received by a cloud at the time of His Ascension almost 2,000 years ago, on that blessed Day of the Lord, we too shall arise, in order to meet the Lord in the air, in the clouds, and so shall we ever be with the Lord. But exactly what are those clouds? That is the question.

As I point out in some of my other articles, such as in the series "The Great Tribulation And The Rapture", it is this awe-inspiring Endtime event, known to millions of Christians throughout the world as the Resurrection of the Dead, and the Rapture of the Saints, which will occur at the sound of the Seventh Trump, which constitutes what the Bible refers to as the Mystery of God. When Christ returns for His dear children, this Mystery shall be completed, as we see here:

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 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." 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, KJV

"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."
Revelation 10:7, KJV

The Book of Revelation begins by telling us that these things shall indeed occur when Jesus return for His children, and that every eye shall see Him:

"Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen."
Revelation 1:7, KJV

And once again, there are those unmistakable clouds. But notice how that verse is worded. It doesn't say that He is coming in the clouds, as if to suggest that He will appear in the clouds of the sky, (although this will be true as well); it says that He is coming "with clouds". Why is that significant? Because it is very suggestive of the idea that

Jesus may be bringing these clouds with Him. If that is the case, then can we assume that these clouds are accompanying Jesus for a very specific purpose? If so, could it be, as I suggest in "Chariots Of Fire: A Voluntary Voyage To Heaven?", that these clouds are in reality "Celestial Craft" which will be used to beam us out of this place, and carry us off to the Father's Kingdom, so that, as Paul wrote, "So shall we ever be with the Lord"? Interesting indeed!

I hope that by now, you are beginning to realize that there is strong evidence to suggest that we are not just dealing with regular cloud formations in all of the cases I've cited. While it may be true that the Hebrew and Greek words used in the text may normally mean literal clouds, I for one honestly question whether this was the original intent of the authors in every single place where we find this word. As I told you earlier, what else could they possibly have compared these craft to? They came from the sky; they were luminous; they rotated; they were very fast; so the writers of the Bible called them bright, fast-moving clouds which spun like a whirlwind for lack of a better way to describe them. These craft were simply something which was totally beyond their comprehension, and there was nothing on Earth at that time with which they could compare them; thus it may be for this reason that we find these cryptic descriptions in the Bible.

It seems that quite often when the Holy Scriptures discuss transporting someone to or from the sky, or Heaven if you prefer, they include the mention of these strange clouds and whirlwinds; as if they are an integral part of the Lord's Celestial Transportation System. In fact, guess what? After the Two Sackcloth Witnesses of Revelation chapter eleven have laid dead in the streets of Jerusalem for three days, while the entire world mocks their death, do you know how they ascend to Heaven? You guessed it. We are told that a "cloud" comes and picks them up, as we see here:

"And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them." Revelation 11:12, KJV

Just like Jesus, after being dead for three days, they were anxious to return to the Father. Perhaps they said "Beam us up Lord; we're ready to go!" Doesn't this scenario sound familiar to you? At the time of Jesus' water baptism, the sky opened up and there was a Voice from Heaven, as we see by the following verses:

"And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."
Matthew 3:16-17, KJV

"And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:"
Mark 1:9-10, KJV

"Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased."
Luke 3:21-22, KJV

When we are told that this Voice came from Heaven, exactly what does this mean? Are the writers simply trying to convey the thought that it originated from above? Or could it mean that this Voice actually originated from some specific point in the sky? If we stretch our imagination a bit, taking into consideration the things we have already discussed, could it possibly mean that this great Voice was projected from some "Celestial Craft" which hovered somewhere overhead, possibly concealed by the physical clouds?

Well obviously, I don't know the answer to this question; but, what we do know, is that on the top of the Mount of Transfiguration, there was also a Voice, as well as a bright cloud into which the Disciples entered. At the time of Jesus' Ascension in the Book of Acts, a cloud received Him out of their sight. Here again with the Lord's two Prophets, there is a Voice, and a cloud arrives to carry them off to Heaven. And let us not forget that the Lord came down in a pillar of a cloud to speak with Moses in the Tabernacle. All of this amazingly clear evidence throughout the entire Bible is so overwhelming! For me personally, it is quite difficult to dismiss these things as just regular cloud formations. What about you?

Let us continue our citation of verses found in the Book of Revelation, with three more found in the fourteenth chapter, which deal with what we can refer to as the Lord's "Harvest of the Saints". While the mention of a cloud in the following Scriptures may be more symbolic than literal in nature, it seemed only appropriate that I include them here. Of course, there is a possibility that these verses may be cryptically referring to the arrival of the "Celestial Craft" at the time of the Rapture of the Saints:

"And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped."
Revelation 14:14-16, KJV

As you may already be aware, the Gospels likewise speak very clearly of this very same Harvest, as well as of the fiery destruction of the wicked, on a number of occasions. Please consider the following verses:

"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the

garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." Matthew 3:11-12, KJV

"Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn." Matthew 13:24-30, KJV

"He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear." Matthew 13:37-43, KJV

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." Matthew 24:29-31, KJV

"And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven." Mark 13:26-27, KJV

"John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable." Luke 3:16-17, KJV

As I also mention in my lengthy series "The Great Tribulation And The Rapture", the Apostles Peter and Paul likewise make

mention of the sudden fiery destruction of the wicked in the Day of the Lord, as we see here:

"For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." 1 Thessalonians 5:3, KJV

"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:" 2 Thessalonians 2:8, KJV

"But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men...But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?"
2 Peter 3:7. 10-12, KJV

Towards the very end of the Book of Revelation, we also find the following verse which indicates the swift destruction of the wicked by Celestial Fire:

"And when the thousand years are expired, 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 up on 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." Revelation 20:7-9, KJV

Having read the previous verses, consider now the following verse found in the Book of Zechariah. It sounds very similar to the swift, fiery destruction of the wicked we have just read about, even as the wicked stand upon their very feet:

"And this shall be the plague wherewith the LORD will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth."
Zechariah 14:12, KJV

Returning our attention to the Apocalypse, or the Book of Revelation, after describing the Harvest of the Saints, the Apostle John proceeds to describe a second Angel who comes out of the Temple of God with a sickle in his hand. This second Angel is then commanded by a third Angel, who also comes out of the Temple, to unleash the Wrath of God upon the inhabitants who remain upon the Earth, as we see here:

"And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and

cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs." Revelation 14:17-20, KJV

It is interesting to note here that while we have mention of three Angels in these two sets of verses from the fourteenth chapter of the Apocalypse, there is only one person sitting upon a cloud. Furthermore, he's the only one who is described as wearing a crown. It is easy to conclude then, that these verses may very well be describing the Rapture, when Jesus shall come in, or with, the clouds of Heaven, in order to harvest, or carry away His children, just as this event is described in all of the previous verses we have examined.

With those last verses, we have now gone through the entire Bible, and picked out some of the Scriptures which seem more relevant to this topic. As I am sure you realize, there are many other verses in God's Holy Word which speak of clouds; however, in most cases, they are easily understood to be referring to actual physical clouds which produce rain or snow. In fact, I will concur that some of the Scriptures I have included in this series may also be understood in that context. Furthermore, others could easily be understood to be referring to volcanic clouds, such as in the example of Moses on the summit of Mount Horeb, or Sinai. The Scriptures indeed make it sound like a volcanic eruption occurred at the time the Lord descended, in order to meet with Moses:

"And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled. And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount. And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly. And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice. And the LORD came down upon mount Sinai, on the top of the mount: and the LORD called Moses up to the top of the mount; and Moses went up." Exodus 19:16-20, KJV

Do you realize what an act of faith that was on Moses' part? When a volcano is in the middle of a powerful eruption, the last thing that most people would want to do, is to climb to its summit, but that is exactly what the Lord told Moses to do; and as frightened as Moses was, he obeyed the Lord. Let us not forget that the Bible tells us that Moses was the meekest man upon the Earth, and the Apostle Paul also tells us that Moses did fear and quake as he went up the mountain; so it was nothing like what we see in Hollywood movies such as the 1950's epic "The Ten Commandments".

"(Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which

were upon the face of the earth.)" Numbers 12:3, KJV

"And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:)" Hebrews 12:21, KJV

As we continue this series in part four, we will turn our attention to such topics as the Shekinah Glory, the alleged Philadelphia Experiment, a great cloud of witnesses, a close unseen world, the meaning of the word "harpazo", the secrets of the Seven Thunders, and more. I trust that you will join me.

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Last Updated : July 10, 2006

Shekinah Glory, Philadelphia Experiment, Great Cloud Of Witnesses, A Close Unseen World, Levels Of Heaven, Harpazo, Secrets Of Seven Thunders, Caught Up To Heaven, Celestial Trumpets, A Voice Of Many Waters, Size Of Spiritual Beings, Reviewing The Possibilities, Cloudy Pillar, Pillar Of Fire, UFO's That Block Out The Sky, Mass And Density Of Clouds, Cloud On Mount Of Transfiguration, Jesus' Resurrected Body

Even if we dismiss those verses in the Bible where a more mundane explanation can be found, as I stated earlier, it should be evident to anyone with an open mind, that in at least some of the Scriptures I have cited in this series, we seem to be dealing with something other than normal cloud formations. Again, regular clouds simply do not display the properties we have seen in some of these accounts; regular clouds simply do not possess any kind of intelligence; and a booming voice does not proceed from regular clouds. So, what were they, and is it possible that some people are still seeing them today, and simply not understanding what they are actually beholding?

In addition to Moses on the summit of Mount Sinai, the Bible does offer us several other possible explanations for some of the phenomenon we have discussed here. For example, the glowing cloud which filled the Tabernacle and the Temple has come to be known as the "Shekinah Glory", and signified the presence of the Lord. Exactly what was the "Shekinah Glory"? If we can, for the moment, refer to the Lord and His Angels as inter-dimensional beings, (and there are indications that they possess such qualities -- please refer to some of my other articles), could this cloud or vapor, which appeared not only in, on or above the Tabernacle and Temple, but also upon mountaintops, (please see the previously-cited example of Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration), have been of the same type that was reportedly experienced during the secret government project known as the Philadelphia Experiment? If you are interested in learning more about this alleged U.S. government secret project, there is plenty of information to be found on the Internet. A number of years ago, there was also a movie made starring Martin Sheen; although I am sure that the facts were embellished in the movie for the sake of drawing the crowds, and making a hefty profit.

At any rate, is it possible that the cloud mentioned in some of these verses of Scripture was actually a by-product of the distortion of space and time during the crossover of these inter-dimensional beings from one plane of existence to the other; that is, from the Spirit World to our physical world? I honestly do not know the answer to this question, but the idea is indeed intriguing. As I briefly mentioned in part two, in my series "Great Cloud Of Witnesses: God's Holy Ghosts?", in his Epistle to the Hebrews, the Apostle Paul

plainly tells us that we are encompassed about by a great cloud of witnesses. If you read Paul's previous remarks in chapter eleven, it is easy to see that he is referring to the Angels and Departed Saints when he speaks of this cloud in the following verse:

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us," Hebrews 12:1, KJV

This is a clear indication that the other Unseen World may not be some distant place in physical space as some people have been led to believe. This verse seems to indicate that it may be a plane or universe parallel to our own, and that we may be in effect surrounded by it. You may recall that in his second Epistle to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul also mentioned a man who was caught up to the "third heaven", as well as the fact that he too sometimes had out-of-the-body experiences. In fact, as I point out in a few of my other articles which deal with the topics of UFO's, fallen angels, etc., some of the apocryphal writings, such as the Book of Enoch, speak of seven different levels of Heaven. Paul wrote:

"I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter."
2 Corinthians 12:2-4, KJV

I have mentioned before that I have wondered if Paul might have been referring to the Apostle John. You may recall that in the Book of Revelation, or the Apocalypse, exactly as Paul writes above, there were certain things which John was told not to write down, as we see here:

"And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth, And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices. And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not." Revelation 10:1-4, KJV

It is also interesting to note that in Paul's remarks about this man he knew, the Greek word used for the phrase "caught up", that is, "harpazo", is the same word that is used in the verses I shared with you earlier from Paul's first Epistle to the Thessalonians, where he discusses the Rapture of the Saints. It is also the same word which the Apostle John uses in the twelfth chapter of the Book of Revelation to describe how Jesus is caught up to the Throne of His Father following His Resurrection from the dead, as we see here:

"And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne." Revelation 12:5, KJV

This Greek word "harpazo" literally means to seize, to carry off by force, to snatch out or away; which implies that the action is being carried out by an external intelligent force. So this again begs the question: At the time of the Lord's Return, and following the miraculous Resurrection of the Dead and our wonderful transformation, does this mean that we will simply begin to float up towards the physical clouds by some power of our own? Or do all of these verses really mean that these clouds are in fact the Lord's "Celestial Craft", and that those who maneuver them will use some kind of "tractor beam" to transport us aboard their "Heavenly Vessels"? In other words, as I question in my "Chariots Of Fire" article, are these Biblical writers describing a massive evacuation of the Lord's faithful from the Earth just prior to when His fiery judgments will begin to fall upon the Beast, the False Prophet and all those who have foolishly received his mark? If that is indeed the case, then again I say, "Lord, please beam me up! I am ready to go Home!".

Another element which seems to be common with a number of these Biblical stories, from Moses in the wilderness, to the Endtime prophecies contained in the Gospels, to the verses found in the Epistles, to the final Book of Revelation, is the inclusion of the sound of loud trumpets. While there are many verses which mention trumpets, allow me to share some of those which definitely appear not to be something of an Earthly nature:

"And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them to day and to morrow, and let them wash their clothes, And be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai. And thou shalt set bounds unto the people round about, saying, Take heed to yourselves, that ye go not up into the mount, or touch the border of it: whosoever toucheth the mount shall be surely put to death: There shall not an hand touch it, but he shall surely be stoned, or shot through; whether it be beast or man, it shall not live: when the trumpet soundeth long, they shall come up to the mount. And Moses went down from the mount unto the people, and sanctified the people; and they washed their clothes. And he said unto the people, Be ready against the third day: come not at your wives. And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled. And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount. And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly. And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice. And the LORD came down upon mount Sinai, on the top of the mount: and the LORD called Moses up to the top of the mount; and Moses went up. And the LORD

said unto Moses, Go down, charge the people, lest they break through unto the LORD to gaze, and many of them perish. And let the priests also, which come near to the LORD, sanctify themselves, lest the LORD break forth upon them. And Moses said unto the LORD, The people cannot come up to mount Sinai: for thou chargedst us, saying, Set bounds about the mount, and sanctify it. And the LORD said unto him, Away, get thee down, and thou shalt come up, thou, and Aaron with thee: but let not the priests and the people break through to come up unto the LORD, lest he break forth upon them. So Moses went down unto the people, and spake unto them."
Exodus 19:10-25, KJV

"And the LORD shall be seen over them, and his arrow shall go forth as the lightning: and the Lord GOD shall blow the trumpet, and shall go with whirlwinds of the south."
Zechariah 9:14, KJV

"And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."
Matthew 24:31, KJV

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 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." 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, KJV

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."
1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, KJV

"For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more: (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart: And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:)" Hebrews 12:18-21, KJV

"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet," Revelation 1:10, KJV

"After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter."
Revelation 4:1, KJV

"And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets...And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound...And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the

inhabiters of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!"

Revelation 8:2, 6 13, KJV

"And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates."

Revelation 9:13-14, KJV

Exactly what were these clamorous noises which frightened the children of Israel so much, that they told Moses that they no longer wanted to hear the Voice of the Lord? In the well-executed movie "Moses", starring Ben Kingsley, these verses were interpreted literally, and we in fact hear the sound of loud trumpets, mixed with the special effects of a strong wind rushing down the sides of Mount Sinai, as well the summit of the mount being enveloped in clouds, smoke, and a fierce red glow.

For those of you who have seen the extremely popular movie "Close Encounters Of A Third Kind", there is also a hint that Steven Spielberg may possibly have borrowed some ideas from this same story found in the Book of Exodus. The reason why I suggest this, is because in the scene where the mother ship finally begins to communicate with the scientists and military personnel who have set up their reception center on top of the mesa, the method of communication employed is an exchange of a series of harmonic sounds, which in fact sound like blasts from a trumpet; and as this musical dialogue is occurring, the lights on the periphery of the craft change color in sync with the sounds emanating from the ship.

In some of the previous verses, such as those found in the Book of Revelation, we are given the understanding that the trumpets mentioned are very literal in nature; that is, that they are actual trumpets; although it is also possible that the mention of trumpets is being used in a symbolic sense. In other verses, however, there is a hint that the trumpets may not actually be referring to musical instruments, but rather to someone speaking rather loudly. To support this idea, consider the following verse found in the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

"Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins." Isaiah 58:1, KJV

On this same subject of speaking in a loud, booming voice, I am also reminded of the following interesting verses:

"The LORD on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea." Psalms 93:4, KJV

"And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory."

Ezekiel 43:2, KJV

"And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters."

Revelation 1:15, KJV

"And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:"

Revelation 14:2, KJV

"And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth." Revelation 19:6, KJV

If you have ever taken a hike into the mountains with one of your friends, and stood by a waterfall, or a rapidly-flowing river or stream, then you will understand exactly what these verses are talking about. The rushing sound of the water is so loud, that your friend cannot even hear you talking, even though you may be standing right next to him. This example gives us a very good idea of what the Lord's Voice must have sounded like to the Prophets and Visionaries of old. The last verse from the Book of Revelation regarding the thunderings also reminds me of these interesting verses found in the Gospel of John:

"Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again. The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him. Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes." John 12:28-30, KJV

It is also interesting to note that the Hebrew word which is translated as "voice" in some of these verses, does not just mean a literal voice; it also refers to the sound emitted by a musical instrument, as we see in the following definition taken from my Hebrew lexicon:

----- Begin Quote -----

qowl {kole} or qol {kole}

- 1) voice, sound, noise
- 1a) voice
- 1b) sound (of instrument)
- 2) lightness, frivolity

----- End Quote -----

This same rule applies to the Greek word which is translated as "voice" in the New Testament; that is, "phone", from which we obviously derive the word "telephone" and related words:

----- Begin Quote -----

phone {fo-nay'}

- 1) a sound, a tone
- 1a) of inanimate things, as musical instruments
- 2) a voice
- 2a) of the sound of uttered words
- 3) speech

3a) of a language, tongue

----- End Quote -----

Putting all of the previous information together, we arrive at several possibilities then. First; some of the trumpets mentioned by the Prophets are meant to be understood in a literal manner; that is, God uses such Celestial Instruments when it is time to make an important announcement. Second; the trumpets are only meant to be understood in a symbolic sense. Third; God, Jesus and the Angelic Beings have very loud voices compared to our Earthly voices. That raises a final point regarding this issue: If they possess such loud booming voices, why is this? Is there a possibility, as I have suggested in other articles, that things in the Spirit Realm are much larger in size than they are on our physical plane? I honestly don't know the answer to this question, but it is an idea worth contemplating. One final possibility is that beings which dwell in the Spiritual Dimension are of the same size as we humans, and God simply uses one amazing acoustics system which is simply out of this world! And yes, the pun was intended!

Having now covered the issue of trumpets and booming voices, let us return to the topic of clouds. What we have seen thus far, is that there are at least four possible explanations for the clouds that are mentioned in the Holy Scriptures. The first explanation, which is rather obvious in many cases, is that these clouds were simply natural formations which result in precipitation. A second more controversial explanation is that the word "cloud" was used for lack of a better term, to describe the "Celestial Craft" which are used by the Lord and His Angels. A third and equally-controversial explanation is that some of these "clouds" may have been a by-product of the distortion of time and space when these crossovers from the Spiritual Plane occurred. The final explanation to consider is that these "clouds" symbolically represented the Angelic Host and the Departed Saints themselves, who may be much nearer than we realize.

But, even after considering these various possibilities, the fact still remains that they do not fully explain all of the verses we have examined throughout this series. For example, the Cloudy Pillar which led the children of Israel through the desert for many years clearly does not fit any of the previous explanations. As we saw in part one, this "cloud" could remain immobile for a day, a week, a month, a year or longer according to the Will of the Lord. It could even move forwards or backwards. As we already discussed, the Lord was able to peer out from within this unusual phenomenon, and He spoke with Moses through the same. It should be clear then, that the Cloudy Pillar of the Book of Exodus was not simply a high-level cumulus cloud formation resulting from the effect of high-velocity winds; it was something else.

Is it possible that the Cloudy Pillar was a tornado which was controlled by the Lord? Perhaps on some occasions, but we must remember that the Scriptures tell us that this cloud dwelt on, above or even inside the Tabernacle. That being the case, common sense dictates that it is impossible for it to have been a destructive cloudy pillar such as a tornado.

Not only that, but we are told that the Lord descended down to the Earth in a Cloudy Pillar and appeared in the doorway of the Tabernacle, or even within the Holy of Holies of the Tabernacle, where Moses spoke face to face with Him. This clearly rules out the idea of the pillar being a tornado. So what was it? If the Lord does possess some type of craft, is it possible that this particular pillar was some kind of a transportation beam which originated from the Lord's vessel which hovered overhead? Perhaps some of the technology found in the "Star Trek" series and movies isn't that far off-base.

In similar fashion, as we also saw in part one, during the night, the Israelites were led on their way by a pillar of fire. Some people have theorized that this pillar may have been the tail of a great comet which hung low in the sky in front of them. This is also one of the theories which has been proposed to explain the miraculous star of Bethlehem. Another theory suggests that the star of Bethlehem may have resulted from a unique alignment of several of the planets. However, as I already noted, similar to cloud formations, a comet simply cannot remain stationary for days, weeks or even a year without moving, unless of course the Lord was manipulating it. It may appear to be quasi-stationary for a short period of time due to its great distance in space in relationship to the observer's position on the Earth, but within a matter of days or weeks at best, movement will be observed. Furthermore, we must remember that the pillar of fire shone brightly on the camp of the Israelites, while projecting darkness on the Egyptian army.

So if none of these natural explanations provide a plausible answer, perhaps we need to consider something which requires a little more open-mindedness on our part. Is it possible that the pillar of fire may have been a brilliant beam which shone down from one of the Lord's great "Celestial Craft" in order to light the path of the Israelites as they traveled through the wilderness? Is it also possible that the huge silhouette of the same "Celestial Craft" against the night sky blocked out even the starlight from the Egyptian camp? It is a possibility worth considering. Even in our modern day, there have been many reports of triangular, mysterious craft in the night skies over the United States of America doing this very thing. Witnesses have stated that as these craft silently pass overhead, an entire section of the sky is blocked from view due to their tremendous size. Whether or not such reports are true I honestly do not know. In my entire life, I have never had a UFO experience.

There is one other point which I would like to bring to your attention regarding these "clouds" which don't seem to fit our common definition of the word. This point is so obvious, that perhaps you have already considered it as you have been reading this series. By scientific definition, a cloud is basically a mass of condensed water vapor or ice particles. I even hesitate to use the word "mass", because compared to many other things which are found in our physical realm of existence, clouds possess very little mass; or at least the density of the water molecules or ice particles is such, that they give the appearance of being very thin indeed.

Many of you reading this have undoubtedly had the experience

of driving up a high mountain road, or riding in an airplane at 30,000 feet. In such cases, you drive or fly right through the cloud mass as if it isn't even there. It may become rainy and foggy as you do so, but nevertheless, due to the mass and density of your own body, as well as that of the vehicle you are in, not to mention the speed at which you are traveling, passing through the cloud is like passing through thin air. Of course, there are a few exceptions to this rule; such as in the case of destructive tornadoes and hurricanes/typhoons; and I personally have been through the eye wall of quite a number of these ferocious storms. Let me tell you; it is one experience which one does not easily forget!

Now, perhaps you are wondering why this point concerning the mass and density of clouds is so important to our current discussion. Quite simply, because in some of the examples we have seen, we are told that certain individuals went up to Heaven in a cloud; and there lies the problem. For example, Luke states that during the Mount of Transfiguration incident Jesus and His three Disciples entered the bright cloud. If we accept the argument that this was just a regular cloud, or even some kind of celestial vapor or mist which was created as a result of the interaction between our two worlds, then scientifically speaking, there really isn't a problem. As I said earlier, maybe it just means that they were enveloped by it.

On the other hand, if what Luke really means is that they walked into a "Celestial Craft", that implies that it must have had substantial mass and density, because Jesus and His Disciples were still in their physical bodies. Again, common sense dictates that a human being simply cannot walk into an object unless it possesses some kind of solid structure; in which case it must also possess a certain mass and density.

You will recall how earlier we discussed Jesus' Ascension to Heaven, as it is described for us in the first chapter of the Book of Acts. We are told that a "cloud" received the Lord out of their sight. Here again we run into the same problem if we accept this as being a regular cloud. In the account, Luke does not mention anything about Jesus being transformed into His Glorified Body. It seems to me that if that had indeed occurred, surely Luke would have written about it, as it would have been one amazing sight to behold, and something which none of the Apostles would have ever forgotten.

If Luke included the incident on the summit of the Mount of Transfiguration in his Gospel, being a meticulous physician who was more than likely interested in the smallest details, particularly when those details might challenge his personal understanding of how the physical universe works, surely he would have informed us if something unusual had occurred at the time of the Ascension as well. Of course, the Ascension must have been one very awe-inspiring event in itself. In absence of any evidence from Luke, it leads me to speculate that Jesus was probably in the same body He had following His Resurrection from the dead. What was that body like?

As I point out in the article "Sex, A Bowl Of Soup And The Nature Of Angels", we know that after His Father had raised Him up, Jesus' body was indeed different in some ways; yet

in other ways, it was still very much the same. For example, we know that it was still of a physical nature, because when Mary was about to touch the Lord, what did He say to her? Consider what John tells us:

"Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God." John 20:17, KJV

If Jesus wasn't still in some kind of a physical body, then there would have been no way for Mary to touch Him; and if it wasn't possible for Mary to touch Him, then He wouldn't have had to tell her not to touch Him, correct? In similar fashion, consider the request that Jesus made to Thomas when He appeared amongst His Disciples the second time:

"Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing." John 20:27, KJV

Not only could Jesus still be touched and handled, but the Scriptures also make clear that He was still able to eat and drink as well. This again implies that there must have still been some physical quality to His recently-resurrected body. As I mentioned a moment ago, given the nature of Luke's job, he was apparently a man given to details; and in his account of the events which followed the Lord's Resurrection, he reveals some things which John does not, as we see here:

"And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet. And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat? And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. And he took it, and did eat before them." Luke 24:36-43, KJV

Notice what the Lord is saying in the previous verses. He states very clearly that He is not a spirit, and that He is just as much a flesh and bone human being as they are. Jesus even tells them to touch Him in order to prove His point. As if that wasn't already enough to convince them, it seems that Jesus may have even been hungry following His Resurrection. Wouldn't you be hungry too if you hadn't eaten in over three days? So Jesus then proceeds to eat the fish and honeycomb before their very eyes. Of course, I don't know that Jesus was really hungry. Maybe He just ate to give them further evidence of the physical nature of His body, and to prove that He was not a spirit, but a real living human being.

As we conclude this series in part five, we will examine the nature of Jesus' Resurrected Body and His Ascension, as well as the ascension of the Two Sackcloth Witnesses mentioned in Revelation chapter eleven. We will also discuss the Seventh

Trumpet, the Resurrection of the Dead and the Rapture. In addition, we will study the various Biblical meanings of the word "heaven", talk about the Earth's cloud layer, examine several examples of Jesus' ability to control the elements, and more. I trust that you will join me.

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Last Updated : July 10, 2006

Jesus' Resurrected Body, Jesus' Ascension - By What Means?, Ascension Of Two Sackcloth Witnesses, Transformed At The Last Trump, Problems With Literal Interpretation, Uranus, Ouranos And Biblical Meaning Of Heaven, Location Of Heaven, Airplane Example And Cloud Layer, Criticisms Of My Views, Jesus Calms Sea of Galilee, Jesus Walks On Sea Of Galilee, Jesus Appears In Their Midst, Elements Subject To Jesus, Scriptural Dilemma Harmony Between Traditional View And New Understanding Of God Motivation For Writing This Series, God's Ways Not Our Ways

Continuing from part four, the main point we've established, is that the Lord did possess a physical body following His Resurrection, and there is no Scriptural evidence to suggest that He acquired anything different from that time, until the time of His Ascension to Heaven. So what does that tell us about the Ascension? If Jesus was in a physical body, and if the cloud which received Him, (or welcomed Him -- see our previous discussion), was really just a regular cloud made up of water vapor, how could it possibly support the weight of a physical human being who has both weight and mass? As we have already seen, according to the laws of nature, it is a total impossibility; therefore, it forces us to adjust our understanding of what may have really occurred in the first chapter of the Book of Acts.

Since I have already put myself way out on the limb with this series, allow me to again suggest a very unorthodox interpretation of those events. But before I do so, let me first share those verses with you again in order to refresh your memory. Luke writes:

"And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." Acts 1:9-11, KJV

First of all, notice that those verses do not say that Jesus ascended under His own power. We are told that He was taken up, which implies an external, intelligent force, just as I mentioned earlier. The Greek word used here is "epairo", and the Greek lexicon defines it as meaning to lift up, to raise up, to raise on high. So what we are being told here is that someone, or something, lifted Jesus up from the ground, and then carried Him to this waiting "cloud" which received Him, or welcomed Him, so that the Apostles could no longer see Him. The Apostles stood there awed, looking up into the sky as this unbelievable event transpired before their very eyes, until two "men", who were obviously Angelic Messengers, told

them that Jesus would return in the same manner in which He had just left them. So once again, I can't help but wonder if that cloud might not have been a "Celestial Craft" which used its "Tractor Beam" to transport Jesus aboard, before departing for the Headquarters of the Father's Kingdom.

The final event we will re-examine, is the ascension of the Two Sackcloth Witnesses of Revelation chapter eleven. In doing so, once again we encounter the very same problem if we consider the nature of clouds, and the fact that it is physically impossible for them to support the weight of any human being, much less lift them up from the ground; yet that is what we force ourselves to accept, if we interpret the following verses to mean a natural cloud formation:

"And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them." Revelation 11:11-12, KJV

Let me call to your attention again, that just as with the Lord's Resurrection, there is no mention here of the Two Sackcloth Witnesses having their bodies transformed in any way. Perhaps they really did, and for some unknown reason, John simply didn't make it plain to us. I have suggested in other articles, such as in "The Two Sackcloth Witnesses Of Revelation 11", that the ascension of the Two Sackcloth Witnesses may possibly coincide with Christ's Return in the clouds, and the Resurrection of the Saints at the sound of the Last Trump. As we know, it will be at that time when our physical bodies shall be transformed according to the words of the Apostle Paul, as we see here:

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 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." 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, KJV

So, if my speculation regarding the ascension of the Two Sackcloth Witnesses occurring at the same time is correct, perhaps the voice they hear, which tells them to "Come up hither", may be the voice of the very same Archangel we discussed in part four in these verses:

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."
1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, KJV

There is additional evidence which suggests that these Two Sackcloth Witnesses will be raised at the Seventh Trump or possibly just before it. Please note that Paul does say that the dead in Christ will be raised first, to be followed by the ascension of the living. Right after John mentions the ascension of the Two Sackcloth Witnesses, he states that in

that very same hour, a great earthquake strikes Jerusalem, in which 7,000 people are killed; and then immediately after this calamity, we read of the Seventh Trump in verse fifteen:

"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 for ever and ever." Revelation 11:15, KJV

So, as you can see, there is a very clear link between some of the things which were said, taught and written by Jesus, Paul and John regarding the Resurrection and the Rapture.

On the other hand, if the Two Sackcloth Witnesses are not transformed in any way, that again implies that they may still possess the same physical bodies as they did prior to their murder by the unbelievers in Jerusalem. So again, if we base our interpretation of all of these Endtime events on the known physical laws of nature, there is no way that the clouds mentioned in these various accounts which we have now re-examined, can be natural formations. They must be something else.

If some of you are still not convinced of this point, allow me to introduce another scientific fact which further adds weight to my challenge of the traditional interpretation of all of these verses. I am by no means a scientist by any definition of the word. I understand very little regarding how our physical world operates. However, based upon what modern science teaches us, (and I do question a lot of it), we are given to understand that the ability of a planet to sustain any kind of an atmosphere, is based in part on the strength of its gravitational field. Thus, by God's Design, planet Earth has an atmosphere which is rich in nitrogen, oxygen, small quantities of rare gases, carbon dioxide, water vapor, etc., and consequently supports an amazing diversity of life forms, including ourselves.

But herein lies the dilemma. You see, in the New Testament, the words "heaven" and "heavens" are derived from the Greek word "ouranos". It is from this same Greek word that the planet Uranus derives its name. Uranus was the Greek god of the sky, the personification of Heaven, and the ruler of the world. But this Greek word is not only used in the Bible to refer to Heaven, or the Kingdom of Heaven. It also happens to be translated as "sky" five times; meaning that region of our atmosphere where clouds are located and where birds fly. It is also translated as "air" ten times. In three places, where the phrase "midst of heaven" is found, the original Greek word used is "mesouranema". Finally, "ouranos" also refers to outer space where the Sun, Moon, stars and planets are located. So regardless of which one of these things we are talking about, the Greek word which is always used is "ouranos".

But that is only half of the problem. In the accounts we've been studying, we are told that Jesus and others were taken to Heaven by these clouds. If we accept the traditional view that these are natural cloud formations, and if we believe, as scientists tell us, that the Earth's primary cloud layers

exist in the troposphere, which only extends about six to twelve miles above the ground, depending on what part of the world we live in, then we run into a problem. If most clouds exist in the troposphere, with a few managing to survive in the thinner and drier stratosphere above it, how is it even possible for natural clouds to take anyone to Heaven, if it were even possible for them to do so? The only way to answer this would be to say that Heaven, that is, the Kingdom of Heaven, that Celestial Place where God, Jesus and the Angels currently dwell, is not located in some far-off place deep in space, but rather in our very own atmosphere!

Now, let me ask you: What if that is indeed true? What if our idea of a distant Heaven has been totally wrong? Just in thinking about this, I am reminded of a verse I shared with you earlier which would certainly seem to lend weight to this possibility. Here it is again:

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us," Hebrews 12:1, KJV

If Heaven, that is, the Kingdom of Heaven, where God and the Angels dwell, is indeed located somewhere in the atmosphere which surrounds the Earth, then Paul writing that we "are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses" makes perfect sense. Consider also the following verse where the Greek word "epouranios" is translated as "high places":

"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." Ephesians 6:12, KJV

And then we have this well-known verse, which I have shared on many occasions, where the Greek word "aer" is used, meaning the lower regions of the atmosphere:

"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:" Ephesians 2:2, KJV

As I have pointed out before, it is my personal belief that the previous two verses are referring to none other than Satan and his minions, who is the current false god of this world, as we see by this verse:

"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." 2 Corinthians 4:4, KJV

So, with all of the previous verses and explanations, it is hard to dismiss the possibility that the Kingdom of Heaven may be much closer than we realize. On the other hand, if it isn't, and if it is truly somewhere out there in deep space, at the level of "the third heaven", as Paul called it, then that brings us right back to our original problem; and that is, how were Jesus and others transported there? Certainly

not by normal, natural clouds, because most of them cannot exist beyond the troposphere.

Allow me to ask you another question. If you wanted to rise above the cloud layer which surrounds the Earth, at least the lower clouds, how would you go about accomplishing it? If you have ever taken a commercial flight anywhere, then chances are that you have already done it. I remember my first experience in an airplane some twenty years ago. At the time, I was on my way to Japan. I was totally amazed the first time that I looked out the window. As I gazed down below me, I erroneously assumed that I was looking at snow fields, only to soon realize that I was actually looking down at the tops of the clouds. What a breath-taker that was!

So, my point is this: If I had to take an artificial man-made craft in order to rise above the clouds, doesn't it also seem to make sense that if the Lord was still in a physical body following His miraculous Resurrection from the Dead, as the Bible seems to suggest, and if His body was still subject to the physical laws which apply to this Earthly life, meaning that it still had weight and mass, and still required oxygen in order to survive, that He too might possibly have required one of His Father's "Celestial Craft", in order to return to His Heavenly Home, wherever that is? Can we not also apply these same questions to the Two Sackcloth Witnesses of the eleventh chapter of the Book of Revelation?

To conclude this series, allow me to offer a few additional comments. First of all, as I noted earlier, I realize that there will undoubtedly be a certain sector of Christians who will be rather offended by some of the things I have stated in this series. Some Christians may possibly even accuse me of blasphemy, or of being a New Age advocate, which I most certainly am not. Some people may possibly question how I dare to associate the Almighty God with UFO's and advanced technology. To suggest these possibilities, as I have done, may even be interpreted by some people as an attempt on my part to strip God of some of His greatness, and reduce Him to more of a human level. As I point out in other articles, this happens to be an error of New Age advocates. After all, if God is who He says He is in His Word, and if He is who we Christians presume Him to be, then why would He even have the need to utilize the theoretical "Celestial Craft" which I have proposed in this series?

In fact, there are some verses which would seem to point to the fact that such "Celestial Craft" are not even necessary; because both before and after His Resurrection, it seems that Jesus had complete power and control over the physical elements. For example, as many of you will already know, the Sea of Galilee was calmed by the command of His voice, as we see by the following verses:

"And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was

a great calm. And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith? And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

Mark 4:37-41, KJV

Many of you will also be familiar with the story of how Jesus walked upon the Sea of Galilee in the middle of the night, and then bid Peter to do the same, as we see here:

"And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away. And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone. But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary. And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased. Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God." Matthew 14:22-33, KJV

You will also recall that following the Lord's Resurrection from the Dead, even though Jesus was still in some form of physical body, if we understand him correctly, John seems to be saying that the Lord entered the room where the Apostles were hiding from the authorities, even though the doors were locked. In other words, the impression we are given, is that the Lord passed right through physical structures, as we see here:

"And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you."

John 20:26, KJV

So quite frankly, I concur with these thoughts; and I have in fact been forced to ponder this very same dilemma again, as I have updated this series from its original form written six years ago. To be quite honest, I am unable to provide a satisfactory answer to this question, either for myself, or for anyone else, regarding why the Lord would even need such "Celestial Craft", being as the elements are already subject to Him; yet the Scriptural evidence seems to be there which supports the existence of such craft. Exactly how physical, or non-physical they are, is another question. Again, Jesus was clearly in a physical form following His Resurrection from the Dead. He could be touched; He could eat and drink; and yet, He also possessed powers which were clearly not of this world.

So, I honestly don't know how to find harmony between our current understanding of who God is, and the many unusual passages we've examined in this series, which seem to create an image of God which appears to go beyond our traditional understanding of Him. Like myself, many of you have grown up with an image of an all-powerful, unseen, wrathful God who dwells in some remote, undiscovered corner of the Universe, where He is accompanied by St. Peter and the Angels, who sit on fluffy clouds and play harps all day; yet in this series I've presented a picture of a more technologically-savvy God who zips around in UFO's. So how do we reconcile these two very opposing images, both of which appear to have a strong Scriptural basis?

Let me make it clear that my purpose in writing this series has not been to dishonor or to disrespect God, or to in any way try to rob Him of the image we humans have of His Power and Greatness; it has merely been my personal endeavor to study, analyze and comprehend the many unusual events we find in the pages of the Holy Bible, with an open mind, not clouded by ecclesiastical tradition or other influences. As I have already stated, even if we were to strip away every single theory and speculation that I have presented here, and even if we were to dismiss every single verse with which we can provide a more mundane explanation, we would still be left with a preponderance of evidence which is suggestive of a very technologically-advanced God. If I am wrong about any of the things I have stated in this series, then it is due to simple human error on my part, and not due to a malicious attempt to deny God of His greatness, or to lead His children astray; and I would hope that you the reader would forgive me, even as I would hope that God would forgive my folly as well. As it is written:

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8-9, KJV

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" Romans 11:33, KJV

On the other hand, if I'm right about at least some of the things I have written here, then perhaps we are not dealing with UFO's in the traditional sense at all. Perhaps their true nature has been made known to us all along, but we have simply been either too blinded by ecclesiastical tradition, or perhaps too stubborn to really want to see it. If that is the case, (and it is up to you to decide that), then it is time for all of us to remove the blinders and see things for what they really are. The only way to rid ourselves of the darkness of ignorance, is by letting in the truth and light of God's Word; and that may require some revolutionary ways of thinking for some of us. I trust that this series has been an inspiration and a blessing to many.

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