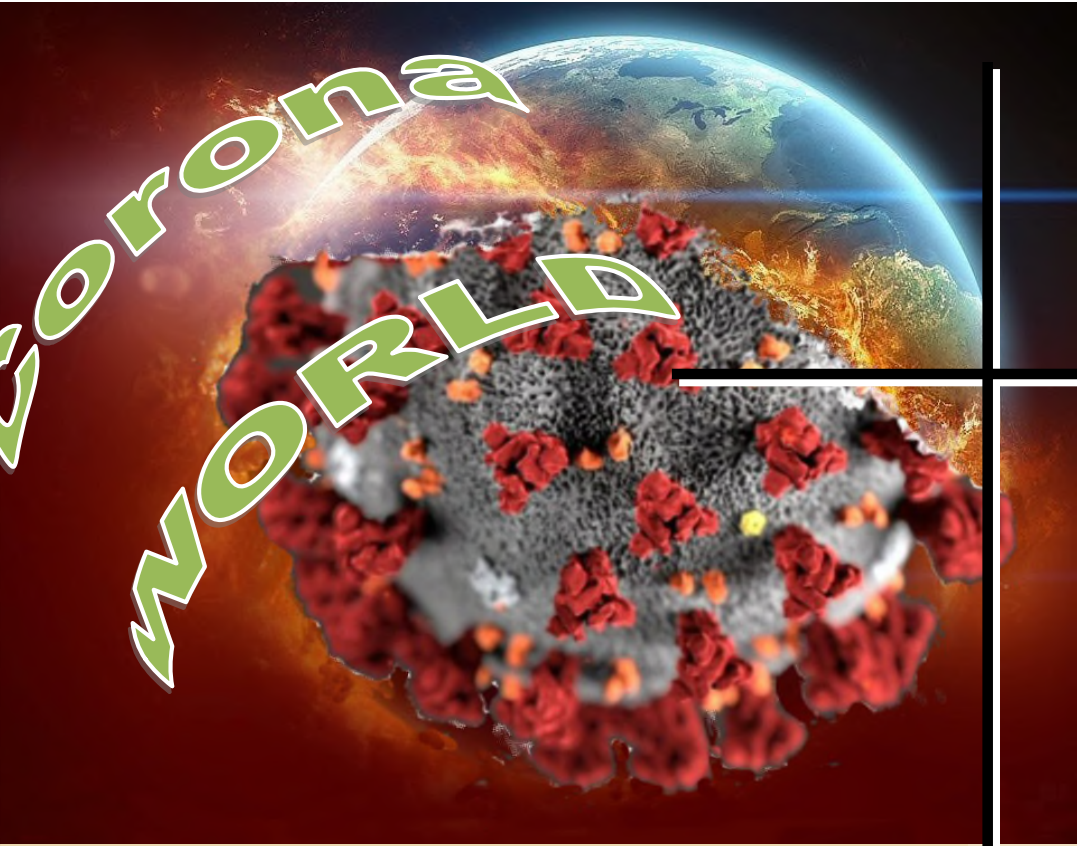


Corona
WORLD



This Month's Features:

1. BEHOLD A BLACK HORSE
2. Here Comes the Bride!

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If the foundations are destroyed, what can [you] do?

Psalm 11:3

My own foundations originate in a section of NYC (a village) known simply as “Corona,” within the borough of Queens. I spent my earliest years there with my siblings, parents, aunts, and uncles . . . —all within the same house. The adults pooled their resources, and paid off this one, big, house on 106th St so that we could use the proceeds to buy individual homes of our own. It was a good fit, and one that benefited everyone, although my grandfather never did make it out of that experience alive. My last recollection of him was of his lying on a bed and shaking hands with God, as he departed for Heaven.

Yet today, it would appear, we are all living in our own Corona, as the rug is being yanked from beneath us, and the very foundations of what we have come to love and expect of our nation and world, are being challenged—except that ours is not a Corona Village, but whole Corona World dominated by a virus.

Panic buying has cleared the shelves of grocery stores, frequently creating a non-availability of toilet paper(!) along with sanitizing supplies—as an increasing number of our citizens must now prepare for and abrupt exit from society (whether shaking hands with God, or not).

In the wake of this challenge, government officials have mandated “social distancing” and a virtual shut down of our country as a means of reducing the risk of infection from the very contagious virus now officially labeled “COVID-19” —in a desperate attempt to “flatten the curve” and so (hopefully) spare

(CONTINUED)

our nation’s doctors and first responders from being overwhelmed, so that staff and health care workers need not find themselves having to make life-and-death decisions on who lives, and who dies, as the capacity of advanced medical care becomes exceeded.

—However, . . . another challenge, other than “social distancing” is also starting to take hold, distancing us from the economic and spiritual foundations of our republic.

In our panicked response, must we now forget to look up (Luke 21:28!), and forget to demonstrate that truly, in “God we trust”? Or, are we, along with our bail out packages about to go from frying pan, to fire—bursting the balloon of spending deficits as our nation plunges into a new dark night (or, onto a “horse”) with a damnable outcome, at the end of this present tunnel?

For ancient prophecies seem to forecast

that a series of events may soon overtake us, the likes of which our present world has heretofore never witnessed, and the faithful among us must realize that this present “pause” from our usual routines may actually be an invitation from Heaven for us to engage in a searching of soul, and prayer for our nation and world—and especially, for those who do not really have a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ: for He is certainly getting ready to return to earth, and the events preceding that returning “ain’t going to be pretty,” as they say.

For, ready or not, it really does appear that we are about to encounter . . . The Black Horse, of the Apocalypse [first article] as The Bride of Christ . . . makes herself ready [second article].

Be blessed (and READY!) in Jesus!

Bro. Frank



And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; . . .

Revelation 6:5

In this time of crisis, there is one truth I believe we may all agree upon: It is unlikely that the events within our present “Corona World” will soon (or ever) be forgotten. Apocalyptic? You decide. And yet, since the very term “apocalypse” is simply a term referring to an “unveiling”—its best interpretation reveals not only

Behold, a Black Horse!

things future, but also the past. —And for those who, in the past, may have yielded to the intellectual temptation to simply “discard all things prophetic,” in favor of safe opinions of the future, we must now posit that from our present point in history, we may now gain a better perspective than say, the famed CS Lewis of the 20th century who, although a Christian, actually believed that Jesus Christ, himself, did not fully understand the future as it would unfold(!).

So, just what might we expect may be the next event leading to Christ’s returning? To answer this question I insert an answer based on a posting under pseudonym. It’s primary purpose is to refute the renowned Mr. Lewis’ opinion, that Christ’s first century

statement that, “this generation will not pass, until all these things take place” (Matt. 24:34)—was *the most embarrassing verse in the Bible*.¹

A comprehensive (compressed) response to the above comments must now follow. You may find it necessary to read over these “quick thoughts” more than once . . .

⁶ *Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"⁷ And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority."*

Acts 1:6-7

Just a few quick thoughts:

1. CS Lewis is not God, and when lampooning the Scriptures (especially prophecy) by charging, or implying, that Christ made a “mistake” when declaring the specific season of His return—we invite the Lord’s severe wrath and disapproval at His soon coming and return. Christ clearly told first the century disciples that it was *not for them to know* the times or seasons because, as the Son of God (and even as a “run of the mill prophet”) He knew that His returning would not take place for many, many, years. He gave strong indication of this just prior to His ascension (quoted above), and stated it clearly in a discourse on His returning—for anyone willing to carefully read Luke’s twenty-first chapter—when forecasting the Jewish Diaspora. Such a dispersion throughout the entire world, which was recently completed in 1948 (Luke 21:21-24) and 1967 (Zech. 12:3-8) would necessarily take *an extended period of time*. Further, the term “this generation” is pre-defined by the budding of the fig tree, which precedes Christ’s comment on “this generation” *within every passage* in which it is mentioned (Matt. 24:32-34, Mark 13:28-30, Luke 21:29-32)—again, pointing to the returning of Israel, as a nation.²

the midnight cry, “go out to meet him” –could this connote a sudden realization that, after all, *we will go through . . . ?*

2. The pre-trib position,³ which is now so popular within the West, is not supportable by a careful reading of the New Testament . . . but

appears to have been allowed (even planned) by our Lord, to allow the decline of the “Christian world” which Christ forecasted within His teaching (see the kingdom parables in Matt. 13:1-52).[∞] Christ’s returning, the apostle Paul clearly stated, will not take place until after a great falling away (2 Thes. 2:1-3). For a healthy Christian Church, that continually purifies itself, is the Light of the World and, ultimately, the restraining force that holds back evil (2 Pet. 3:11, Matt. 5:13-14). It is only after the church has relaxed (i.e. “gone to sleep”) that the Antichrist is able to arise (compare 1 Thes. 5:1-8 with Matt. 25:1-11 –note the midnight cry to “go out to meet him” (vs.6)—could this connote a sudden realization that, after all, *we will go through* the GT, and have to exit functional

society at the issuance of the mark of the beast?). I dare you, double dare you, to examine 2 Thes. 2:11-12 and see why this can send chills up & down the spines of all God-fearing believers!

3. A Post Trib position,³ carried to its logical conclusion, may ultimately bring us to the understanding that the last book of the Bible, “the Revelation of Jesus Christ,” is actually a series of recurring overlaps (with seals, trumpets, and ultimately vials, etc.) that began in the first century, and will extend out to the end of this present age (a not too uncommon interpretation of the letters to the seven churches, by the way—the first of the Revelation’s “overlaps”). -- So that if we were to extend this view logically to the seven seals, we might then come to the view of characterizing the four horsemen as:
 - a. **The White Horse:** Imperialism
 - b. **The Red Horse:** Communism
 - c. **The Black Horse:** economic privation and scarcity (leading to the Mark of the Beast)—which it appears we are *now* approaching
 - d. **The Pale Horse:** . . . World War III

To return to our discussion:

The “Black Horse,” mentioned above, is characterized

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[∞]See a more careful explanation of this in the article on page 4



Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."

Revelation 19:7

Within a traditional marriage, two dissimilar persons (male and female) come together to form a new unit and union. Within the kingdom of God, the Lord is the Groom (at great cost – Acts 20:28) and true believers are the Bride. We are the “body of Christ and members individually” (1 Cor. 12:27)—and, as the apostle Paul says in a classic understatement, “this is a great mystery” (Ephesians 5:32)!

As we again approach the Revelation of Jesus Christ which is the last book of the Bible, and just chock full of amazing spiritual mysteries, we must now examine an event that forms the preamble to Christ’s actual “touch down” to earth at the end of this present age (for details of this event see Acts 1:9-12 & Zechariah 14:1-3 where the Mount of Olives will actually split in two, upon His arrival!!). For, just as the curtains prepare to be pulled back—and as the very cosmos prepares for Heavenly “Skype presentation” throughout the spirit world, as Heaven prepares to “push the button” that will broadcast this event into the consciousness of every person in the universe (Rev. 1: 7), “Heavenly commentators” (like those giving a blow-by-blow explanation at a

HERE COMES

THE BRIDE!

championship event) start to inform us of both completed and impending events. Our opening quote, at the beginning of this article, is a “tweet” from the sidelines of Heaven’s broadcast studio. Its angelic announcer now informs us, after previous events (which we must soon review . . .)—that “the marriage of the Lamb (Jesus) has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” What on earth does this mean??

At first glance, we suddenly notice that the Bride of Christ has already experienced the wedding ceremony, since the faithful are now called “His wife”—and so, are married already. Is this so? So, when did this betrothal and wedding take place? Continuing to read, a very curious statement follows,

And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

Revelation 19:8

So, let me get this straight in my mind: the presence of the *wife* is being announced (presumed to be accompanied by her husband, who is the Groom, announced 3 verses later)—and now that she is already His wife, you are talking about her receiving wedding attire?

Why . . . it’s almost as if . . . it is *at this point/juncture in time* that she has just received her wedding gown and . . . almost as if we are being instructed to redirect our attention towards the array of her glorious gown, while considering its wondrous glow now consummated by the Lord’s returning! Hm-m-m—wait! I do recall

the apostle Paul saying to believers that we are already betrothed “as a chaste virgin to Christ” (2 Cor. 11:2) and, when speaking of *spiritual rewards* for the saints, he instructs each of us to have our life’s work “appraised by heaven” as true gold that has survived the fires of testing for, the apostle states, “*the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire*” (1 Cor. 3:13). There is that amazing time stamp of “the Day,” in prophecy: this time declaring the glory of the Bride—now His wife, upon uniting with Him, at His returning (1 Thes. 4:17)!! So that now the Bride/wife is declared to be found “tried and true!” That’s what all Heaven is shouting about when saying that His wife has made herself ready. So, if she has now proven her character to be golden, where is the chaff . . . and the counterfeit (fools gold)??

More, **where is the church**, at this moment??

Some believe that the text quoted in our opening displays the Church triumphant, having returned from a nebulous event in clouds of Glory. Yet, a more careful reading of the text and surrounding verses has already allowed us to a peek at just where this “white apparel clean and white” has originated—in a life-and-death battle that has just been won (Rev. 19:2)! For commentary made within the Apocalypse itself, reveals that this contest has been one of *extreme* contrast: between the saints, and what may be termed the “false church” (“Babylon, the harlot”) mentioned so cogently within the previous chapters (chapters 17 & 18)—so very typical of spiritual wannabes filling church pews of worship centers led by the Antichrist. They are like the favored children of “Jezebel” found to be frolicking within the church of Thyatira who, John records, was allowed to operate within a church that the Lord rebukes:

. . . because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.

Revelation 2:20

So that instead of worshipping the true God, some *within the church itself* find themselves encouraged, and even taught, to live promiscuously while consuming sacrifices offered up to false gods—in ignorance, perhaps, yet in violation of God’s will, nonetheless.

And let us not forget that even *the Antichrist himself* is projected to come from among the faithful of the church. For, the apostle John gently warns us:

¹⁸ *Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.* ¹⁹ *They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.*

1 John 2:18-19

So stating . . . the apostle has declared openly, that from the very beginning of the church age, and even within the first century, there have been many “antichrists” among us who “have not continued with us.” Now consider this: that if such persons “come out” from among us, would it not appear that they were originally *identified with us* in some way? So that from the outside, it might appear to an onlooker “peeking through the stained glass windows” that these wicked persons *were part* of our assemblies?

What kind of a “church” is this? How could the Lord allow such a thing to happen?

Perhaps, all of this has caught the Lord by surprise (like the intellectual’s “embarrassing” remark implying Christ’s ignorance . . .)?? NO, no, and a thousand times no. For if, once again, we were to carefully examine those “child like nursery stories” that so many consider to be such quaint comments crafted prosaically on the hillsides of Judea while Christ walked the earth—we again discover that our Lord’s statements cut deeply, to reveal secrets for those willing to mine the depths of revelation and come up with jewels, treasures, and even “weapons” (i.e. knowledge) that will arm us to bet-

(Continued on page 6)

**THE BRIDE HAS BEEN
DECLARED TO BE FOUND
“TRIED AND TRUE!”**

(Continued from page 5) ...**THE BRIDE!**

ter understand what we are now experiencing within our world . . . and will increasingly encounter in the days and years to come.

So, I call our attention to the kingdom parables found within Matthew's gospel, and similarly mentioned within the gospel accounts of Mark (chapter four) and Luke (chapter eight).

Jesus often referred to the, "kingdom of God" or, "the kingdom of Heaven" (eg. Matt. 6:33, 7:21, Mark 1:15, 10:14, Luke 9:62, 13:20, etc., etc.). He was crucified for being proclaimed a king, after all (Jn. 18:37ff), and since He, Himself, had declared that His kingdom is "not of this world" (Jn. 18:36) it seems appropriate to identify Him with the Kingdom of Heaven, does it not? (A "king" must have a "king"dom, after all . . .). So that we might say that the kingdom of God has existed before the church was established and will prevail long after the encrustation and cocoon of this caterpillar has been discarded and the butterfly (i.e. the "Bride") has emerged to join her King.

Thus, if we are very diligent and careful, we may discern the forming of said "cocoon" within the Lord's parables, or illustrations, of the Kingdom (within Mathew thirteen) —while discerning the forming of the butterfly within—in the final three. Or, placed another way: the **first four parables draw a picture of believers seen from an earthly perspective** (vss. 3-33) . . . while **the final three parables give us a penetrating view of believers seen through the loving eyes of the Father, looking down from Heaven** (vss. 44-50).

In between these two groupings of illustrations, the gospel writer takes the time to note that:

³⁴ *All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; . . . that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world."*

Matthew 13:34-35

The first grouping of the parables are:

1. The parable of the sower (vss 3-23)
2. Parable of the tares (vss. 24-30)
3. Parable of the mustard seed (vss. 31-32)
4. Parable of the leaven (vs. 33)

If we are willing to look upon the "caterpillar" as it begins its transformation into the "cocoon" stage, we may be able to discern a general progression from a beauty (of sorts, even caterpillars have a beauty all their own)—in which **an external corruption progressively emerges within each succeeding parable**—until it dominates completely in the fourth parable "until the whole is leavened." (Note that in the second parable/story of the tares, Christ notes, "an enemy has done this" (vs. 28) and then when speaking of the mustard seed, the "birds of the air," "arrive" from the first parable (blocking the hearing of the Word (vss 4 & 19)) to lodge in its branches (vs. 32)! Of course, the **puffiness of this whole experience becoming "leavened,"** is a very polite way of **identifying an overpowering corrupting influence, which is always to be avoided within our worship experience** (1 Cor. 5:6-8).

The second grouping of parables, seen from Heaven's view, are those of:

5. The treasure hidden in the field (vs. 44)
6. The Merchant seeking precious pearls (vss. 45-46)
7. The dragnet (vss. 47-50)

Here, the view is more accommodating, as seen from Heaven's perspective: with the first treasure representing those who believe the gospel—and with the "field" representing this present world. The second revelation refers to those who engage in the maturing process of perseverance, similar to that of an oyster producing a pearl (like those who persevere in "faith and patience to inherit the promises" (Heb. 6:12)) **and are God's jewels** (Mal. 3:16-17, 1 Cor. 3:12), and finally . . . the dragnet emphasizes that not all are saved, for when presented with the gospel (as with the very first parable of the sower)—**some will fully accept the gospel call, while others will ultimately be "cast away"** (vss. 49-50).

Then, Jesus poses a very interesting question after this extended teaching session. For He asks a penetrating question:

Jesus said to them, "Have you understood all these things?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord."

Matthew 13:51

“Yes, Lord”?? **What, exactly, did they understand?** Would you, or I, have understood what Jesus was saying? Oh yes, we would have, because (as Christ’s commentary will demonstrate in the very next verse)—all these Jewish disciples could clearly discern the pattern experienced by Old Testament Israel within Christ’s parables. Every Israelite with any training in Scripture was fully aware of Israel’s “ups and downs” in their following of the Lord of Heaven. In fact, at that very moment, while listening to Jesus, many identified their being dominated by the Roman Empire as a sign of God’s displeasure with them—and they cherished the hope that Christ would rectify that situation, right up to the day He was taken up into Heaven (Acts 1:6)! So Jesus affirms:

... *“Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old.”*

Matthew 13:52

In other words, there is an aspect of Old Testament judgment to be expected within the Kingdom of God (1 Peter 4:17), and God is working through this channel to one day provide Himself a “glorious church without spot of wrinkle” (Eph. 5:25-27)—and in that day, when the butterfly bursts forth from her cocoon, she will have “made herself ready” —after much tribulation (Romans 5:3-5, Acts 14:22) as she will no longer be referred to as the (imperfect) church, but as the Bride of Christ who,

“has made herself ready.”

Are you ready? See the back page of this UPLOOK for guidance!

†

(Continued from page 3)

== **Behold, a Black Horse** ==

by the words: “A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine” (Rev. 9:6). —and thus denotes an unusual economic situation (sometimes called “stagflation”) in which the economic cycle does not completely collapse . . . but does not fully recover, either: creating a situation in which prices rise as production stalls, while leaving the lifestyle of the very rich untouched (and so, does not harm “the oil and the wine”).

So that what the above prophecy is really projecting is a constant human misery that results from increasing frustration, **depleting the middle class, and all that may be termed, “the American dream.”** All this, while “experts” scratch their heads, and the common woman and man on the street suffers from barely subsisting from day-to-day. This is where “lock-step” thinking, fostered by a constant drum beat of secular media, starts to push society over the edge, into developing an outcry for a Deliverer, who can “return things to normal.” —Only . . . after the Black Horse, the “normalcy” that arises will be characterized by a form of economic slavery wherein every tool in the digital toolbox of our computerized age will be utilized to strengthen Big Brother, and bring forth a new economic (and digital) currency—quite simply described within Scripture, as “the mark of the beast.”

Which the faithful are forbidden to utilize, or to endorse— or be damned (Rev. 14:9-13).

In light of the above, it is our present, unprecedented, shut down of wide swaths of our nation’s economy (basically all entertainment, restaurants, and “non-essential” businesses—including *the church*??) that should concern each of us when considering the

prophecy of the *Black Horse* riding. For, our present course of action, that relies heavily on money that is borrowed (i.e. our huge national debt) must ultimately lead to the undermining of our way of life, unless regulated very, very, *very* carefully.

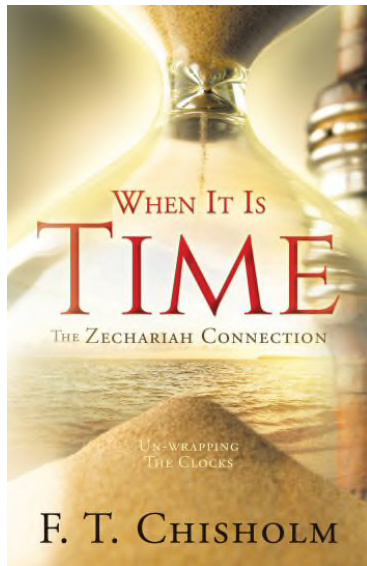
The use of trillions to “bail out” businesses that have been idled by forced social distancing is an attempt to maintain our comfortable way of life, for all economists realize that our dollar is ultimately based upon successful businesses — knowing that “money doesn’t grow on trees.” Money gains its true worth from the goods and services that *back the dollar with real value*. In other words, when you receive \$1200 in the mail . . . its value is worthless, if there is nothing to spend it on! \$30,000 will not buy you a car . . . if there are none for sale. \$100 will not buy you groceries, if there is nowhere to purchase them. Nor do businesses simply “appear out of thin air”—it takes a lot of work to set up, and to run a good business. Little children may think of money as something that originates in their parent’s wallet, but mom and dad well know that they had to go to work to earn that currency, and the one who paid them (hopefully) did not print the cash in their basement

Yet, all is not doom and gloom, for beyond these economic woes the “Bride will have made herself ready,” as the Groom, preparing for all of Eternity’s bliss, stands poised for His returning. Therefore, instead of pulling back upon the reigns, I believe the Lord is calling upon the faithful to actually press forward, “looking for and hastening the day of God” (2 Peter 3:12)!

So . . . just who/what is this “Bride”—and is there a difference between the “church” and the “Bride of Christ”? There is, and the distinction is *very* important.

†

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This Month's Features:

1. BEHOLD A BLACK HORSE
2. *Here Comes the Bride!*

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What Must I do?

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.”
Acts 16:31

How?

If you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

For with the heart man believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:9,10

In Other Words

Acknowledge: your need

—as a sinner (Romans 3:23, II Cor. 5:14-15)

Accept: His work on the Cross —to be your Savior

Confess: your acceptance of His lordship over you.

Live for Him: with your new life!

For the scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be ashamed.”

Romans 10:11

ENDNOTES; unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures, quoted from NKJV

¹The World's Last Night and other Essays. CS Lewis, Harcourt, Brace and Company. New York, copyright 1958, 1960. pp 98.
²it is generally accepted, among Evangelicals, that the symbolism of the budding fig tree represents Israel's return to her homeland. Briefly, this may be discerned by carefully comparing Luke 21:24 & 28 with vs. 29-32.

³Pre-Trib, Mid-Trib & Post-Trib positions – refer to Christ's statement about a great tribulation (GT) at the end of the age, in Matthew 24:21. The Pre-Trib position posits that the church will be removed (“raptured”) before this unpleasant reality takes place. The post-trib position believes that what Christ said about us experiencing tribulation (Jn. 16:33) and the apostle Paul's statement that we “must through much tribulation enter the kingdom of God” (as well as Matt. 24:29-31) applies to all believers.