

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

WHAT IS THE FUTURE FOR OUR MINISTRY?

RLJ-1162

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PART 2B: DESTROY THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL

HOW LONG IS THE TRIBULATION PERIOD?

John Darby and his disciple Cyrus Scofield believed it would last seven years but there is no verse in the Bible to support that theory. Instead, it was constructed by taking verses from the Book of Daniel, where it talks about weeks and days in the end times.

Furthermore, these dispensationalists teach that all Christians will be taken out (raptured) as soon as the tribulation period begins. Again, there is no specific verse in the Bible that supports this speculation. On the contrary, the Bible tells us that Christians will face the Antichrist. **2 Thessalonians 2:1-5; Revelation 13:1-9**

I was guilty for many years of repeating what had been drummed into my head by prophecy teachers and others that the tribulation period is seven years long. But when I did a verse-by-verse teaching on the Book of Revelation, I ran into a problem when I read that the Antichrist is going to reign for "one hour." **Revelation 17:8-13**

It is obvious that the "one hour" reference is a different time measurement than what we use. I was then led to turn to second book of Peter where the apostle says one day with the Lord, is a thousand years for man. **2 Peter 3:8**

Using this conversion key on two different time systems, I came up with the following:

- ❖ One hour for God is 41.67 years for man.
- ❖ One minute for God is 8 months and 8 days for man.
- ❖ One second for God is 3 days and 22 hours for man.

In the flesh I would prefer to believe that the tribulation period will be seven years but my spirit tells me that this cannot be right; it is more likely close to 42 years.

As an end time leader, I would rather prepare people for the worst possible scenario, and if Jesus comes back after seven years, I won't complain but rejoice that I was wrong.

VISIONS IN THE PAST

In order for you to understand where I am at spiritually, it is necessary for you to know how God has spoken to me in the past. I am not doing this to build up my own ego but to humbly share the path God has taken me. The apostle Paul said this: **2 Corinthians 11:16-21**



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I have not gone through a persecution like Paul and I believe that very few people will ever suffer as Paul did, but there has been persecution in my life that was so severe at times that I prayed for God to take my life. This wasn't a physical persecution but mental with people verbally abusing me, destroying churches God used me to start, backbiting, slander, betrayal and the destruction of our finances. By standing on the words spoken by Jesus, I have been able to overcome the deepest valleys and turn defeat into victory. **Matthew 10:16-31**

VISIONS AND MESSAGES GIVEN TO ME IN SWEDEN

1. At the age of five, God spoke to me in an audible voice that only I heard and told me that I was going to move to America.

2. At the age of seven God gave me a vision of writing at a time when I had not yet learned to read or write.

3. When I was fourteen years old and my brother (Peter) was nine, we would spend hours in a beautiful forest setting next to a small lake and talk about moving to America to start a factory that would build pre-fabricated homes. Little did we know that both of us would indeed move to America; however, instead of building homes for people, we are working on the houses of men's souls.

1 Corinthians 3:16

4. I met Sam when I returned to Sweden as an evangelist in the 1970's, he was the son of Pastor Johansson, who was the pastor in the Pentecostal church next door to my childhood home. At the age of three, this pastor explained the plan of salvation for me and I remember saying that this is what I wanted. Sam later told me that his father was given a vision about what my life would be like in the future and shared it with his family but never with me. When Sam and I met for the first time as adults, he wept and could not contain himself. He told me about his dad's vision but told me that he could not share it with me I might make a mistake and destroy God's plan for my life. He wouldn't tell me what it was even though I begged him to tell me. However, he confirmed that part of the vision had been fulfilled and I was on the correct path. Sam is now with the Lord and took the secret with him but I believe that God is revealing it to me slowly step by step.

Pastor Johansson was treated very badly by the Pentecostal denomination in Sweden and I believe God gave him the vision to give him the joy of knowing that the three year old boy he had taken time to share Jesus with would be used in the end times on a worldwide scale.

5. I was in a backslidden condition when my wife and I flew to the United States in 1963; on the airplane I heard a strong audible voice say, "*You better not to mess up in America as you have done in Sweden.*" I didn't tell my wife or anyone about this incident for years because the fear of a holy God fell on me and has been with me since that moment.

6. In 1971 I returned for the first time to Sweden as a different man than when I left in 1963. I was enrolled in the seminary at Mill Valley, California and preaching as an evangelist. I arrived just as my brother and his wife had made setting off on a drinking trip to Yugoslavia.

God gave me a vision on the night before Peter was going to leave; the message was clear, Peter would die in car crash unless I lead him to Christ before he left. Trembling, I took him aside the next day and sat on the beach of Lake Vattern where I presented the Gospel to him and he was gloriously saved. He then told me that I had ruined his vacation because there could be no drinking now.

They did have an accident during their trip; the car was badly damaged but they were not injured. Peter called me as soon as he got back to Sweden and told me of his need to be baptized in water. Shortly thereafter, Monica, his wife accepted Christ too. Before I went back to California, I told them that they should apply immediately for a visa to immigrate to the United States. I know that God moved upon them since they liquidated their furniture and car and were able to get a visa very quickly; they arrived in California less than three months later.

The childhood dream was fulfilled as the two Thorell brothers were back together again and from that day we have worked together to develop the mission organization EAEC and to build "houses" for the Lord. My brother was not able to follow me as I relocated several times, and ended up staying within the vicinity of the seminary, which was two hours from where I was living. After 30 years the vision was fulfilled when Peter moved to Sacramento.

VISIONS AND MESSAGES GIVEN TO ME IN AMERICA

1. In 1965 my wife and I surrendered to Christ in our home watching a Billy Graham crusade.
2. In 1967 God spoke strongly that he was calling me to full time ministry. I publicly surrendered on April 16, 1967 at a morning worship service in our home church in Salt Lake City, Utah.
3. In 1969 my wife and I moved to attend seminary in Mill Valley, California.
4. In 1974 I accepted a call to move to Lodi, California and pastor *Lodi Christian Life Center*.
5. In 1975 God spoke to me in a vision during the night to start a radio ministry which would last some 30 years. Later that year God spoke to me and told me to go north and move to Sacramento.
6. My nephew Charles Thorell was born in 1977. I got to hold and pray for him at the dedication service in another church. God spoke to me that he had called him to be a minister and I prayed that God's anointing would be upon this little baby.
7. In 1999 God spoke to me to call Charles about moving to Sacramento and joining our ministry. We met in my office and I shared the call on his life. He went home to pray about it and decided to move on faith. God later confirmed it to him and he is now a pastor at Resurrection Life of Jesus Church.
8. When I arrived in Sacramento in 1976, God used my wife and I to start a new church called *Christian Life Ministries (CLM)*, which was located in the Sacramento suburb of Carmichael. At its height there were some 300 persons attending with two Sunday morning services. But the church was destroyed by

two events: first, we were infiltrated by three witches who did great damage to the people; secondly, I didn't know that the wife of the chairman of the deacons was a lesbian. She started a special women's ministry and used all night slumber parties to seduce them. It was too late once my assistant and I found out and almost all the women involved in these parties ended up in divorce.

In 1984 my wife and I took a week off and went camping in the Sierra Mountains where we fasted for the whole week, only drinking water and seeking the Lord. The answer given was not what I wanted to hear. The church was so corrupted that it could not be saved; we were to resign and leave. The church lasted eight weeks more before the people closed it down.

For the next two years I worked with a core group of people which came out of CLM; we held Bible studies in different cities and had a worship service on Sundays in a home.

9. In the summer of 1986, my wife and I were given a paid trip to Oral Roberts' University to attend a conference. We did not feel led to join any program offered and flew home. On the airplane overlooking Texas, I prayed and argued with God over my failed life as a preacher. Then I heard a booming voice inside of me, which I knew was from the Lord, *"I want you to start a new church when you come back to Sacramento."* I screamed inside myself and told God that I didn't ever want to be a pastor again; it hurt too much and I didn't want to do it. The same message came again about starting a new church. In desperation I asked the Lord what he wanted to call this new church. He answered, *"Resurrection Life of Jesus Church."*

Once we got back to Sacramento many miracles happened as I announced to our group that we were forming a new church. A well-to-do building contractor donated the necessary material and labor to convert a portion of a strip mall into a church building and God sent all kinds of people to us. *Resurrection Life of Jesus Church (RLJC)* is still standing after many storms, church fights, and takeover attempts. There is no doubt in my mind that RLJC is the work of God as lost souls have been saved, backslidden Christians have been resurrected, marriages have been restored and scores of people have been healed and set free from demons.

Before I left Lodi in 1976, a Pentecostal pastor friend of mine spoke to me prophetically and told me to set up the new church in Carmichael.

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church began in Citrus Heights, where we moved after nine years to North Highlands and stayed there for 6 years until we lost the facility and went back to a house church again for a year. We then re-located to a place in Antelope, another suburb of Sacramento, where we stayed for some three years, and then we moved to our current location in Carmichael, only some four miles away from the location of where Christian Life Center was.

Thirty two years after I came to Sacramento and I am back where I started. I do not believe that this is a coincidence.

BACK TO THE BOOK OF ACTS

When we were on vacation in September of 2007, I was again despondent as nothing was working out and the ministry was struggling. As I prayed and complained to God about my woes, He gave me another vision, which I shared in a sermon on October 14, 2007:

RLJ-1103

THE VISION

After I had gone to sleep that night, God woke me up around one in the morning. My sleep was gone from me and my mind was clear as the Holy Spirit began speaking to me. I realized that my prayer had been heard in heaven and God was ready to give me an answer:

The Christian Church in general is being deceived and taken down the wrong path. Other distraught pastors and I have lamented over this and exposed the errors. Our effort has not been able to stop this juggernaut created by the Devil; it is like firing BB guns at an alligator. The exposing had to be done and continues, but God has a counter plan. Matthew 13:10-15

BACK TO THE BOOK OF ACTS came flashing into my mind over and over again. Jesus came to save mankind, He set up His church, and the Holy Ghost was the power building the church at the time of the Book of Acts. Matthew 13:16-23; Acts 1:4-8

When I preached the next sermon (RLJ-1104), I shared with the congregation that I had seen a huge revival breaking out in our church and that it would grow and reach out around the world; I saw the meetings recorded on cameras and sent out all over the world via the Internet. My understanding was that revival would come first, followed by the broadcasting (web cast) on the Internet.

But I was wrong on the web cast. During the first week of October, I traveled to upstate New York to minister to a family. They shared with me the need for our ministry to have some kind of live broadcast from our church, which I at first dismissed as not being feasible because of our finances.

However, the Holy Spirit moved upon me a short time later to start asking our supporters to send in extra funds for web casting. By the end of this summer, we had received close to \$30,000 and we began purchasing the equipment and remodeling our sound booth.

Once we started the project we found that it would cost more than we had projected, and as everything is now in place, the total cost has come to \$40,000. Even though we have a cost overrun, I have faith that since this is God's project, He will supply the rest of the money which we had to borrow.

We are ready to start broadcasting very soon.

SUMMARY

The calling from God on my life has come in stages. I was never given a complete picture how things will end up, just enough information to take the next step before I was told what to do next.

1. God called me to pastor a church in Lodi. A Christian radio station was in that city and that is where the radio ministry started. Without it, I would not have been able to later reach people in Sacramento and start a church.
2. God called me to pastor *Christian Life Ministries* in Carmichael, a suburb of Sacramento. This is where our printing ministry developed, including the *Christian Dynamics* series. A mission organization was built up that has been the backbone of the ministry.
3. God called me to start *Resurrection Life of Jesus Church*. During the last 24 years, God has given me a deeper understanding of the Bible, including deliverance from demons. With the launch of our website in 1997, we have developed a very strong ministry on the internet; we now serve up pages in Swedish, Norwegian, German and Spanish. The foundation for the web casting was laid.
4. During all these years I have seen myself as a pastor, teacher, evangelist and writer, but never as a leader on a world stage. I tremble and struggle with this calling that we will not fail God.

***Are you willing to join me in this gigantic rescue mission of lost souls and confused Christians as we stare the Antichrist system in the face?
Mark 16:15-20***

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?