

## THE DOCTRINE OF PROPHECY

### INTRODUCTION

This study will feature both a topical and a chronological summary of biblical prophecy.

*Section one:* A topical overview of prophecy featuring the subjects involved, viewing the what of the matter.

#### I. A General Consideration

- A. Prophecies concerning individuals (40 in number)
- B. Prophecies concerning births (7 in number)
- C. Prophecies concerning Christ (63 in number)
- D. Prophecies concerning Satan (5 in number)
- E. Prophecies concerning the Antichrist (21 in number)
- F. Prophecies concerning the false prophet (11 in number)
- G. Prophecies concerning false teachers (14 in number)
- H. Prophecies concerning cities (6 in number)
- I. Prophecies concerning Gentile nations (10 in number)
- J. Prophecies concerning the nation Israel (38 in number)
- K. Prophecies concerning the 70 weeks (3 in number)
- L. Prophecies concerning judgments (18 in number)
- M. Prophecies concerning the last days (24 in number)
- N. Prophecies concerning the great tribulation (46 in number)
- O. Prophecies concerning the Millennium (38 in number)
- P. Prophecies concerning hell (9 in number)
- Q. Prophecies concerning heaven (56 in number)
- R. Prophecies concerning the glorified body (7 in number)

#### II. A Specific Consideration

##### A. Prophecies concerning individuals

1. Adam
  - Prediction – That he would die if he disobeyed God (Gen. 2:17)
  - Fulfillment
    - a. Adam died spiritually (Gen. 3:7).
    - b. Adam died physically (Gen. 5:5).
2. Noah
  - a. Prediction – That God would destroy the earth but save him and his family (Gen. 6:13, 18)  
Fulfillment – Genesis 7:23
  - b. Prediction – That God would never again destroy the world by a flood (Gen. 8:21; 9:11)  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
  - c. Prediction – That God would preserve the four seasons and the day and night arrangements (Gen. 8:22)  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
  - d. Prediction – Noah predicted the future of the peoples his three sons would found (Gen. 9:25-27).  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
3. Abraham
  - a. Prediction – That God would father a great nation through him (Gen. 12:2; 15:5)  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
  - b. Prediction – That God would reward or punish nations according to their treatment of Israel (Gen. 12:3)  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
  - c. Prediction – That God would give Abraham and his seed a land (Gen. 12:7; 15:18-21; 17:8)  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
  - d. Prediction – That Abraham would have a son in his old age (Gen. 15:4; 18:10, 14)  
Fulfillment – Genesis 21:1-3
  - e. Prediction – That the nation Abraham founded would serve in a foreign land for 400 years (Gen. 15:13)  
Fulfillment – Exodus 12:40
  - f. Prediction – That God would lead them out with great riches (Gen. 15:14)  
Fulfillment – Exodus 12:35-36

- g. Prediction – That God would destroy Sodom (Gen. 18:20-21)  
Fulfillment – Genesis 19:24
- 4. Ishmael  
Prediction – That he would found a violent and powerful people (Gen. 16:12; 17:20)  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
- 5. Jacob
  - a. Prediction – That he and his seed would be served by Esau and his seed (Gen. 25:23)  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
  - b. Prediction – That God would bring him back to the land of Canaan (Gen. 28:15)  
Fulfillment – Genesis 35:1-7
  - c. Prediction – Jacob predicted the life-style of his 12 sons and the tribes they would found (Gen. 49).  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
- 6. Esau  
Prediction – That he would found a people who lived by the sword (Gen. 27:40)  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
- 7. Joseph
  - a. Prediction – That his 11 brothers would someday bow down to him (Gen. 37:5-7)  
Fulfillment – Genesis 42:6; 44:14
  - b. Prediction – That the Middle East would experience seven years of bumper crops, followed by seven years of famine (Gen. 41:29-31)  
Fulfillment – Genesis 41:53-54
- 8. Moses
  - a. Prediction – That he would deliver Israel from the Egyptian captivity (Exod. 3:10)  
Fulfillment – Exodus 12:40-41
  - b. Prediction – That the deliverance would be effected by divine miracles (Exod. 3:20)  
Fulfillment – Exodus 7 – 12
  - c. Prediction – That Israel would leave Egypt with great wealth (Exod. 3:21-22)  
Fulfillment – Exodus 12:35-36
  - d. Prediction – That God would divide the Red Sea waters, bringing escape for Israel and death for the Egyptians (Exod. 14:16-17)  
Fulfillment – Exodus 14:21-30
  - e. Prediction – That God would feed Israel with manna (Exod. 16:4)  
Fulfillment – Exodus 16:14-15
  - f. Prediction – That a rock, when struck, would provide water for the thirsty Israelites (Exod. 17:6a)  
Fulfillment – Exodus 17:6b
  - g. Prediction – That the Sabbath would be observed by Israel throughout the ages (Exod. 31:16-17)  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
  - h. Prediction – That Israel would worship God at Mount Sinai (Exod. 3:12)  
Fulfillment – Exodus 19:1-8
  - i. Prediction – That Moses would see God’s glory (Exod. 32:21-23)  
Fulfillment – Exodus 34:5-7
  - j. Prediction – That a brass serpent would bring healing to those bitten by deadly serpents (Num. 21:8)  
Fulfillment – Numbers 21:9
  - k. Prediction – That Moses would bring Israel up to the promised land (Exod. 3:17)  
Fulfillment – Numbers 36:13; Deuteronomy 1:1
  - l. Prediction – That Moses, because of a previous sin, would not enter the promised land (Num. 20:12; Deut. 3:23-26)  
Fulfillment – Deuteronomy 34:5
  - m. Prediction – That Moses, however, would be allowed to see it (Deut. 3:27)  
Fulfillment – Deuteronomy 34:1
- 9. Joshua
  - a. Prediction – That he would enter Canaan after a period of 40 years (Num. 14:24, 33-34, 38)  
Fulfillment – Joshua 3:17
  - b. Prediction – That Joshua would be given victory over his enemies in Canaan (Josh. 1:1-9)

- Fulfillment – Joshua 11:23
- c. Prediction – That the Jordan River would be parted (Josh. 3:13)  
Fulfillment – Joshua 3:16
  - d. Prediction – That the walls of Jericho would fall after the sounding of trumpets (Josh. 6:5)  
Fulfillment – Joshua 6:20
10. Barak  
Prediction – That he would defeat Sisera through the help of a woman (Judg. 4:6-9)  
Fulfillment – Judges 4:21
11. Gideon  
Prediction – That he would defeat a mighty Midianite army with but 300 soldiers (Judg. 6:14; 7:7)  
Fulfillment – Judges 7:19-22
12. Samson  
Prediction – That he would deliver Israel from the Philistines (Judg. 13:5)  
Fulfillment – Judges 15:15
13. Eli  
a. Prediction – That his wicked sons, Hophni and Phinehas, would die on the same day (1 Sam. 2:34)  
Fulfillment – 1 Samuel 4:11
- b. Prediction – That the priesthood would be removed from his line (1 Sam. 2:27-36; 3:11-14)  
Fulfillment – Testimony of Old Testament history
14. Samuel  
a. Prediction – That Saul would visit him within 24 hours looking for some lost animals (1 Sam. 9:15-16)  
Fulfillment – 1 Samuel 9:17-20
- b. Prediction – That Saul’s kingdom would not continue (1 Sam. 13:4)  
Fulfillment – 1 Samuel 14:20
  - c. Prediction – That the next king would be a son of Jesse, a Bethlehem farmer (1 Sam. 16:1)  
Fulfillment – 1 Samuel 16:12-13
  - d. Prediction – That Saul and his sons would die in a battle with the Philistines (1 Sam. 28:19)  
Fulfillment – 1 Samuel 31:6
15. David  
a. Prediction – That both sword and sorrow would be a part of his household because of his sins of adultery and murder (2 Sam. 12:11)  
Fulfillment – 2 Samuel 13:28-29; 15:13-14
- b. Prediction – That Bathsheba’s first infant son would die (2 Sam. 12:14)  
Fulfillment – 2 Samuel 12:18
  - c. Prediction – That David’s kingdom would eventually be established forever (2 Sam. 7:16)  
Fulfillment – To occur during the Millennium (Jer. 30:9; Ezek. 34:23; Hos. 3:5)
  - d. Prediction – That Solomon, not David, would build the temple (1 Chron. 17:1-12; 22:8-10; 28:2-6)  
Fulfillment – 1 Kings 7:51
16. Solomon  
a. Prediction – That he would be given much wisdom, riches, and honor (1 Kings 3:12)  
Fulfillment – 1 Kings 4:29-31; 10:1-9, 23, 27
- b. Prediction – That God would rend the kingdom from his son because of Solomon’s sin (1 Kings 11:11-13)  
Fulfillment – 1 Kings 12:16
17. Jeroboam  
a. Prediction – Ahijah predicted he would become ruler over 10 of Israel’s 12 tribes (1 Kings 11:29-31).  
Fulfillment – 1 Kings 12:20
- b. Prediction – Ahijah later predicted Jeroboam’s dynasty would be cut off (1 Kings 14:10-11).  
Fulfillment – 1 Kings 15:29-30
18. Elijah  
a. Prediction – That it would not rain for three and one-half years (1 Kings 17:1)  
Fulfillment – 1 Kings 17:7; James 5:17
- b. Prediction – That there would be an abundance of rain (1 Kings 18:41)  
Fulfillment – 1 Kings 18:45; James 5:18

- c. Prediction – That a starving widow and her son would be supernaturally fed by God (1 Kings 17:14)  
Fulfillment – 1 Kings 17:16
  - d. Prediction – That wicked King Ahab would have his blood shed and die in the same place where he had godly Naboth killed (1 Kings 21:19)  
Fulfillment – 1 Kings 22:37-38
  - e. Prediction. That Ahab's wife, Jezebel, would be eaten by dogs (1 Kings 21:23)  
Fulfillment – 2 Kings 9:30-37
  - f. Prediction – That Ahaziah, king of the northern 10 Israelite tribes, would die for his idol worship (2 Kings 1:4)  
Fulfillment – 2 Kings 1:17
  - g. Prediction – That Elijah would leave this earth without dying by way of a whirlwind (2 Kings 2:1)  
Fulfillment – 2 Kings 2:11
19. Elisha
- a. Prediction – That a widow's oil would be supernaturally increased (2 Kings 4:1-4)  
Fulfillment – 2 Kings 4:6-7
  - b. Prediction – That a barren Shunnamite woman would have a son (2 Kings 4:16)  
Fulfillment – 2 Kings 4:17
  - c. Prediction – That Naaman's leprosy would be healed by washing in the Jordan River (2 Kings 5:10)  
Fulfillment – 2 Kings 5:14
  - d. Prediction – That Gehazi, Elisha's servant, would be punished with leprosy because of his greed (2 Kings 5:27a)  
Fulfillment – 2 Kings 5:27b
  - e. Prediction – That the starving citizens of besieged Samaria would enjoy an abundance of food within 24 hours (2 Kings 7:1)  
Fulfillment – 2 Kings 7:16, 18
  - f. Prediction – That the skeptic who ridiculed the abundant food prediction would live to see it fulfilled but would not eat the food (2 Kings 7:2)  
Fulfillment – 2 Kings 7:17
  - g. Prediction – That there would be a seven-year famine in northern Israel (2 Kings 8:1)  
Fulfillment – 2 Kings 8:3
  - h. Prediction – That northern Israel's King Jehoash would defeat the Syrians on three occasions (2 Kings 13:14-19)  
Fulfillment – 2 Kings 13:25
20. Hezekiah
- a. Prediction – That a divine plague would supernaturally deliver both King Hezekiah and the people of Jerusalem from Assyrian troops who had surrounded the city (2 Kings 19:6-7a; Isa. 37:33-35)  
Fulfillment – 2 Kings 19:35-36; 2 Chronicles 32:21a; Isaiah 37:36
  - b. Prediction – That the Assyrian king Sennacherib would be killed upon returning to Nineveh (Isa. 37:7)  
Fulfillment – 2 Chronicles 32:21b; Isaiah 37:37-38
  - c. Prediction. That God would heal and add an additional 15 years to the life of Hezekiah (2 Kings 20:1-6; 2 Chron, 32:24; Isa. 38:1-5)  
Fulfillment. – (2 Kings 20:8-11; Isa. 38:9)
21. Jehoshaphat
- Prediction – That God would save the hopelessly outnumbered people of Judah from a threatened Moabite and Ammonite invasion (2 Chron. 20:14-17)  
Fulfillment – 2 Chronicles 20:20-25
22. Josiah
- Prediction – That this godly Judean king would burn the decayed bones of ungodly Israelite king Jeroboam's pagan priests upon the false altar the wicked ruler had once constructed (1 Kings 13:1-3)  
Fulfillment – 2 Kings 23:4-6
23. Jehoahaz
- Prediction – That this wicked Judean king, captured by the Assyrians, would die in Egypt (Jer. 22:10-12)

- Fulfillment – 2 Kings 23:31-34
24. Jehoiachin  
Prediction – That both this godless Judean ruler and his mother would be carried away into Babylon, never to return (Jer. 22:25-27)  
Fulfillment – 2 Kings 24:15
25. Hananiah  
Prediction – That this false Judean prophet would be struck dead by the Lord in less than a year (Jer. 28:15-16)  
Fulfillment – Jeremiah 28:17
26. Zedekiah  
Prediction – That Judah’s final and wicked king:  
a. Would be forced to look into the eyes of Nebuchadnezzar (Jer. 32:4-5)  
b. Would not see the land of Babylon even though he would be carried there (Ezek 12:13)  
Fulfillment – Jeremiah 39:7
27. Nebuchadnezzar  
a. Prediction – That he would be victorious over the Egyptians at the world-famous battle of Carchemish (Jer. 46)  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history  
b. Prediction – That Nebuchadnezzar would then invade and destroy Egypt (Jer. 43:9-13; 46:26; Ezek. 29:19-20)  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history  
c. Prediction – That Nebuchadnezzar would lose his mind and live like an animal for seven years because of his pride (Dan. 4:24-25)  
Fulfillment – Daniel 4:28-33  
d. Prediction – That after seven years, Nebuchadnezzar would have his kingdom restored (Dan. 4:26)  
Fulfillment – Daniel 4:34-37
28. Belshazzar  
Prediction – That God would judge this wicked Babylonian ruler by immediately allowing the Persians to take his kingdom (Dan. 5:25-28)  
Fulfillment – Daniel 5:30-31
29. Cyrus  
a. Prediction – That this Persian warrior would be allowed to build a world empire (Isa. 45:1-4)  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history and 2 Chronicles 36:23  
b. Prediction – That he would permit the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild both their temple and city, which were previously destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar (Isa. 44:28; 45:13)  
Fulfillment – 2 Chronicles 36:23; Ezra 1:2-4
30. Alexander the Great  
a. Prediction – That he would utterly defeat the Persians and establish a world empire (Dan. 2:32-39; 7:6; 8:5-8, 21; 11:3)  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history  
b. Prediction – That he would suddenly die and his kingdom would be divided into four parts (Dan. 8:8, 22; 11:4)  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
31. Antiochus Epiphanes  
a. Prediction – That this Syrian Jew-hater would persecute the Jews and profane their temple (Dan. 8:9-13)  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history  
b. Prediction – That the temple would be cleansed after a period of 2,300 days (Dan. 8:14)  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
32. Malachi and Isaiah  
Prediction – Both these Old Testament prophets foretold of the New Testament ministry of John the Baptist (Isa. 40:3-5; Mal. 3:1)  
Fulfillment – Matthew 3:1-3; 11:10; Mark 1:2-3; Luke 3:4-6; 7:27
33. Zacharias  
a. Prediction – That his barren wife would give birth to a son (Luke 1:13a)  
Fulfillment – Luke 1:57  
b. Prediction – That his son would be named John (Luke 1:13b)  
Fulfillment – Luke 1:60-63

- c. Prediction – That the son would become a Nazarite (Luke 1:15)  
Fulfillment – Luke 1:80
  - d. Prediction – That his ministry would turn many to the Lord (Luke 1:16-17)  
Fulfillment – Matthew 3:5-6; Mark 1:4; Luke 3:7-14
  - e. Prediction – That John would serve as the Messiah’s forerunner (Luke 1:76-79)  
Fulfillment – John 1:29
  - f. Prediction – That Zacharias would be unable to speak until John was born (Luke 1:20)  
Fulfillment – Luke 1:22, 63
34. Simeon  
Prediction – That he would live to see the Messiah (Luke 2:25-26)  
Fulfillment – Luke 2:27-35
35. A man born blind  
Prediction – That he would see after washing himself in the pool of Siloam (John 9:7a)  
Fulfillment – John 9:7b
36. Martha and the disciples  
Prediction – That Lazarus would be raised from the dead (John 11:11, 23)  
Fulfillment – John 11:43-44
37. Peter
- a. Prediction – That he would deny Jesus (Matt. 26:34; Mark 14:30; Luke 22:34; John 13:38)  
Fulfillment – Matthew 26:69-75; Mark 14:66-72; Luke 22:54-62; John 18:24-27
  - b. Prediction – That Peter would suffer martyrdom for Jesus (John 21:18-19; 2 Pet. 1:12-14)  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
38. Judas
- a. Prediction – That he would be possessed and controlled by Satan (John 6:70)  
Fulfillment – Luke 22:3; John 13:27
  - b. Prediction – That he would betray Christ (Matt. 26:21-25; Mark 14:18-21; Luke 22:21-23; John 13:18, 21-26)  
Fulfillment – Matthew 26:14-16, 47-48; Mark 14:42-45; Luke 22:47-48; John 18:2-3
39. Agabus  
Prediction – That there would be a great famine in the Holy Land (Acts 11:28a)  
Fulfillment – Acts 11:28b-29
40. Paul
- a. Prediction – That he would suffer much for Jesus (Acts 9:16)  
Fulfillment – 2 Corinthians 11:23-28; 12:7-10; Galatians 6:17; Philippians 1:29-30
  - b. Prediction – That he would serve as a minister to the Gentiles (Acts 9:15)  
Fulfillment – Acts 13:46; 18:6; 22:21; 26:17; 28:28; Romans 11:13; Ephesians 3:1; 1 Timothy 2:7; 2 Timothy 1:11)
  - c. Prediction – That he would preach before kings (Acts 9:15)  
Fulfillment – Acts 24 – 26
  - d. Prediction – That he would be arrested by the Jews when he arrived in Jerusalem (Acts 21:4, 11)  
Fulfillment – Acts 21:27-36
  - e. Prediction – That he would eventually go to Rome (Acts 23:11)  
Fulfillment – Acts 28:16
  - f. Prediction – That all the 276 people (including Paul) would safely leave a sinking ship, caused by a terrible storm at sea (Acts 27:22, 26, 37)  
Fulfillment – Acts 27:44
- B. Prophecies concerning births
- 1. Isaac’s birth  
Prediction – Genesis 15:4; 17:19, 21; 18:10, 14  
Fulfillment – Genesis 21:1-3
  - 2. Jacob and Esau’s birth  
Prediction – Genesis 25:19-23  
Fulfillment – Genesis 25:24-26
  - 3. Samson’s birth  
Prediction – Judges 13:5  
Fulfillment – Judges 13:24
  - 4. Samuel’s birth

- Prediction – 1 Samuel 1:17-18  
 Fulfillment – 1 Samuel 1:20
5. Birth of the Shunammite woman's son  
 Prediction – 2 Kings 4:16  
 Fulfillment – 2 Kings 4:17
  6. John the Baptist's birth  
 Prediction – Luke 1:13-17  
 Fulfillment – Luke 1:57-64
  7. Jesus' birth  
 Prediction – Luke 1:26-33  
 Fulfillment – Luke 2:4-7
- C. Prophecies concerning Christ  
 Study number one: The Old Testament prophecies he fulfilled
1. Prediction – That he would be born of a woman (Gen. 3:15)  
 Fulfillment – Luke 2:7; Galatians 4:4
  2. Prediction – That he would be from the line of Abraham (Gen. 12:3, 7; 17:7)  
 Fulfillment – Romans 9:5; Galatians 3:16
  3. Prediction – That he would be from the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10)  
 Fulfillment – Hebrews 7:14; Revelation 5:5
  4. Prediction – That he would be from the house of David (2 Sam. 7:12-13)  
 Fulfillment – Luke 1:31-33; Romans 1:3
  5. Prediction – That he would be born of a virgin (Isa. 7:14)  
 Fulfillment – Matthew 1:22-23
  6. Prediction – That he would be given the throne of David (2 Sam. 7:11-12; Psa. 132:11; Isa. 9:6-7; 16:5; Jer. 23:5; Luke 1:31-32)  
 Fulfillment – Revelation 5:1-7; 22:16
  7. Prediction – That this throne would be an eternal throne (Dan. 2:44; 7:14, 27; Mic. 4:7; Luke 1:33)  
 Fulfillment – Revelation 11:15; 20:4
  8. Prediction – That he would be called Emmanuel (Isa. 7:14)  
 Fulfillment – Matthew 1:23
  9. Prediction – That he would have a forerunner (Isa. 40:3-5; Mal. 3:1)  
 Fulfillment – Matthew 3:1-3; Luke 1:76-78; 3:3-6
  10. Prediction – That he would be born in Bethlehem (Mic. 5:2)  
 Fulfillment – Matthew 2:5-6; Luke 2:4-6
  11. Prediction – That he would be worshipped by wise men and presented with gifts (Psa. 72:10; Isa. 60:3, 6, 9)  
 Fulfillment – Matthew 2:11
  12. Prediction – That he would be in Egypt for a season (Num. 24:8; Hos. 11:1)  
 Fulfillment – Matthew 2:15
  13. Prediction – That his birthplace would see a massacre of infants (Jer. 31:15)  
 Fulfillment – Matthew 2:17-18
  14. Prediction – That he would be called a Nazarene (Isa. 11:1)  
 Fulfillment – (Matthew 2:23)
  15. Prediction – That he would be zealous for the Father (Psa. 69:9; 119:139)  
 Fulfillment – John 6:37-40
  16. Prediction – That he would be filled with God's Spirit (Psa, 45:7; Isa. 11:2; 61:1-2)  
 Fulfillment – Luke 4:18-19
  17. Prediction – That he would heal many (Psa. 53:4)  
 Fulfillment – Matthew 8:16-17
  18. Prediction – That he would deal gently with the Gentiles (Isa. 9:1-2; 42:1-3)  
 Fulfillment – Matthew 4:13-16; 12:17-21
  19. Prediction – That he would speak in parables (Isa. 6:9-10)  
 Fulfillment – Matthew 13:10-15
  20. Prediction – That he would be rejected by his own (Psa. 69:8; Isa. 53:3)  
 Fulfillment – John 1:11; 7:5
  21. Prediction – That he would make a triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Zech. 9:9)  
 Fulfillment – Matthew 21:4-5
  22. Prediction – That he would be praised by little children (Psa. 8:2)

- Fulfillment – Matthew 21:16
23. Prediction – That he would be the rejected cornerstone (Psa. 118:22-23)  
Fulfillment – Matthew 21:42
24. Prediction – That his miracles would not be believed (Isa. 53:1)  
Fulfillment – John 12:37-38
25. Prediction – That his friend would betray him for 30 pieces of silver (Psa. 41:9; 55:12-14; Zech. 11:12-13)  
Fulfillment – Matthew 26:14-16, 21-25
26. Prediction – That he would be a man of sorrows (Isa. 53:3)  
Fulfillment – Matthew 26:37-38
27. Prediction – That he would be forsaken by his disciples (Zech. 13:7)  
Fulfillment – Matthew 26:31, 56
28. Prediction – That he would be scourged and spat upon (Isa. 50:6)  
Fulfillment – Matthew 6:67; 27:26
29. Prediction – That his price money would be used to buy a potter's field (Jer. 18:1-4; 19:1-4; Zech. 11:12-13)  
Fulfillment – Matthew 27:9-10
30. Prediction – That he would be crucified between two thieves (Isa. 53:12)  
Fulfillment – Matthew 27:38; Mark 15:27-28; Luke 22:37
31. Prediction – That he would be given vinegar to drink (Psa. 69:21)  
Fulfillment – Matthew 27:34, 48; John 19:28-30
32. Prediction – That he would suffer the piercing of his hands and feet (Psa. 22:16; Zech. 12:10)  
Fulfillment – Mark 15:25; John 19:34, 37; 20:25-27
33. Prediction – That his garments would be parted and gambled for (Psa. 22:18)  
Fulfillment – Luke 23:34; John 19:23-24
34. Prediction – That he would be surrounded and ridiculed by his enemies (Psa. 22:7-8)  
Fulfillment – Matthew 27:39-44; Mark 15:29-32
35. Prediction – That he would thirst (Psa. 22:15)  
Fulfillment – John 19:28
36. Prediction – That he would commend his spirit to the Father (Psa. 31:5)  
Fulfillment – Luke 23:46
37. Prediction – That his bones would not be broken (Exod. 12:46; Num. 9:12; Psa. 34:20)  
Fulfillment – John 19:33-36
38. Prediction – That he would be stared at in death (Zech. 12:10)  
Fulfillment – Matthew 27:36; John 19:37
39. Prediction – That he would be buried with the rich (Isa. 53:9)  
Fulfillment – Matthew 27:57-60
40. Prediction – That he would be raised from the dead (Psa. 16:10)  
Fulfillment – Matthew 28:2-7
41. Prediction – That he would ascend (Psa. 24:7-10)  
Fulfillment – Mark 16:19; Luke 24:51
42. Prediction – That he would then become a greater high priest than Aaron (Psa. 110:4)  
Fulfillment – Hebrews 5:4-6, 10; 7:11-28
43. Prediction – That he would be seated at God's right hand (Psa. 110:1)  
Fulfillment – Matthew 22:44; Hebrews 10:12-13
44. Prediction – That he would become a smiting scepter (Num. 24:17; Dan. 2:44-45)  
Fulfillment – Revelation 19:15
45. Prediction – That he would rule the heathen (Psa. 2:8)  
Fulfillment – Revelation 2:27

Study number two: The New Testament prophecies he foretold

1. Concerning the church
  - a. Its symbol (Matt. 13:45)
  - b. Its foundation – Christ himself (Matt. 16:13-19)  
Fulfillment – Acts 2
  - c. Its ministry (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 1:8)  
Fulfillment – Book of Acts and the testimony of history
  - d. Its field of service (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 1:8)



- Fulfillment – Book of Acts and the testimony of history
  - e. Its authority (Matt. 16:19; 18:18; John 20:23)
  - f. Its persecution (Matt. 10:16-23, 34; John 15:18-21; 16:1-3, 33)
    - Fulfillment – Book of Acts and the testimony of history
  - g. Its discipline (Matt. 18:15-17)
  - h. Its removal (John 14:2-3)
    - Fulfillment – 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17
- 2. Concerning himself
  - a. His transfiguration (Matt. 16:28)
    - Fulfillment – Matthew 17:1-12
  - b. His betrayal by Judas
    - (1) Predicted in Galilee
      - (a) First occasion (John 6:70-71)
      - (b) Second occasion (Matt. 17:22)
    - (2) Predicted in the Upper Room (Matt. 26:21, 25)
      - Fulfillment – Matthew 26:14-16, 45-50
  - c. His denial by Peter
    - (1) Predicted in the Upper Room (John 13:37-38)
    - (2) Predicted en route to the Mount of Olives and Gethsemane (Matt. 26:30, 34)
      - Fulfillment – Matthew 26:69-75
  - d. His abandonment by the twelve (Matt. 26:31)
    - Fulfillment – Matthew 26:56
  - e. His sufferings
    - (1) Predicted in Caesarea Philippi (Matt. 16:21a)
    - (2) Predicted on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matt. 17:12b)
      - Fulfillment – Matthew 26:67; 27:26-30
  - f. His death
    - (1) The fact of his death (John 10:11, 15; Matt. 17:23)
    - (2) The place of his death (Matt. 20:18)
      - Fulfillment – Luke 23:33
    - (3) The method of his death (John 3:14; 12:32; Matt. 20:18-19)
      - Fulfillment – Matthew 27:35
  - g. His resurrection
    - (1) The fact of his resurrection (John 10:17-18)
    - (2) The time element in his resurrection (Matt. 12:40; John 2:19)
      - Fulfillment – Matthew 27:64; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4
  - h. His appearance in Galilee (Matt. 26:32)
    - Fulfillment – John 21
  - i. His ascension (John 7:33; 16:28)
    - Fulfillment – Acts 1:9-11
  - j. His return
    - (1) In the air (John 14:3)
      - Fulfillment – 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
    - (2) On the earth (Matt. 16:27; 24:30; 26:63, 64)
      - Fulfillment – Revelation 19:11-21
- 3. Concerning the resurrection of Lazarus (John 11:11)
  - Fulfillment – John 11:43-44
- 4. Concerning the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple
  - a. The destruction of Jerusalem (Luke 19:43-44)
    - Fulfillment – Testimony of history
  - b. The destruction of the temple (Mark 13:1-2)
    - Fulfillment – Testimony of history
- 5. Concerning the death of Peter (John 21:18-19)
  - Fulfillment – 2 Peter 1:14 and the testimony of history
- 6. Concerning Pentecost and the ministry of the Holy Spirit
  - Fulfillment – Acts 2; 8; 10; 19
  - a. The fact of his ministry (John 7:37-39; Luke 24:49)

- b. The duration of his ministry (John 14:16)
- c. The location of his ministry (John 14:17)
- d. The nature of his ministry
  - (1) Regarding the Savior (John 15:26; 16:14)
  - (2) Regarding the saved (John 14:26; 16:13)
  - (3) Regarding the sinner (John 16:8)
- 7. Concerning the last days (Luke 17:26-30; Matt. 24:32-34)
- 8. Concerning the nation Israel
  - a. Its blindness (Matt. 23:37-39)  
Fulfillment – Romans 11:7
  - b. Its rejection (Matt. 21:43)  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
  - c. Its regathering (Matt. 24:31)  
Fulfillment – Revelation 7:2-8; 21:10-12
- 9. Concerning the great tribulation (Matt. 24:21, 29; Luke 21:22-26)  
Fulfillment: Revelation 6-19
- 10. Concerning the coming of Elijah (Matt. 17:11)  
Fulfillment – Revelation 11:3-6
- 11. Concerning the coming Antichrist (John 5:43; Matt. 24:15)  
Fulfillment – Revelation 13
- 12. Concerning the battle of Armageddon (Luke 17:34-37; Matt. 24:28)  
Fulfillment – Revelation 19
- 13. Concerning the resurrection of the dead (John 5:28-29)  
Fulfillment – 1 Thessalonians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 15:51-55; Revelation 20:4-6
- 14. Concerning the future rewards (Matt. 10:41-42; 19:29)  
Fulfillment – Revelation 22:14
- 15. Concerning the Millennium (Matt. 8:11; 13:43; 19:28; 25:34)  
Fulfillment – Revelation 20:1-6
- 16. Concerning the Great White Throne Judgment (Matt. 25:31-33)  
Fulfillment – Revelation 20:11-15
- 17. Concerning hell (Matt. 13:49-50; 18:8-9; 5:28-29)  
Fulfillment – Revelation 20:15
- 18. Concerning heaven (John 14:2-3)  
Fulfillment – Revelation 21 – 22
- D. Prophecies concerning Satan – “And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen” (Rom. 16:20).
  - 1. He will be removed from the heavenlies and restricted to planet earth (Rev. 12:7, 9).
  - 2. He will launch an all-out, genocide-type attack against Israel during the great tribulation (Rev. 12:13-17).
  - 3. He will be cast into the bottomless pit at the beginning of the Millennium (Rev. 20:1-3).
  - 4. He will be released at the end of the Millennium (Rev. 20:7-9).
  - 5. He will be thrown into the lake of fire forever (Rev. 20:10).
- E. Prophecies concerning the Antichrist
  - 1. He will be an intellectual genius (Dan. 8:23).
  - 2. He will be an oratorical genius (Dan. 11:36).
  - 3. He will be a political genius (Rev. 17:11-12).
  - 4. He will be a commercial genius (Dan. 11:43; Rev. 13:16-17).
  - 5. He will be a military genius (Rev. 6:2; 13:2).
  - 6. He will be a religious genius (2 Thess. 2:4; Rev. 13:8).
  - 7. He will begin by controlling the Western power block (Rev. 17:12).
  - 8. He will make a seven-year covenant with Israel, but will break it after three and a half years (Dan. 9:27).
  - 9. He will attempt to destroy all of Israel (Rev. 12).
  - 10. He will destroy the false religious system so that he may rule unhindered (Rev. 17:16-17).
  - 11. He will set himself up as God (Dan. 11:36-37; 2 Thess. 2:4, 11; Rev. 13:5).
  - 12. He will do everything according to his own selfish will (Dan. 11:36).
  - 13. He will not regard the God of his fathers (Dan. 11:37).
  - 14. He will not have the desire of women (Dan. 11:37).

15. His god will be the god of power (Dan. 11:38).
  16. He will be a master of deceit (2 Thess. 2:10).
  17. He will profane the temple (Matt. 24:15).
  18. He will be energized by Satan himself (Rev. 13:2).
  19. He will briefly rule over all nations (Psa. 2; Dan. 11:36; Rev. 13:16).
  20. He will be utterly crushed by the Lord Jesus Christ at the battle of Armageddon (Rev. 19).
  21. He will be the first creature thrown into the lake of fire (Rev. 19:20).
- F. Prophecies concerning the false prophet
1. He may be a citizen of Israel, if the word “earth” is a reference to the Holy Land (Rev. 13:11a).
  2. He will be gentle in appearance, but will possess a devilish character (Rev. 13:11b).
  3. He will brutally exercise all the authority and power given him by the Antichrist (Rev. 13:12a).
  4. He will force all the world to worship the Antichrist (Rev. 13:12b).
  5. He will perform great miracles, such as causing fire to come down from heaven (Rev. 13:13).
  6. He will deceive the entire earth (Rev. 13:14a).
  7. He will build a great statue of the Antichrist and cause it to speak (Rev. 13:14-15).
  8. He will kill those who refuse to worship this statue (Rev. 13:15b).
  9. He will require the rest to receive the mark of the statue, which is 666 (Rev. 13:18).
  10. Without this mark, no one will be able to buy or sell (Rev. 13:16-17).
  11. He will be cast into the lake of fire at the end of the great tribulation (Rev. 19:20).
- G. Prophecies concerning false teachers
1. They will come disguised as harmless sheep but are in reality vicious wolves (Matt. 7:15; Acts 20:29).
  2. They will pretend to honor Christ, cast out demons, and do many other wonderful miracles (Matt. 7:22).
  3. They will, however, be denied by Christ himself at the final judgment (Matt. 7:23).
  4. They will have a form of godliness, but will deny its power (2 Tim. 3:5).
  5. They will distort the truth (Acts 20:30).
  6. They will tell lies with straight faces so often that their conscience won’t bother them (1 Tim. 4:2).
  7. They will promise peace, but will reject the Prince of peace (1 Thess. 5:2-3).
  8. They will fall from the faith (1 Tim. 4:1a).
  9. They will deny the deity of Jesus (1 John 2:22-23; 4:1-3).
  10. Some will actually claim to be the Messiah and will lead many astray (Matt. 24:5, 11, 24; 1 John 2:18).
  11. They will be demon-possessed (1 John 4:3).
  12. They will introduce destructive heresies (2 Pet. 2:1).
  13. They will always be learning, but will never be able to come to the knowledge of the truth (2 Tim. 3:7).
  14. They will mock the Second Coming and final judgment (2 Pet. 3:3-4).
- H. Prophecies concerning cities
1. Sodom – “But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly” (Gen. 13:13).
    - a. The foretelling of Sodom’s destruction by God (Gen. 18:20-21; 19:13, 15)
    - b. The fulfilling of Sodom’s destruction by God (Gen. 19:24-25).
  2. Tyre – Ezekiel’s prophecy in chapter 26 concerning the city of Tyre is surely one of the greatest in the entire Bible. Tyre was actually two cities, one on the coastline, some sixty miles northwest from Jerusalem, and the other on an island, a half mile out in the Mediterranean Sea. In this prophecy, Ezekiel predicts:
    - a. The Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar, was to capture the city.
    - b. Other nations would later participate in Tyre’s destruction.
    - c. The city was to be scraped and made flat, like the top of a rock
    - d. It was to become a place for the spreading of nets.
    - e. Its stones and timber were to be laid in the sea (Zech. 9:3-4).
    - f. The city was never to be rebuilt.
 Has all this taken place? Consider the following historical facts:
    - a. Ezekiel wrote all this around 590 B.C. Some four years later, in 586 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar surrounded the city of Tyre. The siege lasted 13 years, and in 573 B.C. the coastal city was destroyed. But he could not capture the island city. During the next 241 years the island city of Tyre dwelt in safety and would have doubtless ridiculed Ezekiel’s prophecy concerning total destruction.

- b. But in 332 B.C. Alexander the Great arrived upon the scene, and the island city was doomed. Alexander built a bridge leading from the coastline to the island by throwing the debris of the old city into the water. In doing this he literally scraped the coastline clean. (Some years ago an American archaeologist named Edward Robinson discovered 40 or 50 marble columns beneath the water along the shores of ancient Tyre.) After a seven-month siege, Alexander took the island city and destroyed it. From this point on, the surrounding coastal area has been used by local fishermen to spread and dry their nets.
- c. Tyre has never been rebuilt, in spite of the well-known nearby freshwater springs of Roselain, which yield some 10,000 gallons of water daily.
3. Jericho
- a. Concerning its destruction
- (1) The foretelling – “And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days. And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams’ horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets. And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram’s horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him” (Josh. 6:3-5).
- (2) The fulfilling – “So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city” (Josh. 6:20).
- b. Concerning its rebuilding – In the sixth chapter of Joshua we see described the fall of Jericho’s walls and the subsequent destruction of the city. Immediately after this, Joshua made an amazing threefold prophecy about this fallen city. He stated:
- (1) That Jericho would be rebuilt again by one man
- (2) That the builder’s oldest son would die when the work on the city had begun
- (3) That the builder’s youngest son would die when the work was completed (see Josh. 6:26) – Joshua uttered these words around 1400 B.C.
- Did this happen? Some five centuries after this, in 930 B.C., we are told:
- That a man named Hiel from Bethel rebuilt Jericho
  - That as he laid the foundations, his oldest son, Abiram, died
  - That when he completed the gates, his youngest son, Segub, died (see 1 Kings 16:34)
4. Nineveh (Nah. 1 – 3) – During the time of Jonah, God had spared the wicked city of Nineveh by using that Hebrew prophet (after an unpleasant submarine trip) to preach repentance. But the city had soon returned to its evil ways. So around 650 B.C. another prophet, Nahum, predicted the complete overthrow of Nineveh.
- At the time of this prophecy, Nineveh appeared to be impregnable; her walls were 100 feet high and broad enough for chariots to drive upon. The city had a circumference of 60 miles and was adorned by more than 1,200 strong towers.
- In spite of all this, the city fell, less than 40 years after Nahum’s prophecy. An alliance of Medes and Babylonians broke through her walls in August 612 B.C., after a two-month siege. The victory was due in part to the releasing of the city’s water supply by traitors within. The destruction was so total that Alexander the Great marched his troops over the desolate ground that had once given support to her mighty buildings, and he never knew there had once been a city there.
5. Babylon
- a. The historical city
- (1) The foretelling – That it would be given over to the Medes and Persians (Isa. 21:1-10; Dan. 2:39a; 5:26-28; 7:5; 8:20)
- (2) The fulfilling (Dan. 5:30-31)
- b. The prophetic city – Will the ancient city of Babylon be rebuilt? At least six biblical chapters strongly indicate this will indeed occur. These chapters are Isaiah 13 – 14; Jeremiah 50 – 51; Revelation 17 – 18. The reason for holding this view centers in various prophecies concerning the city of Babylon that have yet to be fulfilled. Consider:
- (1) Ancient Babylon was never suddenly destroyed as predicted in Isaiah 13:19.
- Nebuchadnezzar’s Babylon simply changed hands one night from the Babylonians to the Persians in a bloodless takeover (see Dan. 5).

- (2) The description of Babylon given by both Isaiah and Jeremiah is very similar to the one given by John in Revelation 18, where the apostle describes the fate of future Babylon. Note the comparisons:
- This Babylon would become the narcotic of the nations (Jer. 51:7; Rev. 18:3, 9).
  - It would be abandoned by the righteous just prior to its destruction (Jer. 51:6, 45; Rev. 18:4).
  - Babylon would be destroyed by God himself (Jer. 51:6, 55; Rev. 18:5).
  - This destruction would be sudden (Jer. 51:8; Rev. 18:10, 19).
  - This destruction would be by fire (Isa. 13:19; Jer. 51:58; Rev. 18:8-9, 18).
  - It would never be inhabited following this destruction and its materials would never be used (Jer. 51:26; Rev. 18:23).
- Note: None of the above held true concerning Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon. To the contrary (in regards to point f), archaeological discoveries have shown that bricks and stones from ancient Babylon have been reused for building purposes.
- (3) Babylon will be destroyed during the day of the Lord, an Old Testament term referring to the great tribulation (Isa. 13:9-13).
- (4) Isaiah 14 predicts the Millennium will follow Babylon's destruction (Isa. 14:4-7).
6. Jerusalem
- It would become God's chosen place (Deut. 12:5-6, 11; 26:2; Josh. 9:27; 10:1; 1 Kings 8:29; 11:36; 15:4; 2 Kings 21:4, 7; 2 Chron. 7:12; Psa. 78:68).  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
  - It would be spared from invasion by Israel (10 northern tribes) and Syria (Isa. 7:1-7).  
Fulfillment – Testimony of Old Testament history
  - It would be spared from invasion by the Assyrians (Isa. 37:33-35)  
Fulfillment – Isaiah 37:36-37
  - It would be destroyed by the Babylonians (Isa. 3:8; Jer. 11:9; 26:18; Mic. 3:12).  
Fulfillment – 2 Kings 25:1-10
  - The temple of Solomon would suffer destruction (1 Kings 9:7-9; Psa. 79:1; Jer. 7:11-14; 26:18; Ezek 7:21-22; 24:21; Mic. 3:12).  
Fulfillment – 2 Chronicles 36:19
  - The temple vessels would be carried to Babylon and later returned to Jerusalem (Jer. 28:3).  
Fulfillment – 2 Kings 25:14-15; 2 Chronicles 36:18; Ezra 1:7-11
  - It would be rebuilt by the Jews after spending 70 years in Babylonian captivity (Isa. 44:28; Jer. 25:11-12; 29:10).  
Fulfillment – Ezra 1:1-4
  - It would have its streets and walls rebuilt during a period of trouble (Dan. 9:25).  
Fulfillment – Ezra 4 – 5; Nehemiah 2:6
  - The walls would be rebuilt 483 years prior to the crucifixion of Jesus (Dan. 9:26).  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
  - It would be destroyed by the Romans (Luke 19:41-44).
  - The temple of Herod would also be burned at this time (Matt. 24:1-2).  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history. Accomplished by Titus in A.D. 70.
  - It would be trodden down by Gentiles until the Second Coming (Luke 21:24).  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
  - It will be occupied by the Antichrist during the tribulation (Zech. 12:2; 14:2).
  - It will become the worship center of the world during the Millennium (Isa. 2:2-3; Mic. 4:1).
- I. Prophecies concerning Gentile nations
- Edom – Esau, Jacob's brother, was the founder of the nation Edom (see Gen. 36). Years after his death, Edom refused to help Israel, the nation founded by Jacob (see Num. 20) and actually delighted in persecuting them. Because of this, God pronounced doom upon them. According to various biblical prophecies:
    - Their commerce was to cease.
    - Their race was to become extinct.
    - Their land was to be desolate. (See Jer. 49:17-18; Ezek 35:3-7; Obad. 1-21; Mal. 1:4.)

All this has taken place in spite of her unbelievably strong fortified capital, Petra. In A.D. 36 Petra was captured by Mohammed, and shortly after this Petra and Edom drop from the pages of history.

2. Egypt
  - a. It was to experience seven years of plenty and seven years of famine (Gen. (41:1-7, 17-24; 45:6, 11).  
Fulfillment – Genesis 41:47-48, 53-57; 47:13, 20
  - b. It was to host Israel for 400 years and afflict them (Gen. 15:13).  
Fulfillment – Exodus 12:40; Acts 7:6
  - c. Egypt would be judged for this by the 10 plagues (Gen. 15:14; Exod. 3:20; 6:1; 7:5).  
Fulfillment – Exodus 7:14; 12:29
  - d. It would pursue Israel but fail and perish (Exod. 14:3-4).  
Fulfillment – Exodus 14:5-9, 23-28, 30-31
  - e. It would defeat Israel at Megiddo (Jer. 2:16-17, 19, 36-37).  
Fulfillment – 2 Kings 23:29-35
  - f. It would stumble and fall before Babylon at Charchemish (Jer. 46:5-6, 10-12).  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
  - g. Egypt would be invaded by Nebuchadnezzar (Jer. 43:7-13; 46:13-26).  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
  - h. It would decline from its exalted position and become a base nation (Ezek 29:1-2, 15).  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
  - i. It will suffer (perhaps to be double-crossed) at the hand of the Antichrist during the tribulation (Dan. 11:40-43; Joel 3:19).
  - j. It will be restored and blessed by God along with Assyria and Israel during the Millennium (Isa. 19:21-25).
3. Assyria
  - a. It would conquer the 10 northern Israelite tribes (Mic. 1).  
Fulfillment – 2 Kings 17
  - b. It would suffer the death of many of its troops outside the city of Jerusalem (2 Kings 19:6-7a; Isa. 37:33-35).  
Fulfillment – 2 Kings 19:35-36; 2 Chronicles 32:21a; Isaiah 37:36
  - c. It would be overthrown by the Babylonians (Isa. 10:12; 14:24-27; Nah. 1 – 3).  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
4. Babylon
  - a. Fulfilled prophecies
    - (1) It would expand under Nebuchadnezzar (Hab. 1:5-10).  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
    - (2) It would defeat the Egyptians at Carchemish (Jer. 46).  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
    - (3) It would defeat the Assyrians (Nah.).  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
    - (4) It would be defeated by the Medes and Persians (Isa. 13:17; Jer. 51:11; Dan. 5:28).  
Fulfillment – Daniel 5:30-31
  - b. Unfulfilled prophecies – Will the land of ancient Babylon (modern Iraq) become an important nation in the kingdom of the Antichrist during the great tribulation? Does one of Zechariah's visions speak of this? Zechariah, the Old Testament prophet, saw a flying sin-filled bushel basket with a woman inside. An angel told him she represented the ultimate in wickedness. Upon being asked by the prophet concerning its destination, the angel replied, "To build it an house in the land of Shinar: and it shall be established, and set there upon her own base" (Zech. 5:11). Note two significant phrases in this vision:
    - (1) A wicked woman (Zech. 5:7-8) – Compare this with Rev. 17:4-5: "And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."
    - (2) The land of Shinar (Zech. 5:11) – Compare this with Gen. 11:1-2: "And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there."  
Who will rebuild Babylon and for what reason? The Antichrist may rebuild it, for this city that once served as Satan's headquarters could again become his capital.

5. Persia
  - a. Fulfilled prophecies
    - (1) It would consist of an alliance between two peoples (the Medes and Persians) (Dan. 8:1-4, 20).  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
    - (2) It would defeat the Babylonians (Dan. 2:39; 7:5).  
Fulfillment – Daniel 5
    - (3) It would be defeated by the Greeks (Dan. 8:5-8, 21-22).  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
  - b. Unfulfilled prophecies
    - (1) It will join forces with Russia in an attack against Israel during the great tribulation (Ezek. 38:5-12).
    - (2) It will be utterly routed by God himself, resulting in the death of many troops (Ezek 38:21 – 39:4, 12).
6. Greece
  - a. It would be invaded by Persia (Dan. 11:2).  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
  - b. Alexander the Great would conquer Greece and establish a world empire (Dan. 2:32-39; 7:6; 8:5-8, 21; 11:3).  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
  - c. It would defeat the Persians (Dan. 8:5-8).  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
  - d. It was to be divided into four parts after Alexander’s death (Dan. 8:8, 22; 11:4).  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
7. Rome
  - a. It would defeat the Greeks (Dan. 2:40; 7:7; 11:18-19).  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
  - b. It would destroy Jerusalem (Matt. 23:37-39).  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
  - c. It will be revived during the tribulation (Dan. 2:41; 7:7-8; Rev. 13:1; 17:12).
  - d. It will be destroyed by Jesus at the Second Coming (Dan. 2:34-35, 44; 7:9, 14, 27).
8. Germany and the Eastern European nations – Nearly six centuries before the Bethlehem event, God revealed to Daniel that in the final days prior to Christ’s return the Antichrist would succeed in reviving and controlling the old Roman Empire (see Dan. 2; 7). John the Apostle would later receive the same basic information (see Rev. 13; 17).  
The ancient empire of Rome is now (for the most part) occupied by European nations and the USA. In essence, these prophecies stated the Antichrist would rule over the Western world. According to Daniel 11 and Ezekiel 39, however, he would not control Russia. However, at the close of the 1980s these predictions seemed highly unlikely to be fulfilled, for practically all of Eastern Europe and half of Germany suffered under the bondage of Russian communism. But then the impossible and incredible occurred. Consider:
  - a. Germany was reunified on October 3, 1990.
  - b. Romanian president Nicolae Ceausescu was executed by his own country-men on Christmas Day 1989, and a democratic government was instituted.
  - c. On December 29, 1989, Vaclav Havel, a dissident playwright who had been imprisoned by the Communists, was elected president of Czechoslovakia.
  - d. Lech Walesa, hero of the Solidarity movement, became president of Poland in November 1990.
  - e. In October 1989 Hungary proclaimed itself to be a free republic.
  - f. Yugoslavia began exploring paths toward democracy in the fall of 1990.
  - g. The Bulgarian parliament approved free multiparty elections in April 1989.
  - h. Albania, the smallest and most isolated of the Eastern European countries, made at least cosmetic gestures toward democratic reforms in May 1990.
9. America – Edgar C. James writes:

Does the Bible say anything about the future of the United States? Some, in reading the Scripture, believe various passages may allude to the United States. But such conclusions are very remote. For instance, some hold the “young lions” (Ezekiel 38:13, KJV), and “islands” (Psalm 72:10) refer to

England's colonies; namely, America. But a careful check shows those are villages or islands of Tarshish, the area of southern Spain (cf. Jonah 1:3).

Others find America as the "great eagle" (Rev. 12:14) or the "land shadowing with wings" (Isaiah 18:1, KJV). But the Revelation passage is showing the speed with which the woman fled into the wilderness, not a nation. The Isaiah passage refers to a nation with "whirling wings" (Isaiah 18:1), most likely a reference to the insects of Ethiopia. (*Armageddon*, pp. 102 – 103)

However, simply because the United States is not mentioned in prophecy does not mean it has no role in the latter days. To the contrary, it would appear tragically possible the United States will function as the most important member of the Antichrist's 10-nation Western confederation. In fact, it may well be that the Antichrist will be an American citizen. Consider:

- a. The Antichrist will no doubt hold citizenship from one of the 10 nations he eventually controls.
  - b. Following the rapture of the church, no other nation on earth will suffer the loss of so many key (saved) leaders in the areas of government, business, education, medicine, sports, etc., as America.
  - c. In light of this above, it is not unreasonable to envision a United States citizen (Antichrist) quickly moving in to fill the tremendous power vacuum which will of necessity exist.
10. Russia
- a. It will invade Israel during the Tribulation (Ezek. 28:8-11, 16).
  - b. It will be joined by various allies (Ezek. 38:4-7).
  - c. It will come down for a "spoil" (Ezek 38:12).
  - d. It will suffer a disastrous defeat at the hand of God, losing some 83 percent of its troops (Ezek 39:2).
- J. Prophecies concerning Israel
1. The people of Shem would be especially blessed of God (Gen. 9:26).  
Fulfillment – Matthew 1:1; John 4:22
  2. A great nation would come from Abraham (Gen 12:2).  
Fulfillment – Numbers 23:10
  3. This nation would exist forever (Jer. 31:35-37).  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
  4. Israel's kings would come from the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10).  
Fulfillment – 1 Samuel 16:1-2; 1 Chronicles 28:4; Luke 1:26-27
  5. Canaan will be given to Israel forever (Gen. 13:15).  
Partial fulfillment – Joshua 21:43-45  
Future fulfillment – Isaiah 60:21; Ezekiel 37:25
  6. Israel would sojourn in another land (Egypt) for 400 years, there to serve and be afflicted (Gen. 15:13).  
Fulfillment – Exodus 12:40
  7. This oppressive nation (Egypt) would be judged by God (Gen. 15:14).  
Fulfillment – Exodus 7:14-12:29
  8. Israel would leave Egypt with great substance (Gen. 15:14).  
Fulfillment – Exodus 12:35-36
  9. Israel would return to Canaan from Egypt in the fourth generation (Gen. 15:16).  
Fulfillment – Joshua 3:16-17
  10. Israel would conquer Canaan gradually (Exod. 23:29-30).  
Fulfillment – Judges 1:19-36
  11. Those (over 20) who sinned at Kadesh-barnea would not see the promised land, but would wander 40 years in the wilderness (Num. 14:32-34),  
Fulfillment – Numbers 26:63-65
  12. Israel would set a king over them (Deut. 17:14-20).  
Fulfillment – 1 Samuel 10:24
  13. Israel would suffer a tragic civil war after the death of Solomon (1 Kings 11:11, 31).  
Fulfillment – 1 Kings 12:16-17, 19-20
  14. The Northern Kingdom would be carried away into Assyrian Captivity (1 Kings 14:15-16; Hos. 1:5; 10:1, 6).  
Fulfillment – 2 Kings 17:6-7, 22-23
  15. This would happen 65 years after the Isaiah and Ahaz meeting (Isa. 7:8).  
Fulfillment – 2 Kings 17:24



16. The Southern Kingdom would be carried away into Babylonian Captivity (Jer. 13:19; 20:4-5; 21:10; Mic. 4:10).  
Fulfillment – 2 Kings 24 – 25
  17. The temple would be destroyed (1 Kings 9:7; 2 Chron. 7:20-21; Jer. 7:14).  
Fulfillment – 2 Kings 25:9
  18. The length of the Babylonian captivity would be 70 years (Jer. 25:11; 29:10).  
Fulfillment – Dan. 9:2
  19. Israel would then return to the land (Jer. 29:10).  
Fulfillment – Ezra 1
  20. The temple vessels once carried into Babylon would be brought back to the land (2 Kings 25:14-15; Jer. 28:3; Dan. 5:1-4).  
Fulfillment – Ezra 1:7-11
  21. Israel eventually would be scattered among the nations of the world (Lev. 26:33; Deut. 4:27-28; 28:25-68; Hos, 9:17).  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
  22. Israel would “abide many days” without a king, an heir apparent, the Levitical offerings, the temple, or the Levitical priesthood (Hos. 3:4).  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
  23. Israel also would be free from idolatry during this terrible time (Hos. 3:4).  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
  24. Israel would become a byword among the nations (Deut. 28:37).  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
  25. Israel would loan to many nations, but borrow from none (Deut. 28:12).  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
  26. Israel would be hounded and persecuted (Deut. 28:65-67).  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
  27. Israel nevertheless would retain her identity (Lev. 26:44; Jer. 46:28).  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
  28. Israel would remain alone and aloof among the nations (Num. 23:9).  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
  29. Israel would reject her Messiah (Isa. 53:1-9).  
Fulfillment – (Luke 23:13-25)
  30. Israel would return to Palestine in the latter days prior to the second coming of Jesus (Deut. 30:3; Ezek. 36:24; 37:1-14).  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history since 1948
  31. Israel will be deceived into signing a seven-year peace treaty with the Western leader (Antichrist) during the great tribulation (Isa. 28:18; Dan. 9:27).
  32. Israel will rebuild its temple (Matt. 24:15; 2 Thess. 2:3-4; Rev. 11:1).
  33. Israel will experience a hellish onslaught by Satan himself (Rev. 12:13, 17).
  34. Israel will suffer terribly from this future attempted holocaust (Zech. 13:8; 14:2).
  35. Israel nevertheless, as a nation, will survive the hellish great tribulation (Zech. 13:9a; Rev. 12:14-16).
  36. Israel will recognize Christ as its Messiah (Zech. 12:10; 13:9b).
  37. Israel will be regenerated, regathered, and restored to the land following the great tribulation (Jer. 33:8; Ezek 11:17).
  38. Israel will become God’s witnesses during the Millennium (Isa. 44:8; 61:6).
- K. Prophecies concerning the 70 weeks –“Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate” (Dan. 9:24-27).
1. To whom does this prophecy refer? It refers to Israel: “Thy people” (9:24).

2. What is meant by the term “70 weeks”? The Hebrew word refers to 70 sevens of years, or a total of 490 years.
3. When was the 70-week period to begin? It was to begin with the command to rebuild Jerusalem’s walls (9:25).
4. What are the distinct time periods mentioned within the 70-week prophecy and what was to happen during each period?
  - a. First period – 7 weeks (49 years), from 445 B.C. to 396 B.C. The key events during this time were the building of the streets and walls of Jerusalem “even in troublous times” (9:25).
  - b. Second period – 62 weeks (434 years), from 396 B.C. to A.D. 30. At the end of this second period the Messiah was to be crucified.

The brilliant British scholar and Bible student Sir Robert Anderson has reduced the first two periods into their exact number of days. This he has done by multiplying 483 (the combined years of the first two periods) by 360 (the days in a biblical year). The total number of days in the first 69 weeks (or 483 years) is 173,880. Anderson then points out that if one begins counting on March 14, 445 B.C., and goes forward in history, these days would run out on April 6, A.D. 32. It was on this very day that Jesus made his triumphal entry into the city of Jerusalem. Surely our Lord must have had Daniel’s prophecy in mind when he said: “Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes” (Luke 19:42). Of course, it was on this same day that the Pharisees plotted to murder Christ (Luke 19:47).

Thus, Daniel, writing some five and a half centuries earlier, correctly predicted the very day of Christ’s presentation and rejection.

- c. Third period – One week (7 years) from the Rapture until the Millennium.
5. Do the 70 weeks run continuously? This is to say, is there a gap somewhere between these 490 years or do they run without pause until they are completed?

Dispensational theology teaches that these weeks do not run continuously, but that there has been a gap or parenthesis of nearly 2,000 years between the sixty-ninth and seventieth week. This is known as the age of the church. The chronology may be likened to a 70-minute basketball game. For 69 minutes the game has been played at a furious and continuous pace. Then the referee for some reason calls time out with the clock in the red and showing one final minute of play. No one knows for sure when the action will start again, but at some point the referee will step in and blow his whistle. At that time the teams will gather to play out the last minute of the game. God has stepped in and stopped the clock of prophecy at Calvary. This divine “time out” has already lasted some 20 centuries, but soon the Redeemer will blow his trumpet, and the final “week” of action will be played upon this earth,

#### L. Prophecies concerning judgments

1. Past judgments
  - a. The Garden of Eden judgment (Gen. 2:15-17)  
Fulfillment – Genesis 3:7-19; 5:5
  - b. The flood judgment (Gen. 6:7, 13, 17)  
Fulfillment – Genesis 7:10-12, 17-24
  - c. The Babylonian judgment of God upon sinful Israel (Jer. 13:19; 20:4-5; 21:10)  
Fulfillment – 2 Kings 24 – 25
  - d. The Calvary judgment (Isa. 53:1-10; Psa. 22:1-18)  
Fulfillment – Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 19; 1 Peter 3:18
  - e. The Roman judgment of God upon sinful Israel (Matt. 24:2; Luke 19:41-44)  
Fulfillment – Testimony of history
2. Future judgments
  - a. The judgment seat of Christ (Rom. 14:10; 1 Cor. 3:9-15; 2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 22:12)
  - b. The tribulational judgment upon man’s religious systems (Rev. 17)
  - c. The tribulational judgment upon man’s economic and political systems (Rev. 18)
  - d. The tribulational judgment upon man’s military systems (Rev. 19:11-21)
  - e. The tribulational judgment upon man himself (Rev. 6; 8-9; 16)
  - f. The lamp and talent judgment on Israel (Matt. 24:45-51; 25:1-30; Ezek. 20:33-38)
  - g. The sheep and goat judgment on the Gentiles (Matt. 25:31-46)
  - h. The judgment upon the Antichrist and false prophet (Rev. 19:20)
  - i. The judgment upon Satan in the bottomless pit for 1,000 years (Rev. 20:1-3)
  - j. The judgment upon Satan in the lake of fire forever (Rev. 20:10)
  - k. The fallen angel judgment (1 Cor. 6:3; 2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6)

- l. The Great White Throne Judgment (Rev. 20:11-15)
  - m. The worldwide fire judgment (2 Pet. 3:7-12)
- M. Prophecies concerning the last days
  - 1. Increase of wars and rumors of war (Joel 3:9-10; Matt. 24:6-7)
  - 2. Extreme materialism (2 Tim. 3:1-2; Rev. 3:14-19)
  - 3. Lawlessness (Psa. 78:8; Prov. 30:11-14; 2 Tim. 3:2-3)
  - 4. Population explosion (Gen. 6:1; Luke 17:26)
  - 5. Increasing speed and knowledge (Dan. 12:4)
  - 6. Departure from the Christian faith (2 Thess. 2:3; 1 Tim. 4:1, 3-4; 2 Tim. 3:5; 4:3-4; 2 Pet. 3:3-4)
  - 7. Intense demonic activity (Gen. 6:1-4; 1 Tim. 4:1-3)
  - 8. Unification of the world's religious, political, and economic systems (Rev. 13:4-8, 16-17; 17:1-18; 18:1-24)
  - 9. The absence of gifted leadership among the nations, thus making it easy for the Antichrist to take over
  - 10. Universal drug usage ("Sorceries" here can also refer to drugs.) (Rev. 9:21)
  - 11. Abnormal sexual activity (Rom. 1:17-32; 2 Pet. 2:10, 14; 3:3; Jude 18)
  - 12. Mass slaughter of innocents by unconcerned mothers (abortion) (Rom. 1:31; 2 Tim. 3:3)
  - 13. Widespread violence (Gen. 6:11, 13; 2 Tim. 3:1; Rev. 9:21)
  - 14. Rejection of God's Word (2 Tim. 4:3-4; 2 Pet. 3:3-4, 16)
  - 15. Rejection of God himself (Psa. 2:1-3)
  - 16. Blasphemy (2 Tim. 3:2; 2 Pet. 3:3; Jude 18)
  - 17. Self-seeking and pleasure-seeking (2 Tim. 3:2, 4)
  - 18. Men minus a conscience (1 Tim. 4:2)
  - 19. Religious hucksters (2 Pet. 2:3)
  - 20. Outright devil worshippers (Rev. 9:20; 13:11-14)
  - 21. Rise of false prophets and antichrists (Matt. 24:5, 11; 2 Pet. 2:1-2)
  - 22. False claims of peace (1 Thess. 5:1-3)
  - 23. Rapid advances in technology (Gen. 4:22; Luke 17:26)
  - 24. Great political and religious upheavals in the Holy Land (Matt. 24:32-34)
- N. Prophecies concerning the nature of the tribulation
  - 1. Unbelievably bloody wars (Matt. 24:6-7; Rev. 6:2-4; 14:20)
  - 2. Drunkenness (Matt. 24:38; Luke 17:27)
  - 3. Illicit sex (Matt. 24:38; Luke 17:27; Rev. 9:213)
  - 4. Gross materialism (Luke 17:28; Rev. 18:12-14)
  - 5. Rise of false messiahs and prophets (Matt. 24:5, 11-24)
  - 6. Horrible persecution of believers (Matt. 24:10; Rev. 16:6; 17:6)
  - 7. Men to hide in the caves (Isa. 2:19-21; Rev. 6:15-17)
  - 8. The pangs and sorrows of death to seize men, similar to the pains of women in labor (Isa. 13:8; Jer. 30:6)
  - 9. Terrible worldwide famines (Rev. 6:5-6, 8)
  - 10. Humans to be slaughtered by predatory wild beasts (Rev. 6:8)
  - 11. Disastrous earthquakes (Rev. 6:12; 11:13; 16:18)
  - 12. Fearful heavenly signs and disturbances (Luke 21:25; Rev. 6:12-14; 8:12)
  - 13. Universal tidal waves and ocean disasters (Luke 21:25; Rev. 8:8-9; 16:3)
  - 14. The stars, moon, and sun to be darkened (Isa. 13:10; Joel 2:30-31; 3:15)
  - 15. The moon to be turned into blood (Joel 2:31; Rev. 6:12)
  - 16. The heavens to be rolled together like a scroll (Isa. 34:4; Joel 2:10; Rev. 6:14)
  - 17. Massive hailstones composed of fire and blood to fall upon the earth (Rev. 8:7; 16:21)
  - 18. Huge meteorites to fall upon the earth (Rev. 8:8-11)
  - 19. Stars of the heavens to fall upon the earth (Rev. 6:13)
  - 20. Both salt waters and fresh waters to become totally polluted (Rev. 8:8-11; 11:6, 16:3-4)
  - 21. Universal disaster of land ecology (Rev. 8:7)
  - 22. Events to steadily go from bad to worse (Amos 5:19)
  - 23. A time of thick darkness and utter depression (Joel 2:2)
  - 24. No period in history to even compare to it (Jer. 30:7; Dan. 12:1; Matt. 24:21-22)
  - 25. A time of famine of the very Word of God itself (Amos 8:11-12)
  - 26. A time of absolutely no escape from God's fierce judgment (Amos 9:2-3)
  - 27. Worldwide drug usage (Rev. 9:21)
  - 28. Universal idolatry and devil worship (Rev. 9:20; 13:11-17)

29. Murderous demonic invasions (Rev. 9:3-20)
  30. Subterranean eruptions (Rev. 9:1-2)
  31. Scorching solar heat (Rev. 16:8-9)
  32. Terrifying periods of total darkness (Rev.16:10)
  33. Unchecked citywide fires (Rev. 18:8-9, 18)
  34. A plague of cancerous sores (Rev. 16:2)
  35. The total destruction of the earth's religious, political, and economic systems (Rev. 17 – 18)
  36. A universal dictatorial rule by the Antichrist (Rev. 13)
  37. An all-out, no-holds-barred attempt to destroy Israel (Rev. 12:1-17)
  38. Survivors of this period to be more rare than gold (Isa. 13:12)
  39. Men's blood to be poured out like dust and their flesh like dung (Zeph. 1:17)
  40. The slain to remain unburied and the mountains to be covered with blood (Isa. 34:3; 66:24)
  41. The earth to be moved out of its orbit (Isa. 13:13)
  42. The earth to be turned upside down (Isa. 24:1, 19)
  43. The earth to reel to and fro like a drunkard (Isa, 24:20)
  44. The most frightful physical plague in all history (Zech, 14:12)
  45. A 200-mile river of human blood to flow (Rev. 14:20)
  46. Scavenger birds to eat the rotted flesh of entire armies of men (Matt. 24:28; Rev. 19:17-19)
- O. Prophecies concerning the Millennium
1. The final temple to be rebuilt (Isa. 2:2; Ezek. 40-48; Joel 3:18; Hag. 2:7-9; Zech. 6:12-13)
  2. Israel to be regathered (Isa. 43:5-6; Jer. 24:6; 29:14; 31:8-10; Ezek. 11:17; 36:24-25, 28; Amos 9:14-15; Zech. 8:6-8; Matt. 24:31)
  3. Israel to recognize her Messiah (Isa. 8:17; 25:9; 26:8; Zech. 12:10-12; Rev. 1:7)
  4. Israel to be cleansed (Jer. 33:8; Zech. 13:1)
  5. Israel to be regenerated (Jer. 31:31-34; 32:39; Ezek. 11:19-20; 36:26)
  6. Israel to once again be related to God by marriage (Isa. 54:1-17; 62:2-5; Hos. 2:14-23)
  7. Israel to be exalted above the Gentiles (Isa. 14:1-2; 49:22-23; 60:14-17; 61:6-7)
  8. Israel to become God's witnesses (Isa. 44:8; 61:6; 66:21; Ezek. 3:17; Mic. 5:7; Zeph. 3:20; Zech. 8:3)
  9. Jesus to rule from Jerusalem with a rod of iron (Psa. 2:6-8, 11; Isa. 2:3; 11:4)
  10. David to aid in this rule as vice-regent (Isa. 55:3-4; Jer. 30:9; Ezek. 34:23; 37:24; Hos. 3:5)
  11. All sickness to be removed (Isa. 33:24; Jer. 30:17; Ezek. 34:16)
  12. The original curse upon creation to be removed (Isa. 11:6-9; 35:9; 65:25; Joel 3:18; Amos 9:13-15; see Gen. 3:17-19)
  13. The wolf, lamb, calf, and lion to lie down together in peace (Isa. 11:6-7; 65:25)
  14. A little child to safely play with once-poisonous serpents and spiders (Isa. 11:8)
  15. Physical death to be swallowed up in victory (Isa. 25:8)
  16. All tears to be dried (Isa. 25:8; 30:19)
  17. The deaf to hear, the blind to see, and the lame to walk (Isa. 29:18; 35:5-6; 61:1-2; Jer. 31:8)
  18. Man's knowledge about God to be vastly increased (Isa. 41:19-20; 54:13; Hab. 2:14)
  19. No social, political, or religious oppression (Isa. 14:3-6; 49:8-9; Zech. 9:11-12)
  20. Full ministry of the Holy Spirit (Isa. 32:15; 45:3; 59:21; Ezek. 36:27; 37:14; Joel 2:28-29)
  21. Jesus himself to be the Good, Great, and Chief Shepherd (Isa. 40:11; 49:10; 58:11; Ezek. 34:11-16)
  22. A time of universal singing (Isa. 35:6; 52:9; 54:1; 55:12; Jer. 33:11)
  23. A time of universal praying (Isa. 56:7; 65:24; Zech. 8:22)
  24. A unified language (Zeph. 3:9)
  25. The wilderness and deserts to bloom (Isa. 35:1-2)
  26. God's glory to be seen by all nations (Isa. 60:1-3; Ezek. 39:21; Mic. 4:1-5; Hab. 2:14)
  27. Longevity of man to be restored (Isa. 65:20)
  28. Universal peace (Isa. 2:4; 32:18)
  29. Universal holiness (Zech. 13:20-21)
  30. Solar and lunar light to increase (Isa. 4:5; 30:26; 60:19-20; Zech. 2:5)
  31. Palestine to become greatly enlarged and changed (Isa. 26:15; Obad. 17-21)
  32. A river to flow east-west from the Mount of Olives into both the Mediterranean and Dead seas (Ezek. 47:8-9, 12; Joel 3:18; Zech. 14:4, 8, 10)
  33. Jerusalem to become known as Jehovah Tsidkenu (the Lord our righteousness), and Jehovah Shammah (the Lord is there) (Jer. 33:16; Ezek. 48:35)
  34. Jerusalem to become the worship center of the world (Isa. 2:2-3; Mic. 4:1)
  35. Jerusalem's streets to be filled with happy boys and girls playing (Zech. 8:5)

36. The city to occupy an elevated site (Zech. 14:10)
  37. The earthly city to be six miles in circumference (Ezek. 48:35)
  38. The heavenly, suspended city (new Jerusalem) to be 1,400 by 1,400 by 1,400 miles (Rev. 21:10, 16)
- P. Prophecies concerning hell
1. Hell will be a place of unquenchable fire (Matt. 3:12; 13:41-42; Mark 9:43).
  2. It will be a place of memory and remorse (Luke 16:19-31),
  3. It will be a place of thirst (Luke 16:24).
  4. It will be a place of misery and pain (Rev. 14:10-11).
  5. It will be a place of frustration and anger (Matt. 13:42; 24:51).
  6. It will be a place of separation (Rev. 2:11; 20:6, 15).
  7. It will be a place of undiluted divine wrath (Hab. 3:2; Rev. 14:10).
  8. It was originally prepared for Satan and his hosts (Matt. 25:41).
  9. It will be a place created for all eternity (Dan. 12:2; Matt. 25:46; Jude 7).
- Q. Prophecies concerning heaven
1. Heaven is being prepared by Christ himself (John 14:3).
  2. It is only for those who have been born again (John 3:3).
  3. It is described as a glorious city, likened to pure gold and clear glass (Rev. 21:11, 18).
  4. The name of this city is the new Jerusalem (Rev. 21:2).
  5. It is in the shape of a cube, with the length, width, and height being equal (Rev. 21:16).
  6. Its size is 12,000 furlongs, roughly 1,400 miles long, wide, and high (Rev. 21:16).
  7. The city rests upon 12 layers of foundational stones, with each layer being inlaid with a different precious gem (Rev. 21:19-20).
  8. Each foundation has one of the names of the 12 apostles on it (Rev. 21:14).
  9. The wall around the city is made of pure jasper (Rev. 21:18).
  10. The height of the wall is approximately 216 feet (Rev. 21:17).
  11. The wall has 12 gates, 3 on each of the 4 sides (Rev. 21:12).
  12. Each gate is made of solid pearl (Rev. 21:21).
  13. Each gate has on it the name of one of the 12 tribes of Israel (Rev. 21:12).
  14. An angel stands guard at each gate (Rev. 21:12).
  15. The gates will never be shut (Rev. 21:25).
  16. The palaces may possibly be made of ivory (Psa. 45:8).
  17. The River of Life is there, to insure everlasting life (Rev. 22:1).
  18. The Tree of Life is there, to ensure abundant life (Rev. 2:7; 22:19).
  19. The Tree of Life will bear its fruit each month (Rev. 22:2).
  20. The throne of God will occupy the central palace (Rev. 4:2; 22:1).
  21. This throne is likened to wheels of burning fire with an emerald rainbow canopy (Dan. 7:9; Rev. 4:3).
  22. It is surrounded by 24 small thrones (Rev. 4:4).
  23. Near it stands the brazen laver, described as "a sea of glass, like crystal" (Rev. 4:6).
  24. Beside the throne are four special angels who worship God continually (Rev. 4:8).
  25. The golden altar is there, with bowls of incense (Rev. 5:8; 8:3; 9:13).
  26. The menorah, or seven-branched lamp stand, is there (Rev. 1:12; 4:5).
  27. The holy ark of God may be there (Rev. 11:19).
  28. The main street of the city is composed of transparent gold (Rev. 21:21).
  29. The city will shine with and be enlightened by God's glory (John 17:24; Rom. 8:18; Rev. 21:11, 23; 22:5).
  30. It is a place of holiness (Rev. 21:27).
  31. It is a place of beauty (Psa. 50:2).
  32. It is a place of unity (Eph. 1:10).
  33. It is a place of perfection (1 Cor. 13:10).
  34. It is a place of joy (Psa. 16:11).
  35. It is a place for all eternity (John 3:15; Psa. 23:6).
  36. There may be a tabernacle (Rev. 15:5; 21:3).
  37. There will be no temple (Rev. 21:22).
  38. There will be no sea (Rev. 21:1).
  39. There will be no tears (Rev. 7:17; 21:4).
  40. There will be no sickness (Rev. 22:2).
  41. There will be no pain (Rev. 21:4).
  42. There will be no death (Isa. 25:8; 1 Cor. 15:26; Rev. 21:4).

43. There will be no more thirst or hunger (Rev. 7:16).
  44. There will be no more sin (Rev. 21:27).
  45. There will be no more judgment upon sin (Rev. 22:3).
  46. There will be no need for the sun or moon (Rev. 21:23).
  47. There will be no night (Rev. 21:25; 22:5).
  48. The city will be the Bridegroom's gift to the bride, Christ's church (Rev. 21:2, 10).
  49. It will be shared by saved Israel (Heb. 11:10, 16).
  50. It will be shared by the holy angels (Dan. 7:10; Heb. 12:22; Rev. 5:11).
  51. The Father will be there (Dan. 7:9; Rev. 4:2-3).
  52. The Son will be there (Rev. 5:6; 7:17).
  53. The Holy Spirit will be there (Rev. 14:13; 22:17).
  54. Heaven will be a place of singing (Isa. 44:23; Heb. 2:12; Rev. 14:3; 15:3).
  55. Heaven will be a place of serving (Rev. 7:15; 22:3).
  56. Heaven will be a place of learning (1 Cor. 13:9-10).
- R. Prophecies concerning the glorified body
1. It will be a recognizable body (1 Cor. 13:12).
  2. It will be a body like Christ's body (1 John 3:2).
  3. It will be a body that will permit eating (Luke 24:41-43; John 21:12-13).
  4. It will be a body in which the spirit predominates (1 Cor. 15:44, 49).
  5. It will be a body unlimited by time, gravity, or space (Luke 24:31; John 20:19, 26).
  6. It will be an eternal body (2 Cor. 5:1).
  7. It will be a glorious body (Rom. 8:18; 1 Cor. 15:43).

*Section two:* A chronological overview of prophecy featuring the sequence involved, viewing the when of the matter.

I. A General Consideration

- A. The Rapture of the church
- B. The bema judgment seat of Christ
- C. The marriage service of the Lamb
- D. The singing of two special songs
- E. The great tribulation
- F. The battle of Armageddon
- G. The second coming of Christ
- H. The glorious Millennium
- I. Satan's final revolt
- J. The Great White Throne Judgment
- K. The destruction of this present earth and heaven
- L. The creation of the new earth and heaven

II. A Specific Consideration

A. The Rapture of the church

1. The meaning of the word *rapture* – Actually, the word *rapture* is from *rapere*, found in the expression “caught up” in the Latin translation of 1 Thessalonians 4:17. However, if one so desires, the rapture could be scripturally referred to as the *harpazo*, which is the Greek word translated “caught up” in 1 Thessalonians 4:17. The identical phrase is found in Acts 8:39, where Philip was caught away by the Holy Spirit, and in 2 Corinthians 12:2, 4, when Paul was caught up into the third heaven. Or, if you'd rather, the rapture could be known as the *allasso*, from the Greek translated “changed” in 1 Corinthians 15:51-52. *Allasso* is used in describing the final renewal and transformation of the heavens and the earth. (See Heb. 1:12.) So then, use whatever name suits your fancy. Of course, the important thing is not what you name it, but rather, can you *claim it*? That is, will you participate in it? Thus, the next scheduled event predicted in the Word of God will take place when the Savior himself appears in the air to catch up his own.
2. The first mention of the Rapture – The first mention of the Rapture in the Bible is found in John 14:1-3. “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” (John 14:1-3).

While the Old Testament prophets spoke in glowing terms of the Messiah's eventual return to earth and the establishment of his perfect kingdom upon the earth (Isa. 2:2-5; 9:6-7; 11:1-16; 32:1;

35:1-10; etc.), they knew absolutely nothing of that event whereby God himself would (for a brief period of time) remove his people from the earth.

3. The participants of the Rapture – For whom will Jesus come? It is the view of this theological summary that Christ will come again for his church, which is composed of all saved people from Pentecost up to the Rapture itself.
4. Two descriptions of the Rapture – The two most important passages describing the Rapture are found in 1 Thessalonians 4 and 1 Corinthians 15. Let us briefly examine these two passages.
  - a. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 – In this great passage Paul answers a question that had bothered the Thessalonians. When he was among them (Acts 17), they had doubtless learned many precious truths about the glorious return of Christ to earth someday and the establishing of his kingdom. In fact, to some this all seemed to be just around the corner. But since the apostle’s departure, a number of believers had died, They obviously then would not be on earth at the time of Christ’s return. Did this mean they would miss everything? This then is the background to the great Rapture passage before us here in chapter 4. These six verses thus present for us:
    - (1) A realization: “But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope” (4:13). This is but one of four key areas that Paul would not have us to be ignorant. The other three are:
      - (a) The events in the Old Testament (1 Cor. 10:1)
      - (b) The restoration of Israel (Rom. 11:25)
      - (c) The manifestation of spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12:1)
    - (2) A repose: “For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him” (4:14). The death of a believer is looked upon as a peaceful sleep, (See Matt. 27:52; John 11:11; Acts 7:60; 13:36; 1 Cor. 15:6; 18, 20, 51; 2 Pet. 3:4.) However, it should be quickly stated that this verse in no way teaches soul sleep. That unscriptural doctrine is refuted by Matthew 17:3 and Revelation 6:9-11.
    - (3) A revelation: “For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent [precede] them which are asleep” (4:15). Note Paul’s usage of the pronoun “we,” The apostle apparently hoped at this time to be here when Christ came. He would later know otherwise. (See 2 Tim. 4:6.)
    - (4) A return: “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God” (4:16). It is often supposed that Michael will be this archangel, on the basis of Daniel 12:1-2. However, it is not unreasonable to suggest that Gabriel will be the angel involved at this time because of the vital part he played in the events surrounding the first coming of Christ. (See Luke 1:19, 26; Matt. 1:20; 2:13.) Note the little phrase “with a shout.” This is the final of three instances in which Christ shouted. On each occasion a resurrection took place. The other two are:
      - (a) The shout at Bethany (John 11:43-44)
      - (b) The shout at Calvary (Matt. 27:50-53)
    - (5) A resurrection: “And the dead in Christ shall rise first” (4:16).
    - (6) A removal: “Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds” (4:17).
    - (7) A reunion: “To meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (4:17).
    - (8) A reassurance: “Wherefore comfort one another with these words” (4:18).
  - b. 1 Corinthians 15:51-53 – In many respects, this passage complements the other major passage in 1 Thessalonians 4. In 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, the question was whether those who had died in Christ would have the same benefits and experience as those who were translated. In 1 Corinthians 15, the question is whether those who are translated will have the same experience and benefits as those who have died and who are resurrected. Observe some phrases from 1 Corinthians 15:51-53:
    - (1) “I shew you a mystery” (15:51) – What is this mystery or secret concerning the Rapture? Let us suppose you began reading the Bible in Genesis 1, and read through 1 Corinthians 14. If you stopped your reading there, you would already have learned about many important facts, such as Creation, man’s sin, the flood, Bethlehem, Calvary, the Resurrection, and the existence of heaven and hell. But you would be forced to conclude that a Christian could get to heaven only after physically dying. You would of course note the two exceptions of Enoch (Gen. 5:24) and Elijah (2 Kings 2:11), but apart from these it would be clear that believers have to travel the path of the grave to reach the goal of glory. But now the secret is out, and here it is: Millions of Christians will someday reach heaven without dying. “Behold, I show

you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed” (1 Cor. 15:51). This, then, is the mystery of the Rapture.

- (2) “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye... and we shall be changed” (15:52) – “Moment” here is the Greek word *atomos*, from which we get the word *atom*, and it denotes that which cannot be cut or divided, the smallest conceivable quantity. “Twinkling” is *rhipe*, referring to the fastest movement possible.
- (3) “For the trumpet shall sound” (15:52) – In at least three biblical passages concerning the Rapture a trumpet is mentioned (1 Cor. 15:52; 1 Thess. 4:16; Rev. 4:1). How are we to understand this? In the Old Testament the trumpet was used for two things – to summon to battle and to summon to worship. Which of the two meanings, however, is involved at the Rapture? It is suggested that both meanings are in mind, one directed toward angels and the other toward believers.
  - (a) To angels the trumpet blast will mean “Prepare for battle!” According to various New Testament passages (John 14:30; Eph. 6:12; 1 John 5:19), this present world lies in the hands of the evil one, the devil, and the very atmosphere is filled with his wicked power and presence. Satan will obviously resist believers being caught up through his domain and becoming freed from his wicked worldly system. Therefore, the trumpet commands the angels, “Prepare for battle! Clear the way for the catching up of those resurrected bodies and those living believers!”
  - (b) To all believers the trumpet blast will mean “Prepare to worship!” In Numbers 10:1-3 we read, “And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Make thee two trumpets of silver... that thou mayest use them for the calling of the assembly... and when they shall blow with them, all the assembly shall assemble themselves to thee at the door of the tabernacle.” Regarding the Rapture trumpet, Numbers 10:4 seems to be especially significant: “If they blow but with one trumpet, then the princes, which are heads of the thousands of Israel, shall gather themselves unto thee.” At the Rapture only one trumpet is sounded, suggesting that in God’s sight all believers occupy a place of utmost importance. We are all “head princes” in the mind of God.
- (4) “For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality” (15:53) – This describes the supernatural act whereby the bodies of departed believers (“corruptible”) will be resurrected, and whereby the bodies of living believers (“mortal”) will be transformed,

#### 5. Some false views of the Rapture

- a. The Rapture and Second Coming are one and the same event – Although these two are inseparably linked together, they are not the same. In essence, the Rapture introduces the great tribulation, while the Second Coming will conclude it. Other distinguishing features are:
  - (1) The Rapture
    - (a) Christ comes in the air (1 Thess. 4:16-17).
    - (b) He comes for his saints (1 Thess. 4:16-17).
    - (c) The rapture is a mystery, i.e., a truth unknown in Old Testament times (1 Cor. 15:51).
    - (d) Christ’s coming for his saints is never said to be preceded by signs in the heavens.
    - (e) The rapture is identified with the day of Christ (1 Cor. 1:8; 2 Cor. 1:14; Phil. 1:6, 10).
    - (f) The rapture is presented as a time of blessing (1 Thess. 4:18).
    - (g) The rapture takes place in a moment, “in the twinkling of an eye” (1 Cor. 15:52). This strongly implies that it will not be witnessed by the world.
    - (h) The rapture seems to involve the church primarily (John 14:1-4; 1 Cor. 15:51-58; 1 Thess. 4:13-18).
    - (i) Christ comes as the bright and morning star (Rev. 22:16).
  - (2) The Second Coming
    - (a) He comes to the earth (Zech. 14:4).
    - (b) He comes with his saints (1 Thess. 3:13; Jude 14).
    - (c) The revelation is not a mystery; it is the subject of many Old Testament prophecies (Psa. 72; Isa. 11; Zech. 14).
    - (d) Christ’s coming with his saints will be heralded by celestial portents (Matt. 24:29-30).
    - (e) The revelation is identified with the day of the Lord (2 Thess. 2:1-12).
    - (f) The main emphasis of the revelation is on judgment (2 Thess. 2:8-12).
    - (g) The revelation will be visible worldwide (Matt. 24:27; Rev. 1:7).
    - (h) The revelation involves Israel primarily, then also the Gentile nations (Matt. 24:1; 25:46).



- (i) Christ comes as the sun of righteousness with healing in his wings (Mal. 4:2).
- b. The Rapture will include only “spiritual” Christians, leaving carnal believers behind to endure a seven-year “Protestant purgatory” of some sort. Maybe this is what God should do, as it would serve most of us right – but it is not what he is going to do. The Rapture is, in a sense, the proof of redemption, and both are based on grace and not human works. Thus, the partial rapture theory is to be rejected for the following three reasons:
- (1) First, it confuses grace with rewards.
  - (2) Second, it divides the bride of Christ – How can the marriage of the Lamb take place if part of the bride is left on earth?
  - (3) Third, it ignores the clear scriptural teaching to the contrary (See 1 Thess. 1:9-10; 2:19; 4:14-16; 5:4-11; Rev. 22:12.) – Perhaps the most conclusive evidence against the partial rapture theory is 1 Corinthians 15:51. This church was one of the most carnal in the history of Christianity, yet Paul declares in this verse that if the Rapture occurred in their day, *all* of the saved in that church would be raptured.
- c. The Rapture will not occur until the middle of the tribulation, thus forcing the entire church to go through the first three and a half years of God’s wrath. This theory is called mid-tribulationism. However, this seems to be refuted by 1 Thessalonians 5:9. “For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- The New Testament pictures the church as the body and bride of Christ. If the mid-tribulation or post-tribulation view were correct, then a part of his body would suffer amputation, and a section of the bride would be left behind. In addition to this, one would be forced to conclude that all bodies of carnal departed Christians would likewise be left in the grave. This simply is not the clear teaching of the Word of God.
- The Bible teaches clearly that the Rapture is pretribulation in nature and includes all believers. (See 1 Thess. 1:10 and Rom. 5:9.) Perhaps the strongest proof of this statement is the fact that up to chapter 6 of Revelation the church is mentioned many times, but from chapter 6 to chapter 19 (the period of the tribulation) there is no mention whatsoever of the church on earth. In fact, the only godly group Satan can find to persecute is the nation Israel. (See Rev. 12.) In Revelation 4:1 John declares, “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.” We are told that Christians are God’s ambassadors on earth (2 Cor. 5:20) and that he will someday declare war on this earth. The first thing a king or president does after he declares war on another country is to call his ambassadors home. Thus, we conclude that the church will escape the tribulation.
6. The Old Testament foreshadowing of the Rapture
- a. Seen in Enoch, who was taken from the world before the flood judgment (Gen. 5:24)
  - b. Seen in Lot, who was taken from Sodom before the fire judgment (Gen. 19:22-24)
7. The challenges of the Rapture – Because of this glorious coming event, the child of God is instructed to do many things.
- a. He is to attend the services of the Lord’s house regularly – “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching” (Heb. 10:25).
  - b. He is to observe the Lord’s Supper with the Rapture in mind – “For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord’s death till he come” (1 Cor. 11:26).
  - c. He is to love believers and all men – “And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you: To the end he may stablish your hearts unblamable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints” (1 Thess. 3:12-13).
  - d. He is to be patient – “Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh” (James 5:8).
  - e. He is to live a separated life – “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. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure” (1 John 3:2-3).
- “Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:12-13). “And now, little children, abide in him;

that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming” (1 John 2:28).

- f. He is to refrain from judging others – “Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God” (1 Cor. 4:5).
  - g. He is to preach the Word – “I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (2 Tim. 4:1-2). “Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind...., And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away” (1 Pet. 5:2, 4).
  - h. He is to comfort the bereaved – “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” (1 Thess. 4:16).
  - i. He is to win souls – “Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life, And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh” (Jude 21-23).
  - j. He is to be concerned with heaven – “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory” (Col. 3:1-4).
8. The event that may trigger the Rapture – Does anything have to happen before the Rapture can take place and this glorious change be effected? The surprising answer seems to be yes. One final event must transpire, and that event is the adding of the last repenting sinner into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit. Thus, when the body is complete, the Head will appear, or, to use another scriptural analogy, the Bridegroom will come for his beloved bride. The entire book of Ephesians seems to suggest this. See especially 1:10, 22-23; 2:21; 4:4, 13, 16; 5:22-33.

A very practical truth may be seen here. According to Acts 2, the first convert was added to the body of Christ at Pentecost. What an occasion that must have been, with 3,000 answering Peter's “altar call.” And God had provided 120 “personal workers” to deal with them (Acts 1:15; 2:1). We know that God himself keeps all the records. Perhaps someday at the judgment seat of Christ one of these 120 will hear the Master say: “Well done, thou good and faithful servant, You led the first individual into that spiritual body!” If this be true, and if Christ's coming is at hand, it is entirely possible that a soul winner reading these very words might one day hear similar words from Jesus: “Well done, thou good and faithful servant. You led the last individual into that spiritual body!” At any rate, someday a soul winner will point some seeking sinner to the Savior, and it will all be over.

In closing our study on the Rapture, consider the words of German theologian Erich Sauer:

The present age is Easter time. It begins with the resurrection of the Redeemer (Matt. 28), and ends with the resurrection of redeemed (1 Thess. 4; 1 Cor. 15). Between lies the spiritual “resurrection” of those called into life (Rom. 6:4-11; Col. 3:1). So we live between two Easters, as those who have been raised between two resurrections, as burning and shining lights.... And in the power of the First Easter we go to meet the Last Easter. The resurrection of the Head guarantees the resurrection of the members. The tree of life of the resurrection bears fully ripe fruit. (*The Triumph of the Crucified*, p. 101)

#### B. The bema judgment seat of Christ

1. The fact of the bema judgment – Many New Testament verses speak of this. “But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God” (Rom. 14:10-12). “Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it” (1 Cor. 3:13). “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ” (2 Cor. 5:10). (To these passages could be added Gal. 6:7; Col. 3:24-25; Heb. 10:30.)
2. The meaning of the bema judgment

The Greek word *bema* (translated “judgment seat” in the KJV) was a familiar term to the people of Paul's day. Dr. Lehman Strauss writes:

In the large Olympic arenas, there was an elevated seat on which the judge of the contest sat. After the contests were over, the successful competitors would assemble before the *bema* to receive their rewards or crowns. The *bema* was not a judicial bench where someone was condemned; it was a reward seat. Likewise, the Judgment Seat of Christ is not a judicial bench. The Christian life is a race, and the divine umpire is watching every contestant. After the church has run her course, He will gather every member before the *bema* for the purpose of examining each one and giving the proper reward to each. (*God's Plan for the Future*, p. 111)

The Apostle Paul seemed to have such an Olympic arena in mind when he penned Hebrews 12:1: "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." This amazing human being was many things. He was a missionary, a soul winner, a pastor, a great theologian, a tentmaker, etc. But in his spare time he also seemed to be a sports lover. Often in his writings Paul used sports as an analogy to get his point across. For example:

- a. Wrestling – "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" (Eph. 6:12).
- b. Boxing – "I have fought a good fight" (2 Tim. 4:7). "So fight I, not as one that beateth the air" (1 Cor. 9:26).
- c. Racing – "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run that ye may obtain.... I therefore so run" (1 Cor. 9:24, 26). Here in Hebrews 12 Paul chooses the third analogy – that of a foot race. This chapter may be titled God's Superbowl. J. Vernon McGee writes: "The Christian life is likened to a Greek race. Along the way the Christian as a soldier is to stand, as a believer he is to walk, and as an athlete he is to run. One day he will fly – space travel to the New Jerusalem" (*Studies in Hebrews*, p. 240).

At the time Paul wrote, King Herod had built a throne-like seat in the theater at Caesarea (his headquarters), where he sat to view the games and make speeches to the people.

### 3. The purpose of the *bema* judgment.

#### a. Negative considerations.

- (1) The purpose of the *bema* judgment is not to determine whether a particular individual enters heaven or not, for every man's eternal destiny is already determined before he leaves this life.
- (2) The purpose of the *bema* judgment is not to punish believers for sins committed either before or after their salvation. The Scriptures are very clear that no child of God will have to answer for his sins after this life.

"He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us" (Psa. 103:10-12). "Behold, for peace I had great bitterness: but thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back" (Isa. 38:17). "I have blotted out... thy transgressions and... thy sins" (Isa. 44:22). "Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea" (Mic, 7:19).

"For I will be merciful... and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more"

(Heb. 8:12). "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

- b. Positive considerations – What then is the purpose of the *bema* judgment? In 1 Corinthians 4:2 Paul says that all Christians should conduct themselves as faithful stewards of God: "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." The Apostle Peter later writes in a similar way: "Minister... as good stewards of the manifold grace of God" (1 Pet. 4:10).

In the New Testament world, a steward was the manager of a large household or estate. He was appointed by the owner and was entrusted to keep the estate running smoothly. He had the power to hire and fire and to spend and save, being answerable to the owner alone. His only concern was that periodic meeting with his master, at which time he was required to give account for the condition of the estate up to that point. With this background in mind, it may be said that someday at the *bema* judgment all stewards will stand before their Lord and Master and be required to give an accounting of the way they have used their privileges and abilities from the moment of their conversion.

In conclusion, it can be seen that:

- (1) In the past, God dealt with us as sinners (Rom. 5:6-8; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Eph. 2:1-3).

- (2) In the present, God deals with us as sons (Rom. 8:14; Heb. 12:5-11; 1 John 3:1-2).
- (3) In the future, God will deal with us (at the bema) as stewards.
4. The materials to be tested at the bema judgment – In 1 Corinthians 3:11 the Apostle Paul explains the glorious fact that at the moment of salvation a repenting sinner is firmly placed on the foundation of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ himself. His continuing instruction after his salvation is to rise up and build upon this foundation.
- Paul says, “But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.... Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is” (1 Cor. 3:10, 12-13).
- a. Negative considerations – It should be noted immediately that this passage does not teach the false doctrine known as purgatory, for it is the believer's works and not the believer himself that will be subjected to the fires.
- b. Positive considerations – From these verses it is apparent that God classifies the works of believers into one of the following six areas: gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble. There has been much speculation about the kinds of work down here that will constitute gold or silver up there. But it seems more appropriate to note that the six objects can be readily placed into two categories: Those indestructible and worthy objects that will survive and thrive in the fires: gold, silver, and precious stones. Those destructible and worthless objects that will be totally consumed in the fires: wood, hay, and stubble. Thus, what the fire cannot purify, it destroys, and what the fire cannot destroy, it purifies.
- Though it is difficult to know just what goes to make up a “golden work” or a “stubble work,” we are nevertheless informed of certain general areas in which God is particularly interested.
- (1) How we treat other believers – “For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have showed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister” (Heb. 6:10; see also Matt. 10:41-42). It is tragic but all too factual that often the shabbiest treatment suffered by a believer comes from the hand of another believer.
- (2) How we exercise our authority over others – “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you” (Heb. 13:7; see also James 3:1). Almost every Christian at one time or another has had a measure of authority over another believer. This leadership role may have been that of a parent, pastor, teacher, employer, etc. It has been remarked that while some grow with authority, others simply swell.
- (3) How we employ our God-given abilities – “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.... But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills” (1 Cor. 12:4, 11, NASB). “Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee” (2 Tim. 1:6). “As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God” (1 Pet. 4:10, NASB).
- To these verses can be added the overall teaching of Jesus’ parables of the 10 pounds (Luke 19:11-26) and the eight talents (Matt. 25:14-29). A spiritual gift is a supernatural ability to glorify God, given by the Holy Spirit to the believer at the moment of salvation. Each Christian has at least one gift (1 Cor. 7:7; 12:7, 11; Eph. 4:7; 1 Pet. 4:10). There are 18 of these gifts (Rom. 12; 1 Cor. 12; Eph. 4). Thus, it is vital for every child of God to discover and employ his own gift, in light of the bema.
- (4) How we use our money – “Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come” (1 Cor. 16:2; see also 2 Cor. 9:6-7; 1 Tim. 6:17-19).
- Perhaps the most accurate barometer to measure the spiritual condition of a Christian is to observe his or her relationship concerning money. Jesus himself often dealt with money matters, because money matters. In the New Testament there are some 38 parables. Twelve of them are about money. How much of our money belongs to God? According to 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 it all belongs to him, because we are his, purchased with an awesome price (1 Pet. 1:18-19). What does all this mean? It means that if I gross \$250 per week, I am not only responsible for the tithe (\$25) but I will, at the *bema*, be held accountable concerning the remaining \$225.
- (5) How we spend our time – “So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom” (Psa. 90:12). “Redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Eph. 5:16). “Walk in

wisdom... redeeming the time” (Col. 4:5). “And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man’s work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear” (1 Pet. 1:17).

- (6) How much we suffer for Jesus – “Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you” (Matt. 5:11-12; see also Mark 10:29-30; Rom. 8:18; 2 Cor. 4:17; 1 Pet. 4:12-13).
- (7) How we run that particular race which God has chosen for us – “Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain” (1 Cor. 9:24). “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” (Heb. 12:1).

Especially to be observed are the words found in Hebrews 12:1. Note the implications of this statement: Every believer has been entered in this race by God himself. It is not just for pastors and missionaries. Note: The usual word for race (*dromos*) is not used here, but rather the Greek word *agon*, from which we get our English word agony. This is a serious race. The pace of each runner is set by God. The object of the race is to please God and win rewards. Its goal is not heaven. Every runner is expected to

- (8) How effectively we control the old nature – “And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway” (1 Cor. 9:25-27).

The Greek word for “castaway” here (*adoimos*) means disapproved. Without the *a* prefix it speaks of approval. A key passage where *doimos* is used can be seen in 2 Timothy 2:15: “Study to shew thyself approved unto God.” (See also 1 Cor. 16:3; Phil.1:10; 1 Thess. 2:4, where the identical word is used.) The point of the above is that Paul desired above all things to keep his old nature in check, lest he be disapproved of, reward-wise, at the bema.

- (9) How many souls we witness to and win to Christ – “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise” (Prov. 11:30). “And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever” (Dan. 12:3).
  - (10) How we react to temptation – “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience” (James 1:2-3). “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life” (Rev. 2:10).
  - (11) How much the doctrine of the Rapture means to us – “Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing” (2 Tim. 4:8).
  - (12) How faithful we are to the Word of God and the flock of God – “Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away” (1 Pet. 5:2-4; see also Acts 20:26-28; 2 Tim. 4:1-2).
5. The results of the bema judgment seat of Christ – Some will receive rewards. “If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward” (1 Cor. 3:14).

The Bible mentions at least five rewards. These are:

- (1) The incorruptible crown – given to those who master the old nature
- (2) The crown of rejoicing – given to soul winners (Prov. 11:30; Dan. 12:3; 1 Thess. 2:19-20)
- (3) The crown of life – given to those who successfully endure temptation (James 1:2-3; Rev. 2:10)
- (4) The crown of righteousness – given to those who especially love the doctrine of the Rapture (2 Tim. 4:8)
- (5) The crown of glory – given to faithful preachers and teachers (Acts 20:26-28; 2 Tim. 4:1-2; 1 Pet. 5:2-4). It has been suggested that these “crowns” will actually be talents and abilities with which to glorify Christ. Thus, the greater the reward, the greater the ability.

6. The Old Testament foreshadowing of the bema judgment seat of Christ – Although the church is nowhere mentioned in the Old Testament, there is nevertheless a passage that can very easily be applied to the bema judgment. This can be found in the words of Boaz (a foreshadowing of Christ) to Ruth (a foreshadowing of the church) when he says, “It hath fully been shewed me, all that thou hast done.... The Lord recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust” (Ruth 2:11-12).
- C. The marriage service of the Lamb – A number of weddings are described in the Bible. The first was performed by a very special guest minister. Whatever religious ceremony he may have chosen, it did not include those familiar words: “If any man can show just cause why these two should not be lawfully joined together, let him now speak, or else forever hold his peace.” This phrase was unnecessary, for the minister was God himself, and the couple was Adam and Eve (Gen. 2:18-25). Then there was a very unusual wedding in which the bridegroom found out the next morning, by light of day, that he had married the wrong girl (Gen. 29:21-25).

One of the most beautiful wedding stories began in a barley field outside the little town of Bethlehem (Ruth 2). Perhaps the most tragic wedding was that between Ahab, King of Israel, and Jezebel, a godless Baal worshipper. This marriage would result in much sorrow and suffering for God’s people (1 Kings 16:29-31). Finally, the Savior of men chose a wedding in the city of Cana to perform his first miracle (John 2:1-11).

However, the most fantastic and wonderful wedding of all time is yet to take place.

1. The fact of this marriage
  - a. This marriage is described through the parables of Jesus – “The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son” (Matt. 22:2). “Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom” (Matt. 25:1). “Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately” (Luke 12:35-36).
  - b. This marriage is described through the vision of John – “Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready” (Rev. 19:7).
2. The Host of the marriage – The New Testament very clearly presents the Father as the divine Host who gives this marriage. He is pictured as preparing it, then sending his servants out to invite the selected guests (Luke 14:16-23).
3. The Bridegroom of the marriage – The Father’s beloved Son (Matt. 3:17; 17:5), the Lord Jesus, is the Bridegroom.
  - a. As stated by John the Baptist (John 3:27-30)
  - b. As stated by Jesus (Luke 5:32-35)
4. The bride of the marriage – “For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ” (2 Cor. 11:2), “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body, Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it” (Eph. 5:23, 25).
5. The guests of the marriage – “And he saith unto me, Write, blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb” (Rev. 19:9).  
Who are these invited guests of the Lamb’s marriage to the church?
  - a. In general – A group that would include all believing Gentiles who were converted prior to Pentecost or after the Rapture. This is so, for all those individuals saved between the day of Pentecost and the Rapture make up the bride of Christ at this wedding.
  - b. In particular – A group that would include all saved Israelites everywhere. The 10 virgins mentioned in Matthew 25 are Israelites; the 5 wise represent saved Israelites, and the 5 foolish represent unsaved ones. They cannot represent the church, for the church is the bride, inside with the Bridegroom. The virgins are guests who have been invited to the wedding. Note that a bride is never invited to her own wedding. If she refuses to come, there is no wedding.
6. The service schedule of the marriage – The marriage of Christ to the church will follow the oriental pattern of marriage as described for us in the New Testament. It consisted of three separate stages:
  - a. The betrothal stage – New Testament marriage contracts were often initiated when the couple was very young (sometimes even prior to birth) by the groom’s father. He would sign a legal enactment before the proper judge, pledging his son to a chosen girl. The father would then offer the proper dowry payment. Thus, even though the bride had never seen the groom, she was nevertheless betrothed or espoused to him. A New Testament example of this first step is the

marriage of Mary and Joseph. “Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost” (Matt. 1:18).

Both Mary and Joseph had come from Bethlehem and had perhaps been betrothed, or promised to each other, since childhood. But now Mary was found to be with child before the marriage could be consummated, and of course Joseph could arrive at only one conclusion – she had been untrue to him. Then the angel of the Lord explained to Joseph the glories of the Virgin Birth. Thus the betrothal stage consisted of two steps: The selection of the bride and the payment of the dowry. With this in mind we can state that the marriage of the Lamb is still in its betrothal stage

- (1) The bride had been selected – “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love” (Eph. 1:3-4).
- (2) The dowry had been paid – “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s” (1 Cor. 6:19-20). “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” (1 Pet 1:18-19).

- b. The presentation stage – At the proper time the father would send to the house of the bride servants carrying the proper legal contract. The bride would then be led to the home of the groom’s father. When all was ready, the father of the bride would place her hand in the hand of the groom’s father. He would then place her hand in that of his son. Applying this background to the marriage of the Lamb, the church still awaits this second phase, the presentation stage, which we know as the Rapture.

Note now the events involved in the second stage:

- (1) The heavenly Father will send for the bride – “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” (Rev. 4:1).
- (2) The proper legal papers of marriage will be shown – “Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity” (2 Tim. 2:19).
- (3) The bride will be taken to the Father’s home – “In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” (John 14:2-3).

- c. The celebration stage – After the private marriage service was completed, the public marriage supper would begin. Many guests would be invited to this celebration. It was during such a supper that our Lord performed his first miracle, that of changing water into wine (see John 2:1-11). Jesus later made reference to this third step when he spoke the following words: “Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready” (Luke 14:16-17).

7. The time of the marriage – When does the wedding transpire? In view of what has already been said, it would seem that the wedding service (the presentation stage) will be privately conducted in heaven, perhaps shortly after the bema judgment seat of Christ. The wedding supper (the celebration stage) will be publicly conducted on earth shortly after the second coming of Christ.

It is no accident that the Bible describes the Millennium as occurring right after the celebration supper has begun. (The supper is described in Rev. 19, while the Millennium is described in Rev. 20.) In New Testament times the length and cost of this supper was determined by the wealth of the father. Therefore, when his beloved Son is married, the Father of all grace (whose wealth is unlimited) will rise to the occasion by giving his Son and the bride a hallelujah celebration that will last for a thousand years.

8. The certainty of the marriage – Earthly marriages may be prevented because of various unexpected problems.
  - a. In an earthly wedding there can be a last-minute refusal on the part of either the bride or groom, but not with the heavenly marriage.

- (1) The Bridegroom has already expressed his great love for his bride (Eph. 5:25), and “forever” (Heb. 13:8).
  - (2) The bride has already been glorified and is sinless, and therefore cannot be tempted into changing her mind or losing her love for the Bridegroom. “A glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle... but... holy and without blemish” (Eph. 5:27). “For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified” (Heb. 10:14).
  - b. In an earthly wedding a serious legal problem might arise, such as lack of age, or even that of a previous marriage, but not in the heavenly wedding (see Rom. 8:33-39).
  - c. In an earthly wedding the tragedy of death might intervene, but not in the heavenly wedding.
    - (1) The bride will never die – “And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?” (John 11:26).
    - (2) The Bridegroom will never die – “I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death” (Rev. 1:18).
- D. The singing of two special songs – The events described here in Revelation 4 – 5 are all too often overlooked in the study of prophecy. This is unfortunate, for the account records two songs which in themselves summarize God’s two great works, that of Creation and redemption.
1. The Creation hymn of worship (Rev. 4)
    - a. The place (4:1) – John the apostle has been caught up into heaven where he writes about the marvelous things he sees and hears.
    - b. The persons
      - (1) He sees the Father – “And immediately I was in the spirit; and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald” (Rev. 4:2-3).  
 Here the jasper, a white stone, and the sardine, a fiery red stone, may refer to God’s two basic characteristics: his glory and his grace. These were also the first and last stones among the 12 that the Old Testament high priest bore upon his breastplate. These stones represented the 12 tribes of Israel, arranged according to the births of the 12 sons of Jacob (Exod. 28). Reuben was the first tribe, which name meant “Behold a son,” and Benjamin was the last, meaning “Son of my right hand.” This then may be God’s way of reminding all creatures throughout eternity of:
        - (a) The incarnation of Christ (his humanity) via the jasper stone, Reuben, “Behold a son.”
        - (b) The exaltation of Christ (his deity) via the sardine stone, Benjamin, “Son of my right hand.”
      - (2) He sees 24 with golden crowns (Rev.4:4). These 24 may consist of a special representative body of both Old Testament and New Testament saints. The Greek text tells us they are all wearing *stephanos* crowns, or martyrs’ crowns, rather than diadems, or monarchs’ crowns. Thus they must be humans rather than angels.  
 He sees and hears lightnings and thunderings, which means that the awful storm of the great tribulation is about to unleash its fury (Rev. 4:5). He sees a crystal sea of glass (Rev. 4:6). This is a reference to the brazen laver (a basin filled with water) found both in the tabernacle and temple for the cleansing of the priests. Donald Barnhouse writes:  
  
 Here the priests came for their cleansing. Each time before they entered the holy place they stopped for the cleansing ceremony. But thank God the laver will be turned to crystal. The day will come when none of the saints will ever need confession. One of the greatest joys in the anticipation of Heaven is that the laver is of crystal. I shall never have to go to the Heavenly Father again to tell Him I have sinned. I shall never have to meet that gaze of Christ that caused Peter to go out and weep bitterly. The laver is of crystal only because I and all the saints of all the ages will have been made like unto the Lord Jesus Christ. (*Revelation: An Expository Commentary*, p. 94)
  - (3) He sees and hears the testimony of four special angelic creatures (Rev. 4:6-8). The first of the creatures had the characteristics of a lion, the second of a calf, the third of a man, and the fourth of an eagle. It is possible that these beings are the same as described by Ezekiel, the Old Testament prophet (see Ezek. 1). In chapter 10 he identified what he previously saw as the cherubims (10:20-22). Some believe these four creatures may have inherited Lucifer’s



responsibilities after his terrible rebellion against God (see Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:11-19). At any rate, there is a definite similarity between the appearance of the four living creatures and the manner by which the four Gospel writers present the earthly ministry of Christ. For example: Matthew presents Christ as the Lion of the tribe of Judah. Mark pictures him as the lowly ox. Luke describes the Savior as the perfect man. John paints him to be the lofty eagle. Thus by their very features, these four heavenly beings may serve to remind redeemed sinners throughout all eternity of the Savior's blessed earthly ministry.

- c. The praises – “The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created” (Rev. 4:10-11).

This then, is the backdrop for the singing of the first song, praising God for his work of Creation.

2. The redemption hymn of worship (Rev. 5)

- a. The proclamation – “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?” (Rev. 5:1-2).

What is this book (really a rolled-up scroll), sealed so securely with seven seals? Whatever it contained, the scroll was extremely important, for history informs us that under Roman law all legal documents pertaining to life and death were to be sealed seven times. A number of theologians believe that this is actually the legal title deed to the earth. Thus the angel's proclamation was, in effect, “Who is worthy to reclaim the earth's title deed? Who is able to pour out the seven-sealed judgment, to purify this planet, and to usher in the long-awaited golden-age Millennium?” Who indeed was worthy?

- b. The investigation – “And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon” (Rev. 5:3).

(1) The search in heaven – Was there any among the redeemed worthy to claim the earth's title deed? There was not.

- (a) Adam originally possessed this title deed (Gen. 1:28-29), but was cheated out of it by the devil (Gen 3:1-19).
- (b) Noah, the hero of the flood, subsequently became the drunkard of the vineyard, thus disqualifying himself (Gen. 6-9).
- (c) Abraham, the father of Israel, backslid and went to Egypt temporarily (Gen. 12).
- (d) David, the man after God's own heart (1 Sam. 16:7), later broke God's heart through lust and murder (2 Sam. 11).
- (e) John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, in a moment of weakness doubted that same Messiah (Matt. 11:3).
- (f) Peter, the “rock,” denied his Lord in the hour of need (Matt. 26:70).
- (g) Paul, perhaps the greatest Christian who ever lived, compromised his testimony (Acts 21).

(2) The search on earth – Who could accomplish in the sinful environment of earth what no man could achieve even in the sinless environment of heaven? Preachers and priests might minister to the earth, and kings rule over sections of it, but claim it they could not.

(3) The search under the earth (in hades) – If no saint or angel could purify this earth, then certainly no sinner or demon would, even if this were possible.

- c. The lamentation – “And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon” (Rev. 5:4). Why did John weep? Perhaps because (among other things) he realized that the ultimate resurrection and glorification of his own body was directly connected with the removal of the curse placed upon this earth. (See Rom. 8:17-23.)

- d. The manifestation – “And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, 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” (Rev. 5:5-7).

Who is this heavenly hero who so boldly removes the scroll from the Father's right hand? We need not speculate for one second about his identity, for he is the Lord Jesus Christ himself. The proof is overwhelming.

Thus John sees Christ as a lamb, since he once came to redeem his people. This was his past work. John also sees him as a lion, for he shall come again to reign over his people. This will be his future work. The source of his claim to the earth's scepter is therefore related to his slain-lamb characteristics, while the strength of his claim is due to his mighty lion characteristics.

We are now given the words to the next song, "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" (Rev. 5:9-10).

- e. The adoration – "And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever" (Rev. 5:11-13).
- E. The great tribulation – "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. 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" (Matt. 24:21, 29).
1. The names for this period – No less than 12 titles for this blood-chilling period can be found in the Bible, These are:
    - a. The Day of the Lord – This title is used more frequently than any other. See, for example, Isaiah 2:12; 13:6, 9; Ezekiel 13:5; 30:3; Joel 1:15; 2:1, 11, 31; 3:14; Amos 5:18, 20; Obadiah 15; Zephaniah 1:7, 14; Zechariah 14:1; Malachi 4:5; Acts 2:20; 1 Thessalonians 5:2; 2 Thessalonians 2:2; 2 Peter 3:10. A distinction should be made between the Day of the Lord and the day of Christ. The day of Christ is a reference to the Millennium. See 1 Corinthians 1:8; 5:5; 2 Corinthians 1:14; Philippians 1:6, 10; 2:16.
    - b. The indignation (Isa. 26:20; 34:2)
    - c. The day of God's vengeance (Isa. 34:8; 63:1-6)
    - d. The time of Jacob's trouble (Jer. 30:7)
    - e. The overspreading of abominations (Dan. 9:27)
    - f. The time of trouble such as never was (Dan. 12:1)
    - g. The seventieth week (Dan. 9:24-27)
    - h. The time of the end (Dan. 12:9)
    - i. The great day of his wrath (Rev. 6:17)
    - j. The hour of his judgment (Rev. 14:7)
    - k. The end of this world (Matt. 13:40, 49)
    - l. The tribulation (Matt. 24:21, 29) – The word *tribulation* is derived from the Latin *tribulem*, which was an agricultural tool used for separating the husks from the corn. As found in the Bible, the theological implications would include such concepts as a pressing together, an affliction, a burdening with anguish and trouble, a binding with oppression. Keeping this in mind, it would seem that of all the 12 names for the coming calamity, the last one would most accurately describe this period. Therefore, from this point on, the term *tribulation* will be employed.
  2. The nature of this period – The following passages aptly describe this future and fearful time. "Howl ye; for the day of the Lord is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty. Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt: For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible" (Isa. 13:6-7, 10-11).
 

"And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the Lord... when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth" (Isa. 2:19). "Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty... turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof.... The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard" (Isa. 24:1, 19-20).

"For the indignation of the Lord is upon all nations, and his fury upon all their armies.... Their slain also shall be cast out, and their stink shall come up out of their carcasses, and the mountains shall be melted with their blood. And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be

- rolled together as a scroll” (Isa. 34:2-4). (See also Isa. 63:3-4, 6; Jer. 25:32-33; Joel 2:1-2; Zeph. 1:14-15; Matt. 24:7, 11-12, 21-22; Luke 21:25-26; 1 Thess. 5:2-3; Rev. 6:12-17.)
3. The length of this period – A careful study of Daniel 9:24-27 reveals the time element here to be seven years. For a detailed summary of this, see Prophecies concerning the 70 weeks (letter K) listed under section one of this study.
  4. The purpose for this period – Why this terrible time? There are at least seven reasons given by the Scriptures.
    - a. To harvest the crop that has been sown throughout the ages by God, Satan, and mankind. This aspect is so important that our Lord himself took an entire sermon to expound upon this. Note his words: “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” (Matt. 13:37-43).
    - b. To prove the falseness of the devil’s claim – Since his fall (Isa. 14:12-14), Satan has been attempting to convince a skeptical universe that he rather than Christ is the logical and rightful ruler of Creation. Therefore, during the tribulation the sovereign God will give him a free and unhindered hand to make good his boast. Needless to say, Satan will fail miserably.
    - c. To prepare a great martyred multitude for heaven – “After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands” (Rev. 7:9),
    - d. To prepare a great living multitude for the Millennium – “And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (Matt. 25:32-34).
    - e. To punish the Gentiles – “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men” (Rom. 1:18). “And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness” (2 Thess. 2:11-12). “And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations” (Rev. 19:15).
    - f. To purge Israel – “And I will cause you to pass under the rod... And I will purge out from among you the rebels” (Ezek. 20:37-38). “And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The Lord is my God” (Zech. 13:8-9). “And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness” (Mal. 3:3).
    - g. To prepare the earth itself for the Millennium – The Bible indicates that prior to the great flood our earth was surrounded by a watery canopy (Gen. 1:6-7; 7:11) resulting in a universal semitropical paradise of a climate. The discovery of vast oil and coal deposits in the area of both the north and south poles bears strong witness to this. In addition there were probably no deserts, ice caps, rugged mountains, or deep canyons, all of which so radically affect our weather today. But then came the flood, changing all this. (The psalmist may have written about this in Psalm 104:5-9.) However, during the Millennium, pre-flood conditions will once again prevail. (See Isa. 4:5; 30:26; 40:3-5; 60:19-20.) Mankind will once again experience longevity. (Compare Gen. 5 with Isa. 65:20.)

But by what process will all these tremendous changes come about? It is interesting that the King James Version translators used the word *regeneration* on but two occasions. One is in reference to the conversion of repenting sinners (Titus 3:5), and the other describes the salvation of nature itself. Note: “And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel” (Matt. 19:28).

In other words, mother nature herself will be gloriously regenerated and give up her evil habits (droughts, tornadoes, floods, cyclones, earthquakes, volcanic action, etc.) at the beginning of the Millennium. Here are the conditions that will lead up to her marvelous conversion:

- (1) Between the sixth and seventh judgment seals the winds of heaven will be held back – “And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree” (Rev. 7:1).
- (2) During the fourth vial judgment, great solar heat will proceed from the sun – “And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory” (Rev. 16:8-9).
- (3) As a result of the seventh vial judgment, the mightiest earthquake yet will take place – “And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.... And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found” (Rev. 16:18, 20).
- (4) During the tribulation the sun will boil away great quantities of water into the upper atmosphere.
- (5) However, the absence of wind will prohibit the formation of clouds, thus making it impossible for rain to fall. As a result, the original pre-flood canopy will be reestablished.
- (6) The world’s greatest earthquake will level the mountains and fill up the deep canyons, thus the gentle geographical terrain existing before the flood.

What a wonderful and gracious God we have, who will use the very wrath of the tribulation as an instrument to prepare for the glories of the Millennium. In performing this, God will answer a prayer once uttered by the prophet Habakkuk some six centuries B.C. “O Lord... revive thy work in the midst of the years... in wrath remember mercy” (Hab. 3:2).

5. Personalities appearing during this period – As in a play, a number of actors will render their parts and say their lines during the earth’s most sobering drama, the tribulation.
  - a. The Holy Spirit – Contrary to some, the Holy Spirit will not be removed when the church is raptured. He will instead, it would seem, perform a ministry similar to his work in the Old Testament. It is concluded that he will remain on earth due to the fact that many will be saved during the tribulation (Rev. 7:9-17). The Word of God makes it crystal clear that no mortal can ever be saved apart from the convicting ministry of the Holy Spirit, (See John 3:5-8; 16:8-11; 1 Cor. 2:13.) At any rate, his presence will be felt in the tribulation, as indicated by the prophet Joel. (See Joel 2:28, 30-32; Rev. 11:11; 17:3.)
  - b. The devil – “Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time” (Rev. 12:12).
  - c. Two special Old Testament witnesses – “And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth” (Rev. 11:3).
  - d. The Antichrist – “Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders” (2 Thess. 2:3-4, 9).
  - e. The false prophet – “And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon” (Rev. 13:11).
  - f. A multitude of angels – Angels have been employed throughout the Bible to perform God’s work, but at no other time will they be as busy as during the tribulation. The book of Revelation describes the following for us:
    - (1) An angel with the seal of the living God (Rev. 7:2)
    - (2) Seven angels with seven trumpets (Rev. 8 – 9; 11)
    - (3) An angel with a golden censer (Rev. 8:3)
    - (4) An angel with a little book and a measuring reed (Rev. 10:1-2; 11:1)
    - (5) An angel with the everlasting gospel (Rev. 14:6)
    - (6) An angel with a harvest sickle (Rev. 14:19)
    - (7) Seven angels with seven vials of wrath (Rev. 16)
    - (8) An angel with a message of doom (Rev. 18:1, 21)
    - (9) An angel with a strange invitation (Rev. 19:17)

(10) An angel with a key and a great chain (Rev. 20:1)

In the Old Testament, the prophet Daniel (Dan. 12:1) informs us that one of these angels will be Michael the Archangel himself.

- g. 144,000 Israelite preachers – “And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel” (Rev. 7:4).
- h. An army of locustlike demons from the bottomless pit – “And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power” (Rev. 9:2-3).
- i. An army of horse and rider demons from the Euphrates River – “And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them” (Rev. 9:16).
- j. Three evil spirits – “And I saw three evil spirits disguised as frogs leap from the mouth of the Dragon, the Creature, and his False Prophet. These miracle-working demons conferred with all the rulers of the world to gather them for battle against the Lord on that great coming Judgment Day of God Almighty” (Rev. 16:13-14, TLB).
- k. A cruel, power-mad ruler from the north – “And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him, And say, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal” (Ezek, 38:1-3).
- l. Four symbolic women
  - (1) A persecuted woman (Israel) – “And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars” (Rev. 12:1).
  - (2) A vile and bloody harlot (the false church) – “So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH” (Rev. 17:3-5).
  - (3) An arrogant queen (the world’s political and economic systems) – “And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.... How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow” (Rev. 18:2, 7),
  - (4) A pure, chaste bride (the true church) – “Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints” (Rev. 19:7-8).
- m. A mighty warrior from heaven – “And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.... And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS” (Rev. 19:11, 16).
- 6. A chronology of this period
  - a. First part (three and one-half years)
    - (1) The appearance of the Antichrist
      - (a) His nature – “And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High” (Dan. 7:25) “And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods” (Dan. 11:36). “And that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.... Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders” (2 Thess. 2:3-4, 9).  
“Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son” (1 John 2:22). “And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth

conquering, and to conquer” (Rev. 6:2). “And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea..., And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God” (Rev. 13:1-2, 6).

- (b) His names and titles
  - i) The little horn (Dan. 7:8)
  - ii) The willful king (Dan. 11:36)
  - iii) The man of sin (2 Thess. 2:3)
  - iv) The son of perdition (2 Thess. 2:3)
  - v) The wicked one (2 Thess. 2:8)
  - vi) The beast (Rev. 11:7 – this title is found 36 times in the book of Revelation).
  - vii) The Antichrist (1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3)
- (c) Attempts to identify him
  - i) He will be a Gentile, based on Daniel 8:8, 9; 9:26; Revelation 13:1.
  - ii) He will be a Jew, based on Ezekiel 21:25; Daniel 11:37; John 5:43.
  - iii) He will come from the tribe of Dan, based on Genesis 49:17; Jeremiah 8:16-17.
  - iv) He will be Judas Iscariot, based on Luke 22:3; John 13:27; 6:70-71; 17:12; 2 Thessalonians 2:3.
  - v) The Antichrist is Nero.
  - vi) The Antichrist is Titus.
  - vii) The Antichrist is Domitian.
  - viii) The Antichrist is Constantine the Great.
  - ix) The Antichrist is Muhammad
  - x) The Antichrist is various Roman Catholic popes.
  - xi) The Antichrist is Napoleon.
  - xii) The Antichrist is Benito Mussolini.
  - xiii) The Antichrist is Hitler.
  - xiv) The Antichrist is Henry Kissinger.
  - xv) The Antichrist is whomever you don’t like.
- (d) Old Testament forerunners of him – Just as there are many Old Testament characters who depict the person and work of the Lord Jesus (such as Melchizedek in Gen. 14 and Isaac in Gen. 22), there are a number of Old Testament men who describe for us the coming ministry of the Antichrist.
  - i) Cain, by his murder of the chosen seed (Gen. 4:5-14; Jude 11; 1 John 3:12)
  - ii) Nimrod, by his creation of Babylon and the tower of Babel (Gen. 10; 11).
  - iii) Pharaoh, by his oppression of God’s people (Exod. 1:8-22).
  - iv) Korah, by his rebellion (Num. 16:1-3; Jude 11).
  - v) Balaam, by his attempt to curse Israel (Num. 23 – 24; 2 Pet. 2:15; Jude 11; Rev. 2:14)
  - vi) Saul, by his intrusion into the office of the priesthood (1 Sam. 13:9-13)
  - vii) Goliath, by his proud boasting (1 Sam. 17)
  - viii) Absalom, by his attempt to steal the throne of David (2 Sam. 15:1-6)
  - ix) Jeroboam, by his substitute religion (1 Kings 12:25-31)
  - x) Sennacherib, by his efforts to destroy Jerusalem (2 Kings 18:17)
  - xi) Nebuchadnezzar, by his golden statue (Dan. 3:1-7)
  - xii) Haman, by his plot to exterminate the Jews (Esther 3)
  - xiii) Antiochus Epiphanes, by his defilement of the temple (Dan. 11:21-35)
- (e) His personal characteristics
  - i) He will be an intellectual genius (Dan. 8:23).
  - ii) He will be an oratorical genius (Dan. 11:36).
  - iii) He will be a political genius (Rev.17:11-12).
  - iv) He will be a commercial genius (Dan. 11:43; Rev. 13:16-17).
  - v) He will be a military genius (Rev. 6:2; 13:2).
  - vi) He will be a religious genius (2 Thess. 2:4; Rev. 13:8).

Thus, to use various American presidents as an analogy, here is a world leader possessing: (a) the leadership of a Washington and Lincoln, (b) the eloquence of a Franklin Roosevelt, (c) the charm of a Teddy Roosevelt, (d) the charisma of a

- Kennedy, (e) the political savvy of a Lyndon Johnson, and (f) the intellect of a Jefferson.
- vii) He shall do everything according to his own selfish will (Dan. 11:36). (See also Rev. 13:7; 17:13.)
  - viii) He shall magnify himself and malign God (11:36). (See also 2 Thess. 2:4; Rev. 13:6.)
  - ix) He will not regard “the gods of his fathers” (11:37) – The word for God is plural. The Antichrist will carry out a vendetta against all organized religion. In fact, it is he who will destroy that great harlot, bloody Babylon, which is the super world church. (See Rev. 17:5, 16.) He will not have the desire for (or of) women (11:37). Here three theories are offered to explain this phrase: (a) the normal desire for love, marriage, and sex; (b) those things characteristic of women, such as mercy, gentleness, and kindness; (c) that desire of Hebrew women to be the mother of the Messiah (1 Tim. 2:15).
  - x) His god will be the god of fortresses (11:38) – The Antichrist will spend all his resources on military programs.
- (f) His rise to power
- i) Through the power of Satan (2 Thess. 2:3, 9-12; Rev. 13:2)
  - ii) Through the permission of the Holy Spirit – His present-day manifestation is being hindered by the Holy Spirit until the Rapture of the church. God is in control of all situations down here and will continue to be. (See Job 1 – 2, 2 Thess. 2:6-7.)
  - iii) Through the formation of a 10-nation organization – He will proceed from a 10-dictatorship confederation that will come into existence during the tribulation. These dictators are referred to as “ten horns” in Daniel 7:7; Revelation 12:3; 13:1; 17:11-12.) In his rise to power he will defeat three of these dictators (Dan. 7:8, 24). This 10-horned confederation is the revived Roman Empire. This is derived from the fact that the most important prophetic details concerning the old Roman Empire in Daniel 2:40-44 are still unfulfilled.
 

The revived Roman Empire is the last of seven Gentile world powers to plague the nation Israel. These powers are referred to as seven heads in Revelation 12:3; 13:1; 17:7, They are:

    - Egypt, which enslaved Israel for 400 years (Exod. 1 – 12)
    - Assyria, which captured the Northern Kingdom of Israel (2 Kings 17)
    - Babylon, which captured the Southern Kingdom of Israel (2 Kings 24)
    - Persia, which produced wicked Haman (Esther 3)
    - Greece, which produced, indirectly, Antiochus Epiphanes (Dan. 11)
    - Rome, which destroyed Jerusalem in A.D. 70 (see Luke 21) and which will hound Israel in the revived empire as never before in all history (Rev. 2)
  - iv) Through the cooperation of the false religious system (Rev. 17)
  - v) Through his personal charisma and ability
  - vi) Through a false (or real?) resurrection (Rev. 13:3)
  - vii) Through a false peace program, probably in the Middle East (Dan. 8:25)
  - viii) Through a master plan of deception and trickery (Matt. 24:24; 2 Thess. 2:9; Rev. 13:14) – Out of the 91 occurrences in the New Testament of the words meaning “to deceive,” or “to go astray,” 22 of them belong definitely to passages dealing with the Antichrist and the tribulation. (See Matt. 24:4-5, 11, 24; 2 Thess. 2:3, 9-11; 2 Tim. 3:13; Rev. 12:9; 18:23; 19:20; 20:3, 8, 10.) Three reasons explain this fearful deception: (a) universal ignorance of God’s Word (see Matt. 22:29); (b) fierce demonic activity (see 1 Tim. 4:1); (c) the empty soul (see Luke 11:24-26).
- (g) His activities
- i) He begins by controlling the Western power block (Rev. 17:12) – The Antichrist will defeat 3 of these 10 kingdoms (horns) in his rise to power (Dan. 7:8).
  - ii) He makes a seven-year covenant with Israel but breaks it after three and a half years (Dan. 9:27).
  - iii) He gains absolute control over the Middle East after the Russian invasion (Ezek. 38, 39).
  - iv) He attempts to destroy all of Israel (Rev. 12).

- v) He destroys the false religious systems so that he may rule unhindered (Rev. 17:16-17).
  - vi) He thereupon sets himself up as God (Dan. 11:36-37; 2 Thess. 2:4, 11; Rev. 13:5).
  - vii) He briefly rules over all nations (Psa. 2; Dan. 11:36; Rev. 13:16) – He will have a universal rule during the final three and a half years of the tribulation (Dan. 7:25). (See also Rev. 13:5; Matt. 24:21.)
  - viii) He will shed blood upon this earth in unprecedented manner (Dan. 7:7, 19).
  - ix) He will wear out the saints of God (Israel) (7:25). (See also Rev. 12:13.)
  - x) He will attempt to change seasons and laws (7:25).
  - xi) He will blaspheme God (7:25). (See also Rev. 13:5-6.)
  - xii) He is utterly crushed by the Lord Jesus Christ at the battle of Armageddon (Rev. 19).
  - xiii) He is the first creature to be thrown into the lake of fire (Rev. 19:20).
- (h) His ability to imitate – The Antichrist could surely be a tremendously successful mimic on any late-night TV talk show. Note the following areas in which he will attempt to imitate the person and work of Christ.
- i) The Antichrist comes in the very image of Satan, as Christ came in the image of God (2 Thess. 2:9; Rev. 13:4; cf. Col. 1:15 and Heb. 1:3),
  - ii) The Antichrist is the second person in the hellish trinity, as Christ is in the heavenly Trinity (Rev. 16:13; cf. Matt. 28:19).
  - iii) The Antichrist comes up from the abyss, while Christ comes down from heaven (Rev. 11:7; 17:8; cf. John 6:38).
  - iv) The Antichrist is a savage beast, while Christ is a sacrificial lamb (Rev. 13:2; cf. 5:6-9).
  - v) The Antichrist receives his power from Satan, as Christ received his power from his Father (Rev. 13:2; cf. Matt. 28:18).
  - vi) The Antichrist will experience a resurrection (perhaps a fake one), just as Christ experienced a true one (Rev. 13:3, 12; cf. Rom. 1:4).
  - vii) The Antichrist will receive the worship of all unbelievers, as Christ did of all believers (John 5:43; Rev. 13:3-4, 8; cf. Matt. 2:11; Luke 24:52; John 20:28; Phil. 2:10-11).
  - viii) The Antichrist will deliver mighty speeches, as did Christ (Dan. 7:8; Rev. 13:5; cf. John 7:46). Satan will doubtless give to the Anti-Christ his vast knowledge of philosophy, science, and human wisdom accumulated through the centuries (Ezek. 28:12).
  - ix) The greater part of the Antichrist's ministry will last some three and a half years, about the time span of Christ's ministry (Rev. 13:5; 12:6, 14; cf. John 2:13; 6:4; 11:55).
  - x) The Antichrist will attempt (unsuccessfully) to combine the three Old Testament offices of prophet, priest, and king, as someday Christ will successfully do.
  - xi) The Antichrist's symbolic number is six, while the symbolic number of Christ is seven (Rev. 13:18; cf. 5:6, 12).
  - xii) The Antichrist will someday kill his harlot wife, while Christ will someday glorify his holy bride (Rev. 17:16-17; cf. 21:1-2)
- (2) The appearance of the false prophet – “And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon” (Rev. 13:11).
- (a) His identity – Who is this second beast of Revelation 13 who is also called on three later occasions “the false prophet?” (See Rev. 16:13; 19:20; 20:10.) Some believe he will be a Jew (while the Antichrist will be a Gentile), and that he will head up the apostate church. It is entirely possible that the Antichrist will come from the United Nations, while the false prophet may well proceed from the World Council of Churches.
  - (b) His activities – It has already been pointed out that the Antichrist will attempt to mimic Christ. It would appear that the false prophet will try to copy the work of the Holy Spirit. Thus the following analogy has been suggested between the Spirit of God and the second beast:
    - i) The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the heavenly Trinity (Matt. 28: 19), while the false prophet is the third person of the hellish trinity (Rev. 16:13).



- ii) The Holy Spirit leads men into all truth (John 16:13), while the false prophet seduces men into all error (Rev. 13:11, 14).
  - iii) The Holy Spirit glorifies Christ (John 16:13-14), while the false prophet glorifies the Antichrist (Rev. 13:12).
  - iv) The Holy Spirit made fire to come down from heaven at Pentecost (Acts 2:3), while the false prophet will do likewise on earth in view of men (Rev. 13:13).
  - v) The Holy Spirit gives life (Rom. 8:2), while the false prophet kills (Rev. 13:15).
  - vi) The Holy Spirit marks with a seal all those who belong to God (Eph. 1:13), while the false prophet marks those who worship Satan (Rev. 13:16-17).
- (c) His mark – “Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six” (Rev. 13:18). Whatever is involved in this hellish mark, it is apparently important, for it is referred to again no less than six times. (See Rev. 14:9, 11; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4.)
- (3) The formal organization of the super-harlot church
- (a) The harlot viewed historically
    - i) Satan’s church began officially at the tower of Babel in Genesis 11:1-9, nearly 24 centuries B.C. Here, in the fertile plain of Shinar, probably very close to the original Garden of Eden, the first spade of dirt was turned for the purpose of devil-worship.
    - ii) The first full-time minister of Satan was Nimrod, Noah's wicked and apostate grandson (Gen. 10:8-10). Secular history and tradition tell us that Nimrod married a woman who was as evil and demonic as himself. Her name was Semerimus. Knowing God’s promise of a future Savior (Gen. 3:15), Semerimus brazenly claimed that Tammuz, her first son, fulfilled this prophecy, which made both her and her son the objects of divine worship. She herself became the first high priestess. Thus began the mother-child cult that later spread all over the world.
 

What was the teaching of Semerimus’ satanic church? That Semerimus herself was the way to God. She actually adopted the title “Queen of Heaven.” Adherents believed that she alone could administer salvation to the sinner through various sacraments, such as the sprinkling of holy water. They believed that her son Tammuz was tragically slain by a wild bear during a hunting trip, but was, however, resurrected from the dead 40 days later. Thus, each year afterward the temple virgins of this cult would enter a 40-day fast as a memorial to Tammuz’s death and resurrection.

Both Jeremiah and Ezekiel warned against this hellish thing. “The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven... to burn incense to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her” (Jer. 7:18; 44:25). “Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD’s house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz” (Ezek. 8:14).
  - (b) The harlot viewed currently – Is mystery Babylon at work today? She is indeed, stronger and more sinful than ever. At least three New Testament writers describe her latter-day activities and characteristics.
    - i) Paul (see 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 4:3-4)
    - ii) Peter (see 2 Pet. 2:1)
    - iii) John (see Rev. 3:15-17)
  - (c) The harlot viewed prophetically – “So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH” (Rev. 17:3-5).
 

Mystery Babylon is composed of apostate masses from Protestantism, Catholicism, Judaism, and every other major world religion.
- (4) The revival of the old Roman Empire (Dan. 2:41; 7:7-8; Rev. 13:1; 17:12) – In Daniel 2, the prophet interprets a frightening dream experienced by King Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon.

- (a) The information in the king's dream – He saw a huge and powerful statue of a man. It was made up of various materials. Its head was gold. Its breast and arms were silver. Its belly and thighs were brass. Its legs were iron, and its feet part iron and clay. This statue was then utterly pulverized into small powder by a special rock, supernaturally cut from a mountainside. The rock then grew until it filled the entire earth.
- (b) The interpretation of the king's dream – Just what did Nebuchadnezzar's dream mean? From Daniel 2 and secular history, we learn:
- i) Four major powers (or kingdoms) would rule over Palestine.
  - ii) These powers are viewed by mankind as gold, silver, brass, iron, and clay.
  - iii) The four powers stand for: Babylon, from 625 B.C. to 539 B.C.; Medo-Persia, from 539 B.C. to 331 B.C.; Greece, from 331 B.C. to 323 B.C.; and Rome. For Rome, three periods are to be noted here: (a) the first period, the original empire from 300 B.C. to A.D. 476; (b) the second period, the intervening influence from A.D. 476 to the present; and (c) the third period, the revived empire from the Rapture to Armageddon. This is definitely implied, for the prophecies concerning the fourth power were not fulfilled in the history of ancient Rome. The smiting rock (Christ himself) did not shatter those earthly kingdoms. On the contrary, he was put to death by the sentence of an official representing the fourth power.
  - iv) Thus, it is concluded, this last empire – the Roman Empire – will be revived at the end of the age, and during its revival will be utterly crushed by Christ himself.
  - v) This revived Roman Empire will consist of 10 nations – The Antichrist will personally unite these Western nations. One has only to consult his newspaper in order to follow the rapid present-day fulfillment of this revived Roman Empire prophecy.
- (5) The Antichrist's seven-year covenant with Israel – “And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it” (Isa. 28:18). “And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week” (Dan. 9:27).
- (a) The background for this covenant – The Word of God indicates that Israel's already intolerable situation will worsen. Then (shortly after the Rapture), to Israel's astonishment and relief, a powerful Western leader (the Antichrist) will pretend to befriend Israel. In fact, he will propose a special seven-year security treaty, guaranteeing to maintain the status quo in the Middle East. Israel will swallow this poisoned bait – hook, line, and sinker.
  - (b) The betrayal of the covenant – “This king will make a seven-year treaty with the people, but after half that time, he will break his pledge and stop the Jews from all their sacrifices and their offerings; then, as a climax to all his terrible deeds, the Enemy shall utterly defile the sanctuary of God...” (Dan. 9:27, TLB).
- (6) The mass return of the Jews to the land of Israel – One of the most remarkable chapters in all the Bible concerns itself with the latter-day return of the Jews to their ancient homeland. Ezekiel the prophet wrote the following: “The power of the Lord was upon me and I was carried away by the Spirit of the Lord to a valley full of old, dry bones that were scattered everywhere across the ground. He led me around among them, and then he said to me: “Son of dust, can these bones become people again?” I replied, ‘Lord, you alone know the answer to that.’ Then he told me to speak to the bones and say: “O dry bones, listen to the words of God, for the Lord God says, “See! I am going to make you live and breathe again! I will replace the flesh and muscles on you and cover you with skin. I will put breath into you, and you shall live and know I am the Lord.” So I spoke these words from God, just as he told me to; and suddenly there was a rattling noise from all across the valley, and the bones of each body came together and attached to each other as they used to be. Then, as I watched, the muscles and flesh formed over the bones, and skin covered them, but the bodies had no breath. Then he told me to call to the wind and say: ‘The Lord God says: Come from the four winds, O Spirit, and breathe upon these slain bodies, that they may live again.’ So I spoke to the winds as he commanded me, and the bodies began breathing; they lived and stood up – a very great army. Then he told me what the vision meant: ‘These bones,’ he said, ‘represent all the people of Israel. They say: “We have become a heap of dried-out bones – all hope is gone.” But tell them, “The Lord God says: My people, I will open your graves of exile and cause you to rise again and return to the land of Israel. And, then at last, O my people, you

will know I am the Lord. I will put my Spirit into you, and you shall live and return home again to your own land. Then you will know that I, the Lord, have done just what I promised you” (Ezek. 37:1-14).

Even today we see the beginning of this future Israelite ingathering. Note the following figures. In 1882 there were approximately 25,000 Jews in Palestine. In 1900 there were 50,000. In 1922 there were 84,000. In 1931 there were approximately 175,000. In 1948 there were 650,000. In 1952 there were 1,421,000. Today there are approximately 4,000,000 Jews in ancient Palestine. Thus the number of Jews has increased over 150 times in the last 100 years. They have been gathered from over one hundred countries. Three additional passages bear out his latter-day Jewish return.

“For thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out. As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day. And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land” (Ezek. 34:11-13).

“For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land” (Ezek. 36:24). “Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth” (Isa. 43:5-6).

- (7) The ministry of two special witnesses (Rev. 11:3-6) – “And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth” (Rev. 11:3).
- (a) Their identity – Some hold that they are Elijah and Enoch. Hebrews 9:27 states that all men are appointed to die, and since the two men did not experience physical death, they will be sent back to witness and to eventually die a martyr’s death. Some believe, however, that they are Elijah and Moses.
- i) Elijah – (a) Because of Malachi 4:5-6, which predicts that God will send Elijah during that great and dreadful day of the Lord; (b) because Elijah appeared with Moses on the Mount of Transfiguration to talk with Jesus (Matt. 17:3); and (c) because Elijah’s Old Testament ministry of preventing rain for some three years will be repeated by one of the witnesses during the tribulation. (Compare 1 Kings 17:1 with Rev. 11:6.)
- ii) Moses – (a) Because of Jude 9, where we are informed that after the death of Moses Satan attempted to acquire his dead body, so that God would not be able to use him against the Antichrist during the tribulation; (b) because Moses’ Old Testament ministry of turning water into blood will be repeated by one of the witnesses during the tribulation (compare Exod. 7:19 with Rev. 11:6); and (c) because Moses appeared with Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matt. 17:3).
- (b) Their ministry
- i) To prophesy in sackcloth before men as God’s anointed lamp stands
- ii) To destroy their enemies in the same manner that their enemies would attempt to destroy them
- iii) To prevent rain for three and a half years
- iv) To turn waters into blood
- v) To smite the earth with every kind of plague
- (8) The conversion and call of the 144,000 (Rev. 7:1-8) – “And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel” (Rev. 7:2-4).

No ink will be wasted here refuting the unscriptural claim of that sect known as the Jehovah’s Witnesses, who brazenly claim that their group today makes up this 144,000. The Bible clearly teaches that the 144,000 will consist of 12,000 saved and commissioned preachers from each of the 12 tribes of Israel.

This passage does not mean that God will save only Jews during the tribulation, for in Revelation 7:9-17 the Bible declares that a great multitude from every nation will be saved.

What this chapter does teach, however, is that God will send out 144,000 “Hebrew Billy Sundays” to evangelize the world. This will be a massive number indeed, especially when we consider that there are less than 15,000 missionaries of all persuasions in the world today. Our Lord doubtless had the ministry of the 144,000 in mind when he said, “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come” (Matt. 24:14).

- (9) The rebuilding of the Jewish temple – The worship history of Israel can be aptly summarized by the study of three special buildings:
- (a) The tabernacle of Moses
    - i) Built in 1444 B.C. by Moses (Exod. 40)
    - ii) Destroyed in 1100 B.C. by the Philistines (1 Sam. 4)
  - (b) The first temple
    - i) Built in 959 B.C. by Solomon (1 Kings 6)
    - ii) Destroyed in 586 B.C. by the Babylonians (2 Kings 25)
  - (c) The second temple
    - i) Built in 516 B.C. (original building) by Zerubbabel (Ezra 6); greatly enlarged by Herod in 4 B.C.
    - ii) Destroyed in A.D. 70 by the Romans (Matt. 24:1-2); thus, for 2,000 years the Jews have had no temple.
  - (d) The third temple – There is ample scriptural evidence to show that the Antichrist will allow (and perhaps even encourage) the building of a third temple, sometimes known as the tribulational temple. The Levitical sacrifices will then be reinstated, only to be stopped after three and one-half years when the man of sin breaks his covenant with Israel.

“And he [Antichrist] shall confirm the covenant with many for one week [seven years]: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for [because of the over-spreading of abominations he shall make it [the temple] desolate” (Dan. 9:27). “When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place” (Matt. 24:15). “That man of sin... the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God” (2 Thess. 2:3-4). “And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein” (Rev. 11:1). (See also Rev. 13.)

Several questions may be raised at this point.

- i) Where will the third temple be built? There seems little doubt it will be constructed on the same spot where the first and second temples once stood – Mount Moriah. In ancient times Moriah covered 25 acres. Today it occupies 35 acres. It is 2,425 feet above sea level.
- ii) What will happen to the Dome of the Rock, which must be removed to allow the construction of the third temple? Of course, no one knows. Perhaps an earthquake will destroy it, or it may be bombed or burned. It could be the Antichrist himself will relocate it on another nearby site,
- iii) Is there any present day interest in the rebuilding of the Jewish Temple? Two recent and remarkable news articles illustrate the growing desire among a number of Israelis concerning the rebuilding of the third temple.

Jerusalem-Rabbi Yisrael Ariel sees himself as a dreamer, but most Israelis would not be so generous.

Along with a handful of other rigorously observant Jews, Rabbi Ariel is dedicating himself to the rebuilding of the temple of Herod on the man-made plateau the Jews call the Temple Mount.

The rabbi’s organization, called the Temple Institute, has made and displayed a variety of ornaments and furnishings similar to those that once adorned the temple and its priests: a silver menorah, trumpets, goblets, ritual slaughtering knives, priestly garments and so on.

The idea is to be sure all the accessories are ready for use when the new temple is completed. Like many Jews, members of the Temple Institute dream of that day. But they don't have any clear ideas about how it will be brought about.

"We're promised by the prophets of Israel that the Temple will be rebuilt," Ariel said.

During six years of research, the institute has reconstructed 38 of the ritual implements that will be required when Temple sacrifices are restored: it will complete the other 65 items as funds permit. A museum of the completed pieces has drawn 10,000 visitors during the current holy days. In addition to such items as trumpets, lyres and lots, the institute is preparing vestments for the priests-in-waiting. According to Scripture, the clothing must be painstakingly made with flax spun by hand into six-stranded threads.

One difficulty is the requirement (as in Numbers 19:1-10) that priests purify their bodies with the cremated ashes of an unblemished red heifer before they enter the Temple. Following a go-ahead from the Chief Rabbinate, institute operatives spent two weeks in August scouting Europe for heifer embryos that will shortly be implanted into cows at an Israeli cattle ranch.

Two Talmudic schools located near the Western (Wailing) Wall are teaching nearly 200 students the elaborate details of Temple service. Other groups are researching the family lines of Jewish priests who alone may conduct sacrifices. Next year an organizing convention will be held for those who believe themselves to be of priestly descent. Former Chief Rabbi, Shlomo Goren, who heads another Temple Mount organization, believes his research has fixed the location of the ancient Holy of Holies so that Jews can enter the Mount without sacrilege. He insists, "I cannot leave this world without assuring that the Jews will once again pray on the Mount."

A 1983 newspaper poll showed that a surprising 18.3% of Israelis thought it was time to rebuild; a mere 3% wanted to wait for the Messiah. (Richard N. Ostling, "Time for a New Temple?" *Time*, 16 October 1989, 64-65)

(10) The pouring out of the first six seal judgments (Matt. 24:4-8; Rev. 6:1-17)

- (a) The first seal (Rev. 6:2) – "And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer." The uneasy peace the rider on the white horse brings to earth is temporary and counterfeit. The Antichrist promises peace, but only God can actually produce it. As Isaiah wrote, "But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt, There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked" (Isa. 57:20-21).
- (b) The second seal (Rev. 6:3-4) – "And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword."
- (c) The third seal (Rev. 6:5-6) – 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; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine."

The third judgment brings famine to the world. The black horse forebodes death, and the pair of balances bespeaks a careful rationing of food. Normally, a "penny" (a Roman denarius, a day's wages in Palestine in Jesus' day, Matt. 20:2) would buy eight measures of wheat or twenty-four of barley. Under these famine conditions the same wage will buy only one measure of wheat or three of barley. In other words, there will be one-eighth of the normal supply of food. The phrase "see thou hurt not the oil and the wine" is an ironic twist in this terrible situation. Apparently luxury food items will not be in short supply, but of course most people will not be able to afford them. This situation will only serve to taunt the populace in their impoverished state. (Charles Ryrie, *Revelation*, pp. 45-46)

- (d) The fourth seal (Rev. 6:7-8) – “And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.”
- i) The identity of these riders – John calls them “death” and “hell,” apparently referring to physical and spiritual death. Thus the devil will destroy the bodies and damn the souls of multitudes of unbelievers during this, their seal plague.
  - ii) The damage done by these riders – One-fourth of all humanity perishes during this plague. It is estimated that during the Second World War, 1 out of 40 persons lost his life, but this seal judgment alone will claim 1 out of 4 persons – over one billion human beings.
- (e) The fifth seal (Rev. 6:9-11) – “And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow-servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.”

Here is religious persecution as never before. These three verses are loaded with theological implications.

- i) They refute the false doctrine of soul-sleep.
  - ii) They correct the error of one general resurrection – It is evident that the martyred souls did not receive their glorified bodies at the Rapture, as did the church-age saints. Therefore it can be concluded that these are Old Testament saints who will experience the glorious bodily resurrection after the tribulation. (See Rev. 20:4-6.)
  - iii) They suggest the possibilities of an intermediate body. (See also 2 Cor. 5:1-3.)
- (f) The sixth seal (Rev. 6:12-17) “And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; and the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; and said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?” As it can be seen, this fearful judgment ushers in:
- i) The greatest earthquake in history – However, at the end of the tribulation there will be one even worse than the one occurring in the sixth seal. (See Rev. 16:18.)
  - ii) The greatest cosmic disturbances in history
  - iii) The greatest prayer meeting in history – But they prayed for the wrong thing. The only object to protect the sinner from the wrath of the Lamb is the righteousness of the Lamb.

b. Middle part (brief undetermined period)

- (1) The Gog and Magog invasion into Palestine (Ezek. 38-39) – “Son of man, set thy face toward Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him, and say, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal” (Ezek. 38:2-3; ASV).

In these two remarkable chapters, Ezekiel describes for us an invasion into Palestine by a wicked nation north of Israel in the latter days.

- (a) The identity of the invaders – Where is the land of Magog? It seems almost certain that these verses in Ezekiel refer to none other than Russia. Note the following threefold proof of this.
- i) Geographical proof – Ezekiel tells us in three distinct passages (38:6, 15; 39:2) that this invading nation will come from the “uttermost part of the north” (as the original Hebrew renders it). A quick glance at any world map will show that only Russia can fulfill this description.

- ii) Historical proof – The ancient Jewish historian Josephus (first century A.D.) assures us that the descendants of Magog (who was Japheth’s son and Noah’s grandson) migrated to an area north of Palestine. But even prior to Josephus, the famous Greek historian Herodotus (fifth century B.C.) writes that Meshech’s descendants settled north of Palestine.
- iii) Linguistic proof – Dr. John Walvoord writes concerning this:

In Ezekiel 38, Gog is described as “the prince of Rosh” (ASV). The Authorized Version expresses it as the “chief prince.” The translation “the prince of Rosh” is a more literal rendering of the Hebrew. “Rosh” may be the root of the modern term “Russia.” In the study of how ancient words come into modern language, it is quite common for the consonants to remain the same and the vowels to be changed. In the word “Rosh,” if the vowel “o” is changed to “u” it becomes the root of the modern word “Russia” with the suffix added. In other words, the word itself seems to be an early form of the word from which the modern word “Russia” comes. Gesenius, the famous lexicographer, gives the assurance that this is a proper identification, that is, that Rosh is an early form of the word “Meshech” and “Tubal” also corresponds to some prominent words in Russia. The term “Meshech” is similar to the modern name “Moscow” and “Tubal” is obviously similar to the name of one of the prominent Asiatic provinces of Russia, the province of Tobolsk. When this evidence is put together, it points to the conclusion that these terms are early references to portions of Russia; there-fore the geographic argument is reinforced by the linguistic argument and supports the idea that this invading force comes from Russia. (*The Nations in Prophecy*, pp, 107 – 108)

- (b) The allies in the invasion – Ezekiel lists five nations who will join Russia during her invasion. These are Persia, Ethiopia, Libya, Gomer, and Togarmah. These may (although there is some uncertainty) refer to the following present-day nations:
  - i) Persia – modern Iran
  - ii) Ethiopia – Black African nations (South Africa)
  - iii) Libya – Arabic African nations (North Africa)
  - iv) Gomer – Eastern Europe
  - v) Togarmah – Southern Russia and the Cossacks, or perhaps Turkey.
- (c) The reasons for the invasion.
  - i) To cash in on the riches of Palestine (Ezek. 38:11, 12).
  - ii) To control the Middle East – Ancient conquerors have always known that he who would control Europe, Asia, and Africa must first control the Middle East bridge that leads to the three continents.
  - iii) To challenge the authority of the Antichrist (Dan. 11:40-44).
- (d) The chronology of the invasion – Here it is utterly impossible to be dogmatic. The following is therefore only a suggested possibility, based on Ezekiel 38 and Daniel 11:40-44.
  - i) Following a preconceived plan, Egypt attacks Palestine from the south (Dan. 11:40a).
  - ii) Russia invades Israel from the north by both an amphibious and a land attack (Dan. 11:40b).
  - iii) Russia continues southward and double-crosses her ally by occupying Egypt also (Dan. 11:42-43).
  - iv) While in Egypt, Russia hears some disturbing news coming from the east and north and hurriedly returns to Palestine. We are not told what the content of this news is. Several theories have been offered: (a) that it contains the electrifying news that the Antichrist has been assassinated, but has risen from the dead (see Rev. 13:3); (b) that it concerns itself with the impending counterattack of the Western leader (the Antichrist); (c) that it warns of a confrontation with China and India (“Kings of the East”), who may be mobilizing their troops.

It should be noted at this point, however, that some Bible students identify the “he” of Daniel 11:42 as being the Antichrist, and not the Russian ruler. If this is true, then the above chronology would have to be rearranged accordingly.

- v) Upon her return, Russia is soundly defeated upon the mountains of Israel. This smashing defeat is effected by the following events, caused by God himself (a) a mighty earthquake (Ezek. 38:19-20); (b) mutiny among the Russian troops (Ezek. 38:21); (c) a plague among the troops (Ezek. 38:22); (d) floods, great hailstones, fire and brimstone (Ezek. 38:22; 39:6).
- (e) The results of the invasion.
  - i) Five-sixths (83 percent) of the Russian soldiers are destroyed (Ezek. 39:2).
  - ii) The first grisly feast of God begins (Ezek. 39:4, 17-20) – A similar feast would seem to take place later, after the battle of Armageddon (Rev. 19:17-18; Matt. 24:28).
  - iii) Seven months will be spent in burying the dead (Ezek. 39:11-15).
  - iv) Seven years will be spent in burning the weapons of war (Ezek. 39:9-10).
- (2) The two witnesses
  - (a) Their martyrdom (Rev. 11:7-13) – The Antichrist is finally allowed to kill them. The word *beast* is first mentioned here in 11:7. There are 35 other references to him in Revelation. It should also be noted that he could not kill the witness until “they shall have finished their testimonies.” Satan cannot touch one hair on the head of the most humble saint until God gives him specific permission. (See Job 1:12; 2:6.)
 

These two, like Paul, finished their testimonies (2 Tim. 4:7). Contrast this with Belshazzar’s sad death (Dan. 5:26). To show his contempt for them, the Antichrist refuses to permit their dead bodies to be buried, but leaves them to rot in the street of Jerusalem. All the earth celebrates their deaths through a hellish Christmas; men actually send gifts to each other. This is the only reference to the word “rejoice” in the entire tribulation.

The dead bodies of these two prophets are viewed in a three-and-a-half-day period. Their bodies will be on display in Jerusalem (11:8). It is called Sodom because of its immorality, and Egypt because of its worldliness. It is interesting to note that this prophecy (Rev. 11:9) could not have been fulfilled until the middle 1960s. The following article explains why: “The first link in a worldwide, live television system was taken on May 2, 1965, when the Early Bird Satellite, hovering 22,300 miles in space between Brazil and Africa, united millions of American and European viewers in an international television exchange” (*Reader’s Digest Almanac*).
  - (b) Their resurrection – “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. And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven” (Rev. 11:11-13).
  - (3) The victory song of the 144,000 – “And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father’s name written in their foreheads. 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: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God” (Rev. 14:1-5).

What a far-reaching and fruitful ministry these Hebrew evangelists will have performed. The amazing results of their labor are recorded in Revelation 7:9, 13-14. “After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; and one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou



knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”

Jesus himself during his Mount Olive sermon predicted the tremendous scope of their ministry: “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations” (Matt. 24:14). In other words the future evangelists will accomplish in a few short years that which the Christian church has not been able to do in the past 20 centuries, namely, fulfill the great commission. “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matt. 28:19-20).

- (4) The casting out of heaven’s monster (Rev. 12:3-15).
  - (a) The identity of this monster – There is no doubt whatever concerning the identity of this “creature from the clouds.” He is pinned down by no less than five titles.
    - i) The great red dragon (12:3) – He is great because of his vast power (see Matt. 4:8-9), red because he was the first murderer (see John 8:44), and a dragon because of his viciousness (see 2 Cor. 6:15).
    - ii) The old serpent (12:9) – He is old, which takes us back to the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3), and a serpent, which reminds us of the first body he used (Gen. 3).
    - iii) The devil (12:9), one who slanders (see 12:10; also Job 1-2; Zech. 3:1-7; Luke 22:31)
    - iv) Satan (12:9), the adversary (see 1 Pet. 5:8)
    - v) The deceiver of the world (12:9) – Note: He deceives not only men but angels as well. In 12:4 we are told that his tail “drew literally, ‘pulled down,’ or ‘dragged’; (see Acts 14:19 where the same word is used) the third part of the stars of heaven.” This is apparently a reference to the number of angels Satan persuaded to join him in his original revolt against God (Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:11-19).
  - (b).The location of this monster – Satan has been, is now, or shall be in one of the following locations:
    - i) In heaven, as God’s anointed angel (past location, Ezek. 28:14)
    - ii) In heaven, as God’s chief enemy (present location, Job 1 – 2)
    - iii) On earth, as the Antichrist’s spiritual guide (future location during the final part of the tribulation, Rev. 12:12)
    - iv) In the bottomless pit (future, during the Millennium, Rev. 20:1-3)
    - v) On earth again (future, after the Millennium, Rev. 20:8-9)
    - vi) In the lake of fire (future and forever, Rev. 20:10)
  - (c) The activities of this monster
    - i) He deceives all living unbelievers (Rev. 12:9).
    - ii) He accuses all living believers (Rev. 12:10).
    - iii) He persecutes the nation Israel (Rev. 12:13).
- (5) The destruction of the false church – “And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled” (Rev. 17:16-17).

One of the most ironical turn of events in all history will be the destruction of the false church. For this evil organization will meet its doom not at the hands of Gabriel, or the Father, or the Son, or the Spirit, but the Antichrist.

What will the future hold for this vile and vicious vixen? According to Revelation 17, the false church lends all her evil strength to elevate the Antichrist during the first part of the tribulation. For awhile she flourishes, luxuriating in surpassing wealth and opulence. But suddenly things change drastically. The scarlet animal and his 10 horns (which represent 10 kings who will reign with him) all hate the woman, and will attack her and leave her naked and ravaged by fire (17:16).

The probable reason for all this is that after she has put the Antichrist into power, the harlot then attempts to control him. History gives us many examples of the Roman Catholic church (and indeed other religious systems) attempting to control kings and rulers.

c. Final part (three and one-half years)

- (1) The full manifestation of the Antichrist – “Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son

of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God... Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders” (2 Thess. 2:3-4, 9). At this point the man of sin drops all pretense, reveals his true colors, and declares himself to be God.

Here the Antichrist will attempt to do that which his master, Satan, once tried to do: “For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High” (Isa. 14:13-14).

- (2) The worldwide persecution of Israel – “And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars” (Rev. 12:1).

These words are unquestionably symbolic, but to whom do they refer?

(a) Identification of this woman

- i) She is not Mary – Mary never spent three and a half years in the wilderness, as does this woman (Rev. 12:6, 14). Neither was Mary personally hated, chased, and persecuted, as we see here (Rev. 12:13, 17). While Mary did give birth to that One who will someday “rule all nations with a rod of iron” (Rev. 12:5), the language in this chapter has a wider reference than to Mary.
- ii) She is not the church – The church did not bring the man-child into existence, as does this woman (Rev. 12:5), but rather the opposite. (See Matt. 16:18.)
- iii) She is Israel – A Jewish Christian who reads Revelation 12:1 will undoubtedly think back to the Old Testament passage in which Joseph describes a strange dream to his father and 11 brothers: “Behold, I have dreamed a dream... the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me” (Gen. 37:9). This was of course fulfilled when Joseph’s 11 brothers bowed down to him in Egypt (Gen. 43:28).

(b) Persecution of this woman

- i) Persecution in the past – Throughout history Satan has made every attempt to exterminate Israel. This he has done by resorting to:
  - Enslaving (Exod. 2)
  - Drowning (Exod. 14)
  - Starving (Exod. 16)
  - Tempting (Exod. 32; Num. 14)
  - Capturing (2 Kings 17, 24)
  - Swallowing (Jonah 2)
  - Burning (Dan. 3)
  - Devouring (Dan. 6)
  - Hanging (Esther 3)
  - Gassing (the gas ovens of Adolf Hitler)
- ii) Persecution in the future – The most vicious attack is yet to come. John Phillips writes:

What a time of terror lies ahead for Israel! The world has seen dress rehearsals for this coming onslaught already – the knock on the door at the dead of night; the dreaded secret police; the swift ride through the darkened streets to the sidings where the boxcars wait; the dreadful ordeal of days and nights without food, drink or sanitation, with men and women and children herded like cattle in the dark, and with little babies flung on top of the struggling heap of humanity like so many sacks of flour; the lonely sidings; the barbed wire; the concentration camps; the callous treatment and cruel tortures; and then the gas ovens and the firing squads. It has been rehearsed already in preparation for the full-stage production of terror. (*Exploring Revelation*, p. 174)

“And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same

time” (Dan. 12:1). “For, lo, I will raise up a shepherd in the land, which shall not visit those that be cut off, neither shall seek the young one, nor heal that that is broken, nor feed that that standeth still: but he shall eat the flesh of the fat, and tear their claws in pieces” (Zech. 11:16). “For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be” (Matt. 24:21). “And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child” (Rev. 12:13).

This marks the last and most severe anti-Semitic movement in history. It will apparently begin at the recognition by Israel that the Roman world dictator is really the Antichrist and at their refusal to worship him as God or receive his mark (Matt. 21:15-24).

(c) Preservation of this woman – At this point the Jews of the world will travel down one of three roads:

- i) Many Israelites will be killed by the Antichrist (Zech. 13:8).
- ii) Some Israelites will follow the Antichrist (Matt. 24:10-12; Rev. 2:9; 3:9)
- iii) A remnant of Israel will be saved – “And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent” (Rev. 12:14). “And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The Lord is my God” (Zech. 13:9).

Thus, it would seem that at least one-third of Israel will remain true to God and be allowed by him to escape into a special hiding place for the duration of the tribulation. We shall now consider the location of this hiding place. While it is not actually specified in Scripture, many Bible students believe that this place will be Petra. This is based on the following three passages.

“And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee... and the Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with thee” (Zech. 14:5). The “Azal” mentioned here is thought to be connected with Petra.

“Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah?” (Isa. 63:1). The first few verses of Isaiah 63 deal with the second coming of Christ. He comes to Edom (of which Petra is capital) and Bozrah (a city in Edom) for some reason, and many believe that reason is to receive the Hebrew remnant who are hiding there.

“He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom” (Dan. 11:41).

(3) The pouring out of the last seal judgment (Rev. 8-9; 11:15-19) – “And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour” (Rev. 8:1). This marks the only occasion in recorded history that heaven is silent, There is not the slightest sound or movement.

- (a) The purpose of the silence – During the sixth seal, mankind seemed to weaken for the first time during the tribulation. A merciful and patient God now awaits further repentance, but to no avail. God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked (Ezek. 33:11).
- (b) The duration of the silence – It was for 30 minutes. The number 30 in the Bible is often associated with mourning. Israel mourned for 30 days over the death of both Aaron (Num. 20:29) and Moses (Deut. 34:8).

We now examine the contents of the seventh seal, which consists of seven trumpet judgments.

- (a) The first trumpet (Rev. 8:7) “The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was

burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up” (Rev. 8:7). It has been observed that plant life was the first to be created, and it is the first to be destroyed (Gen. 1:11-12).

- (b) The second trumpet (Rev. 8:8-9) – “And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed,”

Dr. Herman A. Hoyt writes:

Here we read of a great mountain burning with fire. This may refer to a meteoric mass from the sky falling headlong into the sea, perhaps the Mediterranean Sea. The result is to turn a third part of the sea a blood-red color and bring about the death of a third part of the life in the sea. Death may be caused by the chemical reaction in the water, such as radioactivity following atomic explosion. The third part of ships may be destroyed by the violence of the waters produced by the falling of the mass. (*Revelation*, p. 49)

- (c) The third trumpet (8:10-11) – “And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.”

This star could refer to a meteor containing stifling and bitter gases, which might fall on the Alps or some other freshwater source. During the second trumpet, a third of the salt water was contaminated. Now a third of earth’s fresh water suffers a similar fate. Many species of wormwood grow in Palestine. All species have a strong, bitter taste.

- (d) The fourth trumpet (8:12) – “And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.”

Our Lord may have had this trumpet judgment in mind when he spoke the following words: “And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened” (Matt. 24:22). “And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring” (Luke 21:25).

The Old Testament prophecy of Amos is also significant here: “And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord God, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day” (Amos 8:9).

- (e) The fifth trumpet (Rev. 9:1-12) The first demonic invasion “And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit” (Rev. 9:1).
  - i) Their location – The bottomless pit (9:2)
  - ii) Their target and torment – “And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.... And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them” (Rev. 9:3-4, 6).
  - iii) Their duration – Five months (9:5)
  - iv) Their description – “And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men. And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions. And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months” (Rev. 9:7-10).

- v) Their leader – “And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon” (Rev. 9:11).
- (f) The sixth trumpet (Rev. 9:13-19) – The second demonic invasion: “And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God” (Rev. 9:13).
  - i) Their leaders – “Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates” (Rev. 9:14).
  - ii) Their mission – “And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men” (Rev. 9:15).
  - iii) Their number – “And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them” (Rev. 9:16).
  - iv) Their description – “And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone” (Rev. 9:17).
  - v) Their torment – “By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths. For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt” (Rev. 9:18-19).
- (g) The seventh trumpet (11:15-19) – “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” (Rev. 11:15). This seventh angel proclaims the glorious news that very soon now the Lord Jesus Christ will take over the nations of this world as their rightful ruler. The announcement produces a twofold reaction:
  - i) The citizens of heaven rejoice.
  - ii) The nations of the earth become angry.

The seventh angel prepares us not only for the consummation of the ages, but also for the explanation of all things. “But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished” (Rev. 10:7).

- (4) The sights and sounds of the temple in heaven (Rev. 15:1-8) – Note: At the sounding of the seventh trumpet, “The temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in this temple the ark of his testament” (11:19). It would appear an actual tabernacle exists in heaven from this and other verses. (See Isa. 6:1-8; Exod. 25:9, 20; Heb. 8:2, 5; 9:24; Rev. 14:15, 17; 15:5-6, 8; 16:1, 17.)
  - (a) John hears the songs of the triumphal (15:2-4)
    - i) What they sing – They sing the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb (15:3). Note the contrast between the songs.
      - The song of Moses was sung beside the Red Sea (Exod. 15); the song of the Lamb will be sung beside the crystal sea.
      - The song of Moses was sung over Egypt; the song of the Lamb will be sung over Babylon.
      - The song of Moses described how God brought his people out;
      - The song of the Lamb will describe how God brings his people in.
      - The song of Moses was Scripture’s first song; the song of the Lamb will be Scripture’s last song.
    - ii) Why they sing – “For thou only art holy... for thy judgments are made manifest” (15:4).
  - (b) John sees the smoke of the temple (15:5-8) – “And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever, And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were

fulfilled” (Rev. 15:7-8). (See also Isa. 6:1-8; Exod. 25:9, 40; Heb. 8:2, 5; 9:24; Rev. 14:15, 17; 16:1, 17.)

John Phillips writes:

Since Calvary, the way into the holiest in heaven has been opened to all, because the blood of Christ has blazed a highway to the heart of God. But now, for a brief spell, that royal road is barred. God’s wrath, once poured out upon His Son on man’s behalf, is to be out-poured again. The world which crucified the Lamb and which now has crowned its rebellions with the worship of the beast, is to be judged to the full. So bright glory burns within the temple, filling it with smoke and standing guard at the door. The way into the holiest is barred again for a while. (*Exploring Revelation*, p. 198)

(5) The pouring out of the seven bowl or vial judgments (Rev. 16)

- (a) The first vial judgment – “And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image” (Rev. 16:2).

J. Vernon McGee writes, “God is engaged in germ warfare upon the followers of Antichrist.... These putrefying sores are worse than leprosy or cancer. This compares to the sixth plague in Egypt, and is the same type of sore or boil (Exod. 9:8-12)” (*Reveling Through Revelation*, p. 36).

- (b) The second vial judgment – “And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man; and every living soul died in the sea” (Rev. 16:3). Dr. Charles Ryrie writes the following concerning this plague:

The second bowl is poured on the sea, with the result that the waters became blood and every living thing in the sea dies. The “as” is misplaced in the Authorized Version, the correct reading being “became blood as of a dead man.” The vivid image is of a dead person wallowing in his own blood. The seas will wallow in blood. Under the second trumpet, one-third of the sea creatures died (8:9); now the destruction is complete. The stench and disease that this will cause along the shores of the seas of the earth are unimaginable. (*Revelation*, p. 97)

- (c) The third vial judgment – “And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy. And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments” (Rev. 16:4-7).

Two significant things may be noted in these verses:

- i) This third vial judgment is, among other things, an answer to the cry of the martyrs under the altar at the beginning of the tribulation. Their prayer at that time was, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?” (Rev. 6:10).

- ii) These verses indicate that God has assigned a special angel as superintendent on earth’s waterworks. When we compare this with Revelation 7:1, where we are told that four other angels control the world’s winds, we realize that even during the hellishness of the tribulation this world is still controlled by God.

- (d) The fourth vial judgment – “And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory” (Rev. 16:8-9). (See also Deut. 32:24; Isa. 24:6; 42:25; Mal. 4:1; Luke 21:25.)

Perhaps the two most illuminating passages in Scripture about man’s total depravity can be found in Revelation 9:20-21 and 16:9. Both sections deal with the world’s attitude toward God during the tribulation. “And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship

devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts” (Rev. 9:20-21). “And they repented not to give him glory” (Rev. 16:9).

What do the verses prove? They prove that in spite of horrible wars, of terrible famine, of darkened skies, of raging fires, of bloody seas, of stinging locusts, of demonic persecutions, of mighty earthquakes, of falling stars, and of cancerous sores, sinful mankind still will not repent.

- (e) The fifth vial judgment – “And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, and blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds” (Rev. 16:10-11). (See also Isa. 60:2; Joel 2:1-2, 31; Amos 5:18; Nah. 1:6, 8; Zeph. 1:15.)

This plague, poured out upon “the seat of the beast” (literally, his “throne”), will apparently concentrate itself upon the 10 nations of the revived Roman Empire. Again we read those tragic words “and repented not of their deeds.”

- (f) The sixth vial judgment – “And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty” (Rev. 16:12-14). Here the God of heaven employs psychological warfare upon his enemies, conditioning them to gather themselves together in the near future at Armageddon. The Euphrates River is 1,800 miles long and in some places 3,600 feet wide. It is 30 feet deep. This river has been the dividing line between Western and Eastern civilization since the dawn of history. It served as the eastern border of the old Roman Empire. Thus, the Euphrates becomes both the cradle and grave of man’s civilization. Here the first godless city (Enoch, built by Cain; see Gen. 4:16-17) went up, and here the last rebellious city will be constructed (Babylon, built by the Antichrist; see Rev. 18).

- (g) The seventh vial judgment – “And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great” (Rev. 16:17-21).

The intensity of an earthquake is measured on an instrument called a Richter scale. The greatest magnitude ever recorded so far has been 8.9. The greatest loss of life due to an earthquake occurred on January 23, 1556, in Shensi Province, China, and killed some 830,000 people. However, that earthquake will be but a mild tremor compared to the tribulation earthquake, which, we are told, will level all the great cities of the world. The world’s greatest shower of hailstones comes crashing down on mankind. These gigantic icy chunks will weigh up to 125 pounds apiece.

- (6) The sudden destruction of economic and political Babylon (Rev. 18) – “And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication” (Rev. 14:8). “And great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath” (Rev. 16:19). “And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird” (Rev. 18:2).

Dr. J. Vernon McGee says:

In chapters 17 and 18 two Babylons are brought before us. The Babylon of chapter 17 is ecclesiastical. The Babylon of chapter 18 is economic. The first is religious – the apostate church. The second is political and commercial. The apostate church is hated by the kings of the earth (Rev. 17:16); the commercial center is loved by the kings of the earth (Rev. 8:9). The apostate church is destroyed by the kings of the earth; political Babylon is destroyed by the judgment of God (verses 5, 8).

Obviously, mystery Babylon is destroyed first – in the midst of the Great Tribulation; while commercial Babylon is destroyed at the Second Coming of Christ. These two Babylons are not one and the same city, (*Reveling Through Revelation*, p. 58)

(a) The description of the city

- i) It had become the habitation of demons and false doctrines (Rev.18:2; Matt. 13:32).
- ii) Both rulers and merchants had worshiped at her shrine of silver (Rev. 18:3).
- iii) Her sins had reached into the heavens (Rev. 18:5).
- iv) She had lived in sinful pleasure and luxury (Rev. 18:7).
- v) Her prosperity had blinded her to the judgment of God (Rev. 18:7) – There is in this chapter a list (Rev. 18:11-17) of no less than 75 of the world's most expensive luxury items. Again the words of J. Vernon McGee are revealing:

Everything listed here is a luxury item. Babylon will make these luxury items necessities. You will not find a cotton dress or a pair of overalls anywhere in this list. First there is the jewelry department – "...the merchandise of gold, and silver and precious stones, and of pearls." Then we move from the jewelry department to the ladies' ready-to-wear – "...and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet." Then to the luxury gift department – "...and all thyine wood, and every vessel of ivory, and every vessel made of most precious wood, and of brass, and marble." We move on to the spice and cosmetic department – "...and cinnamon, and spice, and odors, and ointment, and frankincense." To the liquor department and the pastry center – "and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat." On to the meat department for T-bone steaks and lamb chops – "...and cattle, and sheep." (Ibid., p. 62)

- vi) She had deceived all nations with her sorceries (Rev. 18:23).
  - vii) She was covered with the blood of many of God's saints (Rev. 18:24).
- (b) The destruction of the city
- i) The source of Babylon's destruction – God himself
  - ii) The means of Babylon's destruction – It would almost seem that atomic power of some sort is used to accomplish this. This is strongly suggested by the swiftness of the judgment, the raging fires, and the distance kept by those who watch her burn – possibly due to fear of radioactive fallout. (See Rev. 18:9-10, 15, 17, 19.)
  - iii) The reaction to her destruction
    - By those on earth – "And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate" (Rev. 18:19). There are three classes of people who weep over Babylon. They are the monarchs (18:9), the merchants (18:11), and the mariners (18:17).
    - By those in heaven – "Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her" (Rev. 18:20),  
 There are three events in the tribulation which cause all of heaven to rejoice: when Satan is cast out (Rev. 12:12); when Babylon is



- destroyed (Rev. 18:20); and when the Lamb is married to the church (Rev. 19:7).
- iv) The reasons for her destruction – The city will become the headquarters of all demonic activity during the tribulation (Rev. 18:2).
    - Her devilish pride (Rev. 18:7)
    - Her gross materialism – This wicked city will import and export 28 principal items of merchandise, beginning with gold and ending with the bodies of men (Rev. 18:12-13).
    - Her drug activities (Rev. 18:23)
    - Her blood shedding (Rev. 18:24)
  - v) The Old Testament foreshadows her destruction – On the night of October 13, 539 B.C., the Babylon of the Old Testament was captured by the Medes and Persians. Just prior to this, Daniel the prophet had read the fearful words of God to a frightened Belshazzar: “God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it..., Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.... Thy kingdom is divided” (Dan. 5:26-28). Someday God himself will once again write these fearsome words across the skies of Babylon.
- F. The battle of Armageddon – “And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon” (Rev. 16:16).
1. The nature of this battle – The Holy Spirit of God has chosen five capable authors to describe for us in clear and chilling language that culmination of all battles – Armageddon. These five authors include David, Isaiah, Joel, Zechariah, and John.
    - a. According to David (Psa. 2:1-5, 9)
    - b. According to Isaiah (Isa. 34:1-6; 63:3-4, 6)
    - c. According to Joel 3:2, 9-16)
    - d. According to Zechariah (Zech. 14:2-3, 12)
    - e. According to John (Rev. 14:14-20; 19:11-21)

Observe but a sampling concerning the nature of this fierce battle: “For the indignation of the Lord is upon all nations, and his fury upon all their armies: he hath utterly destroyed them, he hath delivered them to the slaughter. Their slain also shall be cast out, and their stink shall come up out of their carcasses, and the mountains shall be melted with their blood. And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree” (Isa. 34:2-4). “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” (Rev. 14:19-20).
  2. The narration of this battle – This coming war of Armageddon will be by far the biggest, boldest, bloodiest, most brazen, and most blasphemous of all time. We shall now consider the negative and positive elements of this war.
    - a. Negative.
      - (1) Armageddon is not the same as the Russian invasion of Ezekiel 38 – Note the difference: Russia invades from the north, but at Armageddon the nations come from all directions. Russia invades to capture Israel's wealth, but this invasion is to destroy the Lamb and his people. Gog leads the Russian invasion, but the Antichrist leads this one.
      - (2) Armageddon is not the final war in the Bible – The final war occurs after the Millennium (Rev. 20:7-9); Armageddon takes place at the end of the tribulation.
    - b. Positive
      - (1) The location of the battle – Dr. Herman A. Hoyt aptly describes the location:
 

The staggering dimensions of this conflict can scarcely be conceived by man. The battlefield will stretch from Megiddo on the north (Zech. 12:11; Rev. 1:16) to Edom on the South (Isa. 34:5-6; 63:1), a distance of sixteen hundred furlongs – approximately two hundred miles. It will reach from the Mediterranean Sea on the west to the hills of Moab on the east, a distance of almost one hundred miles. It will include the Valley of Jehoshaphat (Joel 3:2, 12) and the Plains of Esdraelon. At the center of the entire area will be the city of Jerusalem (Zech. 14: 1-2).

Into this area the multiplied millions of men, doubtless approaching 400 million, will be crowded for the final holocaust of humanity. The kings with their armies will come from north and the south, from the east and from the west.... In the most dramatic sense this will be the “Valley of decision” for humanity (Joel 3:14) and the great wine-press into which will be poured the fierceness of the wrath of Almighty God (Rev. 19:15). (*The End Times*, p. 163)

Thus there would seem to be at least four important names involved in Armageddon:

- (a) The Valley of Jehoshaphat – A valley just east of Jerusalem, between the Holy City and the Mount of Olives (Joel 3:2, 12). This valley, known in the New Testament as the Kidron Valley, plays an important role in the Bible.
  - i) David crossed over this valley, weeping as he fled from his rebellious son Absalom (2 Sam. 15:23).
  - ii) King Asa burned the idols of his own mother here (1 Kings 15:13).
  - iii) Hezekiah destroyed some idols here also (2 Chron. 30:14).
  - iv) Josiah destroyed the idols previously placed in the Temple by Ahaz and Manasseh (2 Kings 23:4, 6, 12).
  - v) Jesus crossed over this valley en route to the Garden of Gethsemane (John 18:1).

The Valley of Jehoshaphat has been a favorite burial ground for Jews for thousands of years. They believed the final resurrection trumpet would sound from here. Some even taught that the bodies of the righteous, regardless of where they were originally buried on earth, would roll back underground to the Valley of Jehoshaphat on that glad day.

As we have already seen, the ground area involved at Armageddon is unbelievably massive – running some 200 miles north and south, and 100 miles east and west, for a total of 20,000 square miles. But the climax will happen in the Valley of Jehoshaphat.

- (b) The Valley of Esdraelon – A valley 20 miles long and 14 miles wide, north and west of Jerusalem between the Holy City and the Mediterranean Sea.
  - (c) Megiddo – A flat plain in the Valley of Esdraelon (Zech. 12:11)
  - (d) Bozrah – A city in Edom, east of the Jordan River and near Petra, the capital city of Edom. These two cities will play an important role during the second coming of our Lord (Isa. 34:6; 63:1).
- (2) The reasons for the battle – What will draw all the nations of the world into the area of Armageddon? They will gather themselves there for various reasons. It would seem that the following are three of the more important reasons.
- (a) Because of the sovereignty of God – In at least five distinct passages we are told that God himself will gather the nations here. “He hath delivered them to the slaughter” (Isa. 34:2). “I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat” (Joel 3:2). “For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle” (Zech. 14:2). “For my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger” (Zeph. 3:8). “And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon” (Rev. 16:16).
  - (b) Because of the deception of Satan (Rev. 16:13-14) – In this passage we are told that three special unclean spirits will trick the nations into gathering at Armageddon.
  - (c) Because of the hatred of the nations for Christ – A number of passages tell us of this devilish hatred (Psa. 2:1-3; Rev. 11:18). The nations, led by the Antichrist, will doubtless realize the imminent return of Christ (Rev. 11:15; 12:12). They will also be aware of his touching down on the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14:4; Acts 1:9-12). Thus it is not unreasonable to assume they will gather in that area to try to destroy Christ at the moment of his return to earth.
- (3) The chronology of the battle
- (a) The drying up of the Euphrates River (Rev. 16:12) – Dr. Donald Barnhouse quotes Seiss in describing this:

From time immemorial the Euphrates with its tributaries has been a great and formidable boundary between the peoples east of it and west of it. It runs a distance of 1,800 miles, and is scarcely fordable anywhere or any time. It is from three to twelve hundred yards wide, and from ten to thirty feet in depth; and most of the time it is still deeper and wider. It was the boundary of the dominion of Solomon, and is repeatedly spoken of as the northeast limit of the lands promised to Israel.... History frequently refers to the great hindrance the Euphrates has been to military movements; and it has always been a line of separation between the peoples living east of it and those living west of it. (*Revelation*, p. 301)

Thus when this watery barrier is removed, tens of millions of soldiers from China, India, and other Asian nations will march straight for Armageddon and destruction.

- (b) The destruction of Jerusalem – Perhaps the saddest event during the tribulation will be the siege and destruction of the Holy City. This will be the forty-seventh and last takeover of the beloved city of David.

The following passages bear this out.

“Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem” (Zech. 12:2). “For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city” (Zech. 14:2). “And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh” (Luke 21:20).

When these two events transpire, both the angels in paradise and the demons in perdition will surely hold their breath.

- (4) The results of the battle – Two authors aptly describe this battle for us.

Palestine is to be given a blood bath of unprecedented proportions which will flow from Armageddon at the north down through the valley of Jehoshaphat, will cover the land of Edom, and will wash over all Judea and the city of Jerusalem. John looks at this scene of carnage and he describes it as blood flowing to the depths of the horses’ bridles. It is beyond human imagination to see a lake that size that has been drained from the veins of those who have followed the purpose of Satan to try to exterminate God’s chosen people in order to prevent Jesus Christ from coming to reign. (Dwight Pentecost, *Prophecy for Today*, p. 118)

The Battle of Armageddon will result in wholesale carnage among the legions of the beast. The brilliance of Christ’s appearing will produce a trembling and demoralization in the soldiers (Zech. 12:2; 14:13), The result of this demoralization and trembling will be the desertion from the Antichrist and the rendering of him inoperative (2 Thess. 2:8). This tremendous light from heaven will produce astonishment and blindness in animals and madness in men (Zech. 12:4).

A plague will sweep through the armies from this light and men will not fight where they stand (Zech. 14:12). The blood of animals and men will form a lake two hundred miles long and bridle deep (Rev. 14:19, 20). The stench of this rotting mass of flesh and blood will fill the entire region (Isa. 34:3). The mangled forms of men and beasts will provide a feast for the carrion birds (Rev. 19:17, 18, 21). The beast and the false prophet will then be cast alive into the lake of fire forever (Rev. 19:20). (Herman A. Hoyt, *The End Times*, p. 165)

- G. The second coming of Christ – “And Enoch... the seventh from Adam, prophesied... saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints” (Jude 14). This message on Christ’s second coming was preached long before his first coming by Enoch who ministered even prior to the great flood in Noah’s day. His was the very first prophecy concerning the second coming.

The greatest day in history occurred during an April Sunday morning some 2,000 years ago, when the crucified Savior rose from the dead. But God is preparing an even greater, grander, and more glorious day than the resurrection of his beloved Son – and that event is his return to earth again.

1. The chronology of the second coming of Christ

- a. It begins with fearful manifestations in the skies – “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” (Matt. 24:29) “And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men’s hearts failing them for fear... for the powers of heaven shall be shaken” (Luke 21:25-26)

- b. In the midst of this, the heavens open and Jesus comes forth – “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” (Matt. 24:30) “Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels” (2 Thess. 1:7). “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him” (Rev. 1:7). “And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True” (Rev. 19:11).
  - c. The returning Savior touches down upon the Mount of Olives, causing a great earthquake (Zech. 14:4, 8). The Mount of Olives is one of the most important mountains in both biblical history and prophecy.
    - (1) It towers over Mount Moriah by 318 feet.
    - (2) It rises to a height of 2,743 feet above sea level.
    - (3) Its name is derived from the olives grown there.
    - (4) Sometimes it was called the Mount of Lights (designating the beginning of a new month, year, etc.).
    - (5) David paused here, wept, and worshipped God after being driven from Jerusalem by Absalom, his son (2 Sam. 15:30, 32).
    - (6) Tradition says that Christ first spoke the Lord’s Prayer on this mountain.
    - (7) The Church of the Lord’s Prayer, built in 1868, has the prayer engraved in 32 languages on 32 marble slabs, each three feet wide and six feet long.
    - (8) The Bible says Jesus often visited here – “And he came out, and went, as he was wont, to the mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him” (Luke 22:39).
    - (9) From here he sent for a colt to ride during the Triumphal Entry of Palm Sunday (Matt. 21:1).
    - (10) Here he delivered the Mount Olivet Discourse (Matt. 24 – 25).
    - (11) He visited here after leaving the Upper Room and may have uttered his high priestly prayer (John 17) from this spot (Matt. 26:30).
    - (12) He slept here on occasion during the passion week (Luke 21:37).
    - (13) He ascended from here (Acts 1).
  - d. After touching down on the Mount of Olives, Christ proceeds to Petra and Bozrah, two chief cities in Edom. While it is impossible to be dogmatic here, it would seem that he goes to Edom to gather the hiding Israelite remnant. Accompanied by the holy angels, the church, and the remnant, Christ marches toward Armageddon (Isa. 34:6; 63:1).
2. The purpose of the second coming of Christ
- a. To defeat the Antichrist and the world’s nations assembled at Armageddon
  - b. To regather, regenerate, and restore faithful Israel – Perhaps the most frequent promise in all the Old Testament concerns God’s eventual restoration of Israel. The prophets repeat this so often that it becomes a refrain, a chorus of confidence.

Note the following: “Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back; bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth” (Isa. 43:5-6). “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” (Matt. 24:31).

Thus will our Lord gather Israel when he comes again and, as we have already observed, he will begin by appearing to the remnant hiding in Petra. Here we note:

- (1) Their temporary sorrow – “And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem... in the valley of Megiddon. And the land shall mourn, every family apart; the family of the house of David apart, and their wives apart” (Zech. 12:10-12). “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” (Rev. 1:7).
- (2) Their ultimate joy – “He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the Lord hath spoken it. And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have

waited for him, and he will save us: this is the Lord... we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation” (Isa. 25:8-9). “Moreover the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the Lord bindeth up the breach of his people, and healeth the stroke of their wound” (Isa. 30:26).

“He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young” (Isa. 40:11). “I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins” (Isa. 43:25). “Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee” (Isa. 49:15).

- c. To judge and punish faithless Israel – In the book of Romans the great Apostle Paul makes two significant statements concerning his beloved nation Israel. He writes: “For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel” (Rom. 9:6). “And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob” (Rom. 11:26).

By the first statement Paul of course meant that all faithful Israel would be saved. As we have previously seen, this blessed event will occur during the tribulation. By the second statement Paul writes concerning faithless Israel. In other words, all that glitters is not gold. From the very moment God began working through Abraham (the first Hebrew), Satan also began working through members of that same race. Thus, as the Bible has been advanced by faithful Israel throughout history, it has likewise been opposed by faithless Israel.

Therefore, when the master of all Israel returns, he will be especially gracious to true Israel but specially harsh with false Israel. Note the tragic record of false Israel.

- (1) Her sins against the Father
    - (a) Rebelling (Num. 14:22-23)
    - (b) Rejecting (1 Sam. 8:7)
    - (c) Robbing (Mal. 3:2-5)
  - (2) Her sins against the Son
    - (a) She refused him (John 1:11).
    - (b) She crucified him (Acts 2:22-23; 3:14-15; 4:10; 5:30; 1 Thess. 2:14-16).
  - (3) Her sins against the Holy Spirit – stubborn resistance. (See Acts 7:51.)
- d. To separate the Gentile sheep from the goats – “And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left” (Matt. 25:32-33).
- (1) His words to the sheep – “Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (Matt. 25:34).
  - (2) His words to the goats – “Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matt. 25:41).
- e. To bind Satan – “And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly” (Rom. 16:20). “And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled” (Rev. 20:1-3).
- f. To resurrect Old Testament and tribulational saints – It is the view of this study guide that at the Rapture of the church God will raise only those believers who have been saved from Pentecost till the Rapture. According to this view, all other believers will be resurrected just prior to the Millennium at this time.
- (1) The fact of this resurrection – At least nine passages bring out this resurrection. “For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God” (Job 19:25-26). (See Psa. 49:15; Isa. 25:8; 26:19; Dan. 12:2; Hos. 13:14; John 5:28-29; Heb. 11:35; Rev. 20:4-5.)
  - (2) The order of this resurrection – This is the third of four major biblical resurrections. These are:
    - (a) The resurrection of Christ (1 Cor. 15:23)
    - (b) The resurrection of believers at the Rapture (1 Thess. 4:16; 1 Cor. 15:51-53)
    - (c) The resurrection of Old Testament and tribulational saints
    - (d) The resurrection of the unsaved (Rev. 20:5, 11-14) – Thus one of the reasons for the Second Coming will be to resurrect those non-church-related saints. For many long

centuries Father Abraham has been patiently awaiting that city “which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God” (Heb. 11:10). God will not let him down.

- g. To judge fallen angels – “Know ye not that we shall judge angels?” (1 Cor. 6:3). All fallen angels are of course, included in this judgment. But they fall into two main categories: chained and unchained.
  - (1) Unchained fallen angels (See Luke 8:30-31; Mark 1:23-24; Eph. 6:12.)
  - (2) Chained angels (See 1 Pet. 3:18-20; Jude 6.)
3. The time element involved in the second coming of Christ – According to Daniel 12:11-12, there will be a period of 75 days between the second coming of Christ and the millennial reign. Dr. S. Franklin Logsdon has written:

We in the United States have a national analogy. The President is elected in the early part of November, but he is not inaugurated until January 20th.

There is an interim of 70-plus days. During this time, he concerns himself with the appointment of Cabinet members, foreign envoys and others who will comprise his government. In the period of 75 days between the termination of the Great Tribulation and the Coronation, the King of glory likewise will attend to certain matters. (*Profiles of Prophecy*, p. 81)

- H. The glorious Millennium – “And they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years” (Rev. 20:4). Dr. J. Dwight Pentecost writes:

A larger body of prophetic Scripture is devoted to the subject of the millennium, developing its character and conditions, than any other one subject. This millennial age, in which the purposes of God are fully realized on the earth, demands considerable attention. An attempt will be made to deduce from the Scriptures themselves the essential facts and features of this theocratic kingdom. While much has been written on the subject of the millennium, that which is clearly revealed in the Word can be our only true guide as to the nature and character of that period. (*Things to Come*, p. 476)

1. The fact of the Millennium.– The word itself is a Latin term that signifies “one thousand years.” “And they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years” (Rev. 20:4).

In the first seven verses of Revelation 20, John mentions the 1000-year period no less than six times. In spite of this some have argued that, since this number is found in only one New Testament passage, one cannot insist that the 1000-year period will really come to pass.

Dr. Rene Pache writes the following helpful words:

Let us notice again this fact: the teaching of the Old Testament concerning the millennium is so complete that the Jews in the Talmud succeeded in developing it entirely themselves, without possessing the gift furnished later by the New Testament. For example, they had indeed affirmed before the Apocalypse that the messianic kingdom would last one thousand years. One should not, therefore, claim (as some have done) that without the famous passage of Revelation 20:1-10 the doctrine of the millennium would not exist. (*The Return of Jesus Christ*, p. 380)

2. Three views concerning the Millennium
  - a. Postmillennialism – This theory says that through the preaching of the gospel the world will eventually embrace Christianity and become a universal “society of saints.” At this point Christ will be invited to assume command and reign over man's peaceful planet. Thus, postmillennialists believe in a literal thousand-year reign. Their position is false, however, for the Bible clearly teaches that the world situation will become worse and worse prior to Christ's second coming – not better and better. (See 1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 3:1-5.) This position was popularized by a Unitarian minister named Daniel Whitby (1638 – 1726).
  - b. Amillennialism – This view teaches that there will be no 1000-year reign at all and that the New Testament church inherits all the spiritual promises and prophecies of Old Testament Israel. In this view Isaiah's beautiful prophecy of the bear and the cow lying together and the lion eating straw like the ox (Isa. 11:7) simply doesn't mean what it says at all. However, if the eleventh chapter of Isaiah cannot be taken literally, what proof do we have that the magnificent fifty-third chapter should not likewise be allegorized away?

- c. Premillennialism – This view teaches that Christ will return just prior to the Millennium and will personally rule during this glorious thousand-year reign. This position alone is sutural and is the oldest of these three views. From the apostolic period on, the premillennial position was held by the early church fathers.
3. The wedding at the beginning of the Millennium – “Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, dean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God” (Rev. 19:7-9).
- Note: As previously stated (see “The marriage service of the Lamb” in this chapter), the wedding service is private and takes place in heaven shortly after the Rapture, while the wedding supper is public and occurs on earth at the beginning of the Millennium.
4. The purpose of the Millennium
- a. To reward the saints of God – “Verily there is a reward for the righteous” (Psa. 58:11). “To him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward” (Prov. 11:18). “Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him” (Isa. 40:10).  
 “Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven” (Matt. 5:12). “For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works” (Matt. 16:27). “Then shall the King say..., Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (Matt. 25:34). “Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance” (Col. 3:24). “And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me” (Rev. 22:12).
- b. To answer the oft-prayed model prayer – In Luke 11:1-4 and Matthew 6:9-13 our Lord, at the request of his disciples, suggested a pattern prayer to aid all believers in their praying. One of the guidelines was this: “Thy kingdom come.” Here the Savior was inviting his followers to pray for the Millennium. Someday he will return to fulfill the untold millions of times these three little words have wafted their way to heaven by Christians: “Thy kingdom come.”
- c. To redeem creation – In Genesis 3 God cursed nature because of Adam’s sin. From that point on, man’s paradise became a wilderness. The roses suddenly contained thorns, and the docile tiger became a hungry meat-eater, But during the Millennium all this will change. Paul describes the transformation for us in his Epistle to the Romans: “For all creation is waiting patiently and hopefully for that future day when God will resurrect his children. For on that day thorns and thistles, sin, death, and decay – the things that overcame the world against its will at God’s command – will all disappear, and the world around us will share in the glorious freedom from sin which God’s children enjoy. For we know that even the things of nature, like animals and plants, suffer in sickness and death as they await this great event” (Rom. 8:19-22, TLB).
- d. To fulfill three important Old Testament covenants.
- (1) The Abrahamic Covenant – God promised Abraham two basic things
- (a) That his seed (Israel) would become a mighty nation (Gen. 12:1-3; 13:16; 15:5; 17:7; 22:17-18)
- (b) That his seed (Israel) would someday own Palestine forever (Gen. 12:7; 13:11-15, 17; 15:7, 18-21; 17:8)
- (2) The Davidic Covenant (2 Sam. 7:12-16; 23:5) – Here the promise was threefold
- (a) That from David would come an everlasting throne
- (b) That from David would come an everlasting kingdom
- (c) That from David would come an everlasting King
- In a very real sense many of the conditions within these first two covenants have already come to pass. For example, concerning the Abrahamic Covenant, God did form a mighty nation from Abraham and today approximately 25 percent of that nation lives in the promised land. Then, in the fullness of time, God sent a babe from the seed of David to rule over the seed of Abraham in the land. (See Luke 1:30-33.) But a problem soon arose, for when the ruler from David presented himself, he was rejected by Abraham’s seed (Luke 23:18, 21; John 19:15). Thus, a third covenant was needed that would bring to completion the blessings of the first two. This God will wondrously accomplish through the New Covenant.
- (3) The New Covenant (Jer. 31:31-34; Isa. 42:6; Heb. 8:7-12) – This promise was also threefold:
- (a) That he would forgive their iniquity and forget their sin
- (b) That he would give them new hearts
- (c) That he would use Israel to reach and teach the Gentiles

- e. To prove a point – This is the point regardless of his environment or heredity: mankind apart from God’s grace will inevitably fail. For example:
- (1) The age of innocence ended with willful disobedience (Gen. 3).
  - (2) The age of conscience ended with universal corruption (Gen. 6),
  - (3) The age of human government ended with devil-worshipping at the tower of Babel (Gen. 11).
  - (4) The age of promise ended with God's people out of the promised land and enslaved in Egypt (Exod. 1).
  - (5) The age of the law ended with the creatures killing their Creator (Matt. 27),
  - (6) The age of the church will end with worldwide apostasy (1 Tim. 4).
  - (7) The age of the tribulation will end with the battle of Armageddon (Rev. 19),
  - (8) The age of the Millennium will end with an attempt to destroy God himself (Rev. 20).
- (Note: Just where and how Satan will gather this unsaved human army at the end of the Millennium will be discussed later in this chapter.)

Dr. J. Dwight Pentecost writes:

The millennial age is designed by God to be the final test of fallen humanity under the most ideal circumstances, surrounded by every enablement to obey the rule of the king, from whom the outward sources of temptation have been removed, so that man may be found and proved to be a failure in even this last testing of fallen humanity. (*Things to Come*, p. 538)

- f. To fulfill the main burden of biblical prophecy – All Bible prophecy concerning the Lord Jesus Christ is summarized in one tiny verse by the Apostle Peter: “the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow” (1 Pet. 1:11).
- Here Peter connects Christ’s first coming (the sufferings) with his second coming (the glory). This in a nutshell is a panorama of the purpose, plan, and program of almighty Jehovah God. Note this beautiful outline as we trace it through the Word of God.
- (1) The sufferings – a Baby, wrapped in swaddling clothes (Luke 2:12); the glory – a King, clothed in majestic apparel (Psa. 93:1)
  - (2) The sufferings – he was the wearied traveler (John 4:6); the glory – he will be the untiring God (Isa. 40:28-29).
  - (3) The sufferings – he had nowhere to lay his head (Luke 9:58); the glory – he will become heir to all things (Heb. 1:2).
  - (4) The sufferings – he was rejected by tiny Israel (John 1:11); The glory – he will be accepted by all the nations (Isa. 9:6).
  - (5) The sufferings – wicked men took up stones to throw at him (John 8:59); the glory – wicked men will cry for stones to fall upon them to hide them from him (Rev. 6:16).
  - (6) The sufferings – a lowly Savior, acquainted with grief (Isa. 53:3); the glory – the mighty God, anointed with the oil of gladness (Heb. 1:9)
  - (7) The sufferings – he was clothed with a scarlet robe in mockery (Luke 23:11); the glory – he will be clothed with a vesture dipped in the blood of his enemies (Rev. 19:13).
  - (8) The sufferings – he was smitten with a reed (Matt. 27:30); the glory – he will rule the nations with a rod of iron (Rev. 19:15).
  - (9) The sufferings – wicked soldiers bowed their knee and mocked (Mark 15:19); the glory – every knee shall bow and acknowledge him (Phil. 2:10).
  - (10) The sufferings – he wore a crown of thorns (John 19:5); the glory – he will wear a crown of gold (Rev. 14:14).
  - (11) The sufferings – his hands were pierced with nails (John 20:25); the glory – his hands will carry a sharp sickle (Rev. 14:14).
  - (12) The sufferings – his feet were pierced with nails (Psa. 22:16); the glory – his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14:4).
  - (13) The sufferings – he had no form or comeliness (Isa. 53:2); the glory – he will be the fairest of 10,000 (Psa. 27:4).
  - (14) The sufferings – he delivered up his spirit (John 19:30); the glory – he is alive forevermore (Rev. 1:18).
  - (15) The sufferings – he was laid in the tomb (Matt. 27:59-60); the glory – he will sit on his throne (Heb. 8:1).

Here, then, is the “suffering-glory story” of the Savior. Furthermore, when a sinner repents and becomes a part of the body of Christ, he too shares in this destiny, “For I reckon that the



sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Rom. 8:18). “And our hope of you is stedfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation” (2 Cor. 1:7). “If we suffer, we shall also reign with him” (2 Tim. 2:12). “Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy” (1 Pet. 4:12-13). “The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed” (1 Pet. 5:1).

5. The titles of the Millennium
  - a. The world to come (Heb. 2:5)
  - b. The kingdom of heaven (Matt. 5:10)
  - c. The kingdom of God (Mark 1:14)
  - d. The last day (John 6:40)
  - e. The regeneration (Matt. 19:28) – “And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel” (Matt. 19:28).  
The word *regeneration* is found only twice in the English Bible, here and in Titus 3:5, where Paul is speaking of the believer’s new birth. The word literally means “re-creation.” Thus the Millennium will be to the earth what salvation is to the sinner.
  - f. The times of refreshing (Acts 3:19)
  - g. The restitution of all things (Acts 3:21)
  - h. The day of Christ – This is by far the most common biblical name for the Millennium. (See 1 Corinthians 1:8; 5:5; 2 Corinthians 1:14; Philippians 1:6; 2:16.)  
Thus, during the Millennium our blessed Lord will have the opportunity to exercise his rightful and eternal fourfold sonship.
    - (1) His racial sonship – Son of Abraham (Gen. 17:8; Matt. 1:1; Gal. 3:16)
    - (2) His royal sonship – Son of David (Isa. 9:7; Matt. 1:1; Luke 1:32-33)
    - (3) His human sonship – Son of Man (John 5:27; Acts 1:11).
    - (4) His divine sonship – Son of God (Isa. 66:15-18, 23; 41:10, 17-18; Psa. 46:1, 5; 86:9; Zech. 14:16-19)
6. Old Testament examples of the Millennium
  - a. The Sabbath – This word literally means “rest.” In Old Testament times God wisely set aside a Sabbath or rest time after a period of activity, A rest was to be observed:
    - (1) After six workdays (Exod. 20:8-11; Lev. 23:3)
    - (2) After six workweeks (Lev. 23:15-16)
    - (3) After six work months (Lev. 23:24-25, 27, 34)
    - (4) After six work years (Lev. 25:2-5)
  - b. The jubilee year (Lev. 25:10-12)
  - c. The tabernacle – because God’s glory dwelt in the Holy of Holies (Exod. 25:8; 29:42-46; 40:34)
  - d. The Feast of Tabernacles (Lev. 23:34-42)
  - e. The promised land (Deut. 6:3; Heb. 4:8-10)
  - f. The reign of Solomon
    - (1) Because of the vastness of his kingdom (1 Kings 4:21)
    - (2) Because of its security (1 Kings 4:25)
    - (3) Because of his great wisdom (1 Kings 4:29, 34)
    - (4) Because of the fame of his kingdom (1 Kings 10:7)
    - (5) Because of the riches of his kingdom (1 Kings 10:27)
7. The nature of the Millennium – What will the 1000-year reign of Christ be like? Dr. J. Dwight Pentecost has compiled the following extended and impressive facts (*Things to Come*, pp. 487-490):
  - a. Peace – The cessation of war through the unification of the kingdoms of the world under the reign of Christ, together with the resultant economic prosperity (since nations need not devote vast proportions of their expenditure on munitions), is a major theme of the prophets. National and individual peace is the fruit of Messiah’s reign (Isa. 2:4; 9:4-7; 11:6-9; 32:17-18; 33:5-6; 54:13; 55:12; 60:18; 65:25; 66:12; Ezek. 28:26; 34:25, 28; Hos. 2:18; Mic. 4:2-3; Zech. 9:10).
  - b. Joy – The fullness of joy will be a distinctive mark of the age (Isa. 9:3-4; 12:3-6; 14:7-8; 25:8-9; 30:29; 42:1, 10-12; 52:9; 60:15; 61:7, 10; 65:18-19; 66:10-14; Jer. 30:18-19; 31:13-14; Zeph. 3:14-17; Zech. 8:18-19; 10:6-7).

- c. Holiness – The theocratic kingdom will be a holy kingdom, in which holiness is manifested through the King and the King’s subjects. The land will be holy, the city holy, the temple holy, and the subjects holy unto the Lord (Isa. 1:26-27; 4:3-4; 29:18-23; 31:6-7; 35:8-9; 52:1; 60:21; 61:10; Jer. 31:23; Ezek. 36:24-31; 37:23-24; 43:7-12; 45:1; Joel 3:21; Zeph.3:11, 13; Zech. 8:3; 13:1-2; 14:20-21).
- d. Glory – The kingdom will be a glorious kingdom, in which the glory of God will find full manifestation (Isa. 4:2; 24:34; 35:2; 40:5; 60:1-9).
- e. Comfort – The King will personally minister to every need, so that there will be the fullness of comfort in that day (Isa. 12:1-2; 29:22-23; 30:26; 40:1-2; 49:13; 51:3; 61:3-7; 66:13-14; Jer. 31:23-25; Zeph. 3:18-20; Zech. 9:11-12; Rev. 21:4).
- f. Justice – There will be the administration of perfect justice to every individual (Isa. 9:7; 11:5; 32:16; 42:1-4; 65:21-23; Jer. 23:5; 31:23; 31:29-30).
- g. Full knowledge – The ministry of the King will bring the subjects of his kingdom into full knowledge. Doubtless there will be an unparalleled teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit (Isa. 11:1-2, 9; 41:19-20; 54:13; Hab. 2:14).
- h. Instruction – This knowledge will come about through the instruction that issues from the King (Isa. 2:2-3; 12:3-6; 25:9; 29:17-24; 30:20-21; 32:3-4; 49:10; 52:8; Jer. 3:14-15; 23:1-4; Mic. 4:2).
- i. Removal of the curse – The original curse placed upon creation (Gen. 3:17-19) will be removed, so that there will be abundant productivity to the earth. Animal creation will be changed so as to lose its venom and ferocity (Isa. 11:6-9; 35:9; 65:25).
- j. Sickness removed – The ministry of the King as a healer will be seen throughout the age, so that sickness and even death, except as a penal measure in dealing with overt sin, will be removed (Isa. 33:24; Jer. 30:17; Ezek. 34:16).
- k. Healing of the deformed – Accompanying this ministry will be the healing of all deformity at the inception of the Millennium (Isa. 29:17-19; 35:3-6; 61:1-2; Jer. 31:8; Mic. 4:6-7; Zeph. 3:19).
- l. Protection – There will be a supernatural work of preservation of life in the millennial age through the King (Isa. 41:8-14; 62:8-9; Jer. 32:27; 23:6; Ezek. 34:21; Joel 3:16-17; Amos 9:15; Zech. 8:14-15; 9:8; 14:10-11).
- m. Freedom from oppression – There will be no social, political, or religious oppression in that day (Isa. 14:3-6; 42:6-7; 49:8-9; Zech. 9:11-12).
- n. No immaturity – The suggestion seems to be that there will not be the tragedies of feeble-mindedness nor of dwarfed bodies in that day (Isa. 65:20). Longevity will be restored.
- o. Reproduction by the living people – The living saints who go into the Millennium in their natural bodies will beget children throughout the age. The earth’s population will soar. Those born in this age will not be born without a sin nature, so salvation will be required (Jer. 30:20; 31:29; Ezek. 47:22; Zech. 10:8).
- p. Labor – The period will not be characterized by idleness, but there will be a perfect economic system, in which the needs of men are abundantly provided for by labor in that system, under the guidance of the King. There will be a fully developed industrialized society, providing for the needs of the King’s subjects (Isa. 62:8-9; 65:21-23; Jer. 31:5; Ezek. 48:18-19). Agriculture as well as manufacturing will provide employment.
- q. Economic prosperity – The perfect labor situation will produce economic abundance, so that there will be no want (Isa. 35:1-2, 7; 30:23-25; 62:8-9; 65:21-23; Jer. 31:5, 12; Ezek. 34:26; 36:29-30; Joel 2:21-27; Amos 9:13-14; Micah 4:1, 4; Zech. 8:11-12; 9:16-17).  
Willard Cantelon writes:

Some who studied the riches of earth estimated the combined value of the gold and silver, the grain and oil and timber, the fish and fruit and minerals, etc., at one decillion dollars! This figure of course, was beyond my comprehension, but slowly I repeated, “Million, billion, trillion, quadrillion, quintillion, sextillion, septillion, octillion, novillion, decillion!” Taking pen and paper, I divided the four billion of earth’s population into this figure, and saw that everyone would be a billionaire, if he shared such wealth! The Psalmist said: “The earth is full of thy riches!” (Psa. 104:24). (*Money Master of the World*, p. 137)

- r. Increase of light – There will be an increase of solar and lunar light in the age. This increased light probably is a major cause in the increased productivity of the earth (Isa. 4:5; 30:26; 60:19-20; Zech. 2:5).

- s. Unified language – The language barriers will be removed so that there can be free social interchange (Zeph. 3:9).
  - t. Unified worship – All the world will unite in the worship of God and God’s Messiah (Isa. 45:23; 52:1, 7-10; 66:17-23; Zeph. 3:9; Zech. 13:2; 14:16; 8:23; 9:7; Mal. 1:11; Rev. 5:9-14).
  - u. The manifest presence of God – God’s presence will be fully recognized and fellowship with God will be experienced to an unprecedented degree (Ezek. 37:27-28; Zech. 2:2, 10-13; Rev. 21:3).
  - v. The fullness of the Spirit – Divine presence and enablement will be the experience of all who are in subjection to the authority of the King (Isa. 32:13-15; 41:1; 44:3; 59:19, 21; 61:1; Ezek. 11:10-20; 36:26-27; 37:14; 39:29; Joel 2:28-29).
  - w. The perpetuity of the millennial state – That which characterizes the millennial age is not viewed as temporary, but eternal (Isa. 51:6-8; 55:3, 13; 56:5; 60:19-20; 61:8; Jer. 32:40; Ezek. 16:60; 37:26-28; 43:7-9; Dan. 9:24; Hos. 2:19-23; Joel 3:20; Amos 9:15).
8. The citizens of the Millennium
- a. Considered negatively – No unsaved persons will enter the Millennium (Isa. 35; Jer. 31:33-34; Ezek. 20:37-38; Zech. 13:9; Matt. 18:3; 25:30, 46; John 3:3). However, millions of babies will evidently be reared in the Millennium. They will be born of saved but mortal Israelite and Gentile parents who survived the tribulation and entered the Millennium in that state of mortality (thus the possible reason for the tree of life in Rev. 22:2). As they mature, some of these babies will refuse to submit their hearts to the new birth, though outward acts will be subjected to existing authority. Thus Christ will rule with a rod of iron (Rev. 2:27; 12:5; 19:15; Zech. 14:17-19).  
Dr. Rene Pache writes concerning this:

As beautiful as the Millennium is, it will not be heaven.... Sin will still be possible during the thousand years (Isa. 11:4; 65:20). Certain families and certain nations will refuse to go up to Jerusalem to worship the Lord (Zech. 14:17-19). Such deeds will be all the more inexcusable because the tempter will be absent and because the revelations of the Lord will be greater.... Those who have been thus smitten will serve as examples to all those who would be tempted to imitate them (Isa. 66:24). (*The Return of Christ*, pp. 428-429)

- b. Considered positively
    - (1) Saved Israel
      - (a) Israel will once again be related to God by marriage (Isa. 54:1-17; 62:2-5; Hos. 2:14-23).
      - (b) Israel will be exalted above the Gentiles (Isa. 14:1-2; 49:22-23; 60:14-17; 61:6-7).
      - (c) Israel will become God’s witnesses during the Millennium (Isa. 44:8; 61:6; 66:21; Jer. 16:19-21; Micah 5:7; Zeph. 3:20; Zech. 4:1-7; 8:3).
    - (2) Saved Old Testament and tribulation Gentiles (Rev. 5:9-10; Isa. 2:4; 11:12)
    - (3) The church (1 Cor. 6:2; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rev. 1:6; 2:26-27; 3:21)
    - (4) The elect angels (Heb. 12:22)
9. The King of the Millennium – The Lord Jesus Christ will of course be King supreme, but there are passages that suggest he will graciously choose to rule through a vice-regent, and that vice-regent will be David. Note the following Scripture: “But they shall serve the Lord their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them” (Jer. 30:9). Jeremiah wrote those words some 400 years after the death of David, so he could not have been referring to his earthly reign here.
- “And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd” (Ezek. 34:23). (See also Ezek. 37:24.) “Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the Lord their God, and David their king; and shall fear the Lord and his goodness in the latter days” (Hos. 3:5).
- If we take these passages literally, David will once again sit upon the throne of Israel. He will thus be aided in his rule by:
- a. The church (1 Cor. 6:3)
  - b. The apostles (Matt. 19:28)
  - c. Nobles (Jer. 30:21)
  - d. Princes (Isa. 32:1; Ezek. 45:8-9)
  - e. Judges (Zech. 3:7; Isa. 1:26)
10. The geography of the Millennium
- a. Palestine
    - (1) To be greatly enlarged and changed (Isa. 26:15; Obad. 17-21) – For the first time Israel will possess all the land promised to Abraham in Genesis 15:18-21.

- (2) A great fertile plain to replace the mountainous terrain
- (3) A river to flow east-west from the Mount of Olives into both the Mediterranean and the Dead seas – The following passages from *The Living Bible* bear this out:

“The Mount of Olives will split apart, making a very wide valley running from east to west, for half the mountain will move toward the north and half toward the south.... Life-giving waters will flow out from Jerusalem, half toward the Dead Sea and half toward the Mediterranean, flowing continuously both in winter and in summer.... All the land from Geba (the northern border of Judah) to Rimmon (the southern border) will become one vast plain” (Zech. 14:4, 8, 10). “Sweet wine will drip from the mountains, and the hills shall flow with milk. Water will fill the dry stream beds of Judah, and a fountain will burst forth from the Temple of the Lord to water Acacia valley” (Joel 3:18). “He told me: ‘This river flows east through the desert and the Jordan Valley to the Dead Sea, where it will heal the salty waters and make them fresh and pure. Everything touching the water of this river shall live. Fish will abound in the Dead Sea, for its waters will be healed.... All kinds of fruit trees will grow along the river banks. The leaves will never turn brown and fall, and there will always be fruit. There will be a new crop every month – without fail! For they are watered by the river flowing from the Temple. The fruit will be for food and the leaves for medicine’” (Ezek. 47:8-9, 12).

b. Jerusalem

- (1) The city will become the worship center of the world – “But in the last days Mount Zion will be the most renowned of all the mountains of the world, praised by all nations; people from all over the world will make pilgrimages there” (Mic. 4:1). “In the last days Jerusalem and the Temple of the Lord will become the world’s greatest attraction, and people from many lands will flow there to worship the Lord, ‘Come,’ everyone will say, ‘Let us go up the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Israel; there he will teach us his laws, and we will obey them’” (Isa. 2:2-3, TLB).
- (2) The city will occupy an elevated site (Zech. 14:10).
- (3) The city will be six miles in circumference (Ezek. 48:35). (In the time of Christ the city was about four miles.)
- (4) The city will be named “Jehovah-Shammah,” meaning “the Lord is there” (Ezek. 48:35), and “Jehovah Tsidkenu,” meaning, “the Lord our righteousness” (Jer. 23:6; 33:16).

These two will be the final names for God’s beloved city. It has been called by many titles in the Bible.

- (a) The city of David (2 Sam. 6:12)
- (b) The city of the great King (Matt. 5:35)
- (c) The Holy City (Isa. 48:2; 51:1; Matt. 4:5)
- (d) Salem (Gen. 14:18)
- (e) The city of God (Psa. 46:4; 48:1; 87:3)
- (f) The city of the Lord of Hosts (Psa. 48:8)
- (g) The city of righteousness (Isa. 1:26)
- (h) The city of truth (Zech. 8:3)
- (i) The city of the Lord (Isa. 60:14)
- (j) The perfection of beauty (Lam. 2:15)
- (k) The joy of the whole earth (Lam. 2:15)

11. The temple in the Millennium

- a. Its biblical order – The millennial temple is the last of seven great scriptural temples. These are:
  - (1) The tabernacle of Moses – Exodus 40 (1500-1000 B.C.)
  - (2) The temple of Solomon – 1 Kings 8 (1000 – 586 B.C.)
  - (3) The temple of Zerubbabel (rebuilt later by Herod) – Ezra 6; John 2 (516 B.C.– A.D. 70)
  - (4) The temple of the body of Jesus – (John 2:21 (4 B.C.– A.D. 30)
  - (5) The spiritual temple, the church – Acts 2; 1 Thessalonians 4 (from Pentecost till the Rapture)
    - (a) The whole church (Eph. 2:21)
    - (b) The local church (1 Cor. 3:16-17)
    - (c) The individual Christian (1 Cor. 6:19)
  - (6) The tribulational temple – Revelation 11 (from the Rapture till Armageddon)
  - (7) The millennial temple – Isaiah 2:3; 60:13; Ezek. 40-48; Dan. 9:24; Joel 3:18; Haggai 2:7, 9
- b. Its holy oblation – Palestine will be redistributed among the 12 tribes of Israel during the Millennium. The land itself will be divided into three areas. Seven tribes will occupy the northern

area and five the southern ground. Between these two areas there is a section called “the holy oblation,” that is, that portion of ground that is set apart for the Lord. Dr. J. Dwight Pentecost quotes Merrill F. Unger on this:

The holy oblation would be a spacious square, thirty-four miles each way, containing about 1,160 square miles. This area would be the center of all the interests of the divine government and worship as set up in the Millennial earth.... The temple itself would be located in the middle of this square (the holy oblation) and not in the City of Jerusalem, upon a very high mountain, which will be miraculously made ready for that purpose when the temple is to be erected (see Isa. 2:4; Mic. 4:1-4; Ezek. 37:26). (*Things to Come*, p. 510)

- c. Its priesthood – On four specific occasions we are told that the sons of Zadok will be assigned the priestly duties (Ezek. 40:46; 43:19; 44:15; 48:11). Zadok was a high priest in David’s time (the eleventh in descent from Aaron). His loyalty to the king was unwavering. Because of this, he was promised that his seed would have this glorious opportunity (1 Sam. 2:35; 1 Kings 2:27, 35).
- d. Its prince – In his description of the temple, Ezekiel refers to a mysterious “prince” some 17 times. Whoever he is, he occupies a very important role in the temple itself, apparently holding an intermediary place between the people and the priesthood. We are sure that it is not Christ, since he prepares a sin offering for himself (Ezek. 45:22), and is married and has sons (Ezek. 46:16). Some suggest that the prince is from the seed of King David, and that he will be to David what the false prophet was to the Antichrist.
- e. Its negative aspects – Several articles and objects present in the temple of Moses, Solomon, and Herod will be absent from the millennial temple.
  - (1) There will be no veil – This was torn in two from top to bottom (Matt. 27:51) and will not reappear in this temple. Thus there will be no barrier to keep man from the glory of God.
  - (2) There will be no table of shewbread – This will not be needed, for the living Bread himself will be present.
  - (3) There will be no lampstands – These will not be needed either, since the Light of the World himself will personally shine forth.
  - (4) There will be no Ark of the Covenant – This will also be unnecessary, since the Shekinah Glory himself will hover over all the world, as the glory cloud once did over the Ark.
  - (5) The east gate will be closed – Observe the words of Ezekiel: “This gate shall be shut, and no man shall enter in by it; because the Lord, the God of Israel, hath entered in by it, therefore it shall be shut” (Ezek. 44:2). This gate, it has been suggested, will remain closed for the following reasons:
    - (a) This will be the gate by which the Lord Jesus Christ enters the temple – As a mark of honor to an eastern king, no person could enter the gate by which the king entered.
    - (b) It was from the eastern gate that the glory of God departed for the last time in the Old Testament (Ezek. 10:18-19) – By sealing the gate, God reminds all those within that his glory will never again depart from his people.
- f. Its sacrifices – As we have already seen, several pieces of furniture in the Old Testament temple will be missing in the millennial edifice. However, the brazen altar of sacrifice will again be present. There are at least four Old Testament prophecies that speak of animal sacrifices in the millennial temple: Isaiah 56:6-7; 60:7; Jeremiah 33:10; Zechariah 14:16-21. But why the need of these animal blood sacrifices during the golden age of the Millennium? In a nutshell, they will serve as a reminder, an object lesson, an example, and an illustration.
  - (1) A reminder to all of the necessity of the new birth
  - (2) An object lesson of the costliness of salvation
  - (3) An example of the awfulness of sin
  - (4) An illustration of the holiness of God
- I. Satan’s final revolt – “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” (Rev. 20:7-9). Dr. J. Vernon McGee writes the following words concerning these verses:

When the late Dr. Chafer (founder of Dallas Theological Seminary) was once asked why God loosed Satan after he once had him bound, he replied, “If you will tell me why God let him loose in the first place, I will

tell you why God lets him loose the second time.” Apparently Satan is released at the end of the Millennium to reveal that the ideal conditions of the kingdom, under the personal reign of Christ, do not change the human heart. This reveals the enormity of the enmity of man against God. Scripture is accurate when it describes the heart as “desperately wicked” and incurably so. Man is totally depraved. The loosing of Satan at the end of the 1,000 years proves it. (*Reveling Through Revelation*, pp. 74 – 75)

We have already discussed the purposes accomplished by the sacrifices during the Millennium. Apparently millions of maturing children will view these sacrifices and hear the tender salvation plea of the priests, but will stubbornly harden their sinful hearts. The fact that earth’s mighty King at Jerusalem once bled as a lowly lamb at Calvary will mean absolutely nothing to them. Outwardly they will conform, but inwardly they will despise.

Finally, at the end of the Millennium, the world will be offered for the first time in ten centuries “a choice, and not an echo.” Millions will make a foolish and fatal choice. Dr. J. Dwight Pentecost quotes F. C. Jennings, who writes:

Has human nature changed, at least apart from sovereign grace? Is the carnal mind at last in friendship with God? Have a thousand years of absolute power and absolute benevolence, both in unchecked activity, done away with all war forever and forever? These questions must be marked by a practical test. Let Satan be loosed once more from his prison. Let him range once more earth’s smiling fields that he knew of old. He saw them last soaked with blood and flooded with tears, the evidence and accompaniments of his own reign; he sees them now “laughing with abundance.”...But as he pursues his way further from Jerusalem, the center of this blessedness, these tokens become fainter, until, in the far-off “corner of the earth,” they cease altogether, for he finds myriads who have instinctively shrunk from close contact with that holy center, and are not unprepared once more to be deceived. (*Things to Come*, p. 549)

However, this insane and immoral insurrection is doomed to utter and complete failure. As a war correspondent, the Apostle John duly records this final battle: “And fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever” (Rev. 20:9-10).

Obviously, this battle referred to as Gog and Magog is not the same as the one in Ezekiel 38-39. Dr. J. Vernon McGee writes concerning this:

Because the rebellion is labeled “Gog and Magog,” many Bible students identify it with Gog and Magog of Ezekiel 38 and 39. This, of course, is not possible, for the conflicts described are not parallel as to time, place, or participants – only the name is the same. The invasion from the north by Gog and Magog of Ezekiel 38 and 39 breaks the false peace of the Antichrist and causes him to show his hand in the midst of the Great Tribulation. That rebellion of the godless forces from the north will have made such an impression on mankind that after 1,000 years the last rebellion of man bears the same label. We have passed through a similar situation in this century. World War I was so devastating that when war again broke out in Europe, it was labeled again “World War,” but differentiated by the number 2. Now World War III is being predicted! Likewise the war in Ezekiel 38 and 39 is Gog and Magog I, while this reference in verse 8 is Gog and Magog II. (*Thru the Revelation*, p. 77)

#### J. The Great White Throne Judgment

1. The fact of this throne (Heb. 9:27) – “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” (Rev. 20:11-15).

“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” (Dan. 7:9-10).

2. The Judge of this throne, Christ himself – “For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son.... And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man” (John 5:22, 27). “Him God raised up the third day, and showed him openly.... And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead” (Acts 10:40, 42). “I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom” (2 Tim. 4:1).
  3. The books referred to at this judgment
    - a. In regards to man
      - (1) The book of conscience – “Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them.... (Which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another)” (Rom. 1:19; 2:15).
      - (2) The book of words – “But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned” (Matt. 12:36-37).
      - (3) The book of deeds – “Who will render to every man according to his deeds” (Rom. 2:6).
        - (a) Private deeds – “In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel” (Rom. 2:16). “For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil” (Eccles. 12:14).
        - (b) Public deeds – “For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works” (Matt. 16:27). “Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works” (2 Cor. 11:15).
    - b. In regards to God
      - (1) The works of God – “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse” (Rom. 1:20).
      - (2) The Word of God – “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day” (John 12:48).
      - (3) The witness of God, the Lamb’s Book of Life (Rev. 13:8; 17:8; 20:15; 21:27)
  4. The judged at this throne – As has previously been discussed (see “The judgment seat of Christ”), only unsaved people will stand before this great white throne. “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God” (Psa. 9:17). 5. The judgment at this throne – The eternal lake of fire (Rev. 20:14-15; Matt. 25:41, 46)
- K. The destruction of this present earth and heaven
1. The fact of this destruction – “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away” (Matt. 24:35). “And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; and as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail” (Heb. 1:10-12).
 

“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... , 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 Pet. 3:10, 12).
  2. The reason for this destruction – At this stage in the Bible the final rebellion has been put down, the false prophet, the Antichrist, and the devil himself are all in the lake of fire forever, and the wicked dead have been judged. In light of this, why the necessity for this awesome destruction?
 

To help illustrate, consider the following: let us suppose that some crackpot breaks into the money vaults of Fort Knox, Kentucky, and begins pouring filthy crankcase oil on the stacked bars of gold and silver. Upon leaving, however, he is caught, tried, and confined to prison. The authorities thereupon close their books on the Fort Knox case. But the gunk on the gold remains. In this illustration, the vandal would represent the devil, the crankcase oil would stand for sin, and the gold and silver for God’s perfect creation. God will someday arrest the devil, of course, and forever confine him to prison. But what about the oily sin stains that remain on his gold and silver creation? To solve the problem,

God does what the Fort Knox authorities might consider doing – he purges the stains in a fiery wash. And it works. For the hotter the flame, the more rapidly the oil evaporates and the brighter the gold becomes.

God will someday do to creation what he did to His beloved Israel in the Old Testament: “Behold, I have refined thee... I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction” (Isa. 48:10).

- L. The creation of the new earth and heaven – “For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind” (Isa. 65:17). “For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the Lord, so shall your seed and your name remain” (Isa. 66:22). “Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness” (2 Pet. 3:13). “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea” (Rev. 21:1)