

46. 40 SIGNS OF CHRIST'S RETURN FULFILLED SINCE 1940

Question: How do you know the Bible is true?

Question: How do you know that Jesus Christ is the only true way to God and heaven?

Answer: Because the Bible is the only book in the world that accurately predicts the future. Anybody can write a religious book and claim that it is from God. But no man can predict the future in great detail with 100% accuracy as the Bible does.

The Bible contains hundreds of clear prophecies about Jesus Christ's first coming, every one of which came true.

The Bible also contains hundreds of clear predictions about events surrounding Jesus Christ's second coming. Many of these predictions have been fulfilled since 1940.

This leads us to conclude that Jesus Christ's second coming may be close.

God challenges all religions to prove that they are from God, by predicting future events: 'Show the things that are to come hereafter (in the future), that we may know that ye are gods.' Isaiah 41:23.

If a religion cannot accurately predict the future, then it is not from God but is false, man-made, and to be rejected.

Challenge: Consider how the Bible has successfully predicted these 20th Century events:

1. **Knowledge** shall increase in the time of the end:

'Seal the book to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.' (Daniel 12:4). The time of the end will see a definite increase in knowledge. The 20th Century has seen an enormous increase in man's knowledge because of so many scientific and technological advances. Inventions of the 20th Century showing this to be true include: electricity; electronics; computers; nuclear energy; space travel; satellite communications; telephone; internet; TV; jet travel; medical advances; radio and space telescopes; military technology; 'smart' bombs; many new chemical compounds; drugs to treat most diseases; motor cars, etc.



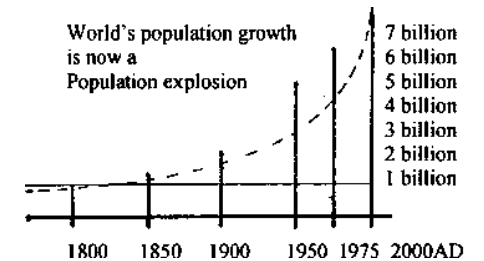
2. **Travel** shall increase in the time of the end:

'seal the book to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro...' (Daniel 12:4). The time of the end will see an increase in the number of people travelling to and fro around the world. With the invention of airplanes, cars, trains and ocean liners, travelling across the world at low cost is possible for most people. These inventions are unique to the 20th Century. Before 1900 very few people traveled outside their country. Have you traveled overseas?



3. **World population** shall greatly increase:

'The number of the army of the horsemen were 200 million.' (Revelation 9:16). This army will come from beyond the Euphrates River, possibly China, and will kill one third of mankind. Only 20th Century China has the ability to raise an army of 200 million soldiers. As of the year 2000, China's population is about 1.3 billion people. Never before could any nation raise an army this size.



4. **Wars** and **rumors of wars** shall increase.

'When ye hear of wars and rumors of wars, be ye not troubled, the end shall not be yet.

For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom . . . these are the beginning of sorrows.' (Mark 13:7,8).

Never have there been so many wars all over the world, involving so many nations. Some of the wars seen in the 20th Century include World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam, Cambodia, China/ Vietnam, Falklands, Ireland, Israel-Arab wars of 1947, 1956, 1967, 1973, Russian/ Afghanistan, Chechnya, Nicaragua, Angola, Iran/ Iraq, Iraq Gulf War 1991, Croatia 1991, Kosovo 1999, Cold War, many African wars, Afganistan/USA and terrorist wars. At least 20 major international wars have been fought this century.

5. **Earthquakes** shall increase.

'Earthquakes in divers (many) places.' (Matthew 24:7).

'there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake and so great (v 18) . . . the cities of the nations fell (v 19) . . . the mountains were not found (v 20). (Revelation 16:18-20).

The year 1991 saw 15 earthquakes over 7.1. The Australian Seismic Centre in Canberra records about 100 earthquakes every day, 75% of these are of magnitude 3-4 on the Richter Scale, and 25% are greater than magnitude 4. Yes, earthquakes have always occurred but never so many daily and worldwide, causing such great damage as in the 20th Century.

6. **Famines** shall increase. (Matthew 24:7).

The chief causes of famine are drought, flooding, plant diseases and war. About 800 million people are severely malnourished. Recently we have seen famines in Africa, North Korea, Biafra (1967-70 where 1 million Biafrans died), and Afghanistan.

7. **Pestilence** and **Diseases** shall increase. (Matthew 24:7).

Many fatal epidemic diseases have killed millions of people this century as viruses mutate into stronger varieties that are more resistant to treatment. Examples of modern diseases include: AIDS (30 million cases), Hepatitis, Syphilis, TB (3 million deaths per year), Malaria, Polio, Dysentery, Sleeping Sickness, Ebola, many tropical diseases, Typhoid, Cancer, Parkinson's, Mad Cow and Heart Disease. Old World Screw-worm disease can consume a whole cow in 5 to 7 days.

8. **False religions and deceivers** shall increase.

When Jesus was asked 'What shall be the sign of thy coming?' He replied:

'Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.' (Matthew 24:3-5).

Here we see that the first sign Jesus spoke of was religious deception by false Christs. Today we have so many false religions and religious deception that this prophecy has clearly been fulfilled. It is estimated that over 3000 cults exist in the world today. All these have a book other than the Bible as sole authority, a gospel of good works rather than Jesus Christ for salvation, and a fouder other than Jesus Christ.

9. **Wickedness** will increase.

God says, 'I will punish the world for their evil'. (Isaiah 13:11).

The LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity.' (Isaiah 26:21).

After Jesus Christ has returned to earth, the Bible says,

'The inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left.' (Isaiah 24:6).

Fourteen examples of modern wickedness include: witchcraft; murder of unborn babies; widespread drug addiction; violent movies; internet and magazine pornography; terrorist bombings; hostage taking; blowing up passenger planes; schoolyard massacres; genocide of Pol Pot killing 2 million people in Cambodia; Stalin starving 30 million Ukrainians in WWII; Communist persecution of minorities over 70 years; Hitler gasing 6 million Jews in WWII slave camps; widespread political bribery and corruption. Moral conditions today match those predicted in the last days in 2 Timothy 3:1-5.

'This know also that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be:

- a) Lovers of their own selves
 - b) Covetous (greed for money and power is everywhere)
 - c) Boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents
 - d) Unthankful – to God and others for blessings
 - e) Unholy – people loving sin, and caring little about God
 - f) Without natural affection – abortion is against a mother's natural love for her baby
 - g) Trucebreakers, false accusers
 - h) Incontinent – lacking sexual control
 - i) Fierce – terrorists and brutal dictators
 - j) Heady – given to intoxication by alcohol or drugs
 - k) Lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God – people prefer TV, sport, vacations, entertainment, rather than God, the Bible and Church.
- God says of these. 'From such TURN AWAY.'

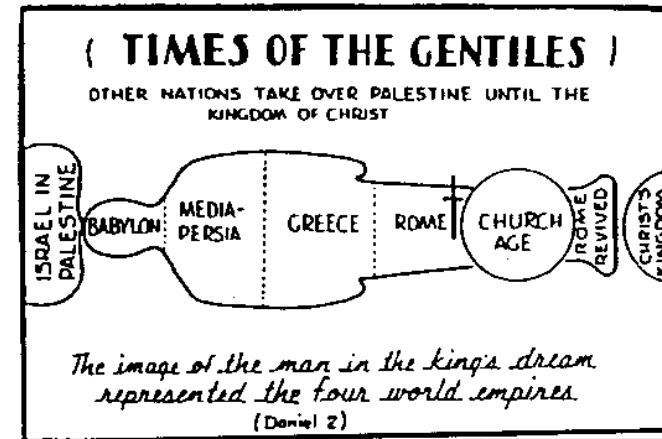
10. The **Number of Nations** shall increase by **gaining independence**.

'Behold the FIG TREE (Israel) and ALL THE TREES (many nations gaining independence); when they now shoot forth, ye see and know . . . that summer is near at hand. So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things come to pass, know that the Kingdom of God is near at hand.' (Luke 21:29-31).

The 20th Century has seen many nations gaining independence. Examples include many African countries, many Pacific Island countries, 12 former Soviet block countries with the breakup of the USSR, many former British Commonwealth countries and East Timor. The process is still continuing. The 'fig tree' budding refers to Israel gaining independence in May 1948 (Matthew 24:32,33; Joel 1:6,7), so do 'all the trees shooting forth' refer to many nations gaining independence this century.

11. **Europe will unite as a world power.**

After Babylon conquered Israel in 606 BC, the 'times of the Gentiles' began. God told the prophet Daniel that 4 great world empires would rise and fall before God's Kingdom would be set up on earth. These four empires are Babylon (606-536 BC), Medo-Persia (536-330 BC), Greece (330-67 BC), Rome (67 BC -) and a final European power that would be like and rise from the earlier Roman Empire. The vision of these empires looked like a statue of a man. The vision is explained in Daniel 2:19-49 & represented as follows:



When the European Union becomes a world power, Jesus Christ will return and set up His Kingdom on earth.

'in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed'. (Daniel 2:40-44).

A similar verse states that when Israel is built up as a world power, Jesus Christ, who is God the Son, will appear in His glory:

'When the LORD shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory.' (Psalm 102:16)

This European Union will, under a future President, known as the Antichrist, confirm a seven-year treaty with Israel. America's pro-Jewish position is pushing Palestinians towards Europe as a preferred peace broker. Western European nations have united under the Treaty of Rome (1957-58) thus setting up the European Economic Community (EEC). The Maastricht Treaty (1993) transformed the EEC into the European Union

(EU) creating European citizenship, with economic and monetary union. The Amsterdam Treaty (1997) integrated Central and Eastern Europe into the EU. The 15 member countries (370 million population) plan to expand to 25 countries (500 million people) by 2010AD. This would give a modern Revived Roman Empire as predicted in the Bible (Daniel 2:19-49).

Today, the European Union has a:

- a) European Parliament, of 626 members from 15 countries.
 - b) European currency, the Euro as of 1st January 1999.
 - c) European army, known as NATO, with a membership of 28 European countries.
 - d) European President appointed by secret ballot of members of the Parliament.
- Only the 20th century has seen all of Europe unite since 450 AD.

12. **Nuclear, chemical and biological weapons** of mass destruction shall be invented.

These fulfil a prediction that before Christ returns, man will discover the power to destroy the earth. One reason that Christ returns is to stop man destroying the earth.

'And should destroy them which destroy the earth' (Revelation 11:18).

'For then shall be great tribulation . . . and except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved.' (Matthew 24:21,22).

Up until 1945, man could not destroy the earth with weapons such as spears and swords.

Since 1945, with the invention of atomic and hydrogen bombs, entire cities can be destroyed in minutes. Scientists estimate that a major nuclear war could kill over 500 million people initially, but another 4 000 million people could starve to death in the next year due to nuclear winter. This would be caused by smoke from nuclear fires preventing sunlight from reaching the ground. Farming could stop and worldwide famine could result. Nuclear winter could also devastate the earth's ozone layer, permitting more harmful UV radiation to enter the earth. (World Book Encyclopedia)

12.



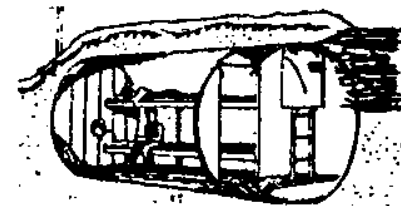
13. **Underground shelters** shall be invented.

'Every bondman and every free man hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains . . . from the wrath of the lamb'. (Revelation 6:15).

'They shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the Lord, when he arises to shake terribly the earth.' (Isaiah 2:19).

The Swiss Civil Defence Organization has built a 7 floor nuclear bomb shelter, deep in the Sonnenberg mountain, near Lucerne, able to house 22,000 people underground for 2 weeks. The aim is to provide nuclear shelter within 15 minutes walk for everyone in Switzerland by 2000AD.

The Australian 1980 Domestic Fallout Shelter Guide describes the construction and equipping of a private nuclear survival shelter. Two of the models pictured are:



Curved galvanized steel sheets, with wooden floor.



Reinforced concrete shelter, covered with earth

14. **Missiles and missile launchers** shall be invented.

These are some of the weapons used by the 200 million man army coming from the East described in Revelation 9:17-19 as having 'tails like serpents (rocket exhaust) and heads that hurt (explosive warheads)'.

Rockets and missiles are a basic weapon of modern warfare. They were only developed in WWII. How was this known in 96 AD?

Examples include: a) The US 'MX' ICBM each contains 10 nuclear warheads.

b) Each of 30 US Trident submarines is 170 metres long, and carries 24 Trident missiles, each tipped with up to 17 nuclear warheads. This gives a total of up to 408 nuclear missiles per sub, enough to destroy more than 100 major cities in one blow.

14.



15. **Satellite television** shall be invented.

This is described in Revelation 11:8-10 when people all over the world see the two witnesses' dead bodies lying in the streets of Jerusalem for 3½ days.

'They of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three and a half days.' (Revelation 11:9). This is possible today by satellite TV.

16. **Telephones** shall be invented.

This was predicted 3500 years ago in 1500BC. God asked Job the question: 'Canst thou send lightnings (electricity), that they may go and say unto thee, "Here we are"?' (Job 38:35).

By dialing a phone number, you send an electric current down a line, which rings a bell on your friend's phone, so you can introduce yourself as 'It's John speaking here'.

17. **Electronic fund transfer at point of sale (EFTPOS)** shall be invented. Today, using your credit card you can purchase goods at most shops by inserting your card into a machine that electronically transfers money from your account to the shop's account as payment for goods purchased. The Bible predicts that a time will come when people will receive a mark or a number known as '666' implanted in their right hand or forehead, as the method of buying and selling. This number '666' may well be an 18 digit bank account number contained in a smart electronic chip implanted under the skin, which specifies every person's bank account in the world. This system is already available today and is known as 'implantable biochip technology'. It is used to identify dogs and other animals. How did the Bible know this in 96AD? 'And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand or in their foreheads. And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, of the number of his name . . . the number of the beast . . . is 666.' (Revelation 13:16-18).



18. **Common 20th Century Sins** are predicted in Revelation 9:21. After the 200 million man army kills 33% of mankind, the following is said of the people who survive this nightmare: 'Neither repented they of their murders (abortions and violence), nor of their sorceries (drugs), nor of their fornication (sex outside marriage), nor of their thefts (stealing).'
19. **20th Century Christendom** is accurately predicted as being
- lukewarm, neither cold nor hot spiritually,
 - rich and increased with goods,
 - not knowing that it is wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked, that is, blind to its . . . spiritual poverty. (Revelation 3:14-19), and
 - asleep: 'While the bridegroom (Christ) tarried, they all slumbered and slept'. (Matthew 25:5). This well describes most sleepy 20th Century churches where very few preachers tell people about the signs of Christ's return being fulfilled daily, the events of Christ's return, or how to be saved from hell. Many clergy prefer to entertain people rather than warn them to reject and separate from false doctrine. Many preachers are too scared to warn people about hell, God's judgment, or the tribulation to come on earth, in case they offend people. The current ecumenical movement of churches with false doctrines joining together will lead to a one-world religion that God describes as 'the great whore' in Revelation 17.

ISRAEL SIGNS

19. God shall **re-establish the Nation of Israel** in their ancient homeland in the latter days: 'I will gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.' (Ezekiel 36:24). The 20th Century has seen the return of many Jews to the ancient land of Israel from all parts of the world, resulting in the reestablishment of the modern state of Israel, and its entry to the United Nations in May 1948. As of the year 2000AD there are about 6 million Jews in Israel. God states through the prophet Ezekiel that Jews will return to their land in a condition of

unbelief in Jesus Christ as their Messiah, but will later change their minds to receive Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Messiah when He returns to rescue them from the Antichrist's invading armies. The prophet Daniel (in Daniel 9:26) states that Israel's Messiah at His first coming would be killed ('cut off'), then the Jewish temple and the city of Jerusalem would be destroyed (70AD). This proves Jesus Christ to be Israel's Messiah.

21. **Immigration of 1 million Jews from Russia to Israel.** With the collapse of USSR and the Russian economy, many Russian Jews have left the financial hardships of Russia for a new life in modern, free, and prosperous Israel. This fulfils another Bible prophecy where God says: 'Fear not; for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east (Yemen, Arabia) and gather thee from the west (Europe, USA, Britain): I will say to the north (Russia) 'Give up'; and to the south (Ethiopia) 'Keep not back': bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth.' (Isaiah 43:5,6). Since Israel's founding as a nation in May 1948, God has regathered many Jews from the East (Yemen, Arabia, Iraq, Iran), from the West (Europe since the WWII holocaust, Britain, USA), from the North (Russia and Eastern Europe), and from the South (Ethiopian Jews known as Falashas, and South Africa).
22. Israel shall **rebuild the waste cities** and **inhabit them**. 'I will multiply men among you, all the house of Israel, even all of it: and the cities shall be inhabited, and the wastes shall be builded.' (Ezekiel 36:11). 'I will settle you after your old estates' (Ezekiel 36:10). Today, all throughout Israel there is a massive building program of houses to accommodate 70,000 new Jewish immigrants per year. The Jerusalem Post, 2 May 1998: 'Israel will triple its built-up space by 2020 as it races past every other developed country in its rate of population growth'. This has been fulfilled in the last 20 years.
23. Israel shall be **tilled, planted** and **fruitful agriculturally**. 'For, behold, I am for you, and I will turn unto you, and ye shall be tilled and sown.' (Ezekiel 36:9). 'I will multiply the fruit of the tree, and the increase of the field. . . (Ezekiel 36:30). 'The desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by'. 'And they shall say, this land that was desolate is become like the Garden of Eden' (Ezekiel 36:34,35). 'The desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose'. (Isaiah 35:1). Today if you visit Israel, you will notice rose bushes everywhere, fruit trees, eucalypt trees and much tilled land cultivated as farms.
24. Israel shall be **militarily superior to Egypt**. 'And the land of Judah shall be a terror unto Egypt, every one that maketh mention thereof shall be afraid in himself.' (Isaiah 19:17). How has this prediction been fulfilled? On four occasions Egypt declared war against Israel, and in each war Israel quickly and convincingly smashed the Egyptian military.
- War of Independence: 29 November 1947-24 February 1949.
 - The Sinai War: 29 October -5 November 1956.
 - The Six Day War: 5-10 June 1967.
 - The Yom Kippur War: 6-25 October 1973.

25. Israel will be a land of **unwalled villages**.

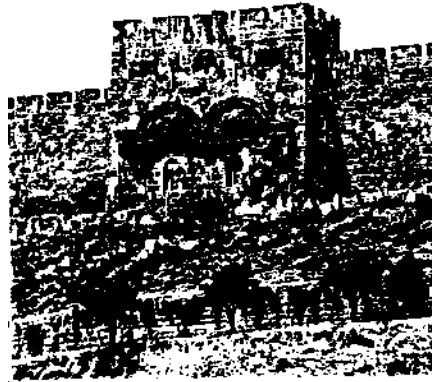
'I will go up to the land of unwalled villages' (Ezekiel 38:11).

The Bible predicted that a time would come when an invader would attack Israel, and Israel would dwell safely without the protection of city walls. How could this be? This appeared foolish to people living before 1500AD, because many major cities, towns and villages were protected from invaders by strong walls. However, with the invention of modern missiles, tanks, artillery and planes, walls offer no protection against invaders. No city today has walls for defense. How could the Bible predict this modern situation back in 590 BC? It is because God wrote the Bible.

26. **Jerusalem's East Gate will be shut.**

Today if you visit Jerusalem's East Gate or Golden Gate, you will notice that it is completely bricked up so that nobody may enter it. Jesus Christ, who is the God of Israel, entered it on a donkey on His way to be crucified. The prophet Ezekiel foretold: 'Then he brought me back the way of the gate of the outward sanctuary which looketh toward the east and it was shut.

Then the LORD (*Jehovah the Father*) said unto me: 'this gate shall be shut, it shall not be opened, and no man shall enter in by it; because the LORD (*Jehovah the Son*), the God of Israel, hath entered in by it, therefore it shall be shut.' (Ezekiel 44:1,2).



27. Jerusalem will be a **burdensome stone for all people**.

'In that day I will make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people.' (Zechariah 12:3)

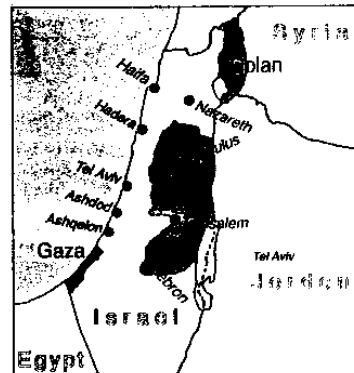
This prediction has been fulfilled today because the Palestinian Muslim Arab conflict with Israel over Jerusalem will be a difficult if not impossible problem for mankind to solve. It will only be fully solved when Jesus Christ returns to earth.

28. **God calls Yassar Arafat, the Palestinians and nations that claim Israel's high places as 'ours' as 'the enemy.'**

At a Fatah rally on 25 June 2000, Mr Arafat made threats of a renewed uprising, shouting, 'Palestine is ours, ours, ours! We have a few weeks left ahead of us and at the end of it we will declare statehood . . . with its capital Jerusalem'. (ICEJ News 26 June 2000).

Ezekiel predicted 2600 years ago that Israel's neighbors would say these very words which Arafat said in June 2000:

'Thus saith the LORD God; Because the enemy hath said against you, Aha, even the ancient high places are ours in possession (v 2); that ye might be a possession unto the residue of the heathen, and ye are taken up in the lips of talkers . . . (v 3)



which have appointed my land into their possession . . . with despiteful minds (v 5). Surely the heathen that are about you shall bear their shame'. (v 7). (Ezekiel 36:2,3,7).

Notice several predictions that have recently come true within this prophecy:

a) The ancient high places of Israel are Jerusalem, Hebron, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Golan Heights and others, all of which are claimed by Arafat as belonging to the Palestinians or Syria. (v 2).

b) The phrase 'the lips of talkers' well describes how the Palestinians seek to gain control of these ancient high places by 'negotiation' and by the 'peace process' where they claim control over this land in exchange for peace. (v 3).

c) The phrase 'with despiteful minds' perfectly describes the malice, cruelty and anger that Palestinians have for Israel as seen in the exploding car bombs and in educating Palestinian school children to hate Israel.

d) The phrase 'appointed my land into their possession' describes how Israel is being pressured by Clinton and Arafat to give up land that God says belongs to Israel.

29. **The Middle East Peace Process** shall be resolved by Europe, and not by America. 'And he (the European Antichrist) shall confirm the covenant (the Middle East peace agreement) with many (a term referring to Israel) for one week (a period shown earlier to be seven years;)' (Daniel 9:27).

This is being fulfilled in 2000AD as seen by the many failed efforts by President Clinton of the USA to mediate peace between Israel and the Palestinians. The Palestinians don't trust America as a neutral mediator because of America's unashamed and public support for Israel. The Palestinians are now turning more to Europe in the hope of gaining a favorable mediation with Israel.

30. God promises to **bless those nations that bless Israel** and **curse those nations that curse Israel**.

'Now the LORD had said unto Abram . . .

a) I will make of thee a great nation.

b) I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee.

c) in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.' (Genesis 12:1-3)

God gives three predictions here about Abram whom God used to found the Israelite nation in 2000 BC:

a) Israel today is a great nation in military and technological terms.

b) Nations (such as the USA) who have blessed and helped Israel have been blessed by God. God has truly blessed America as the world's greatest military, technological and economic power because of its support for Israel in aid and in UN votes. God has cursed those nations that have persecuted Israel, such as Germany, Russia and Iraq. Germany, while killing 6 million Jews in WWII experienced complete destruction of many of its cities by allied bombing. Russia, which has persecuted Jews during 72 years of Communism, has been cursed with a bankrupt economy. Iraq after firing missiles at Israel during the Gulf War of 1991 has been demoralized by losing the Gulf War and by being crippled by UN sanctions over the last 10 years.

c) All countries with a Biblical Christian heritage, freedoms, Constitution, government and legal system have been blessed by having a more peaceful society. The Gospel of Jesus Christ and enforcing of Bible legal values have brought this about.

31. **'No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper.'** (Isaiah 54:17). This prediction has been fulfilled over the last 2700 years. This is seen by God protecting Israel from every weapon that man has invented to destroy her. This is a promise that God will protect Israel from being completely destroyed.
32. **'Every tongue that shall arise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn'** Isaiah 54:17. The first part of this prediction has been fulfilled by many nations in the United Nations Council Meetings arising to speak words of judgment and condemnation against Israel for defending the land that God has given her. Many nations in the UN have consistently voted against Israel. The only nations that vote in favor of Israel are the USA and some small Pacific Islands. The second part of this verse will be fulfilled in the Millennium after Christ returns when Israel, as the chief nation on earth, will condemn those nations that voted against her. 'The nations shall see and be confounded at all their might.' (Micah 7:16) . 'The nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted.' (Isaiah 60:12).

33. **Many Muslim nations shall oppose Israel.** The prophet Ezekiel predicted that in the latter years a group of nations would invade the regathered nation of Israel. These invading nations are stated in Ezekiel 38:5,6 as being:
- Persia, which today includes Iran and Iraq.
 - Ethiopia, today including Ethiopia and Sudan.
 - Libya
 - Togarmah, which today is known as Turkey.
- Each of these six nations today is strongly Muslim and anti-Israel. The Bible predicts that they will be led by Russia in their invasion of Israel, and that God will destroy these Muslim armies on the mountains of Israel by a great earthquake (38:19,20), by them fighting each other (38:21), by pestilence (maybe biological weapons v 22), by an overflowing rain (maybe a mudslide v 22), by great hailstones, and by fire and brimstone (maybe the same means that God used to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah).

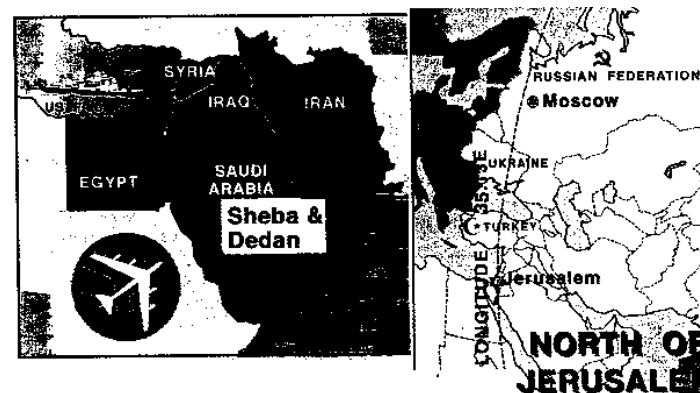


It is interesting that these Muslim nations are all strongly allied to each other in their hatred of Israel. Many of them are already calling for a Jihad (holy war) against Israel. They surely will get a Jihad, but will be destroyed in the process, thus discovering that God is against Islam.

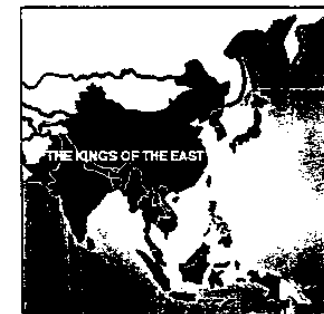
'Thus saith the Lord God: Behold I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee (ie five-sixths or 83% of the invading armies will be destroyed). (Ezekiel 39:1,2). Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou and all thy bands, and the people that are with thee (v 4) . . . Thou shalt fall upon the open field; for I have spoken it, saith the Lord God'. (Ezekiel 39:1,2,4,5).

Israel will take seven years to burn the weapons (39:9), and will take seven months to bury all the dead army (39:11-14), so great will be the destruction.

34. This **destroyed army** will become a **tourist attraction**: 'it shall stop the noses of the passengers'. (Ezekiel 39:11). You would expect Jews to make some money by turning this into an international tourist attraction, and you would expect many people from the West would want to go to see for themselves the destruction of the Russian and Muslim armies. Tourism is a big industry today, and the Bible predicts that tourists will come to see these destroyed armies.
35. **America, Britain** and **Saudi Arabia** will protest against this invasion, but will not intervene militarily to support Israel. 'Sheba and Dedan (Saudi Arabia), and the merchants of Tarshish (Britain and USA), with all the young lions (British Commonwealth countries) thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a great spoil? (Ezekiel 38:13) Thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days.' (38:16). Notice that these nations today are militarily aligned with each other into two camps as God predicted 2600 years ago. These events all happen AFTER Israel is back in their land, just as we see today. This shows that we are now living in the latter days, and just before Jesus Christ's return.



36. **Egypt** and **Jordan** are not mentioned as joining this Muslim invasion (Ezekiel 38:5,6). It is interesting to note that both have a peace treaty with Israel. After Egypt started and lost four wars against Israel, we can understand their reluctance to try a fifth war.
37. **China** and **Japan** as the **Kings of the East** (Revelation 16:12) are predicted to cross a dried up Euphrates River, possibly to take the Middle East oil fields to fill the power vacuum created after the Russian/Muslim armies are destroyed (Revelation 9:13-16). This army will number 200 million men and will kill one third of mankind. 'the number of the horsemen were 200 million (v 16); . . . and out of their mouths issued fire, and smoke and brimstone (v 17). By these three was the third part of men killed.' (Revelation 9:16-18).



Today, China and Japan are economic powers and are cooperating more closely in many areas. They have little or no oil reserves of their own and would be tempted to go to war to secure what oil remains amongst a threatened and dwindling world supply.

38. **Israel is now an Associate Member of the European Union.** (Daniel 9:27)

The *Jerusalem Post* has reported that on 1 June 2000, Israel formally became an Associate Member of the European Union (EU). This agreement was negotiated in 1995 and was ratified by each of the 15 nations of Europe and also by Israel's Knesset. The free trade element of this agreement has been in force since January 1996. This associate membership permits Israel to co-operate with Europe in financial services, energy, transport, tourism, telecommunications, energy, information and standards. Israel is now officially linked to the Revived Roman Empire. This associate membership of Israel with Europe establishes the relationship that Israel will have with the Antichrist who will be the President of the European Union. At the beginning of the seven years tribulation, the Antichrist 'shall confirm the covenant with many (Israel) for one week (the seven year tribulation).'

(Daniel 9:27) For Antichrist to confirm a covenant means that a covenant must already exist between Israel and Europe. This associate membership of Israel with the EU on 1 June 2000 was certainly a covenant with Europe, if not the covenant stated in Daniel 9:27. This move gives Europe the right to be involved in Israeli and Middle East affairs, which forms the basis for many other Bible prophecies being fulfilled about the Antichrist.

39. **Peace and Safety.**

A temporary 'Peace and Safety' exists in the world just before the seven year tribulation period starts. 'For when they shall say, peace and safety, then sudden destruction cometh upon them, . . . and they shall not escape.' (1 Thessalonians 5:3). Just before the seven years tribulation commences, people will describe the world situation as 'peace and safety'. This is exactly the situation that we are seeing the beginnings of right now.

- a) With the collapse of USSR and Communism, the world is enjoying the end of the Cold War, the arms race, and the nuclear threat.
- b) With the departure of Milosevic from Serbia, the Balkans look more peaceful.
- c) North and South Korea are now having peace talks. The USA is coming to agreement with North Korea about its missile program.
- d) There is more motivation to fix the Israeli/Palestinian problem.

The world seems to be on the brink of great peace. This is precisely what occurs just before the start of the seven years tribulation. In Revelation 6:1,2 the Antichrist from Europe comes to power on a white horse with a bow but no arrow, as a man of peace. He gains control of the world by bringing a temporary 'peace', and a temporary solution to the Palestinian/ Israeli conflict over Jerusalem.

40. **Passenger airplanes** will be **invented** before Jesus Christ returns. (Isaiah 60:8,9)

At the beginning of Christ's rule on earth, Israelites from all over the world will be regathered to the land of Israel.

The prophet Isaiah asked who they were whom he saw flying as a cloud, like doves to their lofts or windows. ('windows' in Hebrew means a 'pigeon house').

This is a clear reference to modern passenger jumbo jet air travel.

Who are these that **fly** as a **cloud**, and as the **doves** to their windows? . . .

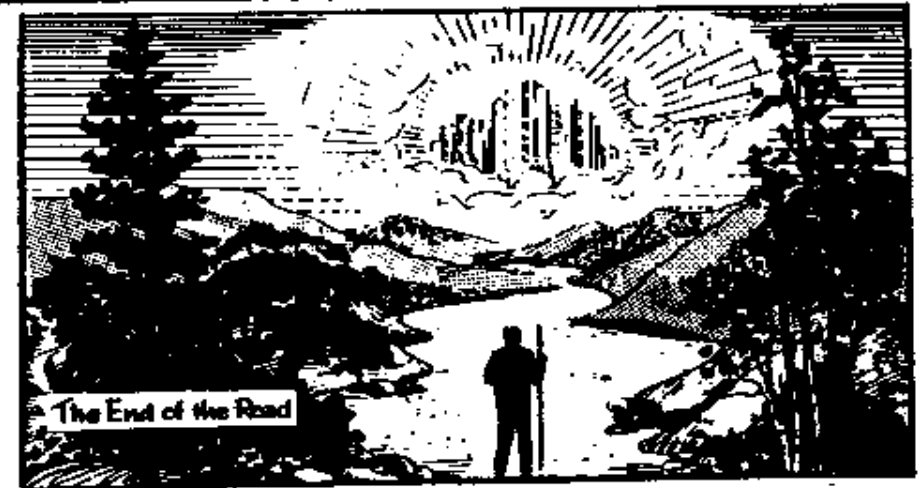
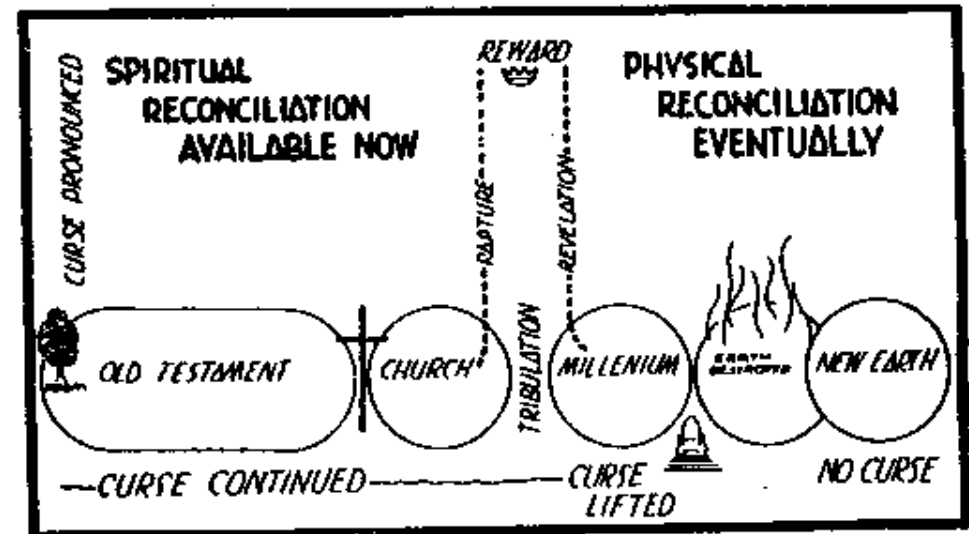
the ships of Tarshish (USA) first, to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them unto the name of the LORD thy God, and to His Holy One of Israel, because

he hath glorified thee (Israel)'. (Isaiah 60:8,9)

Today there are about 7 million Jews in New York, USA. Many of these Jews are very wealthy. New York could be said to be the financial capital of the world because of the New York Stock Exchange in Wall Street.

This prophecy contains several interesting predictive details:

- a) Today, air transport is by Jumbo jets, many of which are painted white like doves, and shaped like doves. By 1950, jet passenger planes were making daily non-stop flights across the Atlantic Ocean.
- b) Today, many Jews live in the USA (Tarshish), which is far away from Israel.
- c) Today, many American Jews are wealthy, as seen from them bringing their silver and gold with them back to Israel.



47. THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST TO EARTH

Aim: 1. To summarise Bible teaching on the Second coming.
2. To motivate Christians to fervently serve Christ in view of Christ's return at any time and our accountability to Him.

A. FACT OF CHRIST'S RETURN

Jesus promised it (John 14:1-3).
Angels promised it (Acts 1:8-11).

B. WHEN WILL CHRIST RETURN

No human or angel knows when (Matthew 24:36).

We can, however, observe some signs in the world today indicating that Christ's return may be near:

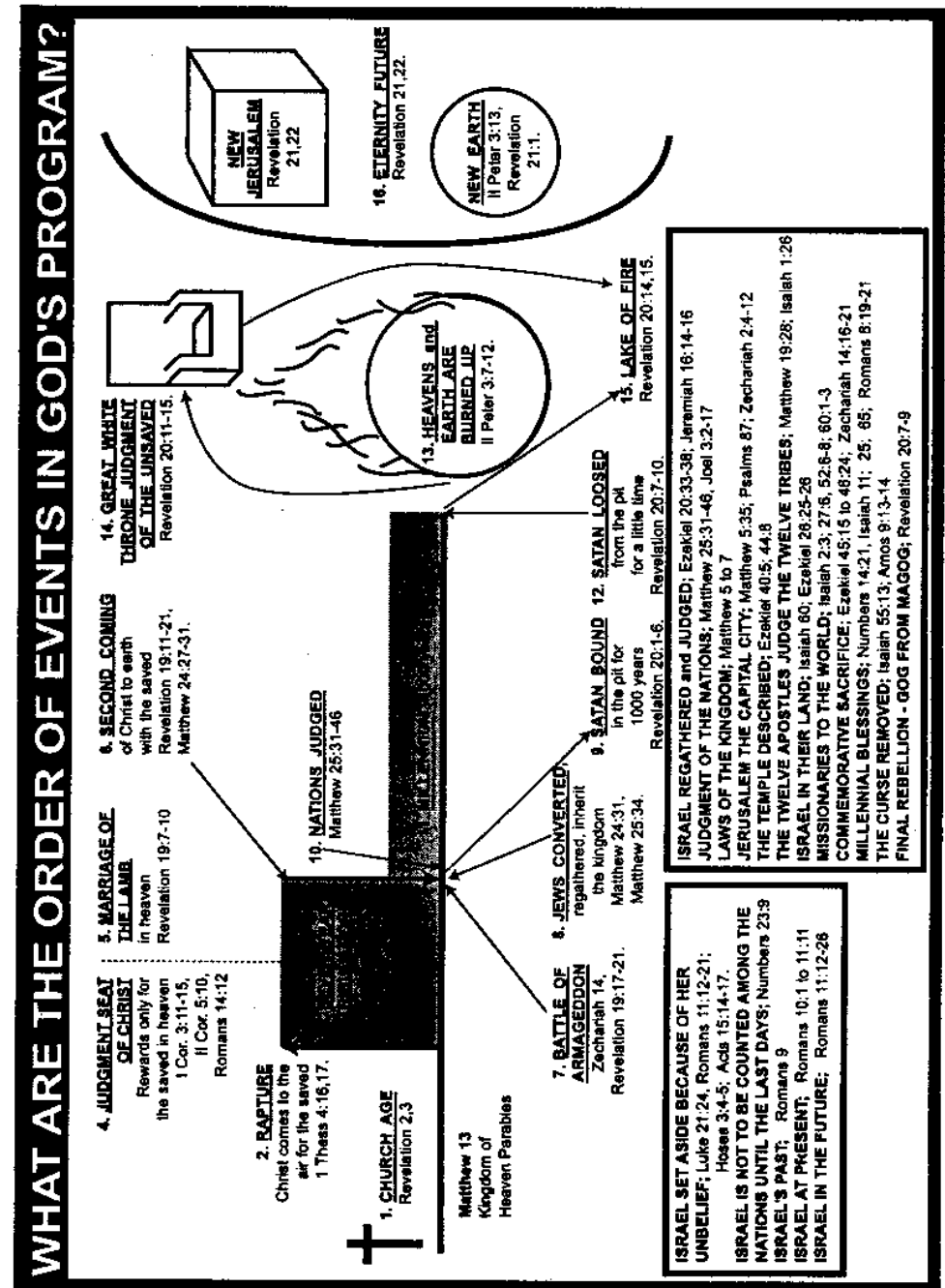
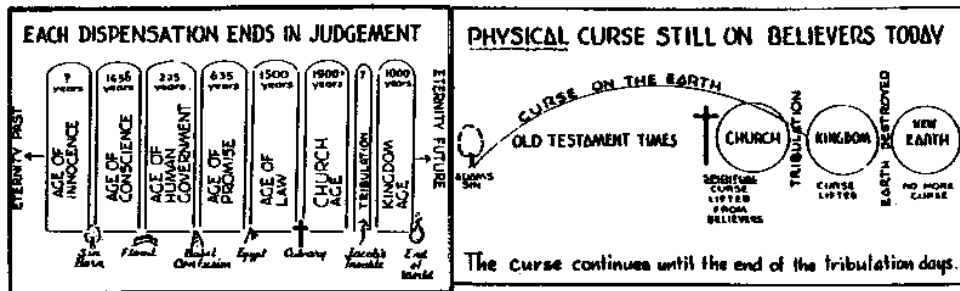
C. SIGNS OF CHRIST'S RETURN

1. Return of the Jews to the land of Israel (Ezekiel 37:1-14,21-28; Matthew 24:32,33; Joel 1:6,7)
2. Rise of Russia as an anti-Israel power (Ezekiel 38-39).
3. Rise of 10-nation revived Roman Empire in Europe (Daniel 2:40-44; 7:7-28, Revelations 13).
4. Ability of man to destroy the earth (Revelations 11:18).
5. Increase in travel and knowledge in the time of the end. (Daniel 12:4).
6. Ecumenical movement including the World Council of Churches and Rome leading to a One-World religious system called "Mystery Babylon" in Revelations 17-18.
7. One world money system (Revelations 13:16-18).

D. WHY STUDY CHRIST'S SECOND COMING?

1. About one quarter of the Bible refers to it.
2. Christ taught it. (Matthew 24-25)
3. It increases our desire to serve God in winning souls and making disciples, because Jesus may come today, requiring us to give account of our life to Him. (1 John 2:28; Matthew 24:42-44).
4. God blesses those who read the prophecy of Revelation. (Revelation 1:3).
5. It tells of ultimate victory for Christ and the believer, and his forces. This is why Satan doesn't want us to study and teach it.
6. It encourages us in our trials that the spiritual war will soon be over, guaranteeing us peace forevermore.

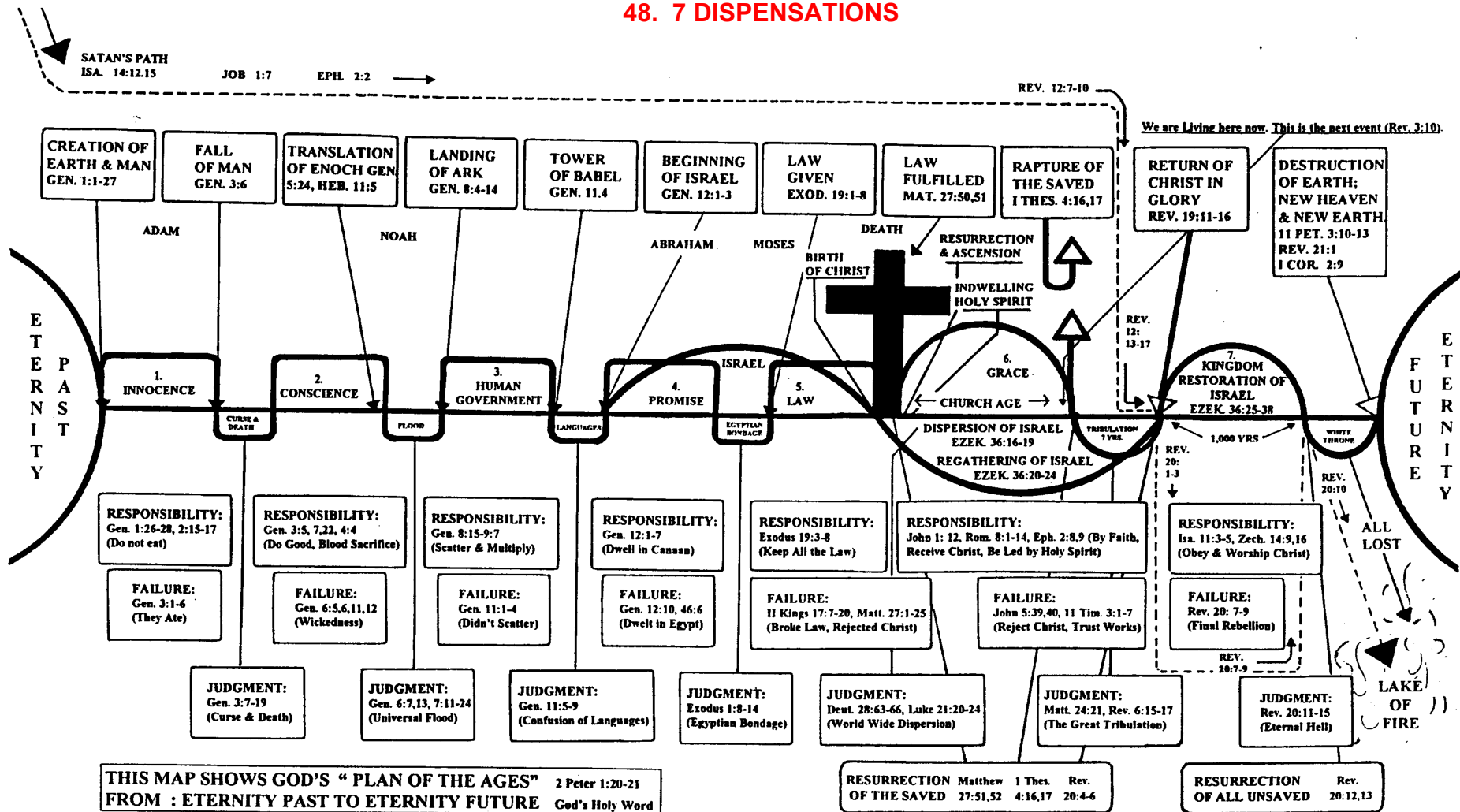
E. WHAT ARE THE ORDER OF EVENTS IN GOD'S PROGRAM?



1. **THE CHURCH AGE** from the Apostles (Ephesians 4:7-12) to the Rapture. The 7 Churches of Revelation 2 and 3 describe:
 - a) Church periods that this age is divided into.
 - b) Churches existing in John's time.
 - c) The spiritual condition of any church at any time.
 - d) The spiritual condition of any believer at any time. When Jesus begins a parable with: "The Kingdom of heaven is like unto..." He is describing what the Church age or the outward form of Christendom will be like from Pentecost to the Rapture.
2. **RAPTURE** is the catching away of all dead and living believers from earth to heaven. This occurs when Christ comes to the air (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-54; 11 Thessalonians 2:1-12; Revelation 3:10; 4:1-2). This event ends the Church age. Then commences the 7 year Tribulation with the appearance of the Antichrist. The Rapture is the "blessed hope" of Titus 2:13 that believers are waiting for. Believers will be raptured before the Tribulation period, and will not pass through any of it because:
 1. We are looking for Christ to come (Titus 2:13). We are not looking for the Antichrist to confirm the covenant with Israel. (Daniel 9:27).
 2. Christ's coming is called a "blessed hope" and the Tribulation is not a blessed hope to look forward to going through.
 3. "God hath not appointed us to wrath . . ." (1 Thessalonians 5:9).
 4. The Church and John are raptured at Revelation 4:1,2 which is before the start of the Tribulation. (Revelation 6:1).
 5. The Tribulation is likened to Noah's Flood and the Judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah where God spared the righteous. (Matthew 24:37).
 6. God promises to keep the Philadelphian Church from (out of) the Tribulation period (Revelation 3:10).
 7. If we are to be raptured midway or at the end of the Tribulation, we would know the day of Christ's return, which no man knows. (Matthew 24:35).
3. **THE 7 YEAR TRIBULATION** is the greatest time of trouble that Jews or the world have ever seen. It is:
 - a) Divided into 7 seals, 7 trumpets and 7 vials (bowl) judgments.
 - b) Described in Revelation 6-18.
 - c) Stated in Matthew 24:21-22 and Daniel 12:1.
 - d) Ruled by the Antichrist (II Thessalonians 2:3-12; Revelation 13; Daniel 7:19-27) from the 10 nation Revived Roman Empire in Europe.
 - e) Lasts for 7 years. Daniel 9:27 (1 week means 1 group of seven years). In Matthew 24:21 the second half of the Tribulation is called the Great Tribulation. Revelation 11:1-3 states that it lasts 3 1/2 years, 42 months or 1260 days. It commences with the Antichrist placing the abomination of desolation in the rebuilt Temple at Jerusalem (Matthew 24:15 and Daniel 9:27) and the Antichrist persecuting the Jews.
4. **JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST** occurs after believers are raptured. It takes place in heaven during the first half of the 7 year Tribulation period. The quality of a believer's works after salvation are examined. He either receives rewards or suffers loss of rewards. Are you living for Christ and eternity or for self and this life only? What does Christ think of you? What rewards or treasures have you laid up in heaven? (Matthew 6:19-21).
5. **MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB** (Revelation 19:7-10). The Church is known as the Bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:23-33). The marriage and marriage supper between Christ and all raptured saints occurs in heaven before Christ and His saints return to the earth for the Battle of Armageddon.
6. **SECOND COMING OF CHRIST TO EARTH**
 - a) He comes with the saved. (Zechariah 14:5).
 - b) He comes with lightning speed. (Matthew 24:27-31).
 - c) He comes exactly 2520 days (2 x 1260 days) after the rapture.
7. **BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON** (Revelation 19:17-21; Zechariah 14:1-15).
 - a) At the end of the 7 year Tribulation, the Antichrist and armies of all nations gather around Israel to destroy all Jews and to take Jerusalem. (Revelation 16:12-16).
 - b) Christ and all the saved then return from heaven (Revelation 19:11-16). Christ defeats the armies of Antichrist instantly at the plain of Megiddo (Revelation 14:14-20). The geography is like a winepress, and blood flows three feet deep for 200 miles.
 - c) After victory at Megiddo and Bozrah (Isaiah 63:1-6) Christ comes and stands on the Mount of Olives, which splits east-west (Zechariah 14:4). He then enters Jerusalem through the now closed East-Gate (Ezekiel 43:1,2).
 - d) Christ will then be King over all the earth and the people that attacked Jerusalem will be plagued by what seems to be nuclear explosions, which will dissolve their flesh (Zechariah 14:12-15; Isaiah 24:5-6).
8. **JEWS ARE CONVERTED**
 - a) After being rescued by Christ following Armageddon, Jews notice the wounds in Christ's hands and realise that their ancestors crucified their long-awaited Messiah. (Zechariah 13:6).
 - b) This causes repentance and mourning, resulting in the Jewish people being saved by calling on Christ as their Saviour. (Zechariah 12:10 and 13:9).
 - c) The Jews all over the earth are then regathered into Israel. (Isaiah 43:5-7 and Matthew 24:31).
9. **SATAN IS BOUND** in the pit for 1000 years along with his angels. (Revelation 20:1-3).
10. **THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD ARE JUDGED** according to how they treated God's people during the Tribulation. The righteous (sheep) enter the Millennium, and the others (goats) enter everlasting fire. (Matthew 25:31-46).
11. **THE MILLENNIUM** or 1000 year reign of Christ starts when Christ returns to the earth. What will this period be like?
 - a) Christ will regather all Jews to Israel (Isaiah 43:5-7).
 - b) Jerusalem becomes the world capital, from where Christ rules the earth in person (Isaiah 2:1-4).
 - c) The Jews will become missionaries to the Gentiles (Isaiah 27:6; 61:6; Psalm 67:2).
 - d) Christ builds the Millennial Temple (Zechariah 6:12-15).
 - e) Animal creation will be changed (Isaiah 11:6-9 and 65:25).
 - f) Humans will live much longer (Isaiah 65:20-22; Zechariah 8:4), as long as trees, possibly 1000 years as before the Flood.
 - g) Peace and prosperity will characterise Christ's rule (Isaiah 2:4) as will universal knowledge of the Lord and private ownership (Micah 4:1-4).

12. **SATAN IS LOOSED** from his prison after the 1000 years and deceives the unsaved of the nations to invade Jerusalem. Fire from God devours them and Satan is then cast into the lake of fire forever (Revelation 20:7-10).
13. **THE HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE THEN BURNT UP WITH FERVENT (NUCLEAR LIKE) HEAT** (11 Peter 3:7-12).
14. **THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT** of the unsaved occurs where all the unsaved people are taken from hell and given immortal, resurrected bodies. This is the second resurrection or tare judgment. (Matthew 13:24-30,36-43).
They are then judged according to their works. Since the works that they have trusted in to gain God's acceptance fall short of Christ's perfect works, they are all cast alive into the.....
15. **LAKE OF FIRE** where they are tormented forever (Revelation 20:11-15).
16. **ETERNITY** then commences with a new heaven and new earth, as well as the New Jerusalem (1500 miles long, broad and high) coming down from God as the residence of the church (us) forever. (Revelation 21:22).

48. 7 DISPENSATIONS



This map shows God's "Plan of the ages" from Eternity Past to Eternity Future as recorded in His inspired written word (II Pet. 1:20,21).

There are 7 dispensations in the outworking of God's overall eternal purpose (Eph. 1:9,10). In each man is given a specific test or responsibility; each ends in failure and this brings judgment. The overall revelation of the dispensational tests show that man is utterly *sinful and lost* (Rom. 3:10,23).

Salvation in every dispensation is by the GRACE OF GOD (un-deserved, un-earned gift) and is received BY FAITH. Some examples are Abel, Heb. 11:4; Enoch, 5-6; Noah, 7; Abraham, 8-19; Moses, 23-29. See also Eph. 2:8,9; Rom. 6:23.

We are now living in #6. Grace or Church age. This dispensation will end with the return of Christ. He will first return *in the clouds* to resurrect the DEAD IN CHRIST, to change the LIVING IN CHRIST and RAPTURE or receive them up together to Himself (John 14:1-3; I Thes. 4:16,17). This event MAY BE SOON—notice the *regathering of Israel*—SUDDEN (I Cor. 15:52), and a SEPARATION of the saved (born-again, in Christ: John 3:6,7; Rom. 8:1,9) from the *unsaved*. THOSE WHO REJECT CHRIST TO THE RAPTURE OR THEIR DEATH WILL NOT HAVE ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY (II Thes. 2:10-12; John 14:6)! Then after the 7 year Tribulation Judgment, Christ will return to the earth IN HIS GLORY with His saints to establish the 1,000 year Kingdom on the earth

The Tribulation will be God's wrath on *this* Christ rejecting world and men will beg the mountains to *fall on them* to hide them (Rev. 6:12-17). There will be wars and AT LEAST 1/2 THE WORLD'S POPULATION WILL BE KILLED (Rev. 6:4,8; 9:15-18)! Men will be scorched with fire, there will be great earthquakes and 100 pound hail. Cities will fall and every island and mountain will disappear. AFTER THE RAPTURE (Rev. 3:10; 16:8, 9, 18-21).

The White Throne will be God's final judgment on all who have rejected His GRACE, BY FAITH salvation. They will be resurrected from all ages, judged, then cast into the Lake of Fire forever (Rev. 20:11-15).

NOW TWO QUESTIONS:

- #1. If the Rapture comes today, will you be taken?
- #2. Would you like to KNOW you will be with Christ? IF SO, PLEASE FILL OUT THE QUIZ ON THE BACK...

49. THE RAPTURE

Jesus Christ's Second Coming for the Church

Bible Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; John 14:2,3; 1 Corinthians 15:51-53; Titus 2:13; Rev. 4:1,2.

Aim: To comfort and motivate one another with the truth of Christ's return to take us to heaven.

Introduction: Jesus Christ's return will be in two stages. One for His bride the Church, known as the "catching away" or "rapture". (1 Thess. 4:13-18). The rapture will be followed by a seven year period known as the Tribulation. This will begin with the Antichrist from Europe making a treaty with Israel and breaking it after three-and-a-half years. The last three-and-a-half years of the Antichrist's reign will be the Great Tribulation spoken of by Christ in Matthew 24:21. This will be followed by the second stage of Christ returning to earth with believers to rule the world in righteousness. Zech 14:1-5; Jude 14

Definition: The term "rapture" comes from the Latin word for "caught up" in 1 Thessalonians 4:17. Before the seven year tribulation, Christ will descend from heaven, and catch up the Church to heaven to be with Himself. The Tribulation will then be unleashed on an unbelieving world.

The Scriptures teaching the "catching away" are as follows:

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

Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

Thessalonians 4:16-18.

b) Jesus said: "I go to prepare a place for you (v.2). 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) "We shall **not all sleep**, but we shall all be changed, in a **moment**, in the twinkling of an eye, at the **last trump**: for the trumpet shall sound, and the **dead shall be raised incorruptible**, and **we shall be changed**. For this corruptible must put on **incorruption**, and...must put on **immortality**." 1 Cor. 15:51-53

d) "Looking for that **blessed hope** (*rapture*), and the **glorious appearing** of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." Titus 2:13.

e) John experienced the rapture: "After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the **first voice** which I heard was as it were of a **trumpet** talking with me: which said, **Come up hither**, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter...And immediately.....in heaven." Revelation 4:1,2.

We may summarise the main events of the rapture from 1 Thessalonians 4:6-17, as follows:

i) One day, Jesus Christ will descend from heaven and we will **hear a shout**, a **voice** and a **trumpet**.

ii) All **dead believer's** bodies will be resurrected to rejoin their spirits and souls in the air.

iii) All **living believers** will receive resurrection bodies, and be caught up to meet the Lord in the air.

iv) We will receive immortal, **resurrection bodies**, a **place** Christ has prepared for us in heaven, **comfort** forever in the presence of Christ, and **rewards** promised in 2 Corinthians 5:10.

The rapture is called a comfort and a blessed hope. Notice several things about the rapture.

1. Rapidity of the Rapture = Immediately (1 Corinthians 15:51,52).

"we shall all be changed in a **moment** (Greek: *atomos* 823), in the **twinkling** (Gk: *rhipe* 4493) of an eye."

The speed with which the rapture will occur is described by these two Greek words which mean:

a) "**atomos**" = without a cut, indivisible. This is the word from which "atom" is derived, meaning "that which cannot be divided." When referring to time it means "an indivisibly small instant of time; a point of time which cannot be divided." It means "immediately."

b) "**rhipe**" = a quick motion, such as a fling or toss. A blink, wink, jerk, or twinkle of an eye. The least duration of time. People will not have time to call on Christ for salvation, or to do what they planned.

Believers must serve Christ now so that we won't be ashamed at His coming. (1 John 2:28).

2. Reason For The Rapture = To keep the Church out of the Tribulation.

The Church will be caught out of the world to be kept from the 7 year Tribulation period. The rapture will be as unexpected as a thief in the night. (1 Thess.5:2-4). "God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation (*deliverance from the tribulation wrath*) by our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Thessalonians 5:9. Christ said to the faithful, Bible-loving Philadelphian church, "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will **keep thee from** (Greek: 'ek' = out of) the **hour of temptation**, which shall come upon **all the world**, to try them which dwell upon the earth." (Revelation 3:10).

Christ will spare His bride from going through the wars, famines, Antichrist's persecutions, earthquakes, and other judgments that will come on an unbelieving world.

The purpose of the Tribulation is to bring Israel and unbelieving nations to repentance (Rev. 9:18-21). In Revelation 6:8, 25% of the world's population are killed.

In Revelation 9:18, 33% of the rest are killed. This leaves only 50% of the world's population alive.

3. Requirement to be Raptured

Only those who have been saved by calling on Christ to save them from their sins, will be raptured. "The dead **in Christ** shall rise first." (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

"**we** (all living believers) which are alive and remain shall be caught up...." (v.17).

Q: Are you trusting Jesus Christ to save you, or your good works to gain God's acceptance?

Some people in this room may be left behind if Jesus Christ returned today.

Q: Would you be taken to be with Christ, or would you be left behind to enter the 7 year Tribulation?

Can you imagine what it would be like to be left behind?

a) You phone your Christian friends, and they are nowhere to be found.

b) The newspapers and television report millions of missing people.

c) Many driverless cars will have crashed on the roadside.

d) People will panic about their missing family and friends. They will demand an explanation. Was it the rapture predicted in the Bible? Antichrist will offer a false yet plausible explanation that many will believe (2 Thess. 2:8-12), maybe that UFOs took Christians who were resisting the new world order.

Q: Will you be saved and taken, or lost and left behind? Receive Jesus Christ as your Saviour today.

4. Rewards after the Rapture.

Following the rapture, all Christians will appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ (2 Cor. 5:10; Romans 14:10,12; 1 Cor. 3:10-15) to receive rewards according to the quality of our service to Christ after salvation. Some Christians will suffer loss of rewards that they could have earned. (1 Cor. 3:15).

“every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.” (I Corinthians 3:8).

Q: Will you win rewards, or will you lose rewards?

5. Revelation of the Sons of God.

When Christ appears, we shall be just like Him, even though we may now appear unattractive and unimportant. We will have a glorious, immortal body just like Jesus Christ has now.

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

“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. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.” Romans 8:18,19.

God has predestined every believer to be conformed to the image and likeness of Christ. (Romans 8:29)

6. Our Response to the Rapture.

‘And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself (sanctification), even as he is pure.’ 1 John 3:3

Question: How should we now live? If we knew we’d be “caught up” next year, we should:

a) Live pleasing to God by reading/studying the Bible, and praying daily.
b) Learn How to win people to Christ so they’ll be caught up to heaven and won’t go through the Tribulation. Pastors should conduct a soul-winning training session this week. We want to rejoice with people in heaven who we have led to Christ on earth. We only have a short time to do soul-winning. We are in a war for eternal souls now. Don’t be lazy, but get busy rescuing people from hell. After the rapture you’ll have no chance to pluck people from hell. You’ll never see your unsaved family and friends again. You can rest forever in eternity, but now is the time to win souls to Christ.

a) Confess and Forsake any known sins. 1 John 1:9.

b) Dedicate your life wholeheartedly and completely to winning souls and serving Jesus Christ.

7. “**Be ye also Ready**, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of Man cometh.”

(Matthew 24:44).

“Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” Ephesians 5:16.

Conclusion: Are you ready to face Christ? Are you saved? Are you winning souls daily or weekly?

Is there any known sin in your life that you need to confess and forsake? Do so today.

50. THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST: How It Will Change Our Behaviour

Bible Reading: II Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:10-12; I Corinthians 3:10-15; Colossians 3:23-25.

Aim: To let the Judgment Seat of Christ change our behaviour now.

Introduction: One day after the Rapture, every Christian must give an account to God of the way he has lived since his salvation. Our Christian lives will be “on display” (made manifest). This will determine **not** our salvation, but the **amount** of rewards we will receive when we get to heaven.

“Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth...but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.” Matthew 6:19,20.

The Judgment Seat of Christ will be a place of:

1) Review – of our life from salvation to death.

It will show if we have lived for Christ and others, or for self.

Question: When Jesus returns, will I have a grudge against a friend?

Question: Will I have left my love for Jesus Christ, the Bible, souls, or the local church?

Question: If Christ came today, how many of the 19 commands in I Thessalonians 5:1,11-22 would I be obeying? “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.” (I John 2:28). It is as if God gives us a block of land (foundation of salvation in Christ-3:11) in heaven, but we build the house (12) by our work after salvation.

2) Reward

The Judgment Seat of Christ in Greek is “Bematos tou Xristou” (II Cor. 5:10) known as the Bema Seat.

i) The Meaning of the Bema Judgment: It was a raised platform in the middle of an Olympic arena where the judge sat. After the contests were over, the winners would assemble before the Bema seat to receive their rewards from the judge. It was not a condemning seat, but a reward seat. Losing the race didn’t mean execution, it only meant no reward. The Christian life is a race, and the divine umpire is watching every contestant. After the Church age has finished at the rapture, Christ will gather every Christian before the Bema Seat to examine our life’s work and to give the proper rewards to each.

ii) The Fact of the Bema Judgment.

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.” 2 Corinthians 5:10.

iii) The Purpose of the Bema Judgment.

- not to determine whether one enters heaven.
- not to punish believers for sins committed before or after salvation.
(See Psalm 103:10-12; Isaiah 38:17; 44:22; Micah 7:19; Hebrews 8:12).
- to give account to Jesus Christ of how we used our abilities, opportunities and responsibilities from the moment of our salvation. Hence:

- a) In the past, God dealt with us sinners. (Ephesians 2:1-3; Romans 5:6-8).
- b) In the present, God deals with us as sons. (Romans 8:14; I John 3:1,2; Hebrews 12:5-11).

c) In the future, God will deal with us (at the Bema Seat) as stewards. (I Corinthians 3:11-15).

iv) The material to be tested at the Bema Judgment.

At salvation, Christ becomes our foundation. (I Corinthians 3:11).

After salvation, we must build on this foundation. (I Corinthians 3:12-15).

God classifies believers works into 2 groups:

a) Those of **indestructible** and **eternal** value described as:

- gold = the trial of our faith (I Peter 1:7).
- silver = wisdom gained, favour with God (Proverbs 2:4; 3:14; 8:10; 22:1; Malachi 3:3).
- precious stones = souls won to Christ (Malachi 3:16,17).

b) Those **destructible** and **useless activities** of no eternal value are described as wood, hay and stubble. (I Corinthians 3:12-15).

Question: For what actions will we be rewarded at the Bema Judgment Seat of Christ?

- 1) How well we treat other believers. Hebrews 6:10; Matthew 10:41,42.
- 2) How well we submit to authority and exercise authority over others. Hebrews 13:17; James 3:1.
- 3) How well we use our God-given abilities. I Peter 4:10; Luke 19:11-26; Matthew 25:14-29.
- 4) How well we use our money. I Timothy 6:17-19; I Corinthians 9:6,7.
- 5) How much we suffer for Jesus. Matthew 5:11,12; 10:29,30; I Peter 4:12,13; 2 Cor. 4:17; Rom. 8:18.
- 6) How well we use our time. Ephesians 5:16; Colossians 4:5; I Peter 1:17.
- 7) How well we run the particular race God chooses for us. Philippians 2:16; 31:13,14; I Cor. 9:24.
- 8) How well we control the old nature. I Corinthians 9:25-27.
- 9) How many people we witness to and win for Christ. Proverbs 11:30; I Thess. 2:19,20; Daniel 12:3.
- 10) How well we react to trials and temptations. James 1:2,3; Revelations 2:10.
- 11) How much we love the doctrine of Christ’s return. II Timothy 4:8.
- 12) How faithful we are to God’s Word and to feeding the flock of God. I Peter 5:2-4.

v) The Results of the Bema judgment:

a) Some will receive rewards. (I Cor. 3:14). 5 crowns may be abilities we receive to glorify Christ.

b) Some will suffer loss. (I Cor. 3:15).

vi) What determines whether we receive a reward?

a) QUALITY: “of what sort it is.” (I Cor. 3:11-15 esp. v.13).

Would you prefer a handful of gold or a truckload of hay?

b) MOTIVE: Jesus may ask “Why did you serve Me?” To be seen of men (Matthew 6:1,2,5) or for:

- Love for Christ. II Cor. 5:14,15.
- Love for others. II Cor. 5:11.
- Our works are to be judged. II Cor. 5:10.

c) We will be rewarded for WHAT WE ATTEMPTED. Matthew 25:21.

Did you invite anyone to church? Did you tell anyone how to be saved? God calls us to be obedient and faithful.

3) Re-evaluation = to calculate the value of my life’s effort again. Many things that seem big and important to us now, will seem small and worthless in heaven.

eg: The widow who gave 2 mites (2 x ¼ cents) gave more than the rich men.

“for unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required.” Luke 12:48.

You are talented. God expects you to use your talents, not waste them.

4) Recognition = Many nobodies on earth now, will be somebodies in heaven.
Many somebodies on earth now, will be nobodies in heaven.
The rich man and the beggar Lazarus were reversed in status in eternity.

5) Regret of a life misspent and of opportunities wasted. If you don't abide in Christ you'll be ashamed. I John 2:28. "Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward." II John 8.
"Hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown." Revelation 3:11.
The worldly minded, lazy, selfish Christian at the Judgment Seat of Christ will be very regretful.

6) Rejoicing of great rewards received by some. I Thessalonians 2:19,20.
"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." Matthew 16:27.
"Behold I come quickly; and my reward is with me to give every man according as his work shall be." Revelation 22:12.

Challenge:

- a) Christian: Have you been living for Christ? Have you got sin or resentment in your life that you'd be ashamed of if you saw Christ today? Raise your hand if you need to get right with God?
- b) Lost: Maybe you're not sure you are saved. You're not sure you'd go to heaven. You're not sure you know Christ as your Saviour and Friend. You will have no reward except hell, because the wages of sin is death. If you'd like to be saved, raise your hand and come out in the invitation so you can see how you may be saved.

I Corinthians 3:14-17 has 3 kinds of builders:

- i) The wise builder (3:14) = the studying, soul winning, Spirit-filled Christian.
- ii) The worldly builder (3:15) = the carnal Christian.
- iii) The wicked builder (3:17) = the unsaved.

Question: To which group do you belong?

51. JUDGEMENTS OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION

Judgements of the Great Tribulation		
The Seven Seals		
1st Seal	White horse - rider has bow, crown given to him - went out conquering to conquer.	Antichrist
2nd Seal	Fiery red horse - rider given power to take peace from earth - given great sword to kill one another.	Conflict on Earth
3rd Seal	Black horse - rider has pair of scales in hand. Wheat and barley measured out in return for money - warning not to harm oil and wine.	Scarcity on Earth
4th Seal	Pale horse - rider's name - Death. Hades followed. Given power to kill 1/4 of earth with sword, hunger, death and beasts.	Widespread Death
5th Seal	Cry of martyred souls under altar wanting revenge - must wait till fellow servants and brethren, also martyred.	Persecution
6th Seal	Great earthquake - sun blackened, bloodlike moon, falling stars - sky recedes as scroll - mountains and islands move. People hide in caves, rocks and mountains.	Cosmic Disturbances
The Seven Trumpets		
7th Seal	Silence in heaven - 1/2 hour. Fire thrown to earth - noises, thunders, lightnings, earthquake	
1st Trumpet	Hail and fire mingled with blood thrown to earth. 1/3 trees burned, all grass burned.	Vegetation Struck
2nd Trumpet	Something like great mountain of fire thrown into sea (meteor?). 1/3 sea - blood, 1/3 living creatures in sea died and 1/3 of ships destroyed.	Seas Struck
3rd Trumpet	Great burning star like torch fell on 1/3 rivers and springs. Poisons 1/3 of waters with wormwood - many die from bitter waters.	Waters Struck
4th Trumpet	1/3 sun darkened, 1/3 moon darkened, 1/3 stars darkened, 1/3 day and 1/3 night did not shine.	Heavens Struck
5th Trumpet	Bottomless pit opened - smoke darkens sun and air - locusts (demons) given power like scorpions - harm men without seal of God on foreheads - 5 months torment - then death.	Demons Torment Mankind
6th Trumpet	Four angels bound at River Euphrates released to kill 1/3 mankind - Satan's army of 200 million - 1/3 mankind killed by fire, smoke and brimstone.	Satan's 200 million army kills 1/3 Mankind
The Seven Thunders Sealed Up		
7th Trumpet	Kingdom proclaimed - temple in heaven opened - ark of covenant seen - lightnings, noises, thunders, earthquake, great hail.	The Seven Bowls (Vials)
1st Bowl	Poured out on earth, foul and loathsome sore on those with mark of beast and those who worshipped his image.	Malignant Sores
2nd Bowl	Poured out on sea - became like blood of dead men - every living creature in sea died.	Sea Turns to Blood
3rd Bowl	Poured out on rivers and springs - became blood.	Waters Turn to Blood
4th Bowl	Poured out on sun - men scorched with fire.	Men are Scorched
5th Bowl	Poured out on Beast's throne - kingdom became full of darkness - gnawed their tongues because of pain.	Darkness and Pain
6th Bowl	River Euphrates dries up - way of kings of east prepared. Unclean spirits like frogs from mouth of dragon, beast and false prophet work signs to gather kings to Armageddon.	Euphrates Dried Up
7th Bowl	Poured out into air - great earthquake. Great city - 3 parts, cities of nations fall, Babylon judged, islands flee away, mountains disappear, great hail stones each weighing talent.	Earth Utterly Shaken

1st Wave
2nd Wave
3rd Wave

52. THE RUSSIAN and MUSLIM INVASION of ISRAEL

Bible Reading: Ezekiel 36, 37, 38, 39.

Aim: To see how current events are leading to the invasion by Russia and Muslim nations of Israel.

Introduction.

The Prophecies in Ezekiel 36-39 have much to say about the world today.

The following benefits come from such a study:

1. It shows the future destruction of Russian military might.
2. It shows that God is against the Muslim religion and Muslim nations by God destroying their armies when they invade Israel.
3. It shows that God has a great future for Israel by protecting her in this invasion.
4. It proves the Bible to be true as it correctly predicts many aspects of modern world politics.
5. It contains a very likely reference to Britain and the United States in Bible prophecy.
6. The destruction of Russia and Muslim nations opens the way for Europe under the Antichrist to become the major world power in the Tribulation period.

Background:

One of the greatest proofs of the Bible is the survival of the Jew since Abraham's time 4000 years ago. In spite of attempts to destroy them by Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Rome and Hitler they continue to survive. After 1900 years of wandering among the nations, they are back in their own land as a nation since 1948. Israel today is the focal point for world interest and peace. It is the centre of political, industrial and Muslim conflict as the world's industries are so dependent on Middle Eastern oil supplies

I. EZEKIEL 35: PROPHECY AGAINST MOUNT SEIR.

Question: Why did God devote a second prophecy to Edom (cf. 25:12-14), and why was it placed in the section on Israel's restoration?

Answer: Most likely Edom was listed here to represent God's judgment on all nations who oppose Israel. Edom was a type of all Israel's future enemies. The Edomites, who lived south of the Dead Sea "had a perpetual hatred, and shed the blood of the children of Israel" (v.5) when the Israelites fled the Babylonians at Jerusalem's fall in 586 BC. Edom will be the scene of frightful bloodshed at the battle of Armageddon, when Israel's enemies will be purged out at Christ's second coming. "Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah?..." Isaiah 63:1-6. Edom's sin was her hatred of Israel, just like the Muslim nations hate Israel today. When God restores Israel at the start of the Millennium, He will judge all nations of the world based on their treatment of Israel. (Matthew 25:31-46). Ezekiel 35 divides into 3 sections, each ending with the promise "thou shalt know that I am the Lord," v.5,9,15, each section being 35:1-4; 5-9; and 10-15.

II. EZEKIEL 36: RESTORING ISRAEL TO HER LAND.

In Ezekiel 36:1, Ezekiel prophesies to the "mountains of Israel". These mountains are highest at Hebron and Jerusalem. These are the two locations that the PLO is seeking to take off Israel in 1996 as part of the 'peace' process. God's reply to the PLO and to other nations trying to get Israel to give up Jerusalem and Hebron is as follows:

"Because the enemy hath said against you, Aha, even the **ancient high places** (Jerusalem, Hebron) are ours in possession....v.2

Surely in the fire of my jealousy have I spoken against the **residue of the heathen** (nations e.g. PLO, USA), and against all Idumea, which have appointed **my land to their possession**...v.5

Surely the heathen that are about you (Israel), they shall bear their **shame**". v.7

i) **Punishing Israel's enemies.** (1-7). Edom again represents all nations that would harm Israel. God promised with an uplifted hand of a solemn oath (v.7), to punish Israel's enemies for their sin in hounding, slandering (v.3), plundering (v.4,5), rejoicing over and hating Israel, and appropriating His land for themselves (v.5).

ii) **Restoring Israel's land.** (v.8-12). God states that:
"I am for you, I will turn unto you, ye shall be tilled and sown, I will multiply men upon you...the cities shall be inhabited, and the wastes shall be builded. (v.9,10).
I will settle you after your old estates, and will do better unto you than at your beginnings" v.11
I will cause men (Israel) to walk upon you,...they shall possess thee." v.12

iii) **God will remove Israel's reproach.** (v.13-15). The mockery and humiliation that Israel has been forced to endure (v.3-6) will cease, as she is restored to prestige as God's chosen people.

iv) **God's chastening of Israel.** (v.16-23). When Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their sins (v.16,17). God judged them for their murders and idolatry (v.18), and scattered them amongst heathen countries. v.19.
There they profaned God's holy name (v.20), but God had pity on them (v.21). God will sanctify His name, so the nations may know that "I am the LORD." (v.23).

v) **9 Steps in Israel's regathering.** (v.24-38):

1. I will **gather** you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. (v.24).
2. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean.
God will **forgive** and **cleanse** Israel of all her filthiness and idolatry (v.25).
3. I will give you a **new heart** and a **new spirit**, taking away your stoney heart (v.26). This was the new birth that Jesus mentioned in John 3:3,5,10 that Nicodemus should have known about as one of Israel's master teachers. (Jeremiah 31:33,34 Ezekiel 11:19; 18:31).
4. I will put my **Holy Spirit** within you. (v.27). This will enable Israel to walk in God's ways.
5. Ye shall **dwelt** in the land in peace, prosperity and agricultural fruitfulness. (v.28-30).
6. Ye shall **remember** your own evil ways,...and shall loathe yourselves for your sins and abominations. (v.31).
7. "**Not for your sakes** do I this" means that God will restore them for Christ's sacrifice sake, not for their works (v.32).
8. Israel's conversion will bring a **great city renewal**, and reclamation of **desert** regions (v.33,34) to be like the Garden of Eden (v.35).
9. When Israel **prays** to God, He will **increase them** like a flock of sheep.
"I will yet for this be inquired of by the house of Israel." (v.37,38).

III. EZEKIEL 37: ISRAEL'S NATIONAL RESURRECTION.

The Vision of the Valley of Dry Bones

This vision shows the national and spiritual restoration of Israel back to the land, as promised in chapter 36. Israel was "dead" as a nation, deprived of her land, her king and her temple. She had been divided and scattered among the nations over the last 1900 years, so that restoration and unification seemed impossible. Hence God gave two signs (37:1-14 and v.15-28) to illustrate the future restoration of Israel to the land in the last days. They are:

A. The Valley of Dry Bones. v.1-14.

The hand of the Lord carried Ezekiel in the Spirit and set him down in the midst of a valley full of very many, very dry bones. God asks Ezekiel in v.3 "Can these bones Live?" He replied "O Lord God, Thou knowest", realizing that humanly speaking it was impossible, yet it was possible for God. God told Ezekiel to prophesy to the dry bones. As he did, he observed 3 stages in new life:

i) **Skeleton stage:** "Bones came together, bone to his bone". v.7.

This corresponds to events in 1897 AD where Theodore Hertzl called the first Zionist Congress to reclaim Palestine as a national home for the Jews. Also, in 1917 AD, General Allenby captured Jerusalem off the Turks. The Balfour Declaration was passed by the British Government promising Palestine as a national home for the Jews. This was in appreciation of Chaim Weizman's invention of an improved method of making explosives, thus giving Britain a greater fire power advantage in World War I.

ii) **Sinews, flesh and skin** came on the skeletons: This corresponds to the establishment of Israel as a nation in Palestine in 1948, by a United Nations mandate. When Britain moved out in 1948, Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia attacked Israel. Israel won this war, increasing her territory from 5000 square miles to 8,000 square miles.

On June 5, 1967, President Nasser of Egypt, with 185,000 troops from Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia declared war on Israel. Immediately, the Israeli air force destroyed 400 Russian built, Arab war planes on the ground in one day. Israel captured Jerusalem and the Golan Heights in what became known as the Six Day War.

On October 6, 1973, the Yom Kippur War began when the Arabs attacked Israel on the Jewish Day of Atonement holiday, with much modern Russian weaponry. Israel suffered greatly but finally won, capturing vast quantities of Russian arms. In 1990, Russia permitted 750,000 Jews to emigrate to Israel.

iii) **Breath** stage: "Breath came into them, and they lived, and they stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army". v.10.

The word "slain" in "Breathe upon these slain" (v.9), means that over history the Jews were "killed, murdered and butchered", as they were persecuted. This breath stage corresponds to **national restored Israel receiving the Holy Spirit** as promised in Israel's New Covenant (36:24-28). This occurs after Armageddon when Christ returns to rescue them from destruction by the Antichrist. This prophecy will be ultimately fulfilled when Christ regathers believing Israelites to Israel in the Millennium. See Jeremiah 31:31-34.

Question: What do these dry bones represent?

Answer: "These bones are the whole house of Israel. v.11.

Explanation: "Behold they say, **Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts**". v.11.

- "We are cut off" means "it's all over for us". Their outlook was grimly hopeless as represented by the long unburied, sun bleached dry bones in a valley.
- The valley symbolizes Israel's depressed, persecuted, humiliated, low condition while scattered among the nations.

God's purposes of restoring Israel:

1. To show Israel that their future is more glorious than ever, and that it is not all over for Israel.
2. To show that Israel is still "My people". Twice God addresses Israel as "O my people" v.12,13.
3. To settle Israel in her ancient homeland as a regenerated nation, which embraces 4 events:
 - a) Bringing the Israelite people **out from the nations**.
"I will open your graves and cause you to come out from your graves". v.12.
Graves represent Israel's place of non-existence among the nations.
They are dead nationally and spiritually, like the prodigal son.
 - b) Israel will be **brought into the land**. "I will **bring** you into the land of Israel". v.12.

This happens gradually over a period of time, as follows:

YEAR	1870	1900	1914	1948	1955	1960	1965	1970	1978	1991	1996
ISRAEL'S POP.	10,000	40,000	80,000	758,000	1,600,000	1,900,000	2,300,000	2,500,000	3,200,000	4,600,000	5,000,000

c) Israel's **spiritual rebirth** at Christ return. (Zechariah 12:10-13:9).

"I shall put my Spirit in you, and ye shall live" v.14. The word "live" in v.3,5,6,9,10 means to "live spiritually". (Ezekiel 36:24-28; Joel 2:28,29; Jeremiah 31:31-34; John 3:3,4).

d) Israel will be **settled securely** and permanently in the land. "I shall place you in your own land". v.14. "Place" ('nuah' in Hebrew) means "cause you to rest, settle down, remain in security and quietness".

B. The Sign of Two Sticks v.15-28.

i) **The Sign Given.** 37:15-17. Ezekiel was told to take 2 sticks and write **Judah** on one stick, and **Ephraim** on the other, then to join them together into one stick.

After Solomon died in 931 BC, the nation of Israel split into the Northern kingdom of 10 tribes known as Israel or Ephraim (Hosea 5:3,5) and into the Southern kingdom of 2 tribes known as Judah, being its larger tribe. Assyria took Israel into captivity in 722 BC, and Babylon took Judah captive in 606, 597 and 586 BC.

Note: Mormons wrongly claim that the 2 sticks represent the Bible (the stick of Judah) and the Book of Mormon (the stick of Joseph or Ephraim).

This wrong idea ignores the clear interpretation in v.18-28. It tries to impose a foreign meaning on the context of the sticks. Where is Mormonism mentioned here? Nowhere!

ii) **The Sign Explained.** 37:18-28. The uniting of the 2 sticks pictured God restoring His people Israel to the land and reuniting them as a single nation in the land. When united, Israel will be led by King David himself (34:23,24) ruling under Jesus Christ as King of Kings.

8 Results of Israel's Restoration to the land:

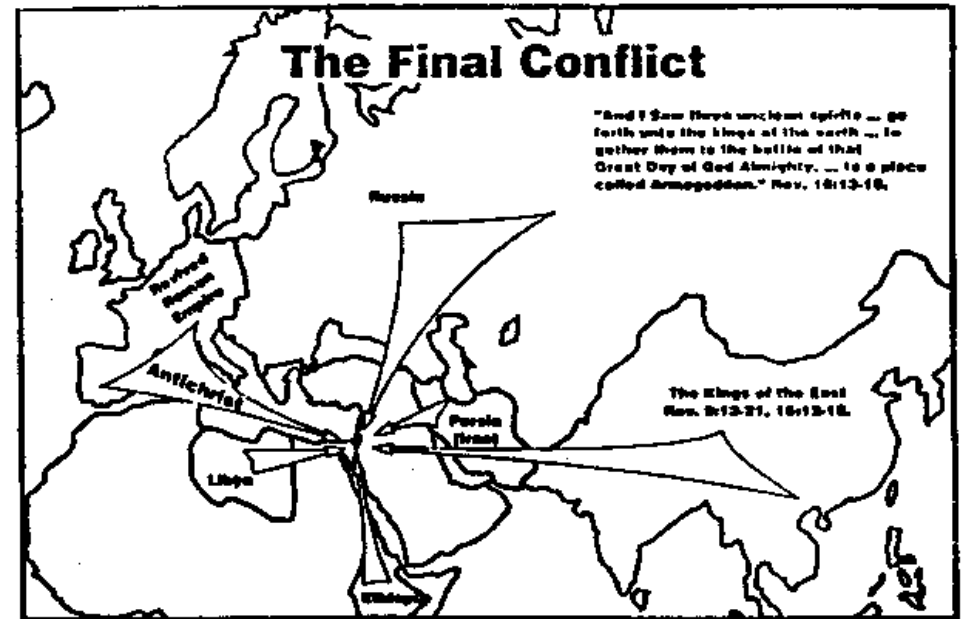
1. The nation will be **united** as 12 tribes. v.21,22; Ezekiel 34:23,24.
2. **David** will be resurrected to be their King under Christ.
3. Israel will be **cleansed** of idolatry and all other sins. v.23.
4. Redeemed Israel will **possess the land** given by God to Jacob. Genesis 28:12-17.
5. God will make a new, everlasting **covenant of peace** with them. v.26a.
6. God will **multiply & prosper** them, placing them **securely & permanently in the land.**v25
7. God will set His **sanctuary** in the midst of them forever. God's sanctuary will be the literal millennial temple. (Ezekiel 40:1-31; 44:31).
8. God's **tabernacle** will be with them. v.27. God's dwelling place, like the pillar of cloud and fire in the wilderness, will be a token of God's presence on every house in Jerusalem to defend them. (Isaiah 4:5,6).

IV. EZEKIEL 38: RUSSIA, IRAN, ETHIOPIA, LIBYA, GOMER AND TOGARMAH (TURKEY) INVADE ISRAEL.

Introduction: Ezekiel 38 and 39 describe Russia's last bid for world conquest, and are in the context of prophecies of Israel's restoration to the land (Ezekiel 36,37). Although Israel is militarily superior to her Arab neighbours, the possibility of a Russian attack has been her constant fear.

This battle is part of a series of battles that take place in the 7 year tribulation, just before Christ's visible return. Notice several phases of events here:

- i) A political leader known as Antichrist will head up a 10 nation European confederacy, that will confirm a 7 year peace covenant with Israel (Daniel 9:27). This explains the strange statement in Ezekiel 38:11 of Israel "dwelling safely", something that has never happened in 2000 years of Israel's history. This would locate the time of Russia's invasion as being around day 1000 of the 7 year tribulation period.
- ii) By Russia and her Muslim allies suffering a disastrous defeat, this changes the world political situation and balance of power so greatly, that the Antichrist can easily become a world dictator by the middle of the 7 year tribulation.
- iii) The Great Tribulation (the last 3½ years) will see another world war (Daniel 11:40-45; Rev. 16:12-16). This will occur just before Christ's second coming. It can be pictured as follows:



Ezekiel 38, 39 reveals a future invasion of Israel by the armies of Russia, Iran, Ethiopia, Sudan, Libya Turkey and Gomer. These invaders will be decisively destroyed. A search of history finds no such battle or outcome. Prophecies not yet fulfilled, will be fulfilled just as literally as previously fulfilled prophecies.

1. The TIME of this invasion.

When will this invasion occur? Several time indicators point to this battle occurring before the middle of the 7 year tribulation. These are:

- i) When Russia, Iran, Ethiopia, Sudan, Libya and Turkey **are all united against Israel.** 38:1-6. Today Fundamentalist Muslim governments are in control of all these countries except Russia. Because Russia has lost her east European allies to Europe, she is now looking to Iran to forge economic alliances.
- ii) "In the **latter years** thou shalt come into the land...that is gathered out of **many people**". v.3. Today for the first time in 1900 years, Israel has become a nation in the land having been gathered out of many people. (This was not the case when Israel returned from Babylon in 536 BC as **Babylon was only one nation** to return from). This regathering from many nations only happens in the latter years, just before Jesus Christ's return. Hence, from 1948 onwards is the latter years.
- iii) "It shall be in the **latter days**". v.16.
- iv) "They shall dwell **safely** all of them". v.8,11. Since 1948, Israel have never dwelt safely in the land. The only time that they dwell safely is in the first half of the 7 year tribulation period, when Israel enjoys the peace covenant confirmed by the Antichrist European ruler. (Daniel 9:27).

v) Israel at this time is called “a land of **unwalled villages**” v.11. This is the situation today worldwide, because walls are no defense against enemy missiles or heavy firepower. Before 1500 AD city walls were necessary, but today they are useless. Hence Ezekiel 38,39 describe events after 1500 AD.

vi) **Sheba and Dedan** (Saudi Arabia), the **Merchants of Tarshish** (USA), and the **young Lions** (British Commonwealth countries) **protest** to the invasion in v.13. Today the US Sixth Fleet is permanently stationed in the Persian Gulf to protect it's oil supply line from Saudi Arabia. The US and Saudia Arabian alliance repelled Iraq in the Gulf War of 1991. This western alliance is in place today.

Since there will be no warfare in the millennium (Isaiah 2:1-4; Micah 4:3,4), this invasion cannot take place after Christ returns to earth. It cannot occur after the middle of the tribulation, because the Antichrist then begins his persecution of Israel.



The invasion cannot occur after the middle of the Tribulation because the Antichrist then begins his persecution of Israel. Israel will not dwell safely then. Hence Israel only feels safe and secure in the first half of the Tribulation under the Antichrist's peace covenant.

2. REASON FOR the INVASION.

One reason for the Russian/Muslim invasion of the Middle East is to take a spoil (mentioned 3 times in 38:12,13) or a “great spoil”. The wealth in the Middle East is its huge oil reserves, being 66% of the worlds supply. In 1990, known oil reserves were 1 trillion barrels, and daily consumption was 50 million barrels. A general calculation is given below:

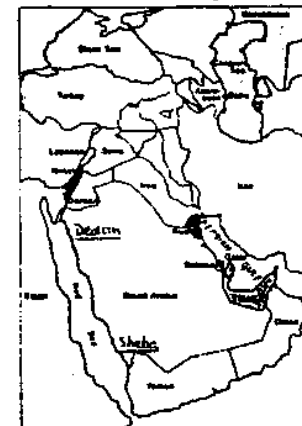
Daily consumption in 1996 is 65 million barrels
 “ “ in 2010, will be 86 million barrels
 “ “ in 2020, will be 100 “ “

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Number of years of oil left} &= \frac{\text{Total reserves.}}{\text{daily consumption.}} \\ &= \frac{1,000,000 \text{ million barrels.}}{50 \text{ million barrels/day.}} \\ &= 20,000 \text{ days reserves left.} \\ &= \frac{20,000}{365} \text{ years reserves left.} \\ &= 54.79 \text{ years reserves left.} \end{aligned}$$

Hence, the number of years of world oil reserves left = 1990 + 54.79 years = 2044. This is assuming that no more oil is discovered and oil consumption remains at the 1990 level. One may balance out the other.

Intelligence Digest 5 July 1996 reports:

“The US military has a presence from one end of the Gulf to the other. It has links with all six Gulf Arab states. It is established in **Kuwait**, the country for which it fought in the 1991 Gulf War; the US Fifth Fleet’s administrative head-quarters is in **Bahrain**; US Armour is stored in two military depots in **Qatar** for use by an army brigade at short notice; the US has agreements for the use of bases in **Oman**; US and Western warships patrol the Persian Gulf, with thousands of personnel stopping for services in Gulf ports, including those in the United Arab Emirates; and the US has at least 5,000 military personnel stationed in **Saudi Arabia**.”



Oil is a finite resource and when it is used up there will be no more. The United States now imports much of its oil. During World War II, it was America’s supply of oil and Japan’s lack of it that determined the outcome of the war.

When the US realized in 1943 that it would eventually run out of oil, negotiations focused on securing supplies from Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf states (Sheba and Dedan). If ever the Arab Gulf States needed the US, it was in 1990 when the Iraqi army moved into Kuwait and threatened Saudi Arabia. Because of the US success in Operation Desert Storm, the US consolidated its position as protector and partner of the Arab Gulf States (Sheba & Dedan) who control most of the world’s oil resources. Today we see Russia, Iran, Libya, Ethiopia, Sudan and Turkey associating together. At the same time we also see the Merchants of Tarshish (England and the USA) allying with Saudi Arabia (Sheba and Dedan) as prophesied in Ezekiel 38. Oil has played a major part in the providence of God, in bringing the oil rich Arab states together with the USA in preparation for their final role in the last days before Christ’s return.

3. IDENTITY of the INVADERS.

“Son of man, set thy face against God, the land of **Magog**, the chief (Rosh) prince of **Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him**, (v.2), And say, thus saith the Lord God: Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief (Rosh) prince of Meshech and Tubal:... (v.3). **Persia** (Iran), **Ethiopia**, and **Libya** with them: all of them with shield and helmet:**Gomer**, and all his bands; the house of **Togarmah** of the north quarters, and all his bands and **many people** with thee. Thou shalt come from thy place out of the **north parts**.” v.6,15.

Note: An alternative rendering of v.1,2 is “prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal”. Should the Hebrew word for “chief”, (Rosh) be taken as an adjective (chief prince) or as a proper noun (prince of Rosh)? Both are possible and acceptable.

The invaders named are:

1. Gog (the leader) from **Magog**, who is the prince of **Rosh, Meshech and Tubal**. v.2,3.
2. Persia (Iran). v.5.
3. Ethiopia (Ethiopia and Sudan). v.5.
4. Libya. v.5.
5. Gomer. v.6.
6. Togarmah (Turkey). v.5.

Let us trace each of these nations identity:

1. The leader will be Gog, from **Magog**, the prince of **Rosh, Meshech and Tubal**. What country is represented by Magog, Rosh, Meshech and Tubal? Russia!
 - a) **Jerome**, a prominent church leader (345-420 AD) stated that Magog was located north of the Caucasus mountains, near the Caspian Sea. "Gog and Magog", with the Scythians, who lived near the Black Sea from the Caucasus to the Danube. (A.R. Millard, "Scythians", *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* 1988, 4, 365).
 - c) The **Caucasus mountains** of Russia mean "Gogs fort". (L. Bauman, *Russian Events in the light of Bible Prophecy*, p. 23-25, D. Pentecost, "Things to Come", p.327).
 - d) **Gesenius**, the famous 19th century lexicographer whose Hebrew lexicon has never been superseded says of:
 - Magog⁴⁰³¹ - "a great and powerful people inhabiting the extreme recesses of the north, who are at some time to invade the Holy land. Ezekiel 38,39. Greeks called them Scythians". p.447.
 - Rosh⁷²²⁰ - proper noun of a northern **nation undoubtedly the Russians**,...and described by an Arabic writer Ibn Fosslan of 10th century, as dwelling on the river Volga. (p.752). Hence, Rosh can be a proper noun. Genesis 46:21 states Rosh as one of the sons of Benjamin.
 - Meshech⁴⁹⁰² - proper Moschi, a barbarous people inhabiting the Moshian mountains.
 - Tubal⁸⁴²² - proper noun, the Tibareni, a nation of Asia Minor, dwelling by the Euxine Sea, west of the Mosch.
 - e) **Geographical** proof: Ezekiel states in 3 passages (38:6,15; 39:2) that this invading nation comes from the "uttermost part of the **north**" (as the Hebrew renders it). Moscow is directly north of Jerusalem, on the same longitude, as can be seen on a map.
 - f) **Linguistic** proof: J. Walvoord in "The Nations in Prophecy," p.107, 108 states that "Rosh may be the root of modern Russia.....Meshech is similar sounding to Moscow, and Tubal is similar sounding to the Russian Province of Tobolsk." The American Standard Version translates it as "the prince of Rosh".
 - g) The 7 sons of Japheth were Gomer, **Magog**, Madai, Javan, **Tubal, Meshech** and **Tiras**. These settled into areas which became known as:
 - Gomer in Cappadocia, possibly Germany.
 - Magog, Tubal and Meshech in Russia.
 - Javan in Greece.
 - Madai in Media.
 - Tiras near Greece. (Genesis 10:1,2).

The Table of the Descendants in Genesis chapter 10 shows where Noah's descendants settled.

2. **Persia (Iran)**. This is a fundamentalist Islamic state that sponsors terrorism.
3. **Ethiopia**. This includes modern **Sudan**, an Islamic Fundamental state that severely persecutes Christians in the South.
4. **Libya**. A fundamentalist Islamic state under Colonel Qaddafi that sponsors terrorism against Israel and the West.
5. **Gomer**¹⁵⁸⁶ - his descendants may have spread to modern Germany.
6. **Togarmah**⁸⁴²⁵ - occupies the area of modern **Turkey**, which has recently become a fundamentalist Muslim state.

Four of the six invaders are fundamentalist Muslim states, that hate Israel.

A fundamentalist Muslim is one who believes strongly in the Koran and the Islam religion. The move back to these basic beliefs was triggered by the defeat of the Ottoman Empire in 1922.

When Israel defeated the **Egyptian** army in 1948 and 1949, in the Sinai war in 1956, in the Six day war in 1967, and in the Yom Kippur War in 1973, each of these defeats was seen as the Muslim god, Allah, judging Islamic countries because of their lukewarmness, by allowing Israel to be victorious over them. From 1973, fundamentalist Muslims became much more militant. In 1979, President Sadat of Egypt commenced peace talks with Israel. In 1982 Sadat arrested about 2000 militant Islamic fundamentalists, he purged the army of 200 militant Islamic officers, and he forced the registration of 40,000 mosques in Egypt. He was soon assassinated by four Islamic soldiers.

At the same time in Iran, the Shah was forced to flee the country and the Ayatollah Khomeini became the leader and spokesman for the Islamic government. In 1979 he taught that the world was in the last stage of world history, and because Allah had predestined Muslims to take the world for Allah, they had to be 100% committed to Allah.

He taught that Israel was a satanic vehicle permitted by God to oppose Islam because of the lukewarmness of the Muslim masses. He taught that unless Israel was defeated and Jerusalem liberated, they could not move onto world victory.

This Islamic revolution has swept much of the world and has started up Islamic terrorist groups such as Hamas and Jihad in Israel, Hezbollah in Lebanon and other groups elsewhere such as in Sudan. All of these groups believe that they must take the world by force and terror, starting with Israel.

There is a revolution in the Islamic world. Islam believes it must remove corrupt and ineffective Islamic governments and install fundamentalist ones. This has led to much unrest in the Middle East and Africa, especially in Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Lebanon. In Iran, Libya, Ethiopia and Sudan strong Islamic governments have come to power.

The INVASION predicted in Ezekiel 38 and 39 will be a combined Muslim fundamentalist confederacy led by Russia. Today we see Iran (Persia) leading a Muslim revival determined to destroy Israel. Iran has military, nuclear, space and economic agreements with Russia. Sudan has come under a Muslim government and is closely aligned with Iran. Iran has sent 30,000 Muslim "missionaries" to Sudan to take all of Africa for Islam. Libya is armed by and economically tied to Russia. In 1995 Libya and Russia signed a \$1.5 billion agreement to build infrastructure projects, and Russia has defended Libya against US accusations that Libya is manufacturing chemical weapons. Turkey now has a fundamentalist Moslem government. Turkey has signed a \$23 billion contract with Iran for a

natural gas supply. Russia's political and economic alignment with southern Muslim nations is the prelude to a military mobilization against Israel.

We know from Ezekiel 38,39 and Revelation, that Islam will not control the world, but will be destroyed by God when Islamic nations and Russia attack Israel. God will use these Islamic nations to bring Israel to repentance, and bring glory to the God of the Bible. Islam's defeat will prove to Muslims that their religion is not of God, and that the true God is the God of Israel.

The present unsolved Middle East peace accord between Israel and the Arabs will culminate in the Antichrist's 7 year peace covenant with Israel. Israel's Prime Minister Mr. Netanyahu has rejected the creation of an independent Palestinian state. He will not hand back the Golan Heights to Syria. He has taken discussions on Jerusalem off the agenda. He will expand, not remove, Jewish settlements on the West bank. All these things will make peace with the Arabs difficult to achieve, and will open the door for the Antichrist as the European ruler to enter the scene as a man of peace who will provide a solution to the Arab/Israeli peace problem. Israel will then dwell safely for 3½ years under his "protection". However, before he comes to power and makes his 7 year peace covenant with Israel, Jesus Christ will have returned to the air to catch away all dead and living believers to heaven as foretold in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and in 1 Cor. 15:51-53. Let us be about our Heavenly Father's business because the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ draws near.

4. The **EVENTS** of the **INVASION**.

In **Ezekiel 38:3** God says "I am against thee O Gog".

Question 1: Why would God be against Russia?

Answer: 1) Russia has for many years persecuted the Jews and supplied military equipment to the Arabs to wage war against Israel.
2) The old Soviet Union has taught Atheism, has blasphemed God, has persecuted millions of Christians, and has threatened many nations with nuclear destruction.

In **Ezekiel 38:4** Gog or Russia is compared to a wild beast running out of control, whom the Lord will turn around, put hooks into his jaws (2 Kings 19:28), and bring him and his vast army to their destruction on the mountains of Israel.

Question 2: Why does this army ride horses when no armies today ride horses, but instead have tanks?

Answer: Several answers may be possible:

- Russia's economy may be so broken down that their oil production is inadequate to completely fuel a large army.
- The world oil supplies may have run so low that Russia may have run out of oil and may see the remaining Middle East Oil as the door to world control.
- The worldwide catastrophes in the first 3½ years Tribulation, such as the earthquake of Rev. 6:12, or the 6th Trumpet judgment war of Rev. 9:13-21 where 1/3 of mankind are killed, may have so destroyed oil production that horses are the only means of warfare remaining in Russia.
- Horses may include and picture all kinds of modern military transport.

Ezekiel 38:5, 6. In addition to Iran, Ethiopia, Sudan, Libya, Gomer and Turkey, many other people or nations will participate in the invasion as well.

Ezekiel 38:7. "be thou a **guard**⁴⁹²⁹ unto them". "Guard" here means a commander or ruler, one to whom reverence is due, one who is observed as a leader by the other armies.

Ezekiel 38:8. This verse describes the time of the invasion as:

- Many days after 587 BC. This was not fulfilled before 1996 AD.
- In the **latter years** thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword. Jews have been greatly persecuted and killed over the last 1900 years, but have now returned to Israel.
- Israelites have been **gathered** out of many people to return to the land this century.
- Israel will **dwell safely** all of them. Not in 2000 years has this ever happened. It will only happen by their 7 year peace covenant with Antichrist. Today Israel is an armed camp living in fear of its neighbours.
- The land has been a **ruined waste** since 70 AD when Jerusalem fell to the Romans (Ezekiel 38:9). The invasion will be like a **storm**⁷⁷²² (to rush over, tempest, devastation, destruction) and a **cloud**⁶⁰⁵¹ (a thunder cloud covering the land) as the armies advance over land to Israel.

Ezekiel 38:10,11,12. Russia and her allies will think an evil thought, plan or plot against Israel. Russia will notice Israel's geographical, economic and political importance. Israel's new cities not having walls, bars or gates present an amazing prophetic detail of today as the end time, when ancient walls and gates will have been made obsolete by modern weapons of war. Israel dwelling safely and at rest is due to the Antichrist's peace covenant guaranteeing Israel's security. The invaders will covet regathered Israel's silver, gold, cattle and goods, as well as Israel's strategic position.

Ezekiel 38:13. **Sheba** and **Dedan** (Saudi Arabia), and the merchants of **Tarshish** (England, America), with all the **young lions** thereof (Canada, Australia, New Zealand, British Commonwealth countries) shall protest against this invasion, but will not intervene militarily.

Question 3: Who are these protesters?

Answer:

- Sheba** and **Dedan** (Isaiah 21:13; Jeremiah 25:23,24) are in Saudi Arabia today.
- Merchants of **Tarshish**⁸⁵⁴⁹. Jonah took a ship from Joppa to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord (1:3). The furthest place known was Spain. This land was rich in silver (Jeremiah 10:9), iron, tin and lead (Ezekiel 27:12). These metals are found in Tartessus in Spain, which attracted the Phoenicians who founded colonies in Sardinia in Spain, where we find Phoenician monumental inscriptions in the 9th Century BC bearing the name Tarshish.

Columbus requested financial assistance of Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain to fund his expedition to the Americas in 1492. The result was that South America was colonized by Spain and Portugal, while North America was colonized by England and France.

- God's judgments in the Tribulation will be against the ships of Tarshish. Isaiah 2:16.
- "The Day of the Lord is.....upon all the ships of Tarshish. Revelation 8:9 states that the second trumpet judgment in the Tribulation will result in one third of the ships being destroyed: "a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea...and the third part of the ships were destroyed". Revelation 8:8,9.

- Early in the millennium, airplanes and the ships of Tarshish will bring Jews back to Israel:
“Who are these that **fly** as a **cloud**...?”
- “Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the **ships of Tarshish** first, to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the Lord thy God.” Isaiah 60:8,9.
- America has about 7 million Jews, and she assists America’s wealthy, converted Jews to return to the land of Israel to take up their role as the Messiah’s servants.

Hence Tarshish seems to represent a maritime power such as Spain, the United States and England.

- c) The **young Lions**: England’s national symbol is the lion. Hence the young lions may represent the nations that England colonized such as Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and other British Commonwealth countries. You would expect these nations to protest against Russia’s invasion of Israel, but to not intervene militarily due to the fear of nuclear war.

Ezekiel 38:14. Russia will know that Israel dwells **safely** under the military protection of Europe under the Antichrist. Hence, Russia’s invasion of the Middle East may have a secondary purpose of **challenging Europe’s power** and alliance with Israel.

Ezekiel 38:15. Russia comes out of the **north** parts, literally the “farthest extremities and recesses of the north parts” (3411). Moscow and Leningrad are some of the northern most major cities on earth.

“All of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army”.

Russian military today is indeed a mighty army.

Ezekiel 38:16. The invasion of Israel will come from all sides. From the north will come **Russia; Turkey and Iran** from the east, **Sudan and Ethiopia** from the south, and **Libya** from the west. They will advance as a cloud to cover the land. This enormous army will overrun all obstacles just as a cloud sailing across the sky.

“It shall be in the **latter days**.” This comforts us living today as we see these events lining up that we are now living in the latter days just before Christ’s second coming.

A result of this invasion will be that the nations will be so shocked by the outcome of this invasion that they will know that God has intervened in protecting Israel. By God destroying the invaders, God will show His holiness and power to all the nations of the world. Israel will be delivered and God will be glorified.

Ezekiel 38:17. When Gog from Russia invades Israel, God asks him the question in v.17. The words “he” and “old time” indicates that this question is asked in the future when the invasion takes place. This will be a question that many people in the world at the time will ask.

“Are you the one prophesied in Ezekiel 38,39 that would invade Israel in the latter days? Is this the fulfillment of a Bible prophecy?” Maybe God the Holy Spirit will put this question in people’s minds who will know this prophecy at that time. God asks the question if Gog is the one whom the prophets (plural) of Israel have prophesied in old time about.

Question 4: What other prophets have discussed Russia’s invasion?

Answer: 1) **Daniel 11:40** mentions “At the **time of the end** shall the King of the south (Ethiopia and Sudan) push at him (the Antichrist): and the King of the north (Russia) shall come against him (Antichrist) like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with

many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow (like a cloud, Ezekiel 38:16) and pass over.”

Because of the Antichrist’s peace covenant with Israel, a Russian attack on Israel will be seen as an attack on the Antichrist’s European empire. The events that catapult the Antichrist to world rule commence with the King of the South (Ethiopia, Sudan, but not Egypt because the land of Egypt shall not escape v.42) pushing at him (the Antichrist’s ally Israel). Then the king of the north (Russia) will come against him (Antichrist as protector of Israel) like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen (Ezek. 38:4,15), and with many ships (the Russian naval fleet in the Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea).

v.40,41 - Russia will enter into the glorious land (Israel). Ammon (Jordan) will escape Russia’s hand.

v.42 - the land of Egypt shall not escape.

v.43 - Russia will control Egypt’s gold and silver treasures. The Libyans and Ethiopians shall be at his steps (in his company, allied with Russia, as stated in Ezekiel 38:5).

v.44a “But tidings out of the **east** (China) and **north** (Antichrist’s armies mobilizing against him) shall trouble him:”. At this point the Russian leader will hear the disturbing news that the armies of the Antichrist, coming from north of Egypt, and the eastern armies coming from China and Japan (Kings of the east, Revelation 16:12) are mobilizing to challenge Russia’s bold move of aggression.

v.44 - “therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many (of Israel)”. As a result, Russia will set out in a great rage to destroy many people of Israel.

v.45 - “He shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas (Mediterranean and Dead Seas) in the glorious holy mountain (Jerusalem).” The Russian ruler Gog is described as pitching his tents between the Seas and at Jerusalem.

“yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.”

The destruction of Russian military might will destroy the balance of power in the first half of the Tribulation. The Antichrist’s European empire, will suddenly be propelled to a position of world dominance with the demise of Russia, so that people will ask: “Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?” Revelation 13:4.

- 2) **Zechariah 12:1-4** mentions “Jerusalem as a burdensome stone for all people: all (such as Russia) that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces....”.

5. THE DEFEAT OF GOG’S ARMY.

Ezekiel 38:18. When Russia attacks Israel in her demon-inspired plan to thwart God’s plan for Israel, God’s fury, jealousy, and fiery hot anger will be aroused.

God will bring about a series of disasters to destroy the invading armies:

- i) **38:19,20.** First, there will be a **great earthquake** in the land of Israel. This earthquake will affect fish, birds, beasts and all ground creatures.

- All men that are on the face of the earth shall shake at my presence.
- Mountains shall be thrown down, steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground. This may be the great earthquake described in Revelation 6:12,14 “every mountain and island were moved out of their places.”

- ii) **38:21.** This great earthquake interrupts Gog’s invasion plans, spreading fear and confusion through the ranks of his forces, just the same effect as described in Revelation 6:15-18. In the pandemonium, communication between the four invading armies will break down. The confusion will result in the armies **fighting each other**, “every man’s sword shall be against his brother.”

- iii) **38:22.** A third judgment brought on the army will be **plague and bloodshed**. This may be caused by them using chemical weapons against each other, or it may be what God used against Sennacherib of Assyria (Isaiah 37:36). "I will plead against him with pestilence and blood."
- iv) A fourth judgment God rains upon these armies will be an overflowing **rain**, great **hailstones**, **fire & brimstone**. The **rain** will combine with dirt and debris from the earthquake to produce massive mud slides and floods which will destroy, demobilize and sweep away Gog's military equipment. Great **hailstones** will pelt the survivors, killing many (Joshua 10:11; Revelation 16:21). The earthquake may reactivate volcanoes to spew out burning sulfur and hot ash, (as occurred with Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 19:24), thus destroying the invading army.

The result is in **Ezekiel 38:23**.

- i) God will **magnify** and **sanctify** Himself.
- ii) I will be **known** in the eyes of many nations.
- iii) They shall know that I am the **LORD**.

6. FOURTEEN RESULTS OF GOG'S DEFEAT. Ezekiel 39:1-29.

Ezekiel 39 amplifies chapter 38 giving more details of the invasion's aftermath:

- 1. **39:1,2** - I will turn thee back and leave one-sixth of the. v.2.
- 2. **39:3** - I will disarm you.
- 3. **39:4,5** - You will fall upon the mountains of Israel, you and all your bands and people with you. v.4. You will fall upon the open field. v.5.
- 4. **39:4b** - I will give you to the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured. v.4b.
- 5. **39:6** - I will send a fire on Magog (Russia), and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles.

Question 1: Who are those that **dwell carelessly in the Isles**?

Answer: The Isles refer to the farthest reaches of the known world (Ezekiel 26:15,18; 27:3,15,35). The Isles may refer to island nations such as England, North and South America and Australia. People in these countries certainly are given over to pleasure seeking, material comforts and luxuries. These people do dwell carelessly. They don't care much about God or suffering humanity, only about themselves getting more money, holidays, entertainment and pleasure.

Question 2: What is meant by God sending a **fire on Magog** and **island dwellers**?

Answer: Perhaps as Tarshish (US, Great Britain) challenges the Russian/Muslim invasion, there would be a nuclear shoot-out, where Russia and the United States fire nuclear tipped warheads at each other in an effort to destroy the other first. This is called "MAD" meaning "mutually assured destruction". This would leave the USA and Russia crippled, resulting in Europe and the Antichrist being in control of the Middle East and its oil resources. Deprived of oil, the Kings of the East (China and Japan) would then have no alternative but to amass a vast army to cross the Euphrates river to occupy and control the Middle East oil fields as predicted in Revelation 16:12-16. This will bring all nations to the Battle of Armageddon in order to control the remaining world's oil supplies.

"I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle." Zechariah 14:2.

Note: Joel tells us that the remnants of the Russian army will retreat deep into Russia:

"I will remove far off from you the **northern army**, and will drive him into a land barren and desolate, (possibly Siberia), with his face toward the east sea (possibly the Caspian Sea),

and his hinder part toward the utmost sea (possibly the Arctic Sea), and his stink shall come up...." Joel 2:20.

6. Israel's Repentance. Ezekiel 39:7.

"I will make my **holy name** known in the midst of my people Israel.

I will not let them pollute my **holy name** any more.

The heathen shall know that I am the Lord, the **Holy one** in Israel".

Through all this God will teach Israel that He is Holy & will not be profaned by their sins any more.

7. **39:9,10** - The Israelites shall **burn the weapons** for **7 years** so that they need not cut wood from the field or forests. This shows the completeness of Gog's defeat. The plunderers will be utterly plundered. Israel will be burning Gog's weapons throughout the Tribulation period and into the Millennium.

8. 39:11-16 - The Israelites shall be burying **Gog's army** for **7 months**.

- i) The smell of dead corpses will be so bad that passengers will stop their noses. v.11.
- ii) Gog's multitude will be buried on the east side of the Dead Sea in the valley of Hamon-gog, (meaning hordes of Gog) in Jordan, on the highway from Syria to Egypt via Petra. v.11.
- iii) All the Israelites will help in burying the dead, v.13. Burial specialists will search the land for 7 months to bury corpses and to cleanse the land. v.14. Passengers (or travelers), on seeing a bone, will set up a marker sign next to it for the buriers to bury it.
- iv) The burial operation will be so vast that a town will be set up in the valley at the gravesites to accommodate those workers cleansing the land. It will be named "Hamonah", meaning "the multitude or horde", to commemorate the victory over Gog, and will be the headquarters of the burial operation. v.16.

9. **39:17-20** - An invitation is given to every bird and beast to come to God's sacrifice on the mountains of Israel to eat the flesh and drink the blood of mighty men, of princes of the earth, of all men of war, and of horses, who have come to invade Israel. This feast occurs before the soldiers are buried.

10. 39:21 - The **nations** will **see God's glory**. v.21.

"I will set my glory among the heathen." "Glory" is used 16 times in Ezekiel (1:28; 3:12,23; 8:4; 9:3; 10:4,18,19; 11:22,23; 39:21; 43:2,4,5; 44:4), and in each instance it refers to the shekinah glory cloud, just the same cloud that led Israel through the wilderness. This same shekinah glory cloud will be set among the nations of the world in the millennium for all to see. (Isaiah 66:18).

"All the heathen (nations) shall see my judgment that I have executed..."

Question: How will all nations see God's destruction of the Russian and Muslim armies?

By satellite/cable television news broadcasts.

11. **39:22** - "Israel shall know that I am the Lord their God from that day forward." Israel will turn back to God. God's dramatic, shocking defeat of Gog will force Israel to acknowledge God's power. Many Jews will be saved through this.

12. **39:23,24** - The nations shall know that Israel went into captivity for their sins. It was not God's failure, but it was due to Israel's uncleanness and transgressions that God had to judge them.
13. **39:25-28** - Early in the millennium, God will regather the whole house of Israel out of their enemies lands (v.27) into the land of Israel. None will be left among the nations (v.28). It will be compulsory for all Jews to return to the land of Israel under Jesus Christ. (Isaiah 60:8,9; 66:20).
14. **39:29** - Verses 25-29 look ahead to early in the millennium when God will restore Israel to the land and when God will pour out His Holy Spirit on the house of Israel when He returns at Armageddon to rescue them from the Antichrist. (Zechariah 12:10).

Conclusion:

Let us be ready for Christ's return to catch us away. Let us be waiting and watching the current events as signs pointing to the nearness of the catching away of believers. Let us win many souls to Christ and teach God's word all over the world before Christ returns. The Muslim religion is wrong in its stand against Israel, Jesus Christ and the Gospel. God will publicly demonstrate His wrath against the Muslim countries when He destroys their armies as they invade Israel.

This is the best proof of Islam being wrong, because Islam believes Ezekiel to be a true prophet of God. It is Ezekiel that prophecies Russia's and Islam's destruction. Muslims must leave the Muslim religion today and receive Jesus Christ as their Saviour and God.

53. THE MILLENNIUM or RULE OF CHRIST ON EARTH: WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE

Bible Reading: Isaiah 11:6-9; 65:19-25; 66:15-24; Micah 4:1-6. Zech. 14:1-9,12,16-21; Rev. 20:1-10.

Aim: To see what Christ's rule on earth will be like. To be encouraged by God's plans for this earth.

To be motivated to serve Christ while we have time.

Introduction:

The Millennium is Christ's 1000 year rule on earth, in person, after His return. The key events are:

1. The seven year Tribulation ends with Antichrist's armies attacking Israel.
2. Christ returns to defeat Antichrist's armies.
3. Jews are converted on seeing Jesus Christ's wounds.
4. Jesus Christ enters Jerusalem to proclaim His Kingdom.
5. Satan and his demons are bound in the pit.
6. Sheep and goat nations are judged. Matthew 25:31-46.
7. Nature and world conditions are restored.
8. Peace prevails on earth. (Isaiah 2:4).
9. At the end of 1000 years, Satan is released from the pit, and deceives the nations to attack Jerusalem. They do so but are destroyed.
10. The earth is then destroyed by fire.
11. Unsaved people are resurrected, judged and cast into the lake of fire with Satan and his demons.
12. God makes a new heaven, a new earth, and a new Jerusalem.

I. **We will study the Millennium** as regards to:

1. JESUS CHRIST

Christ's feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives. After winning Armageddon, He will then sit on the Throne of David. Zechariah 14:1-9,12-21."Yea, all kings shall fall down before Him." Psalm 72:11.

Three things will characterise His kingdom:

- a) Universal peace. Isaiah 2:4;
- b) Universal righteousness. Jeremiah 23:5,6
- c) Speedy judgment on sin. Zech. 14:17-19; Psalm 2:8,9.

2. CHURCH will reign with Christ over the Gentile world.

"The Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with thee." Zechariah 14:5.

"Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world?" I Corinthians 6:2.

"If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him." 1 Timothy 2:12.

"Thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities." Luke 19:17.

"I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them." Revelation 20:4,6.

"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne." Revelation 3:21.

3. ISRAEL. Notice 6 things:

- a) Israel is to be regathered - initially in unbelief. Ezekiel 37:1-6; 39:22. The 1948 founding of Israel is the forerunner to Israel's final regathering.
- b) Israel will repent and be converted. Zechariah 12:8,9,10; 13:6,8,9; "So all Israel shall be saved." Romans 11:15,25,26.
- c) The Temple and its worship will be restored. Isaiah 66:20-24; "I will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore." Ezekiel 37:26,28. The Old Testament sacrifices were typical and pointed to Christ. The Millennial sacrifices will be memorial and point back to Christ.
- d) Palestine will be divided east/west among the 12 tribes. Ezekiel 47,48.
- e) Israel will have judges. Isaiah 1:26; Matthew 19:28.
- f) Israel will evangelise the Gentiles who are born in the millennium. Isaiah 61:6; 66:19; Zech. 8:21-23; "Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the earth with fruit." Isaiah 27:6.

4. NATIONS will be judged for their sin. Isaiah 24:1,5,6,19-23; 26:9,21.

The sheep nations will inherit the kingdom. Nations will come weekly to worship at Jerusalem.

5. SATAN and his demons will be bound in the abyss for 1000 years. Rev. 20:1-3,7-10; Matthew 8:29.

6. NATURE will be regenerated, and the social order will be set right.

- a) The nature of ferocious animals will be changed. Isaiah 11:6-9; Romans 8:19-22.
- b) Great topographical changes will occur. Zechariah 14:4,5,8.
- c) Rain and soil fertility will be restored. Joel 2:22-27; Isaiah 35:1; Amos 9:13-15.
- d) Crop failure will be for those refusing to worship at Jerusalem. Zechariah 14:17-19.
- e) Human life will be prolonged, as before the flood. Isaiah 65:20-24.
- f) Sickness will decrease.

7. CONDITIONS IN GENERAL

- a) Great joy and happiness. Isaiah 35:10.
- b) Physical healing will come to many. Isaiah 35:5,6.
- c) Great material prosperity and security. Micah 4:4,5; Isaiah 65:21.
- d) Earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord. Isaiah 11:9.
- e) No more wars. Isaiah 2:4; Micah 4:3.
- f) Man's headship in creation will be restored.

II. The **Error of Amillennialism** was born out of Roman Catholic theology that:

- 1) Augustine taught that the Kingdom is the church which is reigning on earth now.
- 2) Augustine taught that the millennium is to be interpreted spiritually as fulfilled in the church.
- 3) Augustine taught that the binding of Satan occurred during Christ's earthly ministry. (Luke 10:18)
- 4) Augustine taught that the first resurrection is the new birth of a believer. (John 5:25).
- 5) Augustine believed in a literal 1000 year millennium between Christ's first and second comings. Since Christ did not return around 1000AD, modern Amillennialists think that 1000 years is a symbolic reference to the time between Christ's first and second comings.

III. Titles of the Millennium

- 1) The world to come (Hebrews 2:5 “unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come”)
- 2) The Kingdom of heaven (Matt 5:10 “theirs is the kingdom of heaven”, 6:10 “Thy kingdom come”).
- 3) The Kingdom of God (Luke 19:11 “they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear.”).
- 4) The Kingdom of Christ (Revelation 11:15 “the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ”).
- 5) The Regeneration (Matthew 19:28 “in the regeneration when the Son of Man shall sit in the throne of his glory”). “Regeneration” occurs here and in Titus 3:5 concerning the new birth. It means “re-creation.” The Millennium will be to the earth what salvation is to the sinner.
- 6) Times of Refreshing (Acts 3:19,20 “When the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ.”)
- 7) Times of Restitution (Acts 3:21 “Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things”)
- 8) Dispensation of the Fullness of Times (Eph. 1:10 “he might gather together in one all things in Christ”).

IV. Purpose of the Millennium

- 1) To Reward believers. “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.” (Matthew 16:27).
- 2) To Fulfil the Lord’s Prayer, “Thy Kingdom come.” (Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:1-4).
- 3) To Deliver Creation from the Bondage of Corruption. (Romans 8:19-22).
- 4) To Fulfil three Old Testament Covenants:
 - a) Abrahamic Covenant promising that Israel would become a mighty nation (Genesis 12:1-3) and that Israel would own the land forever (Genesis 17:7,8).
 - b) Davidic Covenant that from David would come an everlasting throne (2 Samuel 7:12,13) an everlasting Kingdom (2 Chronicles 13:5), and an everlasting King (Luke 1:31-33).
 - c) New Covenant that God would forgive Israel’s iniquity (Jeremiah 31:31-34), give Israelites new hearts and use Israel to teach the Gentiles (Isaiah 42:6,7; Hebrew 8:8-13).
- 5) To prove that despite man’s environment or heredity, unregenerate man will fail as seen by his rebelling against Christ’s perfect rule at the end of the 1000 years. (Revelation 20:7-10).
- 6) To Glorify believers. “If we suffer, we shall also reign with him.” (2 Timothy 2:12).
“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.” (Romans 8:18).

V. Millennial Temple Sacrifices will be reinstated.

“The Levites...shall slay the burnt-offerings and the sacrifice for the people (v.11). They shall eat the meat-offering, and the sin-offering, and the trespass-offering.” (Ezekiel 44:11,29).
“This is the place where the priests shall boil the trespass-offering and the sin-offering, where they shall bake the meat-offering.” (Ezekiel 46:20).
“All they that sacrifice shall come and take of them and seeth therein.” (Zechariah 14:21).

Q: Why the need for animal blood sacrifices in the Millennium? Wouldn’t this mean a retrogression in God’s program? Doesn’t Hebrews 9 and 10 say that blood sacrifices ended with Christ’s death?

“Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.” (Hebrews 10:18).

Answer: These animal blood sacrifices will be reinstated as:

- a) A reminder of the need of the new birth.
- b) An object lesson of the costliness of salvation.
- c) An example of the awfulness of sin.
- d) An illustration of the holiness of God.

During the millennium, millions of children will be born and raised in an age that will know no sin, sorrow, suffering, war, sickness, fear, Satan, hatred, jail or drugs. In spite of their perfect environment, these children will still need the new birth. Animal blood sacrifices will illustrate an object lesson teaching them the above four truths to remind them of their need to be saved.

VI. Early Christians who believed in a literal 1000 year Millennium.

Amillennialists such as Philip Mauro attack Premillennialism by denying any historical evidence of Premillennialism before Schofield:

“if it had been possible to produce from the copious writings of the “Church Fathers” any proof that the doctrine concerning the Kingdom of God taught by the Schofield Bible and by certain Bible schools of our day was ever held by Christians, real or nominal, in times past, it would have been produced long ago.” (The Gospel of the Kingdom, Mauro, p.104).

Answer: Well Mr. Mauro, here is your Premillennial proof. It’s a pity you never bothered to check.

- 1) Justin Martyr (110-165AD): “But I and others, who are right-minded Christians on all points are assured that there will be a resurrection of the dead, and a thousand years in Jerusalem, which will then be built, adorned and enlarged as Ezekiel, Isaiah and others declare.” (Vol. 1, p.239).
- 2) Papias (70-155AD): “There will be a millennium after the resurrection from the dead, when the personal reign of Christ will be established on this earth”. (Vol. 1, p.154).
- 3) Tertullian (145-220AD): “We do confess that a Kingdom is promised to us upon the earth...it will be after the resurrection for a thousand years in the divinely-built city of Jerusalem....After its thousand years are over,...there will ensue the destruction of the world...” (Vol. 3, p.342,343).
- 4) Commodianus (240AD):
“For then after a thousand years they are delivered over to Gehenna.” (Vol. 4, p.211).
“according to God’s command, living again in the world for a thousand years...they who make God of no account when the thousandth year is finished shall perish by fire.” (Vol. 4, p.218).
- 5) Lactantius (260-330AD): “the dead will rise again,...when again restored to life, they may reign with God a thousand years.” (Vol.7, p.218).
“that righteous King and Conqueror will institute a great judgment on earth respecting the living and the dead,...and will build the holy city, and this Kingdom of the righteous shall be for a thousand years. But when the thousand years shall be fulfilled, and the prince of the demons loosed, the nations will rebel against the righteous.” (Vol.7, p.254).
- 6) Victorinus (died 304AD): “I do not think the reign of a thousand years is eternal,...they cease to reign when the thousand years are finished.” (Vol.7, p.359).

VII. What led to a decline in Premillennial beliefs?

- 1) When **Constantine** (272-337AD) united church and state, the church received wealth and worldly honours. To hope for a coming King and an earthly Kingdom would have been extremely displeasing to Constantine. This worldly patronage of the church diminished the hope of a soon coming Christ.
- 2) The Rise of the **Alexandrian School**. Origen openly attacked Premillennialism (Chiliasm) and introduced the allegorical method of interpretation where he interpreted millennium passages spiritually and not literally. Dionysius of Alexandria, Origen's disciple continued his teachings.
- 3) **Augustine** (354-430AD), bishop of Hippo taught that "The first resurrection is the rising of dead souls into spiritual life beginning with Christ's ministry, from which the millennium dates; the devil is bound and expelled from the hearts of Christ's disciples; the reign of the saints is their personal victory over sin and the devil; the beast is this wicked world and his image is hypocrisy; the millennium will end in 650AD, ending history's 6000 years, and introducing the rise of Antichrist." This nonsense was rejected by people such as the Waldensians, the Paulicians, William Tyndale (1480-1536), Nicholas Ridley, Hugh Latimer (1555 died), the Huguenots in France, Anabaptists, Moravians, John Wesley and many others who adopted a literal interpretation of prophetic scriptures.
- 9) Amillennials using allegorical interpretation of prophecy disagree with and discredit each other.
- 10) Amillennial, allegorical interpretation favours modernism. It is almost impossible to find a Premillennial Modernist, but most modernist protestantism is amillennial. Hence, amillennial allegorism is a step towards modernism.
- 11) Amillennial allegorism leaves large portions of Scripture unexplained. It cannot explain many scriptures, such as Zechariah 14, Ezekiel 37-39. All prophetic scriptures are easily explained by the premillennial literal interpretation approach.
- 12) Amillennialism fails to understand Daniel's 70 Week Prophecy (Daniel 9:24-27). If these 490 years were fulfilled literally, so will the future 1000 year millennium be fulfilled literally.

VIII. Doctrinal Errors of Amillennialism:

- 1) Amillennial spiritualising of scripture tacitly denies the verbal, plenary, inspiration of scripture.
- 2) Amillennials ignore the exact meaning of words such as "a thousand years". If God inspired the words of scripture, then we must accept their common meaning.
- 3) Amillennials ignore the near and remote context of scriptures which demand a premillennial interpretation. Every scripture must be interpreted in conformity with all other parts of scripture.
- 4) Amillennialists have not yet produced an outlined system of Amillennialism that they all agree on.
- 5) Amillennials accept a literal interpretation for most of the Bible, but in eschatology they resort to spiritualization. They hence use 2 different and contradictory principles of interpretation.
- 6) Amillennials allegorical or spiritualising methods of interpretation did not spring from piety, but from Origen (185-254AD), who borrowed it from the heathen theories of Plato.
- 7) It is sometimes correct to say that Israel typifies the church as premillennials rightly do, but it is wrong for amillennials to teach that Israel is the church. Figurative language does not negate literal interpretation.
- 8) Fulfilled prophecy forms the pattern in interpreting unfulfilled prophecy. Since fulfilled prophecy has come true literally, so will unfulfilled prophecy come true literally.

54. JESUS CHRIST WILL PERSONALLY APPEAR ON EARTH

Many groups deny that Jesus Christ will literally appear on earth in person to rule for 1000 years. These groups include Jehovah's Witnesses, Seventh Day Adventists, and some Amillennials. The devil does not like the idea of Christ returning to rule on earth in person because it means that Satan will lose control of the earth and be imprisoned in the pit for 1000 years.

What Bible passages clearly state that Jesus Christ will literally return to land on earth in person to rule?

1. JESUS CHRIST'S BODY WILL BE ON EARTH.

If parts of Christ's body are on earth, then Christ must literally be on earth, as seen in these passages:

1. His **feet** will be on earth.
"His feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east." Zechariah 14:4.
2. His **hands** will be on earth.
"One shall say unto Him, what are these wounds in thine hands? Then He shall answer, those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends." Zechariah 13:6.
3. His **garments** will be on earth.
"Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? This that is glorious in His apparel, travelling in the greatness of His strength?....I have trodden the winepress alone;..... their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments." Isaiah 63:1-3.
The blood of antichrist's soldiers will be sprinkled on Christ's garments when He returns to rescue Israel.
4. He shall **sit** and rule on His throne.
"He (the BRANCH) shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon His throne." Zech. 6:13.
5. His **voice** shall be heard at Jerusalem.
"The Lord shall utter His voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the Lord will be the strength of the children of Israel." Joel 3:16.
"He shall **speak** peace unto the heathen: and His dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth." Zechariah 9:10.
6. Jerusalem shall be called "**The Lord is there**".
"The name of the city from that day shall be The Lord is there." Ezekiel 48:35.
7. He will **tread** or walk on the earth.
"For, behold, the Lord cometh forth out of his place, and will come down, and tread upon the high places of the earth." Micah 1:3.

8. He will **stand** at the latter day upon the earth.
"For I know that my redeemer (Christ) liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth." Job 19:25.

2. JESUS CHRIST WILL BE SEEN IN PERSON ON EARTH.

If people will see Christ after His return with their physical eyes then He has to be physically present on earth. Titus 2:13 states clearly "the glorious **appearing** of the great God."

1. "They (the house of David and inhabitants of Jerusalem) shall **look upon me** whom they have pierced....." Zechariah 12:10.
2. "Behold he cometh with clouds, and **every eye** shall **see** him....." Revelation 1:7.
3. "They (all the tribes of earth) shall **see** the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." Matthew 24:27-31, v.30.
4. "When the **Lord** shall build up Zion (Israel), he shall **appear** in his glory." Psalm 102:16.
5. "The Lord shall be **seen** over them. The Lord of hosts shall defend them (Israel)." Zechariah 9:14-15.

3. JESUS CHRIST IS TO BE PERSONALLY IN THE MIDST OF ISRAEL.

If Christ dwells at Jerusalem, is in Jerusalem, and is in the midst of Israel, then He is personally present on earth after His second coming.

1. "The Lord shall reign **over** them **IN** Mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever." Micah 4:7
2. "I will cleanse their (Israel's) blood.....for the Lord **dwelleth IN** Zion." Joel 3:21.
3. "Ye shall know that I am **IN** the **midst** of Israel." Joel 2:27.
4. "So shall ye know that I am the Lord your God **dwelling IN** Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy....." Joel 3:17.
5. "The Lord of hosts shall reign **IN** Mount Zion, and **IN** Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously." Isaiah 24:23.
6. "The King of Israel, even the Lord, is **IN** the **midst** of thee: thou shalt not see evil anymore.
The Lord thy God **IN** the **midst** of **thee** is mighty." Zephaniah 3:15,17.
7. "Many nations shall be joined to the Lord in that day, and shall be my people: and I will **dwell IN** the **midst** of thee....." Zechariah 2:11.

8. "Thus saith the Lord; I am returned unto Zion, and will **dwell IN the midst** of Jerusalem:..." Zechariah 8:3.
9. "Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts **IN** Jerusalem." Zechariah 8:22.
10. "Yet have I set my King **upon** my holy **hill** of Zion." Psalm 2:6.

4. JESUS CHRIST DOES CERTAIN ACTIONS WHICH COULD ONLY BE DONE IF HE WAS PHYSICALLY PRESENT ON EARTH.

1. **All the saints** shall come with Christ back to earth.
"The Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with thee." Zechariah 14:5.
2. **Christ shall fight** against antichrist's armies.
"Then shall the Lord go forth and fight against these nations, as when he fought in the day of battle." Zechariah 14:3.
3. **All nations will worship Christ at Jerusalem.**
"Every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem, shall go up from year to year to **worship** the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the feast of Tabernacles." Zechariah 14:16.
"Yea, all kings shall **fall down** before him: all nations shall **serve** him." Psalm 72:11.
4. **Christ will judge the peoples of earth.**
"The Lord cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity." Psalm 98:9.
"When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He **sit** upon the throne of His glory:
And before Him shall be gathered **all nations**:and he shall **separate** them one from another" Matthew 25:31-32.
"He shall **judge** among the nations, and shall **rebuke** many people..." Isaiah 2:4.
5. **Christ will teach the nations His ways.**
"Many people shall say, come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will **teach** us of his ways." Isaiah 2:3.

Conclusion: "Your God will come with vengeance." Isaiah 35:4.
"This same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come **in like manner** as ye have seen him go into heaven." Acts 1:9-11.

55. DANIELS '70 WEEK' PROPHECY

Bible Reading: Daniel 9:24-27.

Aim: To understand the Seventy Week Prophecy as a proof of Divine inspiration of the Bible, and as the key to unlocking all Bible prophecies of Christ's Second Coming.

Introduction:

God's program would be finished in seventy heptads, or seventy sevens of years. The KJV calls heptads "weeks".

History interprets this as 70 x 7 prophetic years = 490 years.

"Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people (Israel) and upon thy holy city (Jerusalem)". (v.24).

Today, people think in terms of tens (e.g. decades). Daniel's people thought in terms of sevens (heptads).

For example:

- a) Seven days in one week.
- b) Every seventh year was a sabbath rest year (Leviticus 25:1-7).
- c) Seven 'sevens' = 7 x 7 = 49 years brought Israel to the year of Jubilee (Leviticus 25:8-12).
- d) 70 x 7 years is a span of 490 years.

After the 490 years have finished for Israel and Jerusalem, God will have completed six things.

(1) WHAT DO EACH OF THESE SIX THINGS MEAN?

1. To finish the transgression, of Israel after 490 years. Israel's sin of disobedience will be brought to an end at Christ's second coming, when she repents and receives Christ as her Saviour and Messiah.

Christ's work on the cross has made possible His future 'finishing' of Israel's transgression.

2. God will make an end of sins.

Christ would be punished for Israel's and the world's sins on the cross. At Christ's second coming He will remove Israel's sins (Ezekiel 37:23; Romans 11:20).

3. God will make reconciliation for iniquity.

Reconciliation = atone = to cover, to expiate. God's final atonement for Israel's sin (iniquity) is when she repents at Christ's second coming, as atonement provision has been made at the cross.

4. God, being satisfied with Christ's death, will bring in everlasting righteousness.

God will establish a 1000 year kingdom characterised by righteousness (Isaiah 60:21; Jeremiah 23:5-6).

5. God will seal up the vision and prophecy.

All God's promises for Israel will come to pass in the millennial kingdom. Until they are fulfilled, prophecies are unsealed. When fulfilled, they are sealed (Hebrew (2856) - closed up, make an end).

6. God will anoint the most Holy.

This refers to the consecration of the millennial Temple that Christ builds (Ezekiel 43:1-5, Zechariah 6:12,13), not by literal oil, but by the presence of the Shekinah glory cloud. The Tabernacle, altar, and all the holy vessels were anointed with oil (Exodus 29:36; 30:26-28).

The anointing of the most holy is not a reference to Christ's anointing. Rather the 'most holy' in the Hebrew are technical words that are always translated in the Old Testament by the phrase 'the Holy of Holies.'

(2) IMPORTANCE OF THE SEVENTY WEEK PROPHECY

The Daniel 9:24-27 prophecy is important because:

1. It proves the truth of the Bible. Because the first 69 weeks finished exactly as predicted to the very day (173,880 days after March 5, 444 BC to March 30, 33 AD), this is an unanswerable argument for the Divine inspiration of the Bible. Only the all-knowing God could predict the very day that Messiah would ride into Jerusalem to present Himself as the Prince of Israel.

2. It shatters the critics' arguments who reject the early date of the book of Daniel of 540 BC and place it about 150 BC, seeking to deny the clear predictions of Daniel 11 that were fulfilled from 330 BC to 167 BC. The critics are troubled by these predictive prophecies in Daniel 11 because this proves the Divine authorship of the Bible.
Question: If Daniel was written in 150 BC as the critics claim, how did it correctly prophecy the date of Christ's entry to Jerusalem as March 30, 33 AD?

3. It disproves the allegorical Amillennial theory of interpreting prophecy, and proves the Premillennial position of Christ returning to earth for literal Israel at the end of a literal seven year tribulation, described in Revelation 6-19. If the first 69 weeks are literally 173,880 days, so the future 7 year tribulation (1 week) will be literally 2520 days (360 x 7).

4. It is the time key to understand all New Testament prophecy. Revelation 11:2-3; 12:6,14; and 13:5 describe a future 3 1/2 year period (1260 days, or 42 weeks) being the last half of the seven year tribulation, which equates to the last half of the 70th week (Daniel 9:27).

(3) BACKGROUND

While Daniel was captive in Babylon from 605-537 BC, as he was praying for Israel and confessing their sin, the angel Gabriel came to give him the 70 week prophecy. Daniel knew that the 70 year captivity predicted by Jeremiah in Jeremiah 25:11,12 was nearing completion, so he asked about Israel's imminent return to their land. Gabriel's message was that Israel's ultimate return to the land would not be after the 70 year Babylonian captivity, but after the 70 week period stated in Daniel 9:24-27.

(4) MAIN FEATURES OF THE 70 WEEK PROPHECY

1. It deals with Daniel's people (Israel) and city (Jerusalem). 'Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people, and upon thy holy city...' Daniel 9:24.
2. Two different princes are mentioned:
 - a) Messiah the Prince, and
 - b) The prince that shall come (v.26).
3. The time period is 70 weeks, made up of 7 weeks + 62 weeks + 1 week (v.25,27).
4. It starts with 'the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem.' (v.25).
5. The end of the 69 weeks will be marked by the appearance of Messiah as the Prince of Israel. (v.25).
6. After the 69 weeks, two predictions are that:
 - a) Messiah the Prince will be 'cut off', and
 - b) Jerusalem will be destroyed by the people of another prince coming in the future. (v.26).
7. The 70th week begins with a covenant being made between the 'prince that shall come' and the Jewish nation for a period of 1 week (v.27).
8. In the midst of this 70th week, the coming prince will (1) break this treaty, (2) cause the Jewish sacrifices to cease, and (3) will greatly persecute the Jews to the end of the 70th week (v.27).
9. Great blessings for Israel will come when the 70 weeks are fully completed (v.24).

(5) MEANING OF THE SEVENTY WEEKS.

'Week' in Hebrew means 'a period of seven' or 'heptad'. It is used 20 times in the Old Testament as follows:

1. 3 times it means 'a unit of seven' days (Ezekiel 45:21, Daniel 10:2,3).
2. 6 times it means 'normal 7-day week' (Genesis 29:27,28; Leviticus 12:5; Deuteronomy 16:9; Jeremiah 5:24).
3. 5 times it means the 'Feast of Weeks' (Exodus 34:22; Numbers 28:26; Deut. 16:10,16; II Chronicles 8:13).
4. 6 times it means a 'unit of seven' without reference to days (Daniel 9:24-27). In Daniel 9:24-27, '1 week' refers to a 'unit of 7 years'. Hence Daniel is discussing 70 'units of seven years' or 490 years.

We know this because:

1. In the context, Daniel had been thinking in years, and in multiples of 70 years. 'The number of years....seventy years in the desolation of Jerusalem.' Daniel 9:1,2.
2. Each year of Babylonian captivity represented one 7-year cycle of past history where Israel had not observed the seventh year rest. Thus the context is years, not days. The 70 year captivity was due to Israel violating 70 sabbatical years over a 490 year period in the past. Now Daniel predicted 70 units of seven years decreed for another 490 years into Israel's future.
3. It is impossible to fit the events discussed in 9:24-27 into 490 days, or 490 weeks (regardless of any starting point), only 490 years. Jerusalem could not be rebuilt and destroyed in 490 days (1 yr 3 months) or 490 weeks (9 years).
4. In 9:27, the covenant that will be confirmed for one 'unit of seven' will be broken in the middle. If 'weeks' means 'units of 7 years', this means that the covenant would be broken at the 3 1/2 year point. This fits perfectly well with the 'time, times and half a time' in Daniel 7:25; 12:7; Rev. 12:14, the 1260 days (Rev. 12:6; 11:3) and the 42 months (Rev. 11:2).
5. The Hebrew word for 'weeks' means years in the Mishnah (Baba Metzia ix. 10; Sanhedrin v1).

Note: According to the false 'Day-Year' theory used by SDAs and JW's, they would have us believe that the first 69 1/2 weeks equal 486 1/2 years (490 - 3 1/2 years). But the last 1/2 week they claim equals 1260 years. This is contradictory and inconsistent. The last 1/2 week must also be literally 1260 days (Rev. 12:6), if the first 69 weeks were 173,880 days, as proven by history.

Question: If these 70 'weeks' consist of 490 years, what is the length of the year?

Answer: Our year is 365.24219879 days. The prophetic year of scripture is 360 days (12 months of 30 days each), as seen from:

- i) **History:** The Flood lasted from the 17th day of the 2nd month (Genesis 7:11) to the 17th day of the 7th month (Genesis 8:4). This is 5 months. Genesis 7:24 and 8:3 gives this same period as being 150 days. This gives 30 days in each month, or 360 days in each year.
- ii) **Prophecy:**

Daniel 9:27 describes the Roman prince persecuting the Jews for 3 1/2 years.
Daniel 7:25 describes this Roman prince persecuting the Jews for 'a time, and times, and half a time' (3 1/2 years).
Revelation 13:4-7 describes this same ruler persecuting the Jews for 42 months (i.e. 3 1/2 years).
Revelation 12:13,14 describes this persecution as lasting 'a time, and times, and half a time' (i.e. 3 1/2 years).
Revelation 12:6 describes this persecution of the Jews as lasting 1260 days (i.e. 3 1/2 years).
Hence we have 3 1/2 years stated as being 1260 days or 42 months.
Hence the length of the prophetic year in the 70 week prophecy is 360 days (1260 days/3.5 years = 360 days/yr).

(6) WHEN DID THE 70 WEEKS BEGIN?

'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 sixty-two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.' 9:25. Daniel shows the starting point of the 70 week prophecy to be the issuing of the command to restore and build Jerusalem, where the street and the wall will be built in troublous times.

Notice 3 things about Jerusalem's rebuilding:

- 1) 'Restore and build' means to restore Jerusalem completely to its former state.
- 2) 'Street and wall' mean a complete restoration.
- 3) Rebuilding the city would be in troublesome times. Can we locate this commandment and fix its date accurately?

(7) WHICH COMMAND IS REFERRED TO?

The 70 'sevens' would begin with the going forth of the commandment to restore and build Jerusalem. This decree was the fourth of four decrees issued by Persian rulers to the Jews. The decree we want concerns rebuilding the city of Jerusalem, not the house of God or the Temple.

1. Cyrus' decree on October 29, 539 BC was to rebuild the temple, not the city. 'In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia...he made a proclamation...saying... "All the kingdoms of the earth hath the Lord God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? The Lord his God be with him, and let him go up.'" II Chron. 36:22,23; Ezra 1:1-4, 5:13,17.

This decree concerned the return of Jewish captives, and rebuilding the temple. It said nothing about a complete restoration of the city. Keil (p.365), Leupold (p.417-26) and E.J. Young falsely conclude that this decree marks the start of the 70 weeks.

E.J. Young in 'The Prophecy of Daniel: A Commentary', p202, states: "This edict [of Cyrus], furthermore, was issued in fulfilment of the prophecy of Jeremiah, and it speaks expressly of going to Jerusalem and building there the temple- the first and most important step in rebuilding the city. In this connection also one should consider the prophecies of Isaiah 44:28 in which Cyrus is described as 'saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid'. Likewise Isaiah 45:13 declares of Cyrus, 'he shall build my city, and he shall let go my captives.' Lastly, it should be noted that the book of Ezra pictures Jerusalem as an existing city (c.f. Ezra 4:12, 9:9)". It cannot be denied that this was the year in which the effects of the going forth of a word began to appear in history.

This may seem convincing, but there are 3 problems with this view:

- a) Cyrus' decree in Ezra 1:1-4 refers to the rebuilding of the temple and not to the city. We agree that there were inhabitants, and a city was built in Cyrus' time as predicted in Isaiah 44:28 and 45:13. It was not a city that could defend itself as described in Daniel 9:25. Young quotes two passages to support his view:

Ezra 4:12,13,16 is a letter to the king from Ezra's enemies. They emphasised rebuilding the city, but Ezra was rebuilding the temple in reality.

Ezra 9:9 'to set up the house of our God, and to repair the desolations thereof, and to give us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem.'

This was written in 457 BC, and refers to Artaxerxes reign (464-423 BC), and not to Cyrus' reign.

Also, the Hebrew word for 'wall' is a fence used to surround a vineyard, and not a military defensive wall. The only other mention of walls in Ezra are the temple walls (Ezra 5:3,8,9), not city walls. Hence, neither of these passages is in the context of Cyrus' decree, nor do they refer to building a defensive wall.

- b) We must differentiate between starting to rebuild a city (Cyrus' decree) and restoring a city to its former state (Artaxerxes' decree in Nehemiah). For example, Japan rebuilt itself after WWII, but that is quite different from restoring it to its pre-WWII military state.
- c) If we wrongly accept the 70 weeks as beginning with Cyrus' decree (539 BC), then Messiah the Prince should have arrived in 63 BC (i.e. after 69 weeks = 69 x 7 x {360/365.25} of our years, which is 476 years later. 539 BC plus 476 yrs gives 63 BC.

2. Darius I decree in 512 BC

This decree confirmed Cyrus' decree to rebuild the house of God. Tatnai, Governor of Judah, questioned the Jews' right to rebuild the temple (Ezra 5:3-17). Darius searched out Cyrus' decree, and then issued a decree himself in 512 BC confirming Cyrus' original decree (Ezra 6:1-12).

'Then Darius the king made a decree... "Let the work of this house of God alone; let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews build this house of God.'" (Ezra 6:1,7). 'This house was finished in the sixth year of Darius.' (6:15).

Hence Darius' decree is not the starting date of the 70 weeks because:

- a) It specifically refers to the temple, and not to the city.
- b) It was not a new decree, but only confirmed Cyrus' decree.

3. Artaxerxes Longimanus' decree to Ezra in 457 BC

This decree concerns finances for animal sacrifices at the temple.

'I (Artaxerxes King of Persia) make a decree, that all they of the people of Israel... which are minded of their own free will to go up to Jerusalem, go with thee... carry the silver and gold... let it be diligently done for the house of the God of heaven, to beautify the house of the Lord at Jerusalem.' Ezra 7:11, 13, 15, 23 and 27.

Each of these first 3 decrees concerns building the Temple/ House of God at Jerusalem, not the city. Since an unwallled city was no threat to a military power, a temple could be built with no threat to the Persian government.

This decree encouraged more Jews to return to Jerusalem, and it helped the temple worship. Some claim that this decree (457 BC) was the starting point of the 70 week prophecy, and that the end of the 69 weeks was 27 AD (marking the start of Christ's ministry). They claim the middle of the 70th week to be Christ's crucifixion in 30 AD.

They claim 33 AD to be the end of the 70th week marked by Stephen's death, and Paul's conversion. (Their calculation is 457 BC + 490 of our years = 33 AD). This is wrong because they have ignored the 360 day prophetic year, and failed to deduct 1 year in going from 1 BC to 1 AD.

This theory is wrong because:

- i) This decree says nothing about rebuilding the city, but only discusses temple worship.
- ii) To have the 69 weeks end at the start of Christ's ministry in 27 AD is wrong, because:
 - The cutting off of the Messiah (Daniel 9:26) cannot describe the descent of the Holy Spirit on Christ at the start of His ministry, and
 - Christ began His ministry in 29 AD, not 27 AD (see H.W. Hoehner, p.29-44).
- iii) What does 'confirming the covenant' mean in Daniel 9:27? If it refers to Christ, what covenant did Christ confirm at the start of His ministry, and how did Christ break the covenant at His crucifixion? It does not fit the facts.
- iv) To say that the middle of the 70th week refers to Christ's crucifixion in 30 AD is wrong because:
 - The sacrifices did not cease at Christ's crucifixion, and
 - 33 AD is the correct date of Christ's crucifixion, not 30 AD.
- v) To say that the 70 weeks ended in 33 AD with Stephen's death and Paul's conversion is pure guesswork. Daniel 9:27 and Acts 8,9 never even imply this.

Hence Artaxerxes' decree to Ezra in 457 BC cannot be the start of the 70 week prophecy.

4. Artaxerxes Longimanus' decree to Nehemiah in March 5, 444 BC in Nehemiah 2:1-8

At this date, Artaxerxes granted the Jews permission to rebuild Jerusalem's city walls.

King: 'For what dost thou make request?' Nehemiah 2:4.

Nehemiah: 'That thou would send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers' sepulchres, that I may build it.' (Nehemiah 2:5).

'A letter unto Asaph....for the wall of the city....And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me.' (Nehemiah 2:8).

This decree is the one prophesied by Daniel (9:25) that starts the 70 week prophecy, for these reasons:

- i) This clearly refers to the restoration of the city (2:3,5) and of the city gates and walls (2:3,8).
- ii) King Artaxerxes wrote a letter to Asaph to supply materials to rebuild the walls (2:3,8).
- iii) No later decrees were given by Persian kings to rebuild Jerusalem.
- iv) The book of Nehemiah and Ezra 4:7-23 teach that the walls were restored in distressing circumstances, as predicted by Daniel (Daniel 9:25).
- v) The walls were broken down (Nehemiah 2:13), and the gates were burned (Nehemiah 2:17) when Nehemiah visited Jerusalem. No earlier decree had restored the city walls and gates.

(8) WHAT DATE WAS THE DECREE?

Nehemiah 1:1 states that Nehemiah heard of Jerusalem's broken walls and burned gates (1:3) in the month of Chisleu (November/December) in Artaxerxes' twentieth year.

Then later in Artaxerxes' 20th year in the month Nisan (March/April), Nehemiah was granted permission to restore the city and to build its walls (2:1) (Why was March after November in the same year? Because Nehemiah used a year starting at Tishri, which started at September).

Question: What year did Artaxerxes' rule begin?

Answer: Artaxerxes came to the throne when his father died on December 17, 465 BC ('The Fifth Century Jewish Calendar at Elephantine', S.H. Horn and L.H. Weed, Journal of Near Eastern studies, XIII (Jan. 1954), p 4, 20, 9). Artaxerxes' first year of reign would be Nisan 464 to Nisan 463, since the Persian year started at Nisan (March).

Therefore, Artaxerxes' 20th year would be 445 BC. The report to Nehemiah (1:1) occurred in Chisleu (Nov./Dec.) 445 BC. The decree of Artaxerxes (2:1) occurred in Nisan (March/April) 444 BC. See the following chart.

Nehemiah 2:1 does not specify which day of Nisan the decree was given. The crescent of the new moon would have appeared at about 10pm on Nisan 1, 444 BC (March 4), late enough to be missed. On March 5, 444 BC the new moon crescent would have been visible early to all. Since no day is given in Nisan in the Bible, Jewish custom would understand the day to be the first day of a visible new moon crescent, March 5, 444 BC, which was the date of the decree.

(9) WHEN DID THE 69 WEEKS END?

The 7 weeks and the 62 weeks are continuous, making a total of 69 weeks between Artaxerxes' decree to restore Jerusalem, and the coming of Messiah the Prince. (See 'Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ' by H.W. Hoehner, p129-131).

'After 62 weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself...' Daniel 9:26.

In Christ's first coming, He would not receive His kingdom promised in the Old Testament.

Therefore the 69 weeks (7+62) would end with Christ's entry to Jerusalem on Monday March 30, 33 AD, then Christ would be killed.

Christ died on Friday, Nisan 14 in 33 AD (Friday April 3, 33 AD in a Julian Calendar), according to H.W. Hoehner, in his excellent book 'Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ'.

A prophetic year is 360 days in length, because:

- i) Ancient countries of India, Persia, Babylon, Assyria, Egypt, South America and China, all had 12 months of 30 days each, thus giving a 360 day year.
- ii) The 70th week of 7 years (Daniel 9:27) will be broken in the middle, making 1260 days, or 42 months, or 3 1/2 years (Revelation 11,12). This gives a 30 day month, or a 360 day year.
- iii) The 5 months of Flood waters (Genesis 7:11 and 8:4) are equated to 150 days (Genesis 7:24 and 8:3). This gives a 30 day month or 360 day year.

Having found that 1) The 'weeks' are years,

2) The length of the prophetic year is 360 days, and

3) The 70 weeks began on March 5, 444 BC, we may calculate the date of Christ's triumphal entry.

4) Number of days in 69 weeks = 69 x 7yrs x 360 days = 173,880 days.

5) Number of years from March 5, 444 BC to March 30, 33 AD = 444 + 33 - 1 = 476 years.

(Note: subtract 1 year, because only 1 year expired from 1 BC to 1 AD).

Number of days from March 5 (Artaxerxes' decree) to March 30 (Christ entering Jerusalem on donkey) = 25 days.

Question: How many days from March 5, 444 BC (Artaxerxes' decree) to March 30, 33 AD (the day Christ entered Jerusalem on a donkey to proclaim Himself king)?

Answer: Number of days in 476 years = 476 years x 365.24219879 days/yr = 173,855.28662404 days = 173,855 days, 6 hours, 52 minutes, 44 seconds.

Number of days from March 5 to March 30 = 25 days.

Therefore, the total number of days = 173,855 + 25 = 173,880 days.

This proves that the 173,880 days predicted in the 69 weeks between Artaxerxes' decree and the Coming of Messiah the Prince, equals the same number of days that actually elapsed from March 5, 444 BC to March 30, 33 AD, the day of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

The 483 Years in the Jewish and Gregorian Calendars.

Jewish Calendar (360 days per year)	Gregorian Calendar (365 days a year)
(7 x 7) + (62 x 7) years = 483 years	444 B.C. to A.D. 33 = 476 years*
$\begin{array}{r} 483 \text{ years} \\ \times 360 \text{ days} \\ \hline 173,880 \text{ days} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 476 \text{ years} \\ \times 365 \text{ days} \\ \hline 173,740 \text{ days} \\ + 116 \text{ days in leap years**} \\ + 24 \text{ days (March 5- 30)} \\ \hline 173,880 \text{ days} \end{array}$

* Since only one year expired between 1 B.C. and A.D. 1, the total is 476 years, not 477 years.

** A total of 476 years divided by four (a leap year every four years) gives 119 additional days. But three days must be subtracted from 119 because centennial years are not leap years, though every 400th year is a leap year.

(10) NEW TESTAMENT VERIFICATION OF THIS DAY

March 30, 33 AD is therefore definitely fixed as the end of the 69 weeks, and the date of Christ's triumphal entry to Jerusalem on a 'foal of an ass' to offer Himself as Messiah the Prince and King of Israel.

Christ knew that this was the day predicted in Daniel 9:25, from His words in Luke 19:28-44, especially verse 42 'this thy day' and verse 44 'because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.'

'And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, saying, 'If thou had known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! But now they are hid from thine eyes... they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.' Luke 19:41,42,44.

Notice these details taking place on Monday, March 30, 33 AD:

1. Jesus, knowing that this was the last day of the 69th week, sends his disciples to find a 'colt the foal of an ass' upon which He would ride as King into Jerusalem. This fulfilled the prophecy in Zechariah 9:9 given in 487 BC:

'Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold thy King cometh unto thee: he is just and having salvation; lowly and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.'

- The whole multitude of the disciples, understanding the meaning, shouted 'Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the LORD.' (Psalm 118:22-26).
- Jesus now commends the disciples' shouts, and rebukes the Pharisees' protest, saying: 'If these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.' v.40.
- Because Jesus foreknew that the Pharisees and Jerusalem would reject Him as King and Messiah, Jesus wept over the city, saying: 'If thou had known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace!' Luke 19:42.

Question: What day was Jesus referring to?

Answer: Israel's day on which their Messiah the Prince would present himself as King to Israel, 173,880 days exactly after March 5, 444 BC.

Question: What were 'the things which belong unto thy peace'?

Answer: The same 6 things mentioned in Daniel 9:24. But now for a time these things are to be hid from Israel's eyes, their enemies the Romans will conquer them, destroying their city Jerusalem and Temple. This happened in 70 AD. Why? 'Because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.' Luke 19:44.

The exact fulfilment of this prophecy proves the accuracy of Daniel, the inspiration of the Bible, and the truth of Jesus Christ as Saviour. Only God can predict to the very day 'things that are not yet done.' Isaiah 46:10.

So the 173,880 days finished the very day that Christ entered Jerusalem on a colt to offer Himself as Messiah the Prince to Israel, which was Monday, Nisan 10 (March 30), 33 AD. Only 4 days later on Friday, Nisan 14 (April 3), 33 AD, Jesus was cut off, or crucified.

Paul sees Israel's conversion as in the future, as seen by these statements in Romans 11:25-27.

- a) Blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. Romans 11:25,
- b) The Deliverer shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob v26,
- c) This is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. v27.

The 'most holy' to be anointed is always the 'Holy of Holies' in Hebrew, never does it refer to Christ.

2. The Messiah was 'cut off' or crucified AFTER the 69th week, and not during the 70th week as the passage would have stated had it been the case. See v.27 where the sacrifices are to be stopped 'in the midst of the week'.

3. An unseen time gap is common in Old Testament prophecy, such as:

- a) Isaiah 9:6 'Unto us a child is born... and the government shall be upon his shoulder..' Between these 2 events are at least 2000 years of time.
- b) Zechariah 9:9,10 'Thy King cometh upon a colt, he shall speak peace unto the heathen, his dominion shall be from sea to sea.' Between these 2 predictions are at least 2000 years of time.
- c) Isaiah 61:1,2 is an example approved by Christ: 'To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord (first coming) and the day of vengeance of our God (Second coming)'. Jesus in Luke 4:16-21 read this in a Nazareth synagogue, stopping at the comma after 'acceptable year of the Lord', stating that 'This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears'. Why did Jesus stop in the middle of a sentence? Because the next part, 'the day of vengeance of our God' has not yet been fulfilled after 1970 years. Therefore Jesus laid down the principle of the 'Gap interpretation.'

4. Time gaps are quite acceptable to the Oriental mind, which are little concerned with a continuous chronology. Orientals are more interested in the next important event, not in the time which might intervene. The Bible is an Oriental book, humanly speaking. Old Testament prophets often saw events predicted as mountain tops, without knowing the ground between them. We Anglo-Saxons have a passion for a continuous chronology that the Orientals do not possess.

5. The person who confirms the covenant in Daniel 9:27 cannot refer to Christ because:

- a) The nearest antecedent is 'the prince that shall come' v26.
- b) At no time in Christ's earthly ministry did He confirm an already existing covenant.
- c) If Christ did confirm a covenant at His first coming, when did He break it? Would Christ break a covenant that He has made? Therefore the covenant-confirmer is not Christ, but the 'prince that shall come'. (Antichrist).

6. Christ's death did not cause the animal sacrifices and oblation to cease immediately, as v.27 demands. The Jews continued to sacrifice animals until Jerusalem's destruction in 70 AD, which was 37 years later, well after the Amillennials 3 1/2 years expired.

7. The person in Daniel 9:27 correlates very well with the wicked person in 7:25, and the Antichrist in Rev. 12,13. The Antichrist has not yet appeared and been judged as described in Daniel 9:27 and Revelation 19.

8. The events of Daniel 9:27b refer to the last half of the 70th week. These fit well into the last 3 1/2 years of the Tribulation described in Revelation 6-19, which is yet future.

9. The abomination of desolation has not yet happened. In Matthew 24:15, Jesus said that it would occur after His earthly ministry. It would start the great tribulation (the last 3 1/2 years), which would be followed immediately by Christ's second coming in glory. Christ did not return in 70 AD. The book of Revelation (written in 96AD) speaks of Jerusalem's destruction as yet future (Rev.11:1,2 and 16:19),and not as something fulfilled in the past in 70AD.

10. A time gap is demanded by the historical fulfilment of Messiah being cut off and Jerusalem being destroyed in v.26, which take place after the 69th week and before the 70th week in v.27. This was 37 years after Christ's death in 33 AD. By the Amillennials' theory, the 70 weeks should have finished 3 1/2 years later, by 37 AD. The historical fulfilment of Jerusalem's destruction in 70 AD demands a gap of at least 37 years.

11. If the 70 weeks are continuous, as Amillennials believe, then the 70th week must have ended by 7 years after Christ's crucifixion, or sometime early in the book of Acts. Why does the history of the book of Acts contain nothing that corresponds with Daniel 9:27.

Where in Acts are the Jewish transgressions finished, or the end made of the Jews' sins? Nowhere! Instead, Israel's sins increase to Acts 28 where Paul turns to the Gentiles.

12. A time gap after the 69th week is the most natural reading of the passage. It also fits well with all other Bible passages on prophecy. Christ's future second coming is in the 70th week.

(12) FOUR DANGERS THAT RECOGNISING THIS GAP PROTECTS US FROM.

1. The efforts to connect the 69th week with the 70th week has led many scholars to confusion, despair and frustration in their attempts to find a historical fulfilment of Daniel 9:27. Their great error was their failure to see the great time interval between the 69th and 70th weeks.
2. This gap principle of Bible interpretation explains the whole of our present church age. It is passed over by the prophets with comparative silence.
3. By understanding that the 70th week is future, we will be saved from the Amillennial error that God is finished with Israel. '70 weeks are determined upon thy people' (9:24), said the angel to Daniel, and if the last week is yet future, there is still a place for national Israel in God's plan.
4. This unknown time gap before the 70th week makes it utterly impossible to set a date for Christ's second coming. Every date setting scheme for Christ's return requires a continuous prophetic chronology covering the present age. Without this, date-setters are helpless. Hence no man knows which day Christ will return.

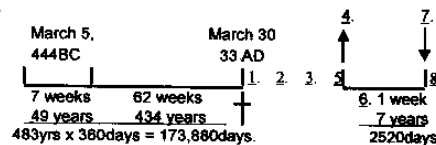
(13) WHAT THIS PROPHECY TEACHES US OF THIS PRESENT AGE.

- i) 'The end thereof shall be with a flood (of trouble).' (9:26). This trouble will come on all the world like a flood in the future 7 year tribulation.
- ii) 'Unto the end of this church age, war and desolations are determined' is a literal translation of Daniel 9:26b. True, the last 2000 years have been characterised by continuous wars all over earth.
- iii) God is in control over the events of this sinful age.

(14) TWO PRINCES: MESSIAH THE JEWISH PRINCE and ANTICHRIST THE ROMAN PRINCE. 26,27

- a) Christ: 'From the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto Messiah the Prince shall be 7 weeks and 62 weeks.' (v.26).
- b) Antichrist: 'After 62 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 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 (end of 7 year tribulation), and that determined (Antichrist's punishment) shall be poured upon the desolate (or desolator, Antichrist).' Daniel 9:26,27.

1. Messiah the Prince was cut off on April 3, 33 AD.
2. Romans destroyed Jerusalem in 70 AD.
3. Church Age from Pentecost to the rapture
4. Christ returns at rapture for the saved.
5. The prince that shall come (antichrist) confirms a 7 year covenant with Israel.
6. Antichrist breaks this covenant after 3 1/2 years or 1260 days, by causing Jewish sacrifices to cease. He then persecutes Israel.



7. Christ returns in person at the end of 70th week to destroy the European Antichrist and to rescue and save Israel.
8. Christ sets up His 1000 year Kingdom of peace on earth. This present church age is the interval between the 69th and 70th week. This was predicted by Christ in Matthew 16:18 'I will build my church.' In this gap, Israel was set aside temporarily, which Christ prophesied in Matthew 21:43, 'The Kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.'

Note: 2 different princes are 'Messiah the Prince' and 'the prince that shall come.' They cannot both be Christ because it is 'the people of the prince that shall come' who destroy Jerusalem after Christ's crucifixion in 33 AD.

Jerusalem was destroyed by Roman people, not by Jewish people. Hence the 'prince that shall come' cannot be the Jewish Messiah, but must be a future leader of the Roman Empire.

This future Roman prince is:

1. The little horn- Daniel 7:8. (Daniel 7:20).
2. That horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows-
3. The king of fierce countenance- Daniel 8:23.
4. The wilful king- Daniel 11:36.
5. The man of sin- II Thessalonians 2:3.
6. The beast out of the sea- Revelation 13:1.
7. The antichrist- I John 2:18.

Question: In Dan. 9:27 who does the 'he' refer back to? ("He shall confirm the covenant with many for one week").

Answer: 'He' refers back to the 'prince that shall come' because:

1. This is the antecedent.
2. 'He' will make a covenant with the Jews for 7 years. There is absolutely nothing recorded in Christ's earthly ministry that remotely resembles a 7 year covenant. Produce evidence from history to show where it begun and when it ended. Such evidence cannot be found.
3. The theory that 'Christ made this covenant when He started His earthly ministry, and that by His death He caused the Jewish sacrifices to cease', breaks down because:
 - a) There is no reference in the Gospels to such a covenant.
 - b) The death of Christ did not stop Jewish sacrifices. They continued until Jerusalem's destruction in 70 AD.
 - c) According to this theory, Christ died 'in the midst of the week', the sacrifices should have ceased then immediately. But they did not.
4. To insist that Messiah made the 7 year covenant, puts the 70th week in the past (from 30-37 AD) immediately following the 69th week. This is wrong because Christ in Matthew 24:15 states that the 70th week is still future.
5. The maker of this 7 year covenant cannot be Christ, because His covenants with Jews and Christians are everlasting (Psalm 89:30-37), not limited to 7 years. Therefore the Roman prince, or antichrist, makes the 7 year covenant with the Jews. Christ foretold this in John 5:43. 'If another (antichrist) shall come in his own name, him ye will receive' (as your Messiah) John 5:43.

Question: What does it mean 'Messiah shall be cut off; but not for himself'?

Answer:i) 'Cut off' means executing the death penalty on a criminal. This is a prediction of Christ's crucifixion.

- ii) 'But not for himself' means that He would at this time have nothing for Himself, since Israel rejected Christ, the kingdom that He offered could not be instituted at that time. Hence Christ did not receive the royal glory as King on David's throne over Israel. This prophecy predicted:
 - Christ's offer of Himself to Israel as her Messiah,
 - Israel as a nation rejecting Christ as her Messiah, and
 - Christ's crucifixion.

9:26b. Four events that will happen in the gap period of the church age are mentioned:

- 1) Messiah would be cut off. This happened on April 3, 33 AD.
- 2) The people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city & the sanctuary (Temple). This happened in 70 AD.
- 3) The end of the gap period will be followed by a flood of trouble.

4) Wars and desolations are determined to happen all through the gap period of the church age.

The generation that rejected the Messiah would be judged by the people of the ruler to come, destroying the city (Jerusalem) which contained the sanctuary (Temple). The ruler to come is that final head of the Roman Empire, the little horn of Daniel 7:8.

It is important to understand that the PEOPLE of the ruler, NOT the RULER HIMSELF, will destroy Jerusalem. This proves 2 points:

- 1) The future Antichrist prince will come from a last days Roman empire, since his people are the Romans who destroyed Jerusalem in 70 AD, and
- 2) The future prince is not Messiah the prince, because Christ's people are the Jews.

Antichrist's people are Romans.

When Israel's leaders rejected Christ by attributing His power to Beelzebub, the prince of demons (Matt. 12:24), Christ said that this sin if persisted in would find no forgiveness (Matthew 12:31-32). Jesus also warned that the Gentiles would destroy Jerusalem (Luke 21:24), that Jerusalem would be desolate (Matthew 23:38), and that its destruction would be so complete that not one stone would be left on another (Matt. 24:2). This destruction came in 70 AD at the hands of Titus who killed, according to Josephus, about 1 million Jews and took about 100,000 Jews captive as slaves. Israel's sufferings would continue until the end of the 70 weeks at Christ's second coming.

(15) EVENTS OF THE 70TH WEEK

1. The 70th week lasts from the rapture of the church to the return of Christ in glory.

The 70th week is future because Christ places the abomination of desolation of the 70th week just before His glorious return (Matthew 24:15-30).

The true church must first be caught up to heaven, then the 70th week can start. In II Thessalonians 2:1-9, esp. v.6-8, 'And now ye know what withholdeth (Holy Spirit in the church) that he (antichrist) might be revealed in his time... only he (Holy Spirit in believers) who now letteth (restrains) will let (restrain), until he (Holy Spirit in the church) be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked (antichrist) be revealed...'

Since the restraining power is the true church indwelt by the Holy Spirit, it is clear that the coming Roman prince cannot be revealed as long as the true church remains on earth.

Once the church is caught away to heaven, the Roman prince is revealed when he confirms his 7 year covenant with the Jewish people. This starts the 70th week.

The 70th week will end at Christ's glorious return because:

- i) The Messiah brings to Israel the blessings of Daniel 9:24.
- ii) Christ, on returning, destroys the Antichrist's great power.

2. The 70th week provides the exact time framework for the events of Revelation 6-19.

The only time information given in Revelation 6-19 is:

- i) 42 months (11:2; 13:3),
- ii) 1260 days (11:3; 12:6),
- iii) A time, and times, and half a time (12:14).

Each of these specify 3 1/2 prophetic years of 360 days each. These passages have three schools of interpretation:

- i) Some regard all prophetic numbers as symbolic, and therefore meaningless for chronology.
- ii) Some hold the unbiblical 'year-day' theory. These regard the 69 weeks as 173,880 literal days, but then change their interpretation so that the last 1260 days become 1260

years. Let us be consistent. If the first 173,880 days are days, so the last 1260 days must also be days.

- iii) Some, correctly, have understood that the 3 1/2 years are exactly one-half of 7 years. The 70th week is divided into 2 halves.

This is the key to the interpretation of the books of Revelation and Daniel.

The **key passage** is **Revelation 11:2,3** thus:

'But the court which is without (outside) the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city (Jerusalem) shall they tread under foot 42 months. And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy 1260 days, clothed in sackcloth.'

Notice 2 important things here:

- i) Since the 42 months of verse 2 is a 3 1/2 year period during which Gentile powers tread under foot Jerusalem, this must refer to the LAST HALF of the 70th week, because it is in the middle of the 70th week that the Roman prince stops the Jewish sacrifices and becomes their persecutor (Daniel 9:27).
- ii) It is also clear that the 1260 days of verse 3 is a 3 1/2 year period that must refer to the FIRST HALF of the 70th week, because the 2 witnesses testify during this period, and they cannot be killed until the Roman prince reaches the height of his power in the middle of the week, when it is 'given to him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them.' (Revelation 11:7 and 13:7).

Therefore we have the entire 70th week events as:

1. 70th week begins in Revelation 6:1,2 with the revelation of the Roman prince. (Day 1).
2. Rising power of the Roman prince. } (Days
3. Testimony of the 2 witnesses. } 1-1260).
4. Killing of the 2 witnesses, and } (Day
5. 7th angel sounding (Rev. 11:1-15). } 1260).
6. Roman prince's absolute world control. } (Days
7. Roman prince terribly persecutes Israel. } 1260- 2520).
8. 70th week ends in Rev. 19:11-21 with the revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Day 2520).

3. The 70th week begins with the Roman prince making a firm covenant with Israel.

Daniel 9:27.

One thing involved in this covenant will be the re-establishing of the Jewish sacrifices in a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem. The Moslem mosque of Omar stands where Solomon's and Herod's temple stood. The present Middle-east peace talks may lead to an agreement for Europe to guarantee Israel's protection and a Temple in return for peace.

4. In the middle of the 70th week, the Roman prince will reverse his friendly attitude to the Jews and 'cause the sacrifice and oblation to cease.' Daniel 9:27.

Today's world involves 'power politics', where force has taken the place of morality, where treaties are made and often broken. The Roman prince will only honor a 'god of forces.'

Daniel 11:38.

Why will the Roman prince break his treaty with Israel?

- i) Being the devil's man, he will hate Israel.
- ii) After using Israel's wealth and influence to reach the top of world power, having no further need for them, he will persecute them. As the Jew will pay dearly for her treaty with the Roman beast, so will the great harlot (apostate church) pay dearly for her ride (Rev. 17:16) in seeking to advance her cause along with Antichrist.

iii) From II Thessalonians 2:4 and Revelation 13:8-15, he will take his seat in the temple of God in Jerusalem, and demand to be worshipped as God. To the Jew, this will be the 'abomination of desolation' (Matthew 24:13), and many will refuse to worship him. This refusal will be the antichrist's pretext for breaking the treaty and causing the Jewish temple sacrifices to cease. His treaty with the 'many' (9:27) means that some Jews will reject the treaty. The 2 witnesses will denounce this treaty throughout their ministry.

5. The breaking of the covenant will start great desolations for the Jewish people.

This trouble lasts from the middle to the end of the 70th week (3 1/2 years). This is exactly the time specified in:

- i) Daniel 7:25, during which the antichrist 'shall wear out the saints of the most high' for a 'time, times and dividing of a time'.
- ii) Rev. 13:5-7, when the antichrist 'shall make war with the saints...and overcome them', for 42 months.
- iii) Rev. 11:2, during which the Gentiles shall tread down Jerusalem for 42 months.
- iv) Rev. 12:6,14, where the woman (Israel) will be protected by God for 1260 days (v.6) and 'a time, times and half a time.' (v.14).

Hence all these prophecies fit together perfectly: the same persecutor, the same nation being persecuted, and exactly the same length of time of persecution. This refutes converting the 1260 days into 1260 years. This is the 'time of Jacob's trouble.' (Jeremiah 30:7).

6. The end of this 7 years will conclude the 70 week prophecy and usher in the blessing of Daniel 9:24.

Remember, all these blessings refer to the Jewish people and the city of Jerusalem. This is the context.

- 1,2. It is Jewish transgression and sin that is brought to an end (1,2). No more after the 70th week will Israel rebel against God and her Messiah.
3. To 'make reconciliation for iniquity' does not refer to Christ's death, but refers to God reconciling Israel unto Himself at Christ's glorious appearing on the basis of His sacrifice on Calvary.
4. To 'seal up the vision and prophecy', means not that all prophecies will be fulfilled, but that the fountain of prophecy will be sealed because, with Christ personally on earth, His word will go forth directly, and no longer through prophets.
5. To 'anoint the most holy' refers to consecrating the millennial temple as a place of worship and prayer for all nations at the start of the Millennium, by the personal presence of Christ there.

Conclusion:

The covenant in Daniel 9:27 could not have been made or confirmed by Christ at His first coming, as Amillennials teach, because:

- a) Christ's ministry did not last 7 years,
- b) Christ's death did not stop the Jewish sacrifices and offerings,
- c) Christ did not set up the abomination that causes desolation (Matthew 24:15).

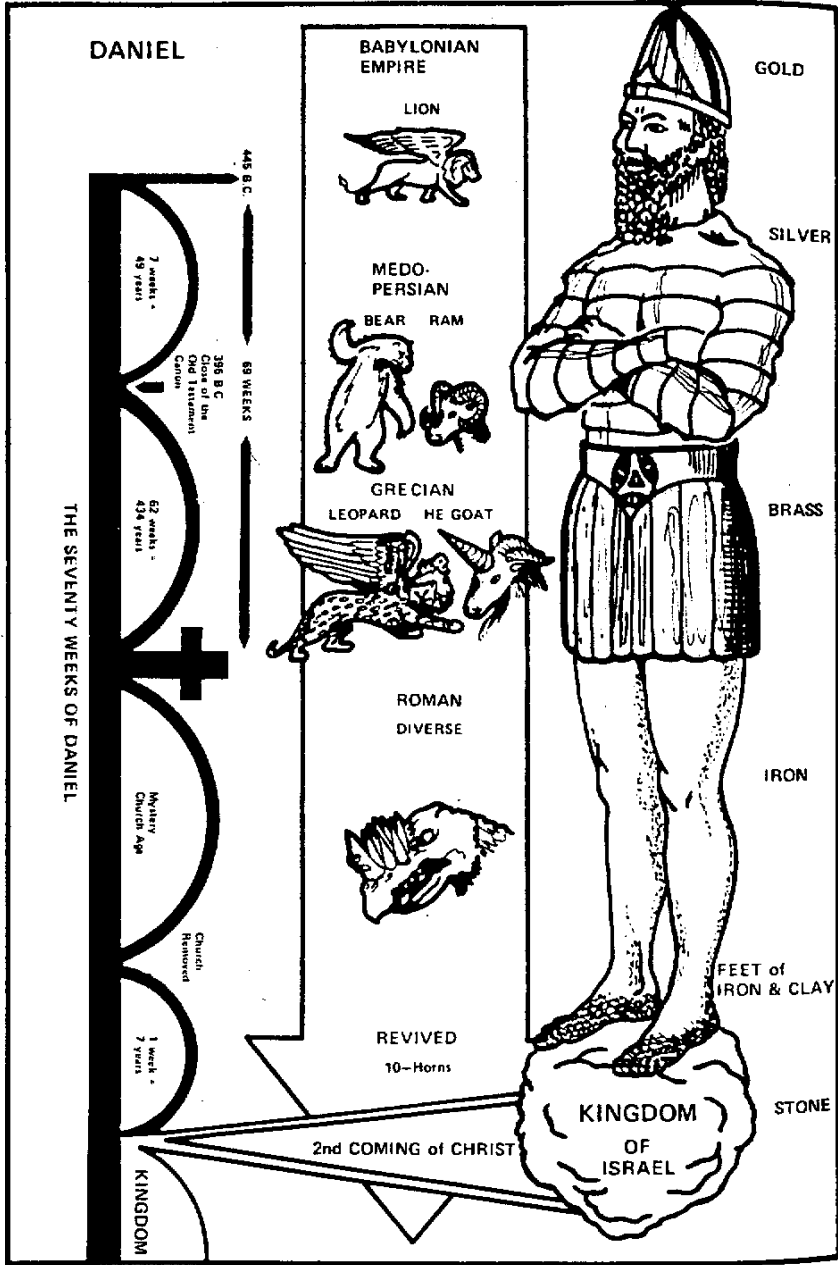
Amillennials suggest that Christ confirmed (in the sense of fulfilling) the Abrahamic covenant, but the Gospels nowhere indicate Christ did that at His first coming.

Since the events in the 69 weeks were fulfilled literally in 173,880 days (v.24-26), the 70th week must likewise be fulfilled literally in 2520 days. A correct understanding of this 70 week prophecy will refute the false ideas of:

- a) Amillennials, who spiritualise prophecy, reject any future for national Israel, and reject a literal future 7 year tribulation and future 1000 year rule of Christ on earth.
- b) Seventh Day Adventists, who accept a literal 173,880 days for the first 69 weeks, but falsely think that 2520 years make up the last 1 week.
- c) Jehovah's Witnesses, who mistakenly use the 70th week prophecy to predict the date of Christ's second coming.

The 70th week prophecy, correctly understood, forms the basis of the pre-millennial, literal interpretation of prophecy based on mathematically accurately fulfilled prophecies. Let us staunchly uphold the pre-millennial faith in a time of apostasy and unbelief in churches today.

56. SECOND COMING CHARTS



“The Times of the Gentiles”

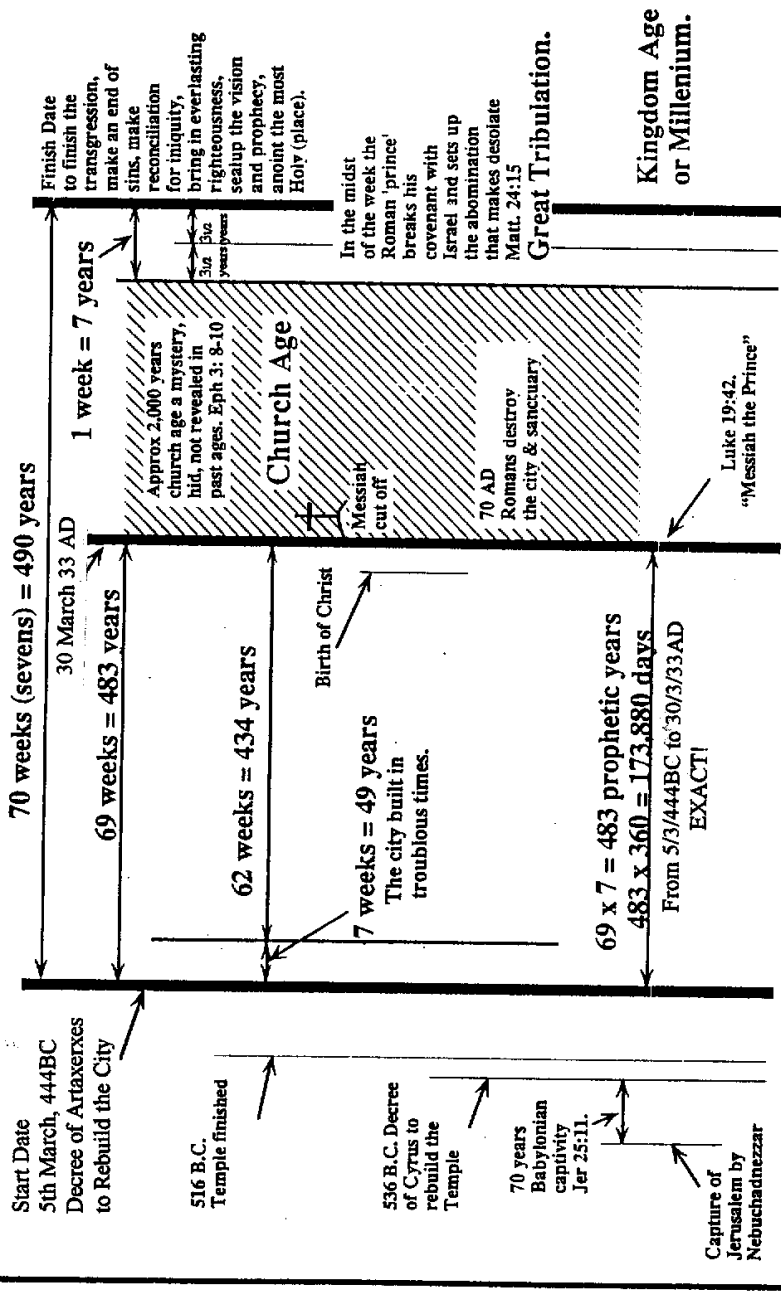
“Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles is fulfilled” Luke 21:24

	Daniel 2	Daniel 7	Daniel 8	Daniel 9	Daniel 11 & 12
Babylon	606 B.C. — Gold	Lion with eagles wings			
Medo-Persia	536 B.C. — Silver	Bear with 3 ribs in its mouth	A ram with 2 horns	445 B.C.	Yet four kings of Persia: Ahazueras, Artaxerxes, Darius, Xerxes
Alexander	332 B.C. — Brass	Leopard with 4 wings & 4 heads	a he goat from the west		A mighty king — Alexander Kingdom divided to 4 winds. Conflict between Syria and Egypt with Israel in the middle. Antiochus Epiphanes (11:21-45) is a Type of anti-christ.
4 Divisions Greece	64 B.C. — Iron	Terrible beast with iron teeth	A great horn broken — Alexander		
Imperial Rome	Stones	Christ 2nd Coming	4 horns replace it — a little horn is Antiochus Epiphanes		
Papal Rome	Part Iron/Part Clay			Messiah the Prince	
Revived Rome	10 toes + 1 little horn			The Church Age gap	
Millenium				70th week	Ch. 12 — Great Tribulation 1290 days
					Blessed is he that cometh to the 1335 days. Dan. 12:12

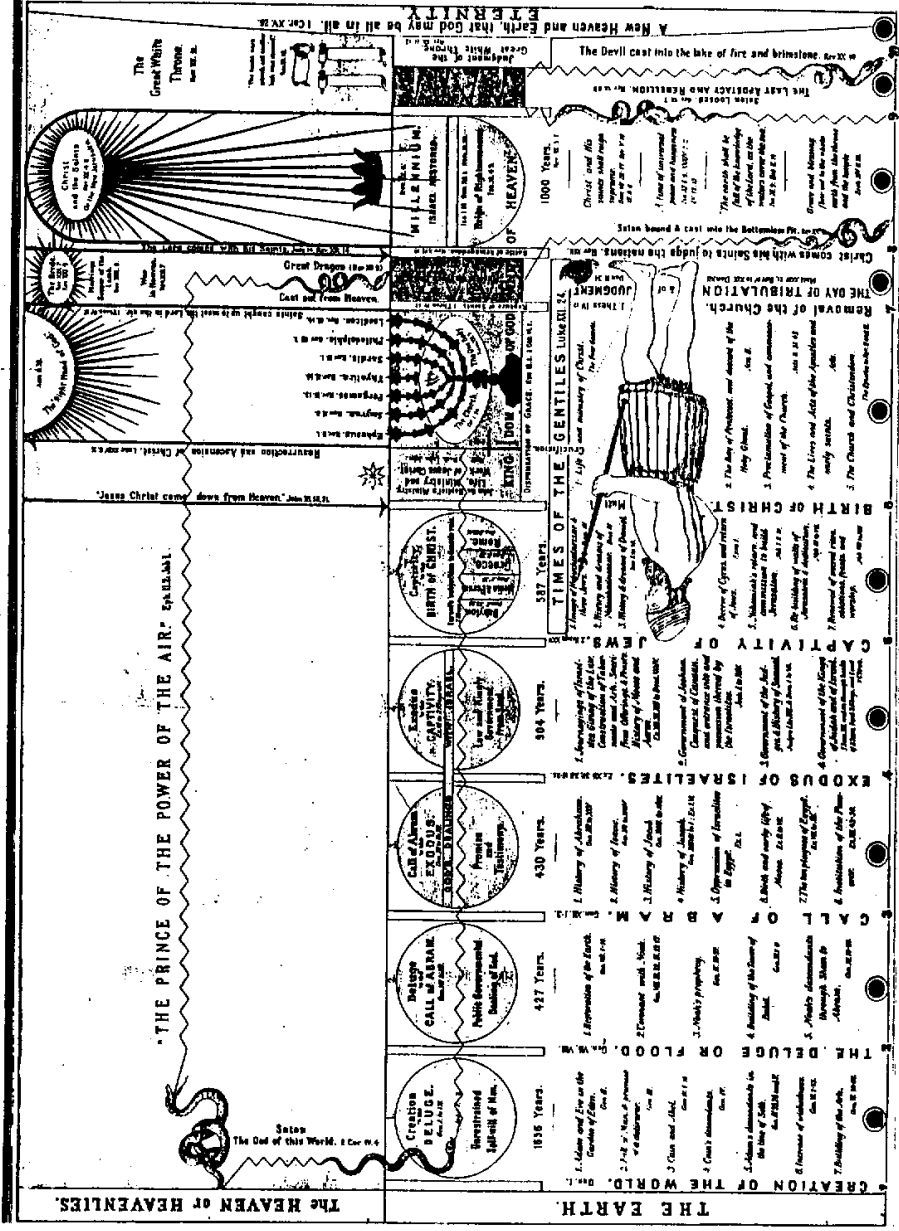
1,000 year kingdom age

A mountain that filled the whole earth Christ's Kingdom

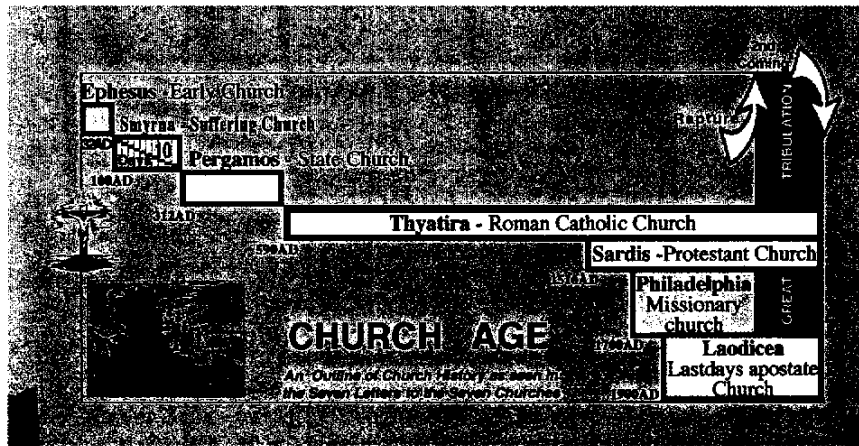
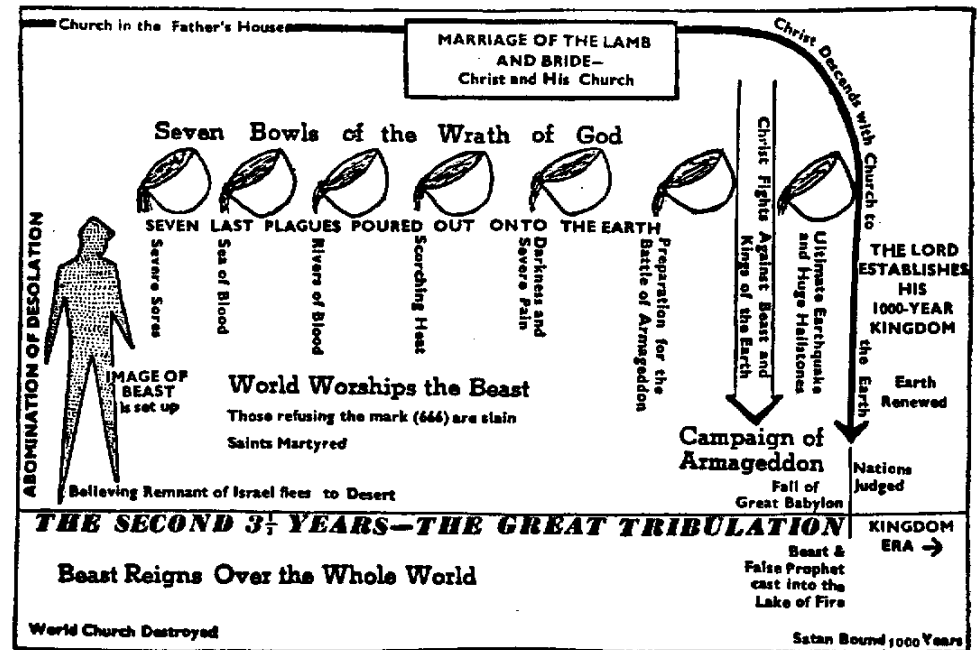
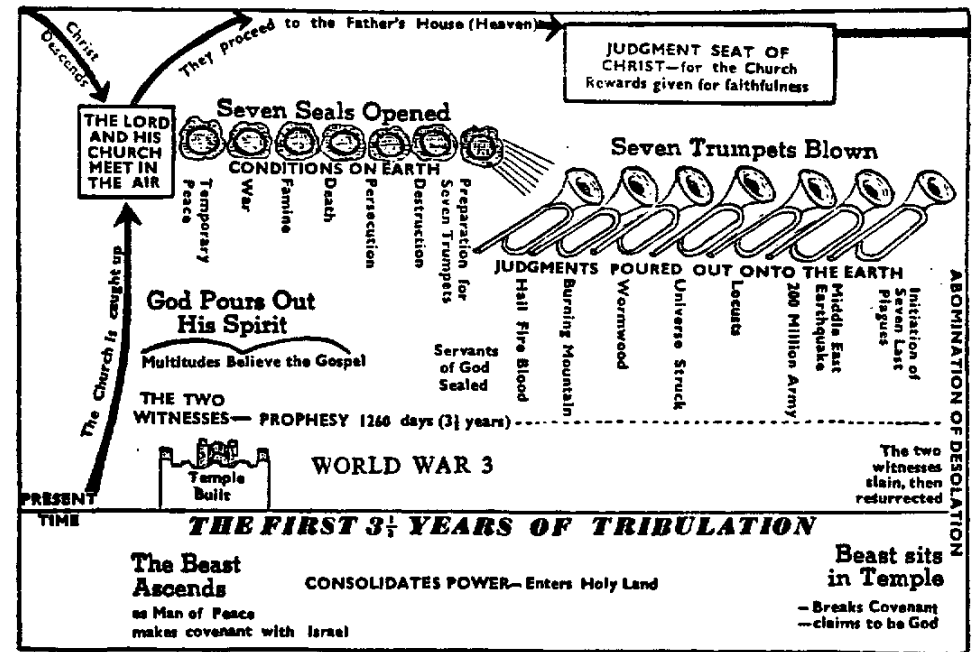
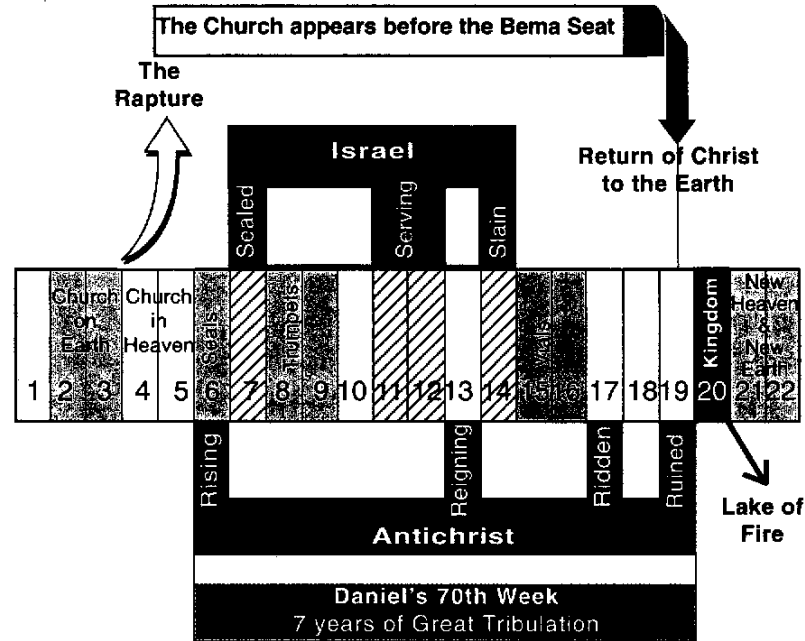
The 70 'Weeks' Prophecy Daniel 9.

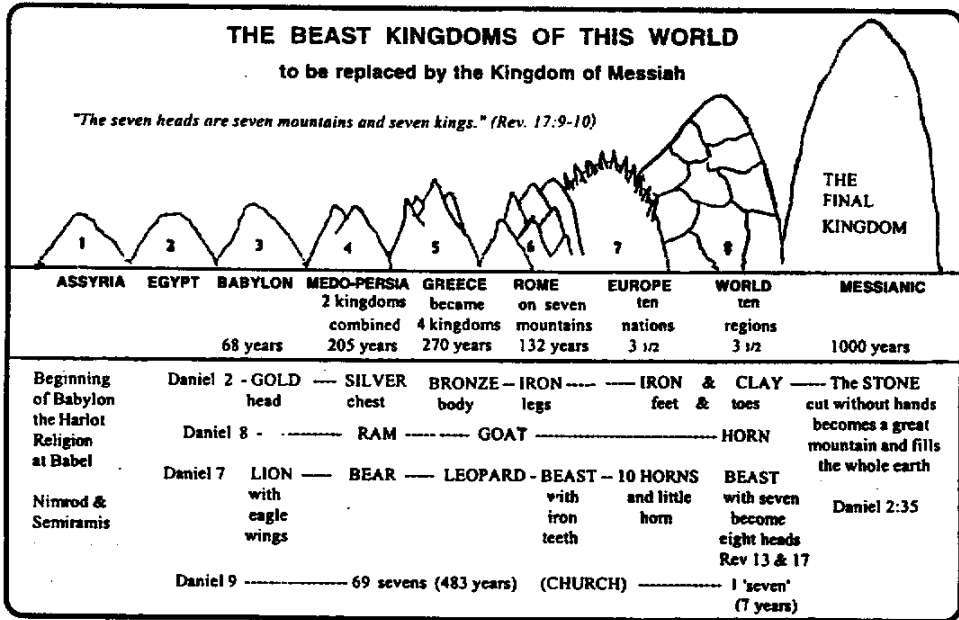
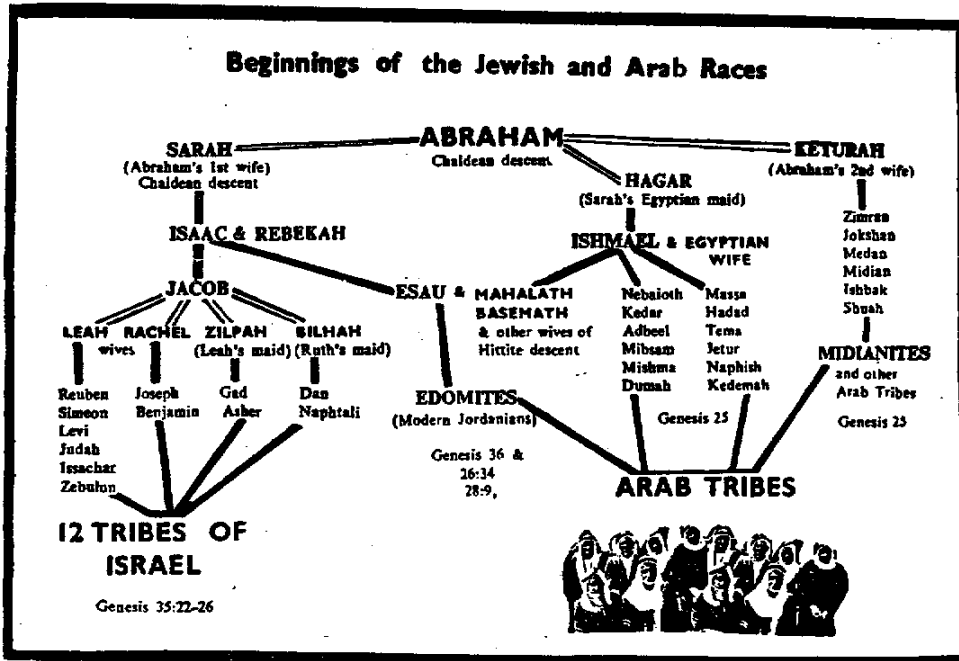


THE EPOCHS AND DISPENSATIONS OF SCRIPTURE.



The Revelation of Jesus Christ





THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION

LAODICEA The Lukewarm Church Rev 3:14-22	1900-Tribulation Apostasy of Last Days	DIVINE LORD (3:14) Amen, faithful and true witness. The beginner of Creation	Thou art lukewarm, increased with goods, rich but blind spiritually. Wretched, miserable, poor, blind, naked. Buy gold tried by fire and white raiment. Anoint thine eyes. Be zealous and repent (3:18,19)	Separation (3:16)	I will grant to sit with me in my throne. (3:21)
PHILADELPHIA The Church Christ Loved Rev 3:7-13	1750-Rapture Great Evangelical Awakening	AUTHORITATIVE LORD (3:7) Holy, true, key of David. Opens and shuts	Works. Missions, a little strength, kept my word, not denied my name.	Hold fast (3:11)	I will make him a pillar in the temple, new name. Kept from the hour of temptation coming on the whole world (Great Tribulation) (3:10,12)
SARDIS The Dead Church Rev 3:1-6	606-Tribulation Protestant Reformation	OMNISCIENT LORD (3:1) Seven spirits Seven stars	Works. A name that thou livest	Dead (spiritually)	Watch, strengthen the things that remain, remember, repent, hold fast. (3:2,3)
THYATIRA The Pagan Church Rev 2:18-29	606-Tribulation Development of Church of Rome	JUDGING LORD (2:18) Eyes like a flame of fire. Feet like brass	Works. Love, service, faith, patience.	Dead (spiritually)	Watch, strengthen the things that remain, remember, repent, hold fast. (3:2,3)
PERGAMOS The Indulged Church Rev 2:12-17	312-606 Union of Church and State (Constantine)	WARRING LORD (2:12-17) He that hath a sharp sword.	Works. Held fast my name. Has not denied my faith - martyr.	Death (2:23)	Will I give millennial rulership over the nations. The morning star (2:26-28)
SMYRNA Persecuted Church Rev 2:8-11	100-312 Persecuted by pagan Rome	RISEN LORD (2:8) First and Last Dead and Now Alive	Works. tribulation, poverty, suffering (10 days)	War (2:16)	Will I give hidden manna, white stone, new name (2:17)
EPHESUS The Apostolic Church Rev 1:1-7	30-100 1 st Century Early Church	SOVEREIGN LORD (2:1) Holding 7 stars walking in midst	Good works, labour, patience, faithful to truth, hated deeds of Nicolaitans	Removal (2:5)	Crown of Life. Not hurt of the 2 nd death.
The Revelation of Jesus Christ (Character of Christ)	Commendation I know thy ...	Condemnation	Counsel. I counsel thee	Caution	Challenge Promise to overcomers. To him that overcometh...