

Prophecy Bible Study 2021 By R. J. Adams**Prophecy Bible Study Index****Chapter Title**

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Note: *Italicized Times New Roman* Text denotes biblical quotations. Ariel Narrow text denotes quotations from non biblical sources. All other text is the authors opinions unless otherwise stated. Underlined text is the authors highlighting. Download this study at www.rjatropical.com. Select the link Ct62020.pdf.

Bible verses are quoted from the KJV the NASB 1977 edition and the NIV unless otherwise noted.

You may freely ignore all of the authors opinions, just don't ignore the Bible.

Chapter 1: Wisdom And Knowledge

Psalms 14:1 NASB The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."

Proverbs 1:7 NASB The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.

James 1:5 NASB But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

Hebrews 11:6 NASB And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Jeremiah 29:13 NASB And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

One prerequisite to understanding God's prophetic plan for the future is that you must believe that a higher power than man exists, and that he will reward those who diligently seek him with wisdom and knowledge and understanding of spiritual things. Then you must make finding God and his will for your life your number one priority.

Chapter 2: Introduction To Prophecy

The study of biblical prophecy is an inexact science, before the prophecies are fulfilled. All of the books that have been written about future biblical prophecy, including this one are just "guesstimates" and men's opinions about how God will fulfill his word. We are in a similar position as those who recognized that it was time for God to fulfill his word when Christ was born nearly 2000 years ago. No one knew the particular order of events that God would use to fulfill his word. The scriptures simply said that the Messiah would come out of Bethlehem, be called out of Egypt, and be called a Nazarene. (Nazarene comes from the Hebrew word "nazar" which is translated "branch" in English.)

Micah 5:2 NASB But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel.

Hosea 11:1 NASB When Israel was a youth I loved him, And out of Egypt I called My son.

Jeremiah 33:15 NASB 15 'In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch of David to spring forth; and He shall execute justice and righteousness on the earth.

Zechariah 3:8 NASB 'Now listen, Joshua the high priest, you and your friends who are sitting in front of you—indeed they are men who are a symbol, for behold, I am going to bring in My servant the Branch. (The Nazarene)

There are many ways in which God could have fulfilled these scriptures about Jesus. He could have been born in any one of the three places and lived at various times in the other two. He could also have been named or called the "branch" or "Nazarene" and not have lived in Nazareth at all to fulfill the scriptures. Now we will look at how the verses above actually came to pass.

Matthew 2:4-6 NASB And gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he began to inquire of them where the Christ was to be born. 5 And they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so

it has been written by the prophet, the Messiah 6 'AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH; FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER, WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.' "

Matthew 2:14-15 NASB Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise and take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him." 14 And he arose and took the Child and His mother by night, and departed for Egypt; 5 and was there until the death of Herod, that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, "OUT OF EGYPT DID I CALL MY SON."

The importance of studying biblical prophecy is to learn what the scriptures say will happen just before the return of Jesus Christ, so we will be able to discern the signs of the times. Even after the Messiah had come and fulfilled many of the prophecies written about him there was still controversy about whether or not he was the Christ.

John 12:37 & 43 NIV even after Jesus had done all these miraculous signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him. This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet: "Lord, who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?" Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not confess their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved praise from men more than praise from God.

We need to be careful when studying yet unfulfilled biblical prophecy that our opinions of how we think the Lord will fulfill his word do not prevent us from understanding the actual fulfillment when it happens. The religious leaders of Jesus' time on Earth were unable to receive the truth because they had already made up their minds and hardened their hearts to any new interpretation of God's word that did not agree with their ancient traditions.

Luke 11:52 MEV "Woe to you, lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter yourselves, and you hindered those who were entering."

Matthew 22:29 KJV Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.

Matthew 16:2-3 MEV He answered them, "When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,' 3 and in the morning, 'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and overcast.' O you hypocrites, you can discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times.

Whether or not you agree with the authors opinions about the end times or whether some of the events in the book of Revelation are only figurative is not important. It is the command of Christ to his servants to watch for his appearing, and even if we die while watching and waiting for him, we will still be blessed in this life and in the life to come for obeying his word.

Luke 12:37 & 40 NIV It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. . You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

Chapter 3: The Foundations Of Prophecy

Of all the religions in the world only those based on the bible contain large amounts of future prophecy concerning the end times. Most religions talk about bliss or punishment in the afterlife, but not much about discerning when the time of judgment is near. This is because lifeless false gods have no means to foretell the future. Only the one true God, the God of the bible can accurately foretell future events.

Fulfilled prophecy is one of the proofs that the God of the bible is the all powerful God of the universe. About 6000 years ago God created Adam and Eve, and when they sinned, he promised to send a Savior to redeem them. The fulfillment of this promise is the turning point of history. When Christ came the first time, some 4000 years after God gave the promise to Adam and Eve, even the calendar changed. Our calendar today reflects the fact that Jesus Christ was born about 2000 years ago. Recent studies indicate that the first 4000 years were not completed until either Jesus was baptized about 26 AD or when he ascended to heaven about 33 AD. So, the 6000 years of human history will probably not be completed until sometime between 2026 AD and 2033 AD.

The books of the Old Testament trace God's dealings with men as he prepared the way for the Messiah to come. Jesus himself verified the fact that much of the Old Testament was history written about him in advance, which is what prophecy is, pre-written history.

Luke 24:25-27 & 44-47 KJV Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the Psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures. And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things.

The primary purpose of biblical prophecy is to reveal the Messiah, Jesus Christ. every verse of messianic prophecy in the bible that Jesus did not fulfill during his 33 years on the earth must occur at some time in the future, at, before or after his second coming.

The First Coming Of Christ As Predicted In Isaiah

Isaiah 9:5-6 KJV Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Events Pertaining to The Second Coming

Isaiah 9:7 KJV Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

At his first coming Christ did not fulfill all of Isaiah's prophecies.

Isaiah 61:1-2 NIV The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn.

Luke 4:14-21 NIV Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Jesus stopped reading from the book of Isaiah before speaking of the vengeance of God, which pertains to the the tribulation period, and the Great White Throne judgment after the final resurrection of the dead. Then also he will permanently comfort those who mourn. There will be no more death, sorrow or tears in God's kingdom for the saved.

The study of biblical prophecy is one of the most exciting subjects that a person can undertake, and it builds faith. By seeing that God has kept his promises in the past, it helps us to believe he can keep his promises to us today.

Some have misused biblical prophecy out of ignorance and set dates for Christ's return that did not happen, and some have used the subject for personal gain. But, the errors of men in no way diminish the power of God to keep his own word. In order to study God's word, one must have the assistance of the Holy Spirit and cross reference every bible verse pertaining to a particular subject with every other verse pertaining to that subject. God's word must be rightly divided in order for us to understand it correctly.

2 Timothy 2:15 KJV Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Chapter 4: Biblical Prophecy

Amos 3:7 NKJV "Surely the Lord God does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.

Romans 3:4 KJV God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written,

Titus 1:2 KJV In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

God, since the creation of Adam, has sent his servants the prophets to reveal his future plans to those who were willing to listen. Before the flood God sent Enoch and Noah to preach to the people that a great flood would come upon the Earth. After the flood God chose Abraham and his descendants to be his oracle people. For two thousand years God sent his prophets to Abraham's descendants, and the writings of these prophets are preserved for us in the Old Testament of the bible.

2 Peter 1:20-21 MEV But know this first of all, that no prophecy of the Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation. 21 For no prophecy at any time was produced by the will of man, but holy men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Isaiah 44:6-8 NIV "This is what the Lord says--Israel's King and Redeemer, the Lord Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God." "Who then is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and lay out before me what has happened since I established my ancient people, and what is yet to come--yes, let him foretell what will come." "Do not tremble, do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago? You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me? No, there is no other Rock; I know not one."

Isaiah 48:5 NIV "Therefore, I told you these things long ago; before they happened I announced them to you so that you could not say, My idols did them; my wooden image and metal God ordained them."

God, in the bible has declared himself to be the only God, the first and the last. He goes on to say that he is the God, the only God, who can foretell the future with 100% accuracy.

Deuteronomy 18:21-22 NIV You may say to yourselves, "How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the LORD?" "If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the LORD does not take place or come true, that is a message the LORD has not spoken."

The test of an Old Testament prophet was that what he had spoken in the name of the Lord had to come true during the lifetime of the people he was speaking to, except for those things that were specifically stated to be prophecies for the distant future. If a prophet's words did not come true, his writings were not included in the bible.

This is why some denominations teach that all prophecy except for the return of Christ has already been fulfilled. Almost all biblical prophecy has had a minor fulfillment shortly after it was given, with the major fulfillment coming hundreds or even thousands of years later. God has promised that he will reveal new things to those who are alert and willing to receive them.

Isaiah 48:6-7 NIV "You have heard these things; look at them all. Will you not admit them? From now on I will tell you of new things, of hidden things unknown to you. They are created now, and not long ago; you have not heard of them before today."

Also, notice in the next verse that God not only knows what is going to happen in the future, but he knows who it is going to happen to. He knows people, not just before they are born, but before they are even conceived.

Jeremiah 1:5 NIV "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

The proof that the God of the bible is the most powerful being in the universe is as close as your morning newspaper or other news source once you know and understand what God says he will accomplish as we draw nearer to the second coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

The bible specifically states that no man knows the day and hour of Christ's return.

Matthew 24:36 NASB "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

Acts 1:6-7 NIV So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.

Although we cannot know the day or the hour that he will return, Christ commands us to watch for the signs that will precede his second coming so that we will be expecting his appearing, and not be caught unawares.

Matthew 24:42 KJV Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

Chapter 5: Countdown To 6000

It is indicated in the bible that the history of the descendants of Adam living on the Earth will last for six thousand years, followed by 1000 years of peace under the rule of Jesus Christ. Through the calculation of the ages of the biblical patriarch's we can determine that there were 2000 years from the creation of Adam to the call of Abraham, and 2000 years from the call of Abraham until the time that Jesus began his ministry. This indicates that there will be another period of 2000 years from the time of the ministry of Jesus until his second coming. The sum of the three 2000 year time periods will be 6000 years. As we approached the year 2000 many preachers and prophecy students were teaching that the 6000 years were almost finished and that Christ would return on or before the year 2000. They had overlooked the fact that our calendar is in error by about 30 years because it was set back to zero on the year that Christ was born, rather than on the year that he began his ministry or when he ascended to heaven. Christ was baptized in the Jordan river by John the Baptist when He became about 30 years old.

Luke 3:21-23 NIV When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry.

Now even if Christ does not return by 2033 God and the bible are not wrong, our interpretation is wrong, and we will have to study the scriptures to see where we went misinterpreted them. However, it is going to be very interesting to see what happens in the near future and to watch for signs of his coming. One of the main purposes of this study is to alert Christians to the signs that will precede his coming so we can watch for them to be fulfilled. This will increase our faith even if we do not live to see Christ return. The more we see God fulfill his word concerning the second coming the more sure we can be that he will fulfill all of his promises to us also.

2 Peter 3:2-4 & 8-9 NIV I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles. First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.

Notice the clue that Peter gives us, that a day is to the Lord like a thousand years. These future scoffers will forget that we are counting time on the Roman calendar, which is about 30 years ahead of God's calendar. God's calendar for human events began on the day and the hour that he created Adam. One of the keys to understanding the bible in general, and prophecy in particular, is to understand that God is a mathematical God. Throughout the bible he constantly uses the same numbers and number combinations to The number seven symbolizes completeness. This is the reason why seven has been considered a lucky number for thousands of years. Seven days makes a complete week, and seven thousand years will complete one heavenly week, a week made up of seven one thousand year days. There are more occurrences of the number seven in the bible than any other number.

The number six is the number that symbolizes imperfection and incompleteness, because it is one less than the perfect number, seven. Man was created on the sixth day, and his history before the return of Christ may last for six thousand years if our interpretation is correct

The number eight in the bible symbolizes new beginnings. After the heavenly week of seven thousand years is completed, the eighth day will begin, which will be eternity. The last one thousand years will be the heavenly Sabbath day, one thousand years of peace under the rule of Jesus Christ, followed by the eighth day, the new creation.

Psalms 90:4 KJV For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

Paul had a partner in preaching the gospel named Barnabas. He also wrote a book known as "The Epistle of Barnabas." This book was read in the early churches and used as a tool to assist in understanding the scriptures. Although this book is not a part of the bible, it is useful because it takes us back to the early days of the church and shows us what was being taught about prophecy while the apostles were still alive.

Barnabas 23:1-6 "Furthermore, it is written concerning the Sabbath, in the Ten Commandments, which God spoke on Mount Sinai to Moses, face to face; Sanctify the Sabbath of the Lord with pure hands and a clean heart. And elsewhere he said; If your children shall keep my Sabbaths, then will I put my of the Sabbath. And God made in six days the works of his hands; and he finished them on the seventh day, and he rested on the seventh day, and he sanctified it. Consider, my children, what that signifies. He finished them in six days. The meaning of it is this; that in six thousand years the Lord God will bring all things to an end. For with him one day is as a thousand years; as he himself testifies, saying, Behold this day shall be as a thousand years. Therefore, children, in six days, that is, in six thousand years, shall all things be accomplished. And what is it that he said, and he rested the seventh day: he means this; that when his Son shall come, and abolish the season of the Wicked One, and judge the ungodly; and shall change the sun and the moon, and the stars; then he shall gloriously rest in that seventh day."

Barnabas goes on to say in his book, that following the one thousand year heavenly Sabbath, the eighth day, the new world will begin. God also gives us another clue in the bible that the world will go on as normal for six thousand years when he states that the punishment of the Jews for rejecting Christ will last for two thousand years.

Hosea 5:14-15 NIV "For I will be like a lion to Ephraim, like a great lion to Judah. I will tear them to pieces and go away; I will carry them off, with no one to rescue them. Then I will go back to my place until they admit their guilt. And they will seek my face; in their misery they will earnestly seek me."

The preceding verses are referring to God's dealings with the Jews after they rejected Christ. Notice in Hosea 5:15 he says that he will go back to his place. This happened when Christ ascended to sit at the right hand of the father after being raised from the dead, he went back to his place, heaven.

Mark 16:19 NIV After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God.

Hosea 6:1 & 2 NIV "Come, let us return to the Lord. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds. After two days, he will revive us; on the third day he will restore us, that we may live in his presence."

At some time in the future, after two heavenly days, two thousand years have passed, God will open the eyes of the Jews and they will recognize Jesus Christ as their Messiah. We know from history that Christ did not return forty eight hours after he ascended to heaven, so this verse may possibly be referring to two heavenly days of one thousand years each. For the purpose of this study we will assume that that is precisely what it means. If we are wrong we will know it when 2034 arrives. Notice also that it says that on the third day they will live in his presence. This is a reference to the Millennium, when Christ will reign on Earth.

Four thousand years had already passed when Christ began his ministry, so the beginning of the third day from the time that Jesus returned to heaven, and the beginning of the seventh day from the creation of Adam, will occur at the same time. Both are references to the heavenly seventh day, God's Sabbath, the Millennium.

The time period known in the scriptures as the "times of the gentiles" is commonly called the "church age" by those who study prophecy. According to the book of Revelation, there will be one thousand years, a heavenly Sabbath day, when the "church age" ends, after the first resurrection. The resurrection of the dead is sometimes referred to as "the rapture." In this study in most cases we will refer to that event as "the first resurrection," because that is what it is called in the book of Revelation.

Revelation 20:6 "Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years."

God clearly states that there will be a special one thousand year time period when the saints will rule and reign with him. This again ties in perfectly with the teaching that there will be six thousand years of peace under the rule of Jesus Christ, and this will be followed by the eighth day, eternity, and the new creation of heaven and Earth. This one thousand year time period is commonly known as the "Millennium."

The Heavenly Week

CONSCIENCE	LAW	THE CHURCH AGE	ROD OF IRON
<-2000 YEARS->	<-2000 YEARS->	<-2000 YEARS->	<-1000 YEARS-->
SUN-MON TUES-WED THUR-FRI SABBATH			
<----- 4000 YEARS ----->		<--2000 YEARS--><--1000 YEARS-->	
FROM ADAM TO CHRIST		CHURCH AGE MILLENNIUM	

Chapter 6: The Days Of Noah

Jesus said that in the end times conditions on Earth would be like they were during the time of Noah.

Luke 17:26-27 MEV "Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. 27 They were eating, drinking, marrying, and were given in marriage until the day when Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all."

In order to more fully understand what world conditions will be like in the end times, we will look at how things were during "the days of Noah."

Genesis 6:5-7 NIV The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the Earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the Earth, and his heart was filled with pain. So the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the Earth-- men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air--for I am grieved that I have made them."

The Flood

Genesis 6:8-14 NIV But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God. Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. Now the Earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. God saw how corrupt the Earth had become, for all the people on Earth had corrupted their ways. So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the Earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the Earth. So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out."

Genesis 6:17-18 & 22 NIV I am going to bring floodwaters on the Earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. everything on Earth will perish. But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark--you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

Hebrews 11:7 MEV By faith Noah, being divinely warned about things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark to save his family, by which he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

Genesis 7:1&4 & 7 NIV The LORD then said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. Seven days from now I will send rain on the Earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the Earth every living creature I have made." And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood. And after the seven days the floodwaters came on the Earth.

1 Peter 3:20 NIV who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water,

God waited patiently while Noah built the ark and then poured out his judgment on the Earth.

Genesis 7:15-16 KJV And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life. And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the Lord shut him in.

Genesis 7:20-23 MEV The waters prevailed upward and the mountains were covered fifteen cubits deep.[a] 21 All flesh that moved on the earth died: birds and livestock and beasts, and every creeping thing that crept on the earth, and every man. 22 All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, all that was on the dry land, died. 23 So He blotted out every living thing which was on the face of the ground, both man and animals and the creeping things and the birds of the heavens. They were blotted out from the earth, and only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive.

Just as he did in Noah's day, the Lord is able to deliver the Godly from his wrath, and he will do so for his church when he spares them from his wrath during the tribulation period.

Chapter 7: The Signs Of The End Of The Age

Matthew 24:3 & 7-8 "As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. 'Tell us,' they said, 'when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?' Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains."

This future time period is sometimes called "the beginning of sorrows , or birth pangs." It precedes the tribulation. This is interesting because God has repeatedly compared the time of the end to the "days of Noah." In Noah's time, God granted 120 years for Noah to build the ark and preach to the people that the destruction of the Earth by water was imminent.

God, in the bible, uses the same numerical patterns over and over again to signify certain themes. Therefore, it is highly likely that mankind will receive 120 years of warning before the return of Jesus Christ.

Genesis 6:3 Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal; his days will be a hundred and twenty years."

1 Peter 3:20 "God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water,"

Notice, in the verse above, that God spared eight people from the flood, his number for new beginnings.

Another indicator that God is giving us a special time period for repentance is the fact that the Pentecostal revival movement began in the early 1900's, marked by the San Francisco earthquake. If the late 1800's and early 1900's revival movement marked the beginning of the end times 120 years of preaching then we are indeed getting very close to the time of Christ's return. God has said not that we could know the day or the hour of his return, but it seems clear that we are approaching the season.

The Sign Of The Fig Tree

The fig tree is one of the national symbols of the nation of Israel, in particular, those who are descended from the tribe of Judah, the Jews.

Hosea 9:10 NIV "When I found Israel, it was like finding grapes in the desert; when I saw your fathers, it was like seeing the early fruit on the fig tree."

The sign of the fig tree would be one of the indicators that the time of his return was drawing near.

Matthew 24:32-34 "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened."

Luke 21:29-36 NIV He told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. "I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and Earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole Earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."

Many students of prophecy believe that the restoration of Israel as a nation in 1948 was the sign of the "budding of the fig tree." If that is correct then some people who were alive in 1948 will live to see the return of Jesus Christ.

Psalms 90:10 NIV "The length of our days is seventy years--or eighty, if we have the strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away."

The bible says that seventy or eighty years is the normal life span for human beings. Jesus said that the generation that saw the budding of the fig tree, the restoration of the nation of Israel, would not pass away before his return.

When you add the normal life span for a human as stated in the Psalms, to the year 1948, you come up with a year between 2018 and 2028. This is also very close to the dates we calculated with the other methods of determining where we are in prophetic history.

God has promised us in the book of Daniel that in the last days knowledge will be increased. While knowledge of all types has been increasing in the world since the beginning of the industrial revolution, the knowledge that God was referring to in particular was biblical knowledge, the words of the scroll of the book of Daniel.

Daniel 12:4 But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge."

God can supernaturally increase knowledge through the direct working of the Holy Spirit whenever he chooses to do so, but in most cases he does it through means that appear normal to the unbelieving world. Biblical knowledge has been increasing every year since the 1800's when archaeology became a science. Each year new discoveries are adding to biblical background knowledge, increasing our understanding of the prophetic scriptures.

The Sign Of The Gospel

Mark 13:10 NASB And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations.

Another sign that Jesus gave to his disciples that the end of the age was near is that the gospel would be preached to all nations. Bible translators have been working feverishly for the past fifty years to translate the scriptures into every language in the world. The invention of computers has greatly speeded up this work, and they are now very close to accomplishing this goal.

At the present time (2020) at least one book of the bible is available to 98% of the population of the world. Portions of the scriptures have been translated into more than 2000 languages. The gospel is not only being distributed by the written word, but since the invention of radio, television, satellite television and telephones and the internet the gospel is being beamed around the world, for the first time, since Jesus walked the Earth.

The Sign Of The Great Tribulation

Just before the return of Jesus Christ, there will be a time of trouble unequalled in the annals of human history. This is the time period known as the "Great Tribulation," or the "time of Jacob's trouble."

Matthew 24:21 KJV "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be."

Jeremiah 30:7 KJV "Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it."

The "Great Tribulation" is the time period that is described in the book of Revelation. It will be a time of unprecedented horror for the Jews, and not much better for everyone else.

The Sign Of The Antichrist

Both Jesus and Daniel talked about the "Abomination of Desolation" being a sign of the end times. Since the antichrist will be the one committing it then he is a sign of the end times.

The Antichrist, or the man of sin as he is called, will be Satan's impersonation of Christ. Instead of God in a human body, he will be the devil controlling a human being. He will come on the scene appearing to be a man of peace, and will make a peace treaty with Israel and many other nations. After three and one half years, he will break his treaty and demand that everyone who will not worship him as God, and take his mark, be killed.

The Chronological Bible

According to the research done by the authors of "the Chronological Bible," our calendar year 2000 is actually only 5974 years from the time when God created Adam. So, if they are correct, the year 2026 will be the time when 6000 years of human history has transpired. If this is true, then this is just another indication that we are nearing the time of the return of Jesus Christ. But, even if the Lord should tarry for another seven thousand years, or seventy thousand years, or even seven million years, God has promised to bless those who study his word and look for the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Luke 12:37 KJV Blessed are those servants, whom the Lord when he cometh shall find watching:

Titus 2:11-13 KJV For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Chapter 9: The Restoration Of Israel and the Attack From the North

In the book of Ezekiel, there is a description of events that will occur in the end times. There are different opinions as to whether the prophecies in Ezekiel chapters thirty seven through thirty nine will occur before, during or after the Great Tribulation. During the course of this study we will look at these prophecies with the view that the war described in chapters thirty eight and thirty nine might be fulfilled either shortly before or shortly after the tribulation begins. However it could also occur at the end of the tribulation or at the end of the millennium.

In seventy AD, about thirty five years after Christ was crucified, the Roman armies destroyed Jerusalem and the temple and drove the Jews out of the land that God had given them. God scattered the Jews throughout the world because of their sins. They remained scattered without a country to come home to until 1948 when the state of Israel was reborn.

Ezekiel 37:21-28 NIV The Sovereign LORD says: I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around and bring them back into their own land. I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel.

Jeremiah 16:14-15 NIV "However, the days are coming," declares the LORD, "when men will no longer say, 'As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt,' but they will say, 'As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where he had banished them.' For I will restore them to the land I gave their forefathers.

The Lord has regathered about one half of the scattered Israelites from all over the world. He will finish the job after his return. At the present time though many are back in their land they are still in unbelief not recognizing Jesus Christ as their messiah. After they are rescued from a mammoth multi-national force they will be converted.

At some time in the future the people that the Lord has gathered to Israel will be attacked by hostile neighbors from the north, and their allies from other areas. The leading countries in the attack are figuratively called Gog and Magog.

Ezekiel 38:8 NIV After many days you will be called to arms. In future years you will invade a land that has recovered from war, whose people were gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate. They had been brought out from the nations, and now all of them live in safety.

The nation of Israel today is a nation that has recovered from four wars and is dwelling at peace with some of it's neighbors. A peace pact with Egypt was made in 1979. They are also at peace with Jordan and in 2020 more peace pacts were made with other nearby countries.

Notice in the verses above that this prophecy, which was given before the time of Christ is for the far future, after Israel had been regathered from amongst the nations. This prophecy is for our time.

Ezekiel 38:9-14 NIV You and all your troops and the many nations with you will go up, advancing like a storm; you will be like a cloud covering the land. "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: On that day thoughts will come into your mind and you will devise an evil scheme. You will say, "I will invade a land of unwalled villages; I will attack a peaceful and unsuspecting people--all of them living without walls and without gates and bars. I will plunder and loot and turn my hand against the resettled ruins and the people gathered from the nations, rich in livestock and goods, living at the center of the land." Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish and all her villages will say to you, "Have you come to plunder? Have you gathered your hordes to loot, to carry off silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods and to seize much plunder?"

The attack on the nation of Israel will not occur until they are living in peace and prosperity in the land they have returned to. Israel will prosper in trade and with God's blessing become a rich nation in the near future. When this happens the attack from the north will not be far off.

Ezekiel 38:17-23 NIV You will come from your place in the far north, you and many nations with you, a great horde, a mighty army. You will advance against my people Israel like a cloud that covers the land. In days to come, O Gog, I will bring you against my land, so that the nations may know me when I show myself holy through you before their eyes.

The Lord will use this war to show Israel and the rest of the world that He is in control of all world events.

This is what will happen in that day: When Gog attacks the land of Israel, my hot anger will be aroused, declares the Sovereign LORD. In my zeal and fiery wrath I declare that at that time there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel. The fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the beasts of the field, every creature that moves along the ground, and all the people on the face of the Earth will tremble at my presence. The mountains will be overturned, the cliffs will crumble and every wall will fall to the ground. I will summon a sword against Gog on all my mountains, declares the Sovereign LORD. every man's sword will be against his brother. I will execute judgment upon him with plague and bloodshed; I will pour down torrents of rain, hailstones and burning sulfur on him and on his troops and on the many nations with him. And so I will show my greatness and my holiness, and I will make myself known in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the LORD.'

The purpose of this prophecy of the attack on Israel by the enemies from the north is stated above. God has given us this glimpse into the future so that his name will be glorified and that many nations will be shown his greatness and holiness. This spectacular rescue of the nation of Israel will strengthen the faith of the believers and convert many new believers to Jesus Christ. In short, God's purpose may be to use this event to promote a worldwide Christian revival before Christ's second coming.

The northern armies will fall on the mountains of Israel and fire will strike the countries from which the armies came. God will not only make his name known among the nations of the world, but also to his people Israel.

Ezekiel 39:2 KJV And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel:

Only one sixth of the armies that attack Israel will escape and return to their homelands. Israel's enemies will then be very weak militarily and Israel will have even more peace and prosperity for a short time until antichrist comes to power. Some will begin to understand that Jesus is their Messiah.

Ezekiel 39:22 KJV So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day and forward.

In summary, the three chapters we have looked at in Ezekiel tell us of the restoration, rescue, and conversion of the people of Israel.

The next chapter of Ezekiel, chapter 40, gives the dimensions for the rebuilding of the temple. Perhaps the temple will be built immediately after this war since their enemies armies have been destroyed there will be no one left to stop them from rebuilding it.

Chapter 8: The First Resurrection - Commonly Called "The Rapture"

We will now take a look at the timing of the first resurrection commonly called the rapture. We are doing this now before we delve into the verse by verse study of the book of Revelation so that we will not have to discuss it numerous times where it is mentioned in the book of Revelation.

There are at least seven or eight common opinions as to at what point in the prophetic scenario it will take place and many more personal opinions. It will be up to the student to decide their own preference and to watch for it. The late prophecy preacher David Wilkerson used to say that he believed in "Pan-Trib" that it would all pan out in the end.

Another pastor friend of mine said that he would expect pre-trib until proven otherwise.

I will put the scenarios in the order of chronological occurrence in the end times scenario. If the first does not happen, then we who are watching can begin to watch for the second one. For example, many believe that the church will never see the antichrist come to power, that we will be removed first. However, if the antichrist begins to rule and we are still here then we will have to look at the 2nd possibility and so forth.

The first three charts are all pre-millennial viewpoints, meaning that the resurrection will occur before the Millennium begins. The Millennium is the time of one thousand years of peace that will begin when Jesus Christ returns to Earth. The differences of opinion are caused by disagreement on when the "wrath of God" actually begins. The church has been promised to be spared from the "wrath of God," but not from the wrath of Satan, the Antichrist, or the wrath of unregenerate men. Some think that the "wrath of God" does not pertain to the tribulation period at all but to being saved from everlasting punishment in the Lake of Fire.

1 Th 5:9 NIV For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The term "Great Tribulation," or "the Tribulation" refers to all or part of the last seven years of human history before the return of Christ.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 NIV For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

Daniel 12:1 KJV & NIV And at that time shall Michael stand up, (KJV) The great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be at time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people--everyone whose name is found written in the book--will be delivered. Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the Earth will awake:

The symbolic faithful end times church called "Philadelphia" in revelation has been promised by Christ that they will be spared from the "hour of temptation" that will try them that dwell upon the Earth. This is the basis for the three major pre-tribulation opinions.

The Escape From The Hour Of Temptation

Revelation 3:10-12 KJV "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the Earth."

The asterisks with the abbreviation (F*R) show the point where each group believes the first resurrection will take place.

1. The Pre-Tribulation First Resurrection

(F*R) <-----7 YEARS OF TRIBULATION-----> RETURN

This point of view is the official position of most Baptist and Pentecostal churches. They believe that the church will be taken out of the world for the entire seven year tribulation period, and celebrate the marriage supper of the Lamb in heaven for seven years. They base this on the supposition that the seven seals and the seven trumpet judgments are a part of the wrath of God that the church will be protected from.

2. The Early Tribulation First Resurrection

<----1 Year (F*R) ----->6 YEARS----->RETURN

Some believe that we will see the antichrist come to power and the Jerusalem temple rebuilt but the church will be rescued before severe persecution begins.

3. The Mid-Tribulation First Resurrection

<----3 1/2 YEARS---->(F*R)<-----3 1/2 YEARS----->RETURN

This viewpoint is also pre-millennial, but it is sometimes called mid-trib, for short. mid-tribulationists believe that only the second half of the seven year period is the "Great Tribulation," and the wrath of God. They believe that the church will be taken out of the world in the middle of the seven year period, after 3 1/2 years of persecution.

This view is popular among many of the lay members of the organizations mentioned above, and by some of the smaller independent churches.

4. The Pre-Millennial Pre-Wrath First Resurrection

<--7 SEALS--><--7 TRUMPETS-->(F*R)<-7 BOWLS->RETURN

This viewpoint is sometimes called the "pre-wrath" resurrection concept. The difference between pre-wrath and the others is that the last seven years are divided into three equal time period segments, rather than one or two.

There is a segment for each of the three sets of judgments, the seven seals, the seven trumpets, and the seven bowls. Each segment would be about two years and four months long, meaning that the church would be taken out of the world about four years and eight months after Antichrist signs his peace pact with Israel.

5. The Two Witnesses First Resurrection

<--? YRS. OF TRIB.-->(F*R)<--WRATH of God-->RETURN

There is a special resurrection for God's two witnesses who are killed by antichrist during the tribulation period. The time of their death is uncertain, but they will preach for 3 1/2 years, be martyred and then raised from the dead 3 1/2 days later. Some think that we go up when they do.

6. The Sabbath (7th) Year First Resurrection

<--6 YRS. OF TRIB.-->(F*R)<--1 YR. OF WRATH-->RETURN

This viewpoint is based on the Old Testament scriptures that show how God always grants freedom and rest on a Sabbath (seventh) after six periods of work or bondage.

The seventh day or year or one thousand years is always a time of rest, freedom, and release from bondage. Some think that the church will suffer for six years and be rescued at the start of the seventh year and God will then pour out his wrath on the world followed by the physical return of Jesus Christ one year later.

7. The Post-Tribulation First Resurrection

<-----7 YEARS OF TRIBULATION----->(F*R) RETURN

Some denominations teach that the first resurrection will not occur until after the entire seven year period has been completed, and Christ returns to Earth. They believe that at that time the saved of all ages will be raised from the dead and live with Jesus Christ ruling over the Earth during the Millennium.

8. The Post-Millennial First Resurrection

<-THE TRIBULATION & RETURN-><-THE MILLENNIUM->(F*R)

Some denominations teach there will be no resurrection until after the Millennium has been completed. They believe that Christ will return and rule for 1000 years and then raise all of the dead, both saved and lost, and convene the final judgment.

9. The Amillennial First Resurrection

<-NO TRIBULATION & NO MILLENNIUM - UNEXPECTED RETURN->(F*R)

Amillennial means "no Millennium". Some churches teach the book of Revelation and all Old Testament prophecy that has not yet been fulfilled has no future prophetic significance. They teach that it is simply an allegory (like a parable) about the conflict between the forces of good and evil that the church has endured down through the centuries. They teach that there will be no visible signs or events that will precede the second coming of Christ, but that at some unknown day in the future Christ will return and judge both the living and the dead

In all of the last three scenarios the church would have to endure the entire time of the "Great Tribulation", and suffer the wrath of God **if** the book of Revelation is indeed literal prophecies.

A good opinion to hold to is to believe in possibility number one until proven otherwise. Then on to number two and so forth. We are commanded by Christ to always be watching for his coming so we should always be ready even if we are of the 9th opinion.

Matt 24:44 KJV Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

Chapter 10: The Revelation Of Jesus Christ

The book of Revelation was given by Jesus Christ, to John the apostle, to show us, the people living in the last days, the events that must come to pass before his return. By studying the prophecies in it we will not be deceived by the Antichrist or the False Prophet when they arrive, or be disturbed by the evil times that are coming upon the world.

Revelation 1:1-3 MEV The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave to Him to show to His servants things which must soon take place. He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John, 2 who bears record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy and keep those things which are written in it, for the time is near.

There is a special blessing available here for those that read, hear, and do what is recommended in this book. John was exiled on the isle of Patmos for preaching the word of God when Jesus gave him the vision of the book of Revelation.

Revelation 1:9 MEV I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the isle that is called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

The introduction to Revelation tells of the vision beginning with a loud voice like a trumpet, and of writing on a scroll addressed to the seven churches.

Revelation 1:10-19 MEV I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a great voice like a trumpet, 11 saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and "What you see, write in a book, and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea." 12 I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And when I turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks, 13 and in the midst of the seven candlesticks was one like a Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and with a golden sash wrapped around the chest. 14 The hair on His head was white like wool, as white as snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire. 15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters. 16 He had in His right hand seven stars, and out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword.

His appearance was like the sun shining brightly. 17 When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though I were dead. Then He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. 18 I am He who lives, though I was dead. Look! I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. 19 "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Christ clearly identifies himself here as the speaker, when he states that he is the living one, who was dead, and is alive forevermore. He instructs John to write three specific groups of things; what he (John) has seen, what is now, (what is happening in John's day) and what will take place later, in the future.

The book of Revelation has been misunderstood and misinterpreted ever since it was given to John and sent to the seven churches. This is because the events predicted in this book were so far off in the future, nearly 2000 years, that most of the means for accomplishing these prophecies had not even been invented yet. To those people who were born before the year 1900 AD it was like reading a science fiction story. Revelation tells of cities being destroyed in one hour, everyone in the world viewing an event at the same time, and of armies with 200 million soldiers in them.

To us today, it is not a problem to visualize these things happening, because we are living in the time period where they are entirely possible. Today, a city can be destroyed in one hour with a nuclear attack. The whole world can view an event happening at the same time with the use of satellite television. China, with a population of over one billion people, and still growing, can easily muster an army of 200 million people. The book of Revelation was given by Jesus Christ for our generation.

Chapter 11: The Letters To The Seven Churches

Revelation 1:20 "The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches."

Until about 1900 AD, when enough time in history had passed for us to look back and view the history of the church, it was not understood that God had given us an overview of the history of the church, from beginning to end. Each church that God told John to write to had certain characteristics about it that would portray the evolution of the church until the time of the end. However, in every age there have been churches with characteristics similar to every church in the list. Our main focus in this study will be the last two churches, the end times churches, the church of Philadelphia and the church of Laodicia.

Ephesus

Revelation 2:1-4 NIV "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands: I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. Yet, I hold this against you: you have forsaken your first love."

When a person first becomes a Christian they are excited about studying the bible and learning new things about God and his word. After a while, the excitement wears off, if you do not continue to learn

new things each day or each week, just like human love which God compares here to marriage, the forsaking of ones first love. The church at Ephesus had good doctrine and was working hard but they had lost the focus of who they were doing it for. They had lost their love and dedication to Jesus.

Revelation 2:5-7 NIV "Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate." "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God."

Smyrna

Revelation 2:8-11 "To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. I know your afflictions and your poverty-yet you are rich! I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death."

The church at Smyrna represented church history from about 100 AD to 325 AD during this time the church endured ten waves of persecution from the Roman emperors, and many people were killed for holding to their faith. During this time it was a crime to be a Christian in the Roman empire. It was the belief during this time that the emperors were Gods, and deserved to be worshipped. The Christians refused to do this and were, according to the law, traitors, a crime which was punishable by death. Christ advised them to be faithful even unto death and they would be saved from the lake of fire. This represents the church in the early post apostolic age. There was no criticism of this church by Christ.

Pergamum

Revelation 2:12-15 "To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. I know where you live--where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city-- where Satan lives. Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality. Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans."

False teaching, immorality and idol worship was beginning to creep into the church. These are called the teachings of Balaam, a prophet for hire and sorcerer in the Old Testament. Jealousy and strife were also entering the church through the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which is the teaching of man made rules instead of Christ's commands. (According to legend This doctrine was started by a wayward bishop named Nicholas)

What happened to the church during this time is that it now became politically advantageous to be a Christian, because the emperor was one. All kinds of unscrupulous and unspiritual people began to join the church and seek high offices in the church in order to please the emperor. They brought with them their pagan customs and doctrines and incorporated them into church doctrine. When Christianity became the state religion of pagan Rome, the state, the Roman emperors, and the new pagan members

changed it to make it resemble the type of religion they were used to. The Christian church was being transformed into the image of the ancient paganism.

Revelation 2:17 To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.

In spite of the problems in this church the Lord promises that he will reward those who overcome the obstacles in it.

Thyatira

Revelation 2:18-23 MEV "To the angel of the church in Thyatira write: "The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like fine brass, says these things: 19 I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience, and that your last works are more than the first. 20 "But I have a few things against you: You permit that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat food sacrificed to idols. 21 I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, but she did not repent. 22 Look! I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. 23 I will put her children to death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the hearts and minds. I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.

This was the church of the "Dark Ages," when the word of God was available to only the priests. The printing press had not been invented yet and the priests could teach whatever they chose and the people could not check to see if it was correct according to the bible.

24 But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them—I place no other burden on you. 25 Nevertheless what you have, hold firmly until I come.

Notice though, that this church had and still has some people in it who are doing good works out of love and faith in Christ. The Lord says he will lay no other burden on them, he counsels them just to hold fast to the truth that they have.

Sardis

Revelation 3:1-3 NIV "To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars." "I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you."

This "dead" church represents some of the churches that broke away from the Roman Catholic Church during the reformation era. This church age began in about the year 1500 and continues until today. The reformation started off on the right foot by restoring the doctrine of salvation by grace through faith. However many protestant denominations began to practice "Corinthian Religion" where all sin is OK since we are saved by faith there is no need to try to live according to Christ's commands.

John 14:21 NKJV He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

Many protestant churches do not teach about prophecy at all. They will be caught off guard when the first resurrection takes place. It will surprise most of them like a thief in the night, because they do not study or teach about biblical prophecy.

Philadelphia

Revelation 3:7-9 "To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars--I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you."

The church of Philadelphia represents the church age that began with the revivals in the 1700's and continues to the present time. These churches have been given the job of preaching the gospel during the last years of the age of grace, until the return of Christ. The Lord has given this church an open door to preach the gospel to all the world before he shuts the door when he takes this church out of the world. This church will continue until the return of Jesus Christ, but it will split off into two different directions either before or when the Antichrist and the False Prophet arrive on the scene. The dead branches will merge with the Laodicean church, while the live branches will continue to preach the pure doctrines of the bible until Jesus comes for his bride.

Revelation 3:10-12 KJV "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the Earth. I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name."

This church will be spared from the "hour of temptation," when the wrath of God that will be poured out on an unbelieving world.

1 Th 5:9 KJV For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

Laodicea

Revelation 3:14-16 NIV "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm--neither hot nor cold--I am about to spit you out of my mouth."

The church at Laodicea represents the final condition of much of organized religion just before the return of Christ.

Part of the church of today is the lukewarm church. Many of the people who attend church today, do so for the wrong reasons. They go to church because they were taught that it was the right thing to do, and so that they will have someone to baptize, marry, and bury them and their children. It is more like a social club than a place to worship God. God has said that he would rather have people hot or cold, love him or hate him, than to belong to a "so called" Christian church that does not really believe or teach the commandments of Christ.

Revelation 3:17 NIV "You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked."

The dead churches of today may be rich with money, but they are poor and blind when it comes to spiritual things. They are unable to give their members any spiritual help because the leaders themselves are blind to the truth of God's word.

Revelation 3:20 MEV Listen! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and dine with him, and he with Me.

God will still be dealing with the people in these dead churches on an individual basis until the day that the first resurrection takes place. He will open the eyes of those who have a little faith to bring them out of it before the wrath of God strikes the Earth.

If you are in a dead church that does not teach about Jesus and prophecy, you would be well advised to get out of it and join one where the word of God is being preached and taught.

Revelation 4:1 NIV "After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here and I will show you what must take place after this."

This verse looks forward to the time when all of the prophecies concerning the successive church ages have been fulfilled. Then the seven seals will begin to be opened. Many believe that the rapture will take place at this time when the words "come up here" are spoken.

This verse is also the proof that the letters to the seven churches are a prophecy of church history, and not merely letters to the seven ancient churches. Notice, that the angel tells John to come up here, and then the angel would show John what must take place after this, after the seven church ages have been accomplished. If the letters to the seven churches were simply letters, and not prophecies, then John hasn't even seen anything yet. But, if the letters are prophecies, then what the angel is showing John is what must take place after the Laodicean "lukewarm dead church," becomes the dominant religious force on the world scene. We are nearing that point in time today.

Chapter 12: The Seven Seals

The seven seals appear to be actual events that will begin to take place when the Antichrist comes to power, and they are also an overview of the order the rest of the events described in the book of Revelation. Each seal represents an event that will occur at the start of the tribulation period. It also foreshadows the similar events that will occur later in the tribulation through the seven trumpets and the seven bowls or vials.

The book of Revelation is not written in chronological order. You cannot read it through from start to finish, and expect that the events described in it will come to pass in the order that they have been written down. The book of Revelation gives us individual accounts of the major people and events that will dominate the world scene during the last seven years before the return of Jesus Christ. Many of the events described in the book of Revelation will overlap each other, and some will be occurring at the same time.

The seven seals reveal the order of the tribulation and are also actual events that affect 1/4 of the earth. Each successive set of judgments affects more of the earth than the previous. The seals affect 1/4, the trumpets 1/3 and the bowls or vials 2/3.

Listed below is the overview order of the events described in the book of Revelation as revealed by the seven seals:

- Year 1. Antichrists Peace Pact With Israel And The World.
- Year 2. Peace Is Taken From The Earth, The Wars Of Antichrist.
- Year 3. Famine On Earth, The Two Witnesses Withhold The Rain.
- Year 4. Death From War, Famine And Disease.
- Year 5. Martyrdom Of Jews and those who trust in Jesus.
- Year 6. The Two Witnesses Die and Are Resurrected (Estimated Time)
- Year 7. The Wrath Of God And The Return Of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 4:2-3 & 5:1-2 NIV "At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian. A rainbow, resembling an emerald, encircled the throne. "Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?'"

After John has seen the heaven open and heard the sound of the trumpet, he is in the spirit and is viewing a scene in heaven in which the Lord is seated on a throne and being worshipped by heavenly beings. A mighty angel is asking the question "who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll." Christ, the Lamb who was slain, is found to be the only one worthy to open the scroll. When the scroll is opened, the first set of judgments described in the book of Revelation will begin.

The Arrival Of Antichrist

Revelation 6:1-2 NASB Then I saw when the Lamb broke one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, "Come!" 2 I looked, and behold, a white horse, and the one who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

When the first seal is opened, the Antichrist will appear on the world scene, and will seem to be a man of peace. This is what the rider on a white horse represents, a king with great power coming to bring peace to the world. But, the Antichrist will be a false Messiah. Antichrist kingdom will probably begin in Europe and the Mid-East but it will eventually be worldwide.

War

Daniel 7:24 NIV he ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings.

After a short time of peace, probably about 6 months or one year, the Antichrist will attack three nations who refuse to submit to him and subdue them.

Famine

Revelation 6:5-6 NIV "When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, 'Come!' I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, 'A quart of wheat for a day's wages, and three quarts of barley for a day's wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!'"

Food prices will skyrocket when the third seal is opened.

Note: the reference to not damaging the oil and wine may mean that Antichrist will protect the economies of Israel (symbolized by olive oil) and of Italy and possibly France. (the wine making centers of Europe) Or, He may protect the rich and let the poor suffer.

Death

Revelation 6:7-8 NIV When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, 'Come!' I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the Earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the Earth."

The natural result of war and famine is death and disease. During the opening of the seven seals it appears that the first fulfillment will for the most part affect Europe and the Mid-East, the kingdom of Antichrist.

Martyrdom

Revelation 6:9-11 NIV When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the Earth and avenge our blood?" Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed.

The Antichrist will probably blame all of the worlds problems on the uncooperative Christians who are denouncing his policies and rejecting his claim to be the Messiah. First he will persecute and murder the believers in Europe and the Mid-East, and then later, after he demands to be worshipped, the persecution will spread around the world. The price of salvation will become death, except for those few people whom God has chosen to be witnesses and live until his return. Those who believe that the first resurrection has already occurred believe that these are special people whom God has chosen to preach during the tribulation. They are commonly called "tribulation saints".

The Wrath Of The Lamb

Revelation 6:12-17 NIV "I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars in the sky fell to Earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. Then the kings of the Earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

Some people, even leaders will begin to recognize that they are living in the end times and be fearful of what is coming upon the earth. The sixth seal also looks forward toward the end of the tribulation period, when "the wrath of God" will be poured out.

The Sealing Of The 144,000

Revelation 7:1-4 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the Earth, holding back the four winds of the Earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree. Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God." Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel.

The 144,000 Israelites will be sealed to supernaturally protect them from the plagues of the tribulation period. It is not clear whether God will cause them to live through the entire time of the tribulation or if this protection is temporary like the protection of the two witnesses which ends after the trumpet judgments.

The Scene in Heaven After the First Resurrection

Revelation 7:9-12 NIV "After this, I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: 'Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb. 'All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, saying: 'Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!'

The verses above show us the glorious scene in heaven after the first resurrection has taken place. We still cannot be absolutely sure of when this is taking place because we do not know if this is happening at the opening of the seal or is a glimpse forward to a later time in the tribulation period.

Revelation 7:11-17 NIV All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!" Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes--who are they, and where did they come from?"

I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Notice that these believers seem to have been through at least part of the tribulation period. What we do know is that those believers who die at the hand of Antichrist during the time of his persecutions will be singled out and bestowed with special honors in front of their brethren in heaven.

The Day Of The Lord

Revelation 8:1 NIV "And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour."

The silence is due to a short respite from war and plagues, that will occur before the trumpet judgments start. The seals affected 1/4 of the earth. The next set of judgments will affect 1/3 of the earth. God is giving mankind an opportunity to repent, unfortunately not many will take advantage of it.

The seven seals have shown us the first series of events that will take place when Antichrist comes to power, and the order of the events of the tribulation period. The rest of the book of Revelation will focus in on the particular people and events individually, and with greater detail. The list below presents a simple outline for the future events predicted in the bible.

A possible Overview Order of Future End Times Events According To Biblical Prophecy

1. The true church, called "Philadelphia," will be reviled by the world. It may be taxed.
2. The false dead church, called "Laodicea" will become the dominant church on the world scene.
3. At some unknown point in time the "first resurrection," (The Rapture) will take place.
4. The seven seals begin. Antichrist, war, famine, and disasters.
5. The Two Witnesses arrive on the scene and preach for 3 1/2 years. The 7 trumpet judgments begin.
6. After 3 1/2 years the Two Witnesses will be killed.
7. 3 1/2 days after their death, they will be raised from the dead and ascend to heaven.
8. The Jews will realize that Jesus is the true Messiah when they are persecuted by the antichrist.
9. The old and new testament saints will celebrate with the Lord in his kingdom and receive rewards.
10. The Jews begin to pray for Jesus him to return and rescue them from the Antichrist.
11. The marriage supper of the Lamb will begin taking place in heaven.
12. The seven bowls of God's wrath will be poured out on the earth.
13. Evil demonic powers will gather the armies of the world to Armageddon
14. The Lord will return with his saints and destroy the armies of the world at Armageddon.
15. Satan is bound for 1000 years.
16. The millennium begins, 1000 years of peace on Earth under the rule of Jesus Christ.
17. Satan is released for a short time to test those born during the millennium.
18. Satan gathers those who hate Christ to Jerusalem for the final battle, a repeat of Armageddon.
19. Satan and his armies are defeated. The final rebellion has been put down.
20. The 2nd resurrection takes place and the last judgment occurs.
21. Eternity begins - God has new projects for us to participate in. His kingdom expands forever.

This is a simple outline of the future based on biblical prophecy that remains to be fulfilled. We do not know for sure the order of the events. This is only a guess.

Chapter 13: The Antichrist

The Antichrist will be the personification of evil. He will in effect be, the devil in a human body. The name antichrist comes from the book of first John.

1 John 2:18 NIV "Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour."

The Antichrist and the False Prophet will come on the scene with the promise of bringing peace to the world, but the time of peace will be short lived.

1 Thessalonians NIV 5:1-4 Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief.

There is nothing wrong with people and nations being at peace with their neighbors, in fact scriptures say "blessed are the peacemakers". The problem comes when the price of peace is to worship a man as if he were God, or to worship idols.

Matthew 5:9 KJV Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Romans 12:18 MEV If it is possible, as much as it depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

There have been many attempts by Satan in the past to bring into being a world government ruled over by one man, but God has prevented it from happening because it was not the proper time yet. The Antichrist cannot be permitted to come to power until shortly before the return of Jesus Christ.

When it is the proper time, the Lord will cease his restraining work and allow the devil to bring the Antichrist to power and wreak havoc on the Earth. God will allow Satan to have a field day on the Earth for a few years because the majority of mankind refuses to believe the truth and serve the Lord, even after the truth has been presented to them clearly. Because of this God will allow Satan to deceive mankind with signs, wonders, and counterfeit miracles.

2 Thessalonians 2:11-12 NIV "For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness."

In 2nd Thessalonians the apostle Paul give us some information about the Antichrist.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-10 MEV Now, brothers, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and concerning our gathering together unto Him, we ask you 2 not to let your mind be quickly shaken or be troubled, neither in spirit nor by word, nor by letter coming as though from us, as if the day of Christ is already here.

3 Do not let anyone deceive you in any way. For that Day will not come unless a falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or is worshipped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself as God.

5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you, I told you these things? 6 Now you know what restrains him that he might be revealed in his time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already working. Only He who is now restraining him will do so until He is taken out of the way. 8 Then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth, and destroy with the brightness of His presence, 9 even him, whose coming is in accordance with the working of Satan with all power and signs and false wonders, 10 and with all deception of unrighteousness among those who perish, because they did not receive the love for the truth that they might be saved.

The prophet Daniel also gives us some more information.

Daniel 11:36 & 37 NIV "The king will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every God and will say unheard-of things against the God of Gods. He will show no regard for the Gods of his fathers nor will he regard any God, but will exalt himself above them all."

The Antichrist will falsely proclaim himself to be the Lord, the most high God. This has been Satan's desire ever since the time he rebelled against God, and he will try to live out his dream vicariously through the Antichrist.

Isaiah 14:12-14 NIV How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the Earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."

He will not succeed for long though, his plan will only prosper for a short time and then the wrath of God will begin to fall upon him.

Daniel 11:36 NAB He will prosper only until divine wrath is ready, for what is determined must take place.

The seven bowls of God's divine wrath described in chapter sixteen of Revelation, will be poured out on the Antichrist, his kingdom, and those who are left on the Earth after the first resurrection has taken place. At God's pre-determined time it will be unleashed upon the world.

Now that we have seen an overview of the Antichrist's reign, we will take a look at the future event that Jesus and Daniel called the "abomination of desolation." In the middle of Antichrist's seven year pact, he will go into the temple of God and claim to be God, and demand to be worshipped.

Matthew 24:15 So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel, let the reader understand:

Jesus said that one of the signs that would precede his second coming would be the sign of the "abomination of desolation." Paul in speaking about the end times signs tells us clearly what this event will be.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 NIV Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshipped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

Paul calls the Antichrist the "man of lawlessness," and tells us that the Antichrist will set himself up in the temple of God, proclaim himself to be God, and demand to be worshipped. This will be the event known as the "abomination of desolation." This proves that the temple in Jerusalem will be rebuilt either just before or just after the Antichrist begins to reign since antichrist will use it to commit the abomination of desolation.

Chapter 14: The Two Witnesses

Revelation 11:3-6 NIV And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth." These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the Earth. If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die. These men have power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the Earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.

God is going to send two witnesses to preach to the world and to warn mankind to repent, and to stand against the antichrist. They have power to work miracles by the Spirit of the Lord. These Two Witnesses will most likely be the two men in the bible who have never died, Enoch and Elijah although there are other opinions.

Enoch

Genesis 5:21-24 NIV When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. And after he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Enoch lived 365 years. Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.

Hebrews 11:5 NIV By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.

Enoch was the first person in the bible who was given the opportunity to see heaven without experiencing death.

Elijah

1 Kings 17:1 NIV "Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, 'As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word."

James 5:17-18 NIV Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the Earth produced its crops. Elijah prayed that there would be no rain in Israel for 3 1/2 years, and God answered his prayer.

Elijah will still have this power when God sends him back to Earth to withstand the Antichrist and the False Prophet.

1 Kings 18:36-39 At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. Answer me, O LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again." Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, "The LORD--he is God! The LORD--he is God!"

2 Kings 1:9-10 Then he sent to Elijah a captain with his company of fifty men. The captain went up to Elijah, who was sitting on the top of a hill, and said to him, "Man of God, the king says, 'Come down!'" Elijah answered the captain, "If I am a man of God, may fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men!" Then fire fell from heaven and consumed the captain and his men.

In times past, God gave Elijah the power to withhold the rain and call down fire from heaven to win back the hearts of some of the people of Israel. Elijah will still have these abilities when he returns during the reign of Antichrist.

Malachi 4:5-6 NIV "See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse."

2 Kings 2:1 & 11 When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind.

Elijah was the second person in the bible to temporarily escape death and see heaven before he died. The Jews have been waiting for him to return and announce the coming of the Messiah for almost 2400 years. Devout Jews set a plate for Elijah every year at the Passover meal. The Two Witnesses will appear on the world scene in some future year probably in the spring, about the time of the Passover. There has been some discussion among prophecy students over the years as to whether the Two Witnesses might be someone other than Enoch and Elijah

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

Neither Enoch or Elijah has ever died, and they do not belong to the sign of the fig tree generation, the people who have been promised that some of them will live to see the coming of the Lord. Therefore, they both must return and die at the hand of the antichrist.

Deuteronomy 17:6 On the testimony of two or three witnesses a man shall be put to death, but no one shall be put to death on the testimony of only one witness.

God will send the Two Witnesses before he pours out his wrath on the world, in order to be faithful to his own word. He decreed in the Old Testament that no one should be put to death except by the testimony of two or three witnesses.

Revelation 11:7-12 NIV Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them. "Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city, which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. For three and half days men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial. The inhabitants of the Earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the Earth." But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, 'Come up here.' And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on.

When the Antichrist and those in agreement with him have killed the Two Witnesses, the world will celebrate, thinking that they have won a great victory. Three and one half days later the first resurrection will occur and take the Two Witnesses and the saints out of the world. Then God will pour out his wrath upon the Earth. There are some who think that the marriage supper of the lamb will not take place until the two witnesses have died and been resurrected and be able to join in the festivities.

Chapter 15: Israel And The Dragon

Revelation 12:1 NIV "A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head"

The woman described here is the nation of Israel. The key to interpreting the symbolism used here is found in the book of Genesis, where Joseph's dream is interpreted by his father Jacob.

Genesis 37:9-11 NIV Listen, he said, I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me. When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, 'What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?'

Jacob's interpretation of Joseph's dream identifies the woman clothed with the sun as Israel, the descendants of Jacob. The sun is Jacob, the moon is the mother of Joseph, and the twelve stars are Joseph and his eleven brothers. As far as future prophecy is concerned the woman clothed with the sun in Revelation represents the nation that brought forth the Messiah, Jesus Christ. As past history it can also represent Mary the mother of Jesus, but we are concerned here with future happenings.

Revelation 12:3-4 NIV "Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the Earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born."

The red dragon is clearly shown in this verse to be Satan. The third part of the stars that were cast to Earth are the one third of the angels that followed Satan when he rebelled against God.

Matthew 2:13-19 NIV When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.

Satan, through Herod, killed all of the male children in and near Bethlehem under two years of age shortly after Christ's birth. God had already sent an angel to warn Joseph and Mary to move to Egypt, and Herod was not able to accomplish the murder of the Lord Jesus Christ in this massacre.

Revelation 12:5 NIV "She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne."

That this child was Christ is clearly shown in this verse. He is the one who will rule the nations with a rod of iron during the Millennium. He is also the one who was raised from the dead and ascended to the throne of God.

Revelation 12:6 NIV "The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days."

Joseph and his family escaped to Egypt for three and one half years, to escape from Herod. In the future many Israelites will flee from the state Israel for three and one half years, to a place where the Antichrist cannot kill them.

Revelation 12:7-9 NIV And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down--that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the Earth, and his angels with him.

The dragon is clearly identified here as Satan, and Michael is identified as the one who has power over him. This verse was fulfilled the first time when Satan was cast out of heaven, after he rebelled against the Lord in ages past. But, even though Satan lost his home and position in heaven he is apparently still able to come before God to accuse the saints, as he did to Job in the old testament. See Job 1:6-7.

During the last three and one half years before the return of Christ, Satan will be barred from heaven and confined only to Earth, where he will control the Antichrist and persecute Israel and all believers.

Revelation 12:10-13 NIV Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the Earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short." When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the Earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child.

When Satan is cast down to Earth he will have great wrath because he knows his time to be free is short. He will inspire the Antichrist to murder Christians and Jews. The dragon will persecute the nation from whom God brought forth the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

Revelation 12:14 NIV "to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent".

Here, a time, times, and a half a time, is identified as being the same as the 1,260 days that was mentioned earlier in Revelation 12:6. Some of the descendants of Jacob will be protected from Satan's wrath for three and one half years.

Revelation 12:17 "And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

Luke 12:4 "I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him."

When the Antichrist finds that the Jews he intended to destroy have escaped from his hand, he will concentrate his efforts on their spiritual cousins, the Christians. These are people who keep the commandments of God and have testimony of Jesus Christ. Many will receive a martyr's crown.

Chapter 16: The Kingdom Of Antichrist

Revelation 13:1 NIV And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw the beast coming out of the sea

The sea represents the nations of the world, especially those with large numbers of the descendants of Abraham.

Genesis 22:17 & 32:12 NIV I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. I will surely make you prosper and will make your descendants like the sand of the sea, which cannot be counted.

Hebrews 11:12 MEV Therefore from one man, who was as good as dead, sprang so many, a multitude as the stars of the sky and innumerable as the sand by the seashore.

The dragon, Satan, will call his servant, the Antichrist from out of the sea of the nations where Abraham's descendants are living. This beast is symbolic of the worldwide empire that the Antichrist will control.

Revelation 13:1 NIV He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.

The ten horns are ten kings that will be in power in the world during the reign of Antichrist. This is explained to John in chapter seventeen. The seven heads may represent their ten kingdoms.

Revelation 17:12-13 NIV The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast.

The ten kings, or rulers, who are in power during this time period will give their power to the Antichrist, and create a new world order, a one world government. Their "new world order," will only last for a short time, symbolically called "one hour," in the prophecy above.

Revelation 13:2 NIV "The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority."

God, in the bible, uses animals to symbolize the characteristics of kingdoms and nations. They show what type of kingdom it will be and what personality it will have. The lion, the bear and the leopard all symbolize a fierce and violent kingdom, which is what the kingdom of Antichrist will be.

Proverbs 28:15 NIV "Like a roaring lion or a charging bear is a wicked man ruling over a helpless people."

Daniel also had a vision in which he saw the future kingdom of Antichrist portrayed as a great beast, called the fourth beast. Daniel was given the following explanation of this beast by the angel who was speaking with him.

It appears from Daniel chapter 11:43 that the three countries he will his conquests with will be Egypt, Libya and Ethiopia. After he shows his power in those short wars much of the world will give up without a fight.

Revelation 13:4 NIV They also worshipped the beast and asked, 'Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?'"

Daniel 7:25 NIV He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and a half a time."

Revelation 13:5-6 NIV "The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months. He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven."

The Antichrist will persecute and kill the people who will not worship him as God almighty. A time, times and a half a time and forty two months both mean three and one half years.

Chapter 17: The Trumpet Judgments

After the world has rejected the message of the gospel by Two Witnesses, the trumpet judgments will begin.

Revelation 8:2-6 NIV And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all the saints, on the golden altar before the throne. The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel's hand. Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the Earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake. Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them.

The prayers of the persecuted saints have come before the Lord like incense on an altar of worship. The angels have thrown the prayers to earth with incense and fire. This indicates that God will now answer these prayers immediately. Sometimes we have to wait our our prayers to be answered.

God will empower the Two Witnesses and they will withhold the rain for three and one half years, and call down fire from heaven. The plagues of the Two Witnesses, the wars of the Antichrist, and the martyrdom of the saints, will destroy one third of the Earth's population. This time period is called in Revelation, the time of the seven trumpet judgments.

The Trumpets Sound

Revelation 8:7 NIV "The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down upon the Earth. A third of the Earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up."

When the first trumpet is sounded, fire will scorch one third of the Earth. These plagues will, for the most part, appear to be events that are the normal effects of war, or some other catastrophe. Men will not believe that these events are happening because of their sins. They will harden their hearts like the Pharaoh did when Moses and Aaron called down the plagues on Egypt.

Revelation 8:8-9 NIV "The second angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood, a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed."

The second plague will turn one third of the oceans red like blood, similar to what Moses and Aaron did to the Nile river. One third of the marine life will die, one third of the worlds ships will be destroyed. This plague could be caused by the effects of the wars of Antichrist.

Revelation 8:10-11 NIV "The third angel sounded his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water; the name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter."

When the third trumpet is sounded the plague on the waters will spread to the freshwater sources and good drinking water will become scarce. Many people will die from drinking the tainted water.

Revelation 8:12 NIV "The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night."

The smoke and debris from the first three plagues will now be floating in the atmosphere and cut off one third of the light to the Earth.

Revelation 8:13 NIV "As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice: "Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the Earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!"

The next three plagues are called woes, because they will be even worse than those that came before them.

Revelation 9:1-11 NIV **The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the Earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss. When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss. And out of the smoke locusts came down upon the Earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the Earth. They were told not to harm the grass of the Earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads.** They were not given power to kill them, but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes a man. During those days men will seek death, but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.

The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle. On their heads they wore something like crowns of gold, and their faces resembled human faces. Their hair was like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. They had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle. They had tails and stings like scorpions, and in their tails they had power to torment people for five months. They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek, Apollyon.

The star that has fallen to Earth from heaven is Satan. Now that he is cast down to earth he is unleashing everything in his power to cause havoc. He is free to release from the abyss, fallen angels, demons, and strange creatures, some of which may have been imprisoned since before the flood.

Regardless of what these things are, notice that they can only inflict their pain on those who do not have the seal of God on their forehead. The Lord makes a distinction between the righteous and the wicked.

Exodus 8:22-23 & 9:4 NIV "But on that day I will deal differently with the land of Goshen, where my people live; no swarms of flies will be there, so that you will know that I, the LORD, am in this land. I will make a distinction between my people and your people. This miraculous sign will occur tomorrow." "But the LORD will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and that of Egypt, so that no animal belonging to the Israelites will die."

Concerning the time of the end, God promises in Malachi that he will again make a distinction between those who serve the Lord and the wicked.

Malachi 3:16-18 NIV Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his name. "They will be mine," says the LORD Almighty, "in the day when I make up my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him. **And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.**"

In the same manner that the Lord protected the Israelites from the grievous plagues he brought upon Egypt, just before the exodus, so too, he will protect his servants from the last three trumpet judgments.

Revelation 9:12-19 NIV The first woe is past; two other woes are yet to come. **The sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice coming from the horns of the golden altar that is before God. It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."** And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind.

The number of the mounted troops was two hundred million. I heard their number. The horses and riders I saw in my vision looked like this: Their breastplates were fiery red, dark blue, and yellow as sulfur. The heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke and sulfur. A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur that came out of their mouths. The power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails were like snakes, having heads with which they inflict injury.

The four angels that are released by Satan incite the "Kings of the East," China, Japan, and their allies to enter the war. China, with their population being over one billion people can easily conscript a two hundred million man army by themselves. The description John gives of the weapons of this army sounds like some type of futuristic tank type of vehicle shooting out fire, smoke and sulfur out of the barrels of it's guns. We will have to wait and see before we find out for sure what they are.

Revelation 9:20-21 The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshipping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood--idols that cannot see or hear or walk. Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Even after all of these plagues have struck the Earth, mankind will still refuse to repent and worship the one true God.

The Seventh Trumpet

Revelation 10:7-8 NIV "Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven. And he swore by him who lives for ever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the Earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it, and said, "There will be no more delay! But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets."

Revelation 11:15-18 NIV The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever." And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshipped God, saying: "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. The nations were angry; and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints and those who reverence your name, both small and great; and for destroying those who destroy the Earth."

The mystery is that when the seventh angel blows his trumpet It is the time for rewarding the prophets and the saints, and everyone who has served the Lord down through the centuries. While the saints are being rewarded in heaven, the Lord will pour out his wrath below and destroy those who are destroying the Earth.

When the seventh angel sounds his trumpet, the mystery of God that was announced to his servants the prophets will occur. Satan has done his worst and now God will take charge of the situation and prepare to pour out his wrath on the earth. This is the beginning of the prophesied "Day of the Lord," which includes the bowls of the Wrath of God, Armageddon, the 1000 years of peace which is the heavenly Sabbath, Satans final rebellion, the second resurrection, the last judgment and the casting of every evil thing into the Lake of Fire. This is the beginning of the eternal reign of Jesus Christ.

Chapter 18: The False Prophet

The Antichrist will not be alone in his quest to make men worship him. The "False Prophet" will be Satan's imitation of the Holy Spirit. The False Prophet will work many miracles, but he will give all of the glory to the Antichrist. The False Prophet will be the leader of the one world church that will dominate the religious scene in the near future. The forerunners of this church are already in existence. There are many today whose goal is to unite all of the world's churches into one unified global religious organization. Eventually most of the religions of the world will unite and form a super-church. This newly formed church, when it comes into being, will most likely be the great harlot of the book of Revelation.

Revelation 13:11 NIV "Then I saw another beast, coming out of the Earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon."

The second beast is very similar to the first beast with the exception that rather than portraying the end time alignment of the world's governments, it portrays the end time alignment of the world's religions. This beast that John saw, resembles a lamb, but he speaks the lies of Satan. He is a wolf in sheep's clothing, and he will cause the world to worship the Antichrist. He will be the leader of the one world church of the end times.

Revelation 13:12-15 NIV "He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the Earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to Earth in full view of men. Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the Earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it would speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed."

This man will be the one who has the power to work counterfeit miracles and deceive the world into worshipping the Antichrist and the image of Antichrist. Here again it is explained that the Antichrist will appear to men to have been raised from the dead, after being killed by a wound from a sword. The False Prophet will also be able to call down fire from heaven. The whole world will be required to submit to idol worship either a man or his image or be killed.

The two subjects that have caused more wars and arguments than any others in the history of mankind, politics and religion, will finally appear to have arrived at a peaceful solution. The Antichrist and the False Prophet will promote their one world government and one world religion scheme as being the vehicle that will forever end the conflict about these two subjects. But, this alliance will not last for very long. True peace between religion and politics will not occur until the Lord Jesus Christ rules the Earth as both our king and our high priest during the millennium and throughout eternity.

Chapter 19: The Resurrection Of Antichrist

Satan will deceive most of the world into worshipping the Antichrist because he will use his power to make it appear that this king has been raised from the dead. This will be Satan's imitation of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This counterfeit miracle will be part of the strong delusion that will convince the truth rejecting world to worship the Antichrist.

Revelation 13:3-4 NIV "One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast. Men worshipped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshipped the beast and asked, 'Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?'"

Revelation 13:14 NIV Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the Earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived.

At this point most of the people in the nations of the world who had previously resisted the Antichrist will give up and submit to everything that he asks, because it will appear that this man cannot even be killed. Only those who understand the prophecies of the bible and are faithful to Jesus Christ will still resist him. There is an obscure prophecy in the book of Zechariah that indicates that we may be able to identify the Antichrist with certainty after his simulated satanic resurrection.

Zechariah 11:17 "Woe to the worthless shepherd, who deserts the flock! May the sword strike his arm and his right eye! May his arm be completely withered, his right eye totally blinded!"

The verse above may very well pertain to the Antichrist because the verses immediately following it pertain to Armageddon. (read Zechariah chapter 12) also remember that Christ was identified after his crucifixion and resurrection by "doubting Thomas," from the marks of his wounds. The False Prophet may claim that the marks of Antichrist's wounds are proof that he is the Messiah. A withered arm and a blind right eye will be proof that he is not the good shepherd, Jesus Christ, but that he is the evil shepherd, Antichrist. The KJV calls him the "idol" shepherd, which is what he will be, a shepherd who causes his people to worship idols and images.

Chapter 20: The Two Beasts

In the book of Revelation the coming to power of the Antichrist and the False Prophet is portrayed as the emergence of two great beasts, one from the sea, and one from the Earth.

Revelation 13:1 & 8 NIV And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. All inhabitants of the Earth will worship the beast--all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.

Revelation 13:11-13 Then I saw another beast, coming out of the Earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon. He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the Earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to Earth in full view of men.

The first beast, the beast from the sea represents the Antichrist, and the second beast, the beast from the Earth represents the False Prophet. We will have to turn to the Old Testament and also look at some apocryphal literature to find the basis for using the two beasts as symbols in the book of Revelation. On the fifth day of creation God created the creatures that live in the water and those that fly above the Earth. This was one day before he created mankind, on the sixth day. According to the 2nd book of Esdras from the Greek Orthodox bible, God created two special creatures on the fifth day.

2 Ezra (Esdras) 6:49-52 (Paraphrased) Then thou didst create on the fifth day the two living creatures. The name of one thou called Behemoth, and the other Leviathan. To Behemoth thou gave the land to live on, and to Leviathan thou gave the watery parts.

Leviathan: The Antichrist

The leviathan is mentioned in the book of Psalms and there is a long description of it in the book of Job.

Psalms 104:25-26 NIV There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number--living things both large and small. There the ships go to and fro, and the leviathan, which you formed to frolic there.

Job 41:1,2 & 5 & 8-9 "Can you pull in the leviathan with a fishhook or tie down his tongue with a rope? Can you put a cord through his nose or pierce his jaw with a hook? Can you make a pet of him like a bird or put him on a leash for your girls? If you lay a hand on him, you will remember the struggle and never do it again! Any hope of subduing him is false; the mere sight of him is overpowering.

Job 41:25-26 & 31-34 NIV When he rises up, the mighty are terrified; they retreat before his thrashing. The sword that reaches him has no effect, nor does the spear or the dart or the javelin. He makes the depths churn like a boiling caldron and stirs up the sea like a pot of ointment. Behind him he leaves a glistening wake; one would think the deep had white hair. Nothing on Earth is his equal--a creature without fear. He looks down on all that are haughty; he is king over all that are proud."

In the verses above we see that the sword has no effect on this creature. This could be a reference to Antichrist being wounded with a sword but he will appear to rise from the dead. Also notice that he is the king over all who are proud. Pride and boasting are Satan's characteristics, and they will also be the traits of Antichrist and his supporters.

No creature that we know of today even faintly resembles the monster of the sea named leviathan. Perhaps one is hibernating under one of the poles and glaciers melting will release it.

Behemoth: The False Prophet

Job 40:15-19 NIV "Look at the behemoth, which I made along with you and which feeds on grass like an ox. What strength he has in his loins, what power in the muscles of his belly! His tail sways like a cedar; the sinews of his thighs are close knit. His bones are tubes of bronze, his limbs like rods of iron. He ranks first among the works of God, yet his Maker can approach him with his sword.

Ancient writers say that the behemoth was a creature that was similar to a hippopotamus, but a little larger. The purpose of studying the scriptures and other references to behemoth and leviathan is not prove or disprove the existence of such creatures today. It is to show where the symbolism in the book of Revelation for the Antichrist and the False Prophet are derived from. Another reason is to alert those who are watching for the return of Jesus Christ that these monsters could still exist, and if they are discovered it may be a sign from God to his people that the Antichrist and the False Prophet are about to appear on the world scene.

Job 3:8 NIV May those who curse days curse that day, those who are ready to rouse Leviathan.

Job indicates that there are people who are ready to rouse leviathan. This may pertain to those people who are working to form a one world government, which will enable the Antichrist to assume control of the world.

Psalms 74:12-14 NIV But you, O God, are my king from of old; you bring salvation upon the Earth. It was you who split open the sea by your power; you broke the heads of the monster in the waters. It was you who crushed the heads of Leviathan and gave him as food to the creatures of the desert.

Isaiah 26:21 & 27:NIV I See, the LORD is coming out of his dwelling to punish the people of the Earth for their sins. The Earth will disclose the blood shed upon her; she will conceal her slain no longer. In that day, the LORD will punish with his sword, his fierce, great and powerful sword, Leviathan the gliding serpent, Leviathan the coiling serpent; he will slay the monster of the sea.

The Lord will slay leviathan, the monster from the sea. He will defeat the antichrist and the false prophet at Armageddon, and give the dead bodies of their armies as food to the animals, birds and insects.

Chapter 21: The Mark Of The Beast

The mark of the beast will be instituted by the False Prophet. He will force the world to take this mark.

Revelation 13:16-17 NIV "He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name."

This mark will be required during the reign of Antichrist. It may be be invisible to the naked human eye. Whenever anyone with the mark needs to make a financial transaction the number will be scanned and their bank account will be credited or debited as needed. We will become a cashless society. Those who refuse to take this mark will not be able to make legal financial transactions. Satan, through the Antichrist, will promise his protection to those who will receive his mark on their bodies, but, his promise is a lie. Satan has no power to protect himself or anyone else from God's wrath or the Lake of Fire.

Revelation 13:18 NIV "This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is man's number. His number is 666."

Six is the number of man because he was created on the sixth day. The triple six symbolizes the unholy trinity; Satan, the Antichrist, and the False Prophet.

Jesus said that the gospel of the kingdom would be preached to all nations before the end comes. Those who reject the gospel when they hear it will be without an excuse for being deceived by the False Prophet and accepting the mark.

If they had received Christ when the opportunity was available to them, the Holy Spirit would have made sure that they understood that it was wrong to take the mark. Accepting the mark of Antichrist is to reject Jesus Christ permanently, without remedy. The bible has already warned us not to receive the mark. The penalty for taking the mark is far worse than the temporary suffering that one will incur by refusing it.

Revelation 14:9-11 NIV "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name."

The penalty for taking the mark will be to suffer God's wrath which will be poured out upon the Earth and to spend eternity in the lake of Fire.

Notice, that the wrath of God is first poured into a container, called here a cup. The containers of God's wrath, whether translated vials, cups, or bowls, all refer to the seven last plagues that will be poured out when chapter sixteen of Revelation is fulfilled. Eternal damnation will follow death, for those who have accepted the mark. In the book of Daniel God has given us an example of how one should react when being commanded to worship an idol or an image.

Daniel 3:14-18 NIV and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my Gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what God will be able to rescue you from my hand?" Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your Gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

Revelation 14:13 NIV "Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. 'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them'".

Death will be a blessing for those who believe in the true God and follow the example given in Daniel, and refuse to worship the Antichrist. Not everyone will be killed. There are some who will live through the tribulation and repopulate the earth after the tribulation ends.

Chapter 22: The Mystery Of The Second Beast

The false church is portrayed as a woman riding on a beast. This is the church that the False Prophet has united under the antichrist. The woman represents false religion, the religion of Mystery Babylon. The woman also represents the city from which the false religion began and the city it will rule from in the end times.

Revelation 17:7-8 NIV "I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and of the beast she rides, which has the seven heads and ten horns."

Revelation 17:18 NIV The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the Earth."

It was in the city of Babylon that Satan through Nimrod promoted idolatry shortly after the flood, and at that time Babylon was the capital city of the world, that ruled over the kings of the Earth. It was also in Babylon that Nebuchadnezzar set up his image and demanded that anyone who would not fall down and worship it, would be thrown into a fiery furnace.

Revelation 17:9 NIV "This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits."

The traditional interpretation of this verse is that the seven hills that the woman sits on represent the city of Rome, and that the false religion is Roman Catholicism. This view may be too narrow, it is more likely that the seven hills represent the seven major religions of the world united under the False Prophet.

Revelation 17:15 NIV "The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages."

The false religion will be worldwide as indicated by the verse above, and Rome will of course be included. But, the religion of "Mystery Babylon" will be much larger than just one church, denomination, sect, or false religion. The False Prophet will make all the religions of the world worship the Antichrist and his image, and cause them to commit idolatry.

The Beast That Was, Is Not, And Will Come Again

Revelation 17:18 NIV The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and will come up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction. The inhabitants of the Earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because he once was, now is not, and yet will come."

The second beast, the one that the woman is riding on, was in the world at one time, was not present at the time that John was writing, and will come upon the scene again and cause the unbelieving world to be astonished. The power of the second beast to astonish the world lies in the ability he gives the False Prophet to work miracles and to appear to have raised the Antichrist from the dead. Notice that only those whose names have not been written in the book of life will be astonished.

John 6:39 & 10:27-29 NIV And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.

There is no danger of a true believer being deceived. Jesus will not lose any of those who have been given to him. God the father and the Holy Spirit will not permit that to happen.

This beast that has come up out of the abyss represents the satanic and demonic power that is behind the miracles of the False Prophet. In the Old Testament there is an example of this type of demonic power being manifested, during the time of Moses.

Exodus 8:5-7 NIV Then the LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron, 'Stretch out your hand with your staff over the streams and canals and ponds, and make frogs come up on the land of Egypt.'" So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land. But the magicians did the same things by their secret arts; they also made frogs come up on the land of Egypt.

The magicians of Egypt opposed the Two Witnesses, Moses and Aaron, and duplicated the miracles they were doing. This is an example of how the False Prophet and his accomplices will duplicate the miracles of the Two Witnesses and cause the unbelieving world and its leaders to harden their hearts, just as the Pharaoh did.

2 Timothy 3:8 NIV Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these men oppose the truth--men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected.

Since the time of Moses until today we have not seen the type of miracles that Satan was permitted to do through his demons at that time. It appears that the power of these demons has been restricted since the time of the Exodus. The plague of frogs was the last plague the magicians of Egypt could duplicate.

Revelation 16:13-14 Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the False Prophet. They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty.

This may be the explanation of the mystery of the second beast, that Satan will once again be permitted to use his most powerful demons to deceive an unrepentant and unbelieving world. The power of Pharaoh's magicians standing against Moses ended with their being able to call forth frogs. They were not able to duplicate any of the miracles of God after the plague of frogs. That power, the power of Satan that the magicians of Egypt possessed will be given for a temporary time to the False Prophet when the three evil spirits that look like frogs come forth from the mouth of the beast.

The world at large will not understand the difference between the power of God and demonic forces. But, the wise, the saved will understand.

There is also a strong possibility that the False Prophet may claim to be some great biblical person from the past. Since the Antichrist will claim to be the messiah returned to Earth, it would not be a surprise if the False Prophet claimed to be Moses returned from heaven. Since God is sending two people from the past to preach to the world, and Satan always tries to imitate the works of God, it would not be unlikely for the False Prophet to impersonate Moses. We know that Satan had bad intentions concerning the body of Moses, because he contended with Michael about it.

Jude 1:9 But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" We were not told what the outcome of this dispute was.

Perhaps Satan will have his false prophet impersonate a resurrected Moses.

2 Cor 11:14 NIV And no wonder, for even Satan masquerades as an angel of light. 15It is no great thing therefore if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

Chapter 23: The Destruction Of The False Church

Revelation 17:12 gives us an explanation of how the false church will be destroyed. The Antichrist and the ten kings who supported him will turn against the religion they formerly embraced.

Revelation 17:12-13 & 16-17 "The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast. "The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire. For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to give the beast their power to rule, until God's words are fulfilled."

At some point in time, perhaps after the sores break out on those who have the mark, or after the two witnesses have been resurrected and the people of the world realize that they have been deceived by false religion the ten kings who rule the world under the Antichrist will hate the false religion that deceived them and will destroy its capital city with fire. They will hate the false religion that they formerly loved because they will now realize that everyone who has taken the mark will be condemned to the lake of fire forever, and not only that but the fact that they will have to continue to suffer until the bowls of the wrath of God are completed. That's enough to ruin anyone's day, and make them angry, knowing that the future holds enduring God's wrath, then death, followed by hell for 1000 years, and that followed by the last judgment and eternity consigned to the lake of fire. All because they listened to the False Prophet and the false religion rather than to the Christians and the Two Witnesses.

Revelation 18:1-10 After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the Earth was illuminated by his splendor. With a mighty voice he shouted: "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! She has become a home for demons and a haunt for every evil spirit, a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird. For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the Earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the Earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries." Then I heard another voice from heaven say: "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues; for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes. Give back to her as she has given; pay her back double for what she has done.

Mix her a double portion from her own cup. Give her as much torture and grief as the glory and luxury she gave herself. In her heart she boasts, 'I sit as queen; I am not a widow, and I will never mourn.' Therefore in one day her plagues will overtake her: death, mourning and famine. She will be consumed by fire, for mighty is the Lord God who judges her. "When the kings of the Earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her. Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry: "'Woe! Woe, O great city, O Babylon, city of power! In one hour your doom has come!"

The merchants of the Earth will mourn over the great city that the ten kings have destroyed. They will weep because of the financial loss they will suffer because of its destruction.

Revelation 18:11-18 NIV "The merchants of the Earth will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes any more--cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth; every sort of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and marble; cargoes of cinnamon and spice, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; and bodies and souls of men. The merchants who sold these things and gained their wealth from her will stand far off, terrified at her torment. They will weep and mourn and cry out: "'Woe! Woe, O great city, dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet, and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls! In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin!"

Revelation 18:20 Rejoice over her, O heaven! Rejoice, saints and apostles and prophets! God has judged her for the way she treated you."

Notice in the verses above that those who are mourning over the city of Babylon are not sorrowful because the false religion led them to worship idols. They are only concerned about their loss of monetary gain. Notice also that the smoke from this burning city will be viewed by those who are on ships. This means that this city will either be a seaport city, or one that is not situated too far inland. Both Rome and Babylon qualify. Some think that it could be new York city. If it is to be a city rebuilt in the end times Babylon in Iraq and Tyre in Lebanon would qualify.

Revelation 18: 21-24 Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder the size of a large millstone and threw it into the sea, and said: "With such violence the great city of Babylon will be thrown down, never to be found again. The music of harpists and musicians, flute players and trumpeters, will never be heard in you again. No workman of any trade will ever be found in you again. The sound of a millstone will never be heard in you again. The light of a lamp will never shine in you again. The voice of bridegroom and bride will never be heard in you again. Your merchants were the world's great men. By your magic spell all the nations were led astray. In her was found the blood of prophets and of the saints, and of all who have been killed on the Earth."

The religion of "Mystery Babylon," which has promoted the worship of false Gods since before the time of the flood, is said to be guilty of all the blood of the prophets and saints that has been shed down through the centuries.

Revelation 19:1-7 NIV After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for true and just are his judgments. He has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the Earth by her adulteries. He has avenged on her the blood of his servants." And again they shouted: "Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever." The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshipped God, who was seated on the throne. And they cried: "Amen, Hallelujah!" Then a voice came from the throne, saying: "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both small and great!" Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.

The saved of all ages are told to rejoice over the destruction of the false church. The saved from all generations will be, rejoicing and watching this scene from above the Earth. It appears that the marriage supper of the lamb will not take place in heaven until after the destruction of the false church.

Revelation 19:8-9 NIV Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear' (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) Then the angel said to me, 'Write: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'"

The church is portrayed as a virgin bride, the bride of Christ dressed in white linen. The white linen represents the righteous acts of the saints, the things done for Christ from a pure heart. After the awards ceremony takes place, the festivities will begin.

When the Lord celebrated the Passover with his disciples a few days before his crucifixion he told them that he would not drink the fruit of the vine again until he drank it with them in his kingdom.

Matthew 26:29 KJV "But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." While the false church is being destroyed, the saved of all ages will be celebrating with Christ in God's kingdom, at the wedding supper of the Lamb.

Chapter 24: The Wrath Of God

After the destruction of the false church has taken place the place, those who rejected the gospel and God's mercy, must now suffer his wrath.

The harvest of the righteous has taken place earlier and now the armies of the nations of the world that hate God and his son, Jesus Christ, will begin to prepare themselves to gather at Armageddon. They will accomplish during the time of the seven bowls of God's wrath and to bring their best weapons of war with them, to do battle with the Lord when he returns.

Revelation 14:17-20 NIV Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, "Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the Earth's vine, because its grapes are ripe." The angel swung his sickle on the Earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath. They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia. (180 miles)

The harvesting of the grapes and throwing them into the winepress is referring to the gathering together of the armies of the world to the Mid-East, to Armageddon.

*Joel 3:9 NIV Proclaim this among the nations: Prepare for war! Rouse the warriors! Let all the fighting men draw near and attack. **Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears. Let the weakling say, 'I am strong!'** Come quickly, all you nations from every side, and assemble there. Bring down your warriors, O LORD! Let the nations be roused; let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the nations on every side. (The valley of Jehoshaphat is the same place as Armageddon)*

*Zephaniah 1:14-15 & 2:1-3 & 8 NIV The great day of the LORD is near-near and coming quickly. Listen! The cry on the day of the LORD will be bitter, the shouting of the warrior there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness. I will bring distress on the people and they will walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD. **I have decided to assemble the nations, to gather the kingdoms and to pour out my wrath on them; all my fierce anger.** The whole world will be consumed by the fire of my jealous anger.*

Jeremiah the prophet also wrote about day of the Lords anger and compared it to cups or bowls filled with the wine of God's wrath. He prophesied that God would make all the nations of the world drink of it.

Jeremiah 25:15-17 & 30-33 NIV This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, said to me: "Take from my hand this cup filled with the wine of my wrath and make all the nations to whom I send you drink it. When they drink it, they will stagger and go mad because of the sword I will send among them.

"So I took the cup from the Lord's hand and made all the nations to whom he sent me drink it: All the kingdoms on the face of the Earth. "The LORD will roar from on high; he will thunder from his holy dwelling and roar mightily against his land. He will shout like those who tread the grapes, shout against all who live on the Earth. The tumult will resound to the ends of the Earth, for the LORD will bring charges against the nations; he will bring judgment on all mankind and put the wicked to the sword," declares the LORD. This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Look! Disaster is spreading from nation to nation; a mighty storm is rising from the ends of the Earth. "At that time those slain by the LORD will be everywhere; from one end of the Earth to the other. They will not be mourned or gathered up or buried, but will be like refuse lying on the ground.

The Seven Bowls Of God's Wrath

Revelation 15:1 KJV And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.

The seven last plagues are described as seven bowls, filled with the wrath of God, which are about to be poured out upon the Earth.

Revelation 15:5-8 & 16:1 NIV "After this I looked and in heaven the temple, that is, the tabernacle of the Testimony, was opened. Out of the temple came the seven angels with the seven plagues. They were dressed in clean, shining linen and wore golden sashes around their chests. Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever. And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed. Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go, pour out the seven bowls of God's wrath on the Earth."

The whole world is now filled with people who know of God but hate him. They rejected the gospel when it was preached to them by the Two Witnesses. The first resurrection has taken place previously and the only believers left alive are those whom God has sealed to live through the tribulation. The seven last plagues cannot harm them because they are under God's protection. Since the impenitent world has rejected the Lord, they will now experience his wrath.

*Revelation 16:2 NIV **The first angel** went and poured out his bowl on the land, and ugly and painful sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshipped his image.*

All of those who have taken the mark of the beast will now break out with ugly and painful sores. It would have been better for them to have died at the hands of Antichrist, than to have accepted his mark and suffer these plagues from God.

*Revelation 16:3-7 NIV **The second angel** poured out his bowl on the sea, and it turned into blood like that of a dead man, and every living thing in the sea died. The third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. Then I heard the angel in charge of the waters say: "You are just in these judgments, you who are and who were, the Holy One, because you have so judged; for they have shed the blood of your saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink as they deserve. "And I heard the altar respond: "Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are your judgments."*

Earlier, during the time of the second and third trumpet judgments, one third of the worlds water was poisoned. Drinking water was scarce, but still available. Now, during the time of the second and third bowl judgments, all of the worlds water is polluted. But, as Gods word says, it is only fitting that the false church, the False Prophet, and the people who supported them and shed the blood of the saints should be given blood like water to drink.

Revelation 16:8 NIV **The fourth angel** poured out his bowl on the sun, and the sun was given power to scorch people with fire. They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him.

The ozone layer protecting the Earth is now destroyed because of weapons used during the wars of Antichrist. The intense heat from the sun will now scorch those dwelling upon the Earth.

Revelation 16:10-11 **The fifth angel** poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom was plunged into darkness. Men gnawed their tongues in agony and cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done.

Even after all of this, the world still refuses to repent. After the plague of scorching, some other effect will happen that will prevent the suns light from reaching the Earth, plunging the Antichrist's kingdom into darkness.

By specifying that the Antichrist's kingdom will be in darkness, it may mean that there will be some light in Israel and perhaps in those countries that fought against the Antichrist. This was the case at the time when God instructed Moses to call for a plague of darkness on Egypt.

Revelation 16:12 **"The sixth angel** poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East."

The kings of the east, China, Japan, Korea, and all of the oriental countries will now begin to move the 200 million man army that they mustered earlier, at the sounding of the sixth trumpet, toward Jerusalem. They will march across the Euphrates river which will be dried up for them. Turkey has already built a dam on the Euphrates river that is capable of shutting off the flow of water to the south of them at any time they choose to do so.

Revelation 16:13-14 NIV "Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the False Prophet. They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty."

It appears that the Antichrist and the False Prophet will deceive the world one more time. They will probably say that the way to rid themselves of these plagues is to gather all of their armies to Jerusalem, and kill the Lord Jesus Christ, who will soon be returning there. God, through David, prophesied of this event in the Psalms.

Psalms 2:1-3 NIV "Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain. The kings of the Earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One. 'Let us break their chains,' they say, 'and throw off their fetters.' The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them."

God, it says in the Psalms, laughs at these people who actually believe that they can destroy Christ with man made weapons of war. The kings of the Earth and their armies will gather together in Israel and the surrounding areas, awaiting the return of Christ.

Revelation 17:14 NIV They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of Lords and King of kings--and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.

Isaiah 34:2-3 NIV The LORD is angry with all nations; his wrath is upon all their armies. He will totally destroy them, he will give them over to slaughter. Their slain will be thrown out, their dead bodies will send up a stench; the mountains will be soaked with their blood.

Joel 3:13-14 NIV Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, trample the grapes, for the winepress is full and the vats overflow--so great is their wickedness! Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

When the armies of the world are gathered together at Armageddon, the day of the Lord will be very near, the one thousand year millennium.

Chapter 25: The Day Of The Lord

The time period known as the day of the Lord is the heavenly Sabbath, the beginning of the seventh one thousand year day. It is the time when Christ returns and sets up his kingdom. When the day of the Lord is near, the people of the world will be filled with terror.

Isaiah 13:6-8 NIV "Wail, for the day of the Lord is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty. Because of this, all hands will go limp, every man's heart will melt. Terror will seize them, pain and anguish will grip them; they will writhe like a woman in labor. They will look aghast at each other, their faces aflame."

When the day of the Lord is near the mighty men of the Earth will be in pain like a woman in labor. There will be physical pain because of the sores they received for taking the mark of the beast. They will also be in mental anguish because they know that the wrath of God has begun to come upon them, and there is no hope for escape.

Isaiah 13:9-13 See, the day of the LORD is coming; a cruel day, with wrath and fierce anger; to make the land desolate and destroy the sinners within it. The stars of heaven and their constellations will not show their light. The rising sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light. I will punish the world for its evil, the wicked for their sins. I will put an end to the arrogance of the haughty and will humble the pride of the ruthless. I will make man scarcer than pure gold, more rare than the gold of Ophir. Therefore I will make the heavens tremble; and the Earth will shake from its place at the wrath of the LORD Almighty, in the day of his burning anger.

Zechariah 13:8 & 14:3 & 5 NIV In the whole land, declares the LORD, two-thirds will be struck down and perish; yet one third will be left in it. I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle. Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.

The Lord will destroy two thirds of the people of the Earth with the seven last plagues.

This is in addition to the one fourth and one third of the people who were killed during the seven seals and the seven trumpet judgments. If there were 8 billion people at the start only about 1 billion would be left minus all of the people who went up in the rapture.

*Isaiah 24:1 & 5-6 & 19-20 NIV See, the LORD is going to lay waste the Earth and devastate it; he will ruin its face and scatter its inhabitants. The Earth is defiled by its people; they have disobeyed the laws, violated the statutes and broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore a curse consumes the Earth; its people must bear their guilt. **Therefore Earth's inhabitants are burned up, and very few are left. The floodgates of the heavens are opened, the foundations of the Earth shake. The Earth is broken up, the Earth is split asunder, the Earth is thoroughly shaken. The Earth reels like a drunkard,***

Many of the Earth's inhabitants will be burned up, and there will be very few people left alive after God finishes pouring out his wrath on the Earth. Isaiah goes on to say that the Earth will suffer cataclysmic events which will leave it reeling like a drunkard. There may be a collision with a large asteroid just before the return of Christ that will knock the Earth off of its axis and cause this effect. To the remnant of Israel and anyone who has not taken the mark of the beast but was not taken up in the first resurrection, God has some good advice.

Isaiah 26:20 NIV Go, my people, enter your rooms and shut the doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until his wrath has passed by. See, the LORD is coming out of his dwelling to punish the people of the Earth for their sins.

*Zephaniah 2:1-3 Gather together, gather together, O shameful nation, before the appointed time arrives and that day sweeps on like chaff, before the fierce anger of the LORD comes upon you, before the day of the Lord's wrath comes upon you. **Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the Lord's anger.***

There will be people from all nations who did not take the mark, but were not Christians at the time of the first resurrection, and so they remained on Earth while the wrath of God was being poured out. Some of these people will survive the time of God's wrath, and remain alive to repopulate the Earth during the Millennium. If you are one of those who miss the first resurrection, take the advice given in the scriptures above, stay in your house and pray. Perhaps the Lord will let you live through his wrath and into the Millennium.

The Seventh Bowl

*Revelation 16:17-21 **The seventh angel** poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, "It is done!" Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since man has been on Earth, so tremendous was the quake. The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath. From the sky huge hailstones of about a hundred pounds each fell upon men. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible.*

Great earthquakes will strike the Earth when the seventh bowl is poured out. The huge hailstones could be chunks of debris thrown into the air by the earthquake, or perhaps they will be actual giant ice chunks that have formed because of the drastic changes to the Earth's atmosphere from the previous plagues. Whatever they are they will be extremely deadly.

The Return Of Jesus Christ

Revelation 19:11-13 NIV I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.

Isaiah 63:2-3 & 6 NIV Why are your garments red, like those of one treading the winepress? "I have trodden the winepress alone; from the nations no one was with me. I trampled them in my anger and trod them down in my wrath; their blood spattered my garments, and I stained all my clothing. I trampled the nations in my anger; in my wrath I made them drunk and poured their blood on the ground."

The Lord Jesus Christ, the word who became flesh and dwelt among us, will return to Earth and fulfill the prophecies in Isaiah, Jude, and Revelation. He needs no help to accomplish these tasks, but we will accompany him and be witnesses of his power.

*Revelation 19:14-16 NIV The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.***

Christ will return to Earth with the armies of heaven following him. This army includes both the angels, and the saints, (the church) and the saved of all ages who were raised from the dead at the first resurrection.

The angels of God and the demons who were released from the river Euphrates have gathered the armies of the world to Armageddon. They did the gathering, but now Christ will do the treading and will crush the armies of the world in the winepress of God's wrath.

Revelation 19:17-18 NIV And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God, so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great."

God is going to make another great feast for the birds. Every year in the spring the birds of prey migrate from Africa to Europe and Russia. In the fall they return. At least seven hundred thousand of them fly over Israel each year. The feast of the tabernacles, which signifies the return of Christ, is celebrated in October, the same time of the year when the buzzards, the storks, and other large birds of prey fly over Israel. The saved will have celebrated with Christ in heaven at the marriage supper of the Lamb. Now the Lord will provide a great supper for the birds, at the return of Jesus Christ. If there are still any Israelites who doubt that Jesus is the Messiah, they will doubt no more after the Lord destroys the armies of the world that have gathered in Israel.

Revelation 19:19-21 Then I saw the beast and the kings of the Earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army. But the beast was captured, and with him the False Prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf.

With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshipped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

The Antichrist and the False Prophet will be thrown alive into the lake of fire. The birds will enjoy much feasting and celebration before they continue on with their journey to Africa. The armies of the Antichrist will be killed with the sword of the Spirit that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord Jesus Christ. Apparently after defeating his enemies Christ will dismount and descend from the sky unto the mount of olives, fulfilling the prophecy that he would return to Earth in the same manner as when he left.

Acts 1:10-12 NIV They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city.

Zechariah 14:1-3 NIV A day of the LORD is coming when your plunder will be divided among you. I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle. On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south.

Satan Imprisoned

Revelation 20:1-3 NIV And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

Satan will be imprisoned for one thousand years, and the Millennium will begin.

Chapter 26: The Feast Of The Tabernacles

Deuteronomy 16:13 NIV Celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days after you have gathered the produce of your threshing floor and your winepress.

The feast of the tabernacles that God commanded the Israelites to celebrate was to take place after the harvest had been gathered and the grapes had been crushed in the winepress.

Deuteronomy 16:14 & 15 Be joyful at your Feast--you, your sons and daughters, your menservants and maidservants, and the Levites, the aliens, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns. For seven days celebrate the Feast to the LORD your God at the place the LORD will choose. For the LORD your God will bless you in all your harvest and in all the work of your hands, and your joy will be complete.

It was to be a joyful feast celebrating the bountiful harvest that the Lord had given his people for all the work of their hands. It is comparable to our holiday called "thanksgiving."

Leviticus 23:39 & 42 NIV "So beginning with the fifteenth day of the seventh month, after you have gathered the crops of the land, celebrate the festival to the LORD for seven days; the first day is a day of rest, and the eighth day also is a day of rest. Live in booths for seven days: All the native born Israelites are to live in booths."

The feast of the tabernacles is celebrated in the seventh Jewish month, which is in late September or early October on our calendar. The modern word for tabernacle or booth is tent. In the verse below the word "tent" is translated "tabernacle" in the King James Version.

2 Corinthians 5:1 NIV Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

During the feast of the tabernacles the Israelites were to camp outside, sleeping in tent like structures made from branches and stalks leftover from the harvest. The feast of the tabernacles is a prophetic picture of the time when God will make his dwelling place with men and it will be celebrated every year for a thousand years during the Millennium.

Zechariah 14:16-17 NIV Then the survivors from all the nations that have attacked Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD Almighty, and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. If any of the peoples of the Earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD Almighty, they will have no rain.

The first fulfillment of this feast was when God took on a tent or tabernacle of human flesh at the birth of Christ. Christ came the first time as a suffering servant. The next fulfillment will be when Christ returns to Earth as the Lord of Lords, and the king of kings, and rules and reigns on the Earth. The saved of all ages will live and reign with Christ for 1000 years.

2 Timothy 2:11-12 NIV Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us;

Revelation 20:4-6 I NIV saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshipped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

The placement of these verses in chapter twenty concerning the first resurrection has caused confusion for some who study prophecy. This is not the first resurrection taking place after the return of Christ, nor is it a special resurrection for the tribulation saints. John is explaining to us what the saints who were raised from the dead and those who were caught up alive to meet Christ in the air, will be doing during the Millennium.

The parable that Jesus told about the man of noble birth who gave his servants money to invest in his absence pertains to Christ, who returned to the right hand of the father and left the gospel in the hands of his servants. Those who are found faithful in using their gifts for the good of God's kingdom will be rewarded during the Millennium. They will receive the higher ranking positions in the Lords kingdom.

Luke 19:12-21 NIV He said: "A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. 'Put this money to work,' he said, 'until I come back.' "But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, 'We don't want this man to be our king.' "He was made king, however, and returned home. Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with it. "The first one came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned ten more.' ""Well done, my good servant!" his master replied. 'Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.' "The second came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned five more.' "His master answered, 'You take charge of five cities.' "Then another servant came and said, 'Sir, here is your mina; I have kept it laid away in a piece of cloth. I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow.' "His master replied, 'I will judge you by your own words, you wicked servant! You knew, did you, that I am a hard man, taking out what I did not put in, and reaping what I did not sow? Why then didn't you put my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?' "Then he said to those standing by, 'Take his mina away from him and give it to the one who has ten minas.' ""Sir,' they said, 'he already has ten!' "He replied, 'I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what he has will be taken away. But those enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them--bring them here and kill them in front of me.'"

It is important to use the gifts one has for God's purposes. The indication here is that faith without works is not real faith at all, and that those who are not using the gifts that they have been given are in danger of being numbered with the wicked.

Psalms 84:10 Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

It is better to be a doorkeeper in God's kingdom than to be cast into the lake of fire with the wicked. For this reason we all need to make sure that we are on the narrow path that leads to eternal life, and not the broad road that leads to destruction.

Some may not understand why God will have a Millennium before eternity begins. The purpose of the Millennium is to fulfill the promises he made to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and David. God promised these men a literal kingdom on Earth with one of their descendants sitting on a throne and ruling over the world. Christ will fulfill these promises when he rules the world from Jerusalem for a thousand years.

Isaiah 2:1-4 NIV This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

When the Millennium begins the people will do the reverse of what they did when they were preparing to fight with Christ at Armageddon. Now they will beat their swords into plowshares and there will be no more war for a thousand years. The prophet Micah also prophesied about this time period.

Micah 4:3-4 NIV They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. every man will sit under his own vine and under his own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the LORD Almighty has spoken.

The phrase "under his own vine and fig tree" in the bible means that men will enjoy the fruits of their own labors. The results of their work will not be stolen from them by thieves or taken from them by governments and taxes or by greedy owners or corporations.

Isaiah 65:19-25 NIV I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more. "Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; he who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere youth; he who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed. They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my chosen ones will long enjoy the works of their hands. They will not toil in vain or bear children doomed to misfortune; for they will be a people blessed by the LORD, they and their descendants with them. Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, but dust will be the serpent's food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain," says the LORD.

It appears that during the Millennium the world will revert to an agricultural society. People will again live to great ages as they did before the flood. Mankind will be at peace with each other and with nature, as it was before Adam sinned.

Chapter 27: The Final Rebellion And The Last Judgment

Revelation 20:7-8 "When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the Earth--Gog and Magog--to gather them for battle."

After the heavenly Sabbath is over Satan will be released to test those who have been born during the Millennium. As incredible as it seems, there will be billions of people who hate living under the peaceful rule of the Lord Jesus Christ. Satan will incite them to rebel against the Lord, and history and prophecy will repeat themselves. Satan will again gather people from all nations to Jerusalem to make war on the Lord Jesus Christ. The result will be the same as it was one thousand years earlier, they will all be destroyed by fire.

Revelation 20:9-10 They marched across the breadth of the Earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the False Prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Satan will meet his final end in the lake of fire that was prepared for him and his angels. The Antichrist and the False Prophet have already been there being tormented for a thousand years and will remain there forever.

The Last Judgment

Now that the final rebellion of Satan is over, the judgment of all mankind will occur. Those who were raised at the first resurrection have already received their rewards and will not be affected by this judgment. They will be judges and spectators at this event.

1 Corinthians 6:2-3 NIV Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life!

Revelation 20:5 NIV (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.)

Revelation 20:11-13 NIV Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.

Matthew 25:41 KJV Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

This will be the time for the judgment of the all of the wicked who have ever lived. The only people at this judgment who will join us in God's kingdom are those who were saved and died during the Millennium. The majority of the people being judged here will be destined for the lake of fire because all of the saints who lived during the first six thousand years of history were already raised from the dead at the first resurrection one thousand years earlier.

Revelation 21:7-8 KJV He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

After the last judgment there will be no more death. everyone will have their new spiritual bodies.

Revelation 20:14-15 NIV And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Hell is the temporary abode of the dead until the time of the last judgment. After that, both hell and those who are lost, will be cast into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the eternal prison for Satan, his angels, the demons, and all of those humans who have rejected God during their lifetimes. They will all be banished from the presence of the Lord forever.

Chapter 28: Eternity

Revelation 21:1 NIV "Then I saw a new heaven and a new Earth, for the first heaven and the first Earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea."

Isaiah 65:17 NIV "Behold, I will create new heavens and a new Earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind."

2 Peter 3:10-14 NIV But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the Earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and Godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new Earth, the home of righteousness. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

God will create a new heaven and a new Earth, and the new Jerusalem will descend from the heavens.

Revelation 21:2 NIV I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God." The feast of the tabernacles will be fulfilled again, the Lord and his people will dwell together forever.

Isaiah 9:7 NIV Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

According to Isaiah, Christ's kingdom will continue to increase forever. It appears that God will have other projects that he will begin after the human experiment is completed.

Luke 20:35-36 NIV But those who are considered worthy of taking part in that age and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage, and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels. They are God's children, since they are children of the resurrection.

We will be like the angels are now, and be partners with the Lord in his new work.

Revelation 22:16-21 NIV "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star." The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life. I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Those who are trusting in Jesus Christ for their salvation can look forward to the blessed hope of his appearing, and escape the wrath of God when it is poured out upon the world.

Titus 2:13 NIV While we wait for the blessed hope--the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,

Luke 21:34-36 NIV "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole Earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."

You too can share in the good things that God has planned for the future.

Romans 10:9-11 NIV That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." Amen And Amen, Come Lord Jesus!

Salvation

Very briefly, everyone who ever has or will ever make it into God's Kingdom will have been saved by faith in the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Many before his first coming never knew his name as Jesus Christ. They only knew and believed by faith that God would someday send a Redeemer, a Messiah, a Christ, to save them from both spiritual and physical problems. They had Faith in an unknown un-named Jesus Christ. The promise of a Savior began in Genesis right after man fell into sin and salvation by faith in this promise has been available from the time of Adam and Eve onward up until this promised Messiah, Savior and Redeemer was revealed as Jesus Christ about 2000 years ago.

We no longer have the option of just believing in some un-named coming redeemer for salvation. This option vanishes for every person the moment they hear, read or have the Gospel presented to them in some manner. From that point on they must make a choice.

This is so because Jesus said;

(John 10:24-29 NCV) The Jews gathered around him and said, "How long will you make us wonder about you? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I told you already, but you did not believe. The miracles I do in my Father's name show who I am. But you don't believe, because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never die, and no one can steal them out of my hand. My Father gave my sheep to me. He is greater than all, and no person can steal my sheep out of my Father's hand.

Since Jesus returned to Heaven whenever anyone hears the Gospel the Holy Spirit is there to open the minds and hearts of those who are hearing it to the fact that it is the truth. Anyone who rejects the Gospel upon having it presented to it simply shows that they are not willing to accept the truth and be saved. They are rejecting the leading of the Holy Spirit.

You can be saved right now, in the next few moments by simply praying sincerely to God the Father and to Jesus Christ the simple prayer below.

Heavenly Father, Lord Jesus Christ; I know I am a sinner. Please come into my life and save me and forgive me all of my sins and make me into the kind of person you want me to be. I'm trusting only in Jesus Christ for my salvation and I ask this prayer in his name. Thank You Lord for Saving me, Amen.

That's all there is to it. Now tell someone about it. Get Baptized. Read your Bible. Discover your Spiritual Gifts and Talents and use them for the Lord. Find a good church and volunteer to serve in some manner according to your gifts and talents.

You may ask, How do I find a good church. That's easy. Find one where people are being saved or at least an invitation is given for salvation through Jesus Christ regularly and you will be in a good church. Also try to take a class in basic Christianity. Ask your pastor about it. He may assign someone to tutor you if no class is immediately available.

(John 7:14-17 NCV) When the feast was about half over, Jesus went to the Temple and began to teach. The Jews were amazed and said, "This man has never studied in school. How did he learn so much?" Jesus answered, "The things I teach are not my own, but they come from him who sent me. If people choose to do what God wants, they will know that my teaching comes from God and not from me.

If you begin to serve the Lord and do his will you will understand more and more with certainty the truth of the teaching and doctrines of Jesus Christ. If you ever doubt your salvation, refer to the verse below, and remember, God cannot lie, it is true, and will always be true if you meet the qualifications in the verse below.

(Rom 10:9 NKJV) that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

(Titus 1:2 NKJV) in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began...

Sign Here _____ Date _____

Refrigerator Rapture Chart

If the antichrist arrives on the scene and believers are still here we can look at the chart and see when the next opportunity is to be rescued. Cross off the numbers that have passed. No one knows which explanation is correct, so always be ready.

1. The Pre-Tribulation First Resurrection

(F*R) <-----7 YEARS OF TRIBULATION-----> RETURN

2. The Early Tribulation First Resurrection

<----1 Year (F*R)----- 6 YEARS----->RETURN

3. The Mid-Tribulation First Resurrection

<---3 1/2 YEARS--->(F*R)<---3 1/2 YEARS--->RETURN

4. The Pre-Millennial Pre-Wrath First Resurrection

<--7 SEALS--><--7 TRUMPETS-->(F*R)<-7 BOWLS->RETURN

5. The Two Witnesses First Resurrection

<--? YRS. OF TRIB.-->(F*R)<--WRATH of God-->RETURN

6. The Sabbath (7th) Year First Resurrection

<--6 YRS. OF TRIB.-->(F*R)<--1 YR. OF WRATH-->RETURN

7. The Post-Tribulation First Resurrection

<-----7 YEARS OF TRIBULATION----->(F*R) RETURN

8. The Post-Millennial First Resurrection

<-THE TRIBULATION & RETURN-><-THE MILLENNIUM->(F*R)

9. The Amillennial First Resurrection

<-NO TRIBULATION & NO MILLENNIUM - UNEXPECTED RETURN->(F*R)

Note: There are some who believe that the entire tribulation will only last for 3 1/2 years, not seven. That does not really change much except that mid-trib which would occur 21 months after the antichrist is revealed. (1/2 of 42 months instead of 1/2 of seven years.) That would be 1 year and 9 months into the tribulation, or 630 days after the antichrist comes to power.

Matt 24:44 KJV Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.