ESCHATOLOGY THE DOCTRINE OF LAST THINGS

BY: WILLIAM G. ARVAN

PREFACE

Eschatology, formed from the Greek words *eschatos* (last) and *logos* (doctrine or study) is the theological term used in the study of Biblical Prophecy. Literally it means "The Doctrine of Last Things."

The Doctrine of Last Things (Eschatology) is a vast and complicated subject. Therefore **our objective** is to study, in a **survey** / **overview form**, only six **future prophetical events in their chronological order of fulfillment**. These are Death, The First Resurrection, The Tribulation, The Millennium, The Second Resurrection, and The New Heaven and New Earth. (See chart on page 25)

Material in this doctrinal study is presented from a Pre-Tribulation Rapture position and a Pre-Millennial return of Jesus Christ to the earth.

Before attempting any study of prophecy, it is helpful to note the following:

- Approximately **30 percent** of the Bible is given to prophecy.
- As used in the Scriptures, prophecy is both **foretelling** and **forth-telling**.

Foretelling is the prediction of future events by Biblical prophets before they happen.

Forth-telling is the proclamation of these already revealed future events contained in the Scriptures. In our study of the Last Things, we are studying what the Biblical prophets of old have foretold.

- Some prophecy is history --- it has already been fulfilled. However the fulfillment of other prophecies is still future.
- There is sometimes a double reference in prophecy. Often the prophet speaks of something or someone relevant to his time but which also has reference to the future.

Example: The life and actions of Antiochus IV **prefigure / foreshadow the Antichrist.**Daniel 11:21-35 refers to **Antiochus IV** while 11:36-45 refers to **a different king** - the Antichrist (Revelation 13:1-10) and his destruction at Armageddon (Revelation 19:11-21).

• When the Old Testament prophets speak about the coming of the Messiah, they make no distinction between Christ's **first and second coming**. We know of that distinction through Christ's teachings in the Gospels and the Apostles' instructions to the Church.

Example: Isaiah 9:6, events of Christ's First Coming; Isa. 9:7, events of Christ's Second Coming.

- The Church, the Body of Christ, is called a 'mystery' --- something that was hidden or unrevealed to Old Testament Prophets. It was only revealed through the Apostles and Prophets of the New Testament. See Ephesians 3:2-9
- In prophecy, the word 'kingdom' is often used as: the Kingdom of God; the Kingdom of Heaven; and the Kingdom of Christ. The 'Kingdom' is said to be presently "in you" (Luke 17:20-21) as well as a future event "Thy Kingdom come" (Matthew 6:10).

 When it is difficult to distinguish between those references which refer to the present Kingdom

When it is difficult to distinguish between those references which refer to the present Kingdom and those which refer to the future Millennial and Eternal Kingdom, let the following guide you:

The spiritual aspects of the Kingdom are primarily fulfilled during the Church Age; The physical or earthly aspects during the Millennial Age; The eternal aspects in the New Heaven and the New Earth.

Doctrine of Last Things is prepared for use in the following manner.

- In order to have a clear understanding of this material, it is necessary to read every page of the material, including all scripture passages.
- This material will inform you of historical facts as well as truth in relation to Biblical Prophecy. However, some of the material is designed for you to "dig out" information from the Scriptures by yourself. In this manner you will grow spiritually and come to your own opinions and understanding of Biblical Prophecy.

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INTRODUCTION

"We believe in the personal, bodily and pre-millennial return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission."

The Evangelical Free Church of America – Statement of Faith about Christ's return.

"Remember the former things, those of long ago;
I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is none like me.
I make known the end from the beginning, from
ancient times, what is still to come.
I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.
From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land,
a man to fulfill my purpose.
What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned,
that will I do." Isaiah 46:9-11

"No other book upon which a religion has been founded includes (predictive) prophecy in it."

J. Dwight Pentecost

"Fulfilled prophecy provides irrefutable proof for the existence of God. By foretelling major events of world history centuries and even thousands of years before they happen, the God of the Bible proves that he is the only true God." Dave Hunt --- A Woman Rides The Beast, page 20

DEFINING BIBLICAL PROPHECY

Biblical Prophecy is predictive prophecy. It is the foretelling of future events before they happen.

"It is the speaking forth of the mind and counsel of God." ("This is what the Lord says.")

"It is a declaration of that which cannot be known by natural means." (Galatians 1:11-12)

"It is a direct revelation of the mind (purposes) of God for the occasion." (Ephesians 3:2-6)

W. E. Vine - Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words.

From the "beginning", God makes known >>>>>>>>> the "end." (God's Omniscience - Foreknowledge)

(God's **Sovereignty**) >>>>> "My purpose ------ will stand" (God's **Unchangeableness**) >> "What I have said ------ I will bring about." (God's **Faithfulness**) >>>>> "What I have planned ----- that will I do."

The "end" does not denote a termination, but God heading-up the predicted events of the age to the appointed or planned climax. It marks the completion or consummation of the various parts of a scheme.

TRUE and FALSE PROPHETS

True or genuine prophecy is fulfilled, it happens. It is in sync with God's total revelation. False prophecy is not fulfilled, it does not happen. It is out of sync with God's total revelation. (See Deuteronomy 18:21-22; Ezekiel 33:33; II Kings 5:8-14

"One mathematician has stated concerning the fulfilled prophecies of Christ's first coming that there is only one chance in 87 to the 93rd degree that the Bible could be right on the basis of guess alone." J. Dwight Pentecost

THE RELIABILITY OF BIBLICAL PROPHECY

"Because most prophecy recorded in Scripture has already been fulfilled, it is therefore a simple matter to determine whether or not the prophecies in the Bible are reliable."

Dave Hunt --- A Woman Rides The Beast, page 19

The "Window" Illustration

"There was a narrow window of time during which Messiah (the Christ) had to come --- and he did."

Dave Hunt --- A Woman Rides The Beast, page 31

THE SPECIFIC TIME WINDOW

Christ's birth had to occur:

Before 7 A.D. >>>>>>

Before the "scepter" departed from Judah. Genesis 49:10

The "scepter" departed from Judah in about 7 A.D. when Jewish Rabbis lost the right to exact the death penalty. See John 18:28-32 along with 8:28, 12:32-33

Note: Only the Romans used crucifixion as capital punishment and only in Palestine did they employ the breaking of the legs of those crucified. John 19:31-37

Before the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple by the Roman General, Titus, in 70 A.D.

Messiah had to be born while the genealogical records **for tracing His genealogy** still existed in the temple. See II Samuel 7:12; Psalm 89:3-4, 33-37; Matthew 1:1-16 Messiah had to appear in the temple. Malachi 3:1

Before the 69th week (483 years) of Daniel's prophecy (9:25) and the decree of Artaxerxes I (Nehemiah 2:1-8).

Before 70 A.D.

"Biblical prophecy's unblemished record of fulfillment is sufficient to authenticate the Bible, in distinction to all other writings, as the one and only inerrant word of God."

Dave Hunt --- A Woman Rides The Beast, page 20 There are three other specific "time windows" which remain unfulfilled.

- The 7 year "**Tribulation**" window
 The events surrounding the Anti-Christ and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.
- The 1000 year "Millennial" window

 The events surrounding the re-gathering of Israel and the restoration of the Dividic Kingdom under the rule of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- The "Eternity" window
 The glories of the New Heaven and the New Earth.

APOCALYPTIC LANGUAGE - LITERATURE

Much of Biblical Prophecy, such as The Revelation (Apocalypse), is written in "apocalyptic" language.

"Apocalyptic literature flourished in periods of depression and defeat. It is figurative, symbolic, or imaginative, and is intended to convey truth by picture rather than by definition." Merrill C. Tenney

Illustration: "In Revelation 1:1 the word 'signify' (KJV) or 'made known' (NIV) is translated from the Greek word semainein and suggests "expressing by signs (symbols / pictures)."

W. E. Vine --- Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words

"In apocalyptic literature visions, vivid expressions, and symbolic or figurative language is almost exclusively used. The meaning in this type of literature was referred to as 'hidden', concealed and consequently obscure, hard to understand. (See Revelation 9:1-11) Consequently there have arisen divergent opinions regarding the correct interpretation of prophetic passages." Robert C. Stevens

METHODS OF INTERPRETATION (Hermeneutics - the science of interpretation)

In relation to material covered in Eschatology, The Doctrine of Last Things, there are **two** basic methods of interpretation - **the Literal and Non-Literal methods**.

The Non-Literal Method

Prophetic passages are taken to be **allegorical**, that is, **figurative**, **symbolical**, **representative**, and usually interpreted **by spiritualizing** - "to give a spiritual sense or meaning to."

Illustration: The future Millennial Reign of Christ on earth (1000 years), as predicted in Revelation 19:11-16 and 20:1-6 is spiritualized to represent a spiritual reign, that is, the Kingdom of God within the believer at the present time (Luke 17:20-21).

• The Literal Method

The Literal Method, also called the **Grammatical-Historical Method**, involves the **comprehension of the words and syntax** (sentence structure) of the language as well as **the historical context**. It does not **eliminate** but rather **interprets** the symbolic, figurative, metaphorical language **within its immediate and broader contexts**. **It is this method of interpretation** that is followed in our study of eschatology.

PROPHECY'S PRESENT DAY PHENOMENA

- The re-establishment of the nation of Israel May, 1948
- The fervent theological debate over **the Resurrection and Rapture of the Church**. Is it Pre-Tribulation, Mid-Tribulation, Pre-Wrath, or Post-Tribulation?
- The fervent theological debate over **the Return of Jesus Christ to establish His Earthly Kingdom**. Is it to be Pre-Millennial, Post-Millennial, or A-Millennial?
- The amazing rise of the European Union (EU) into a super-state through the Treaty of Maastricht (Netherlands) in February, 1992. Is this in fulfillment of Daniel's end-time prophecies?

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BACKGROUND

THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, ISAAC, and JACOB

Many of the Bible's unfulfilled prophecies or promises are in reference to the Covenant (promise) God made with Abram (Genesis 12:1-3), and confirmed to his son, Isaac (Genesis 26:1-5), and his grandson, Jacob (Genesis 28:10-15), concerning:

- A Promised Land_(Genesis 12:1, 7) which has not yet been fully occupied (Genesis 15:18-21). See also Ezekiel's prophecy in Ezekiel 47:13 48:29
- A Promised Nation (Genesis 12:2-3a) which has not yet reached its full potential (Genesis 26:3-4a; 28:14a).
- A Promised Blesser / Seed (Genesis 12:3b) which was realized in the Messiah, Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:16), and the promise of salvation through Him (Galatians 3:21-29). But, as yet, this blessed message of salvation has not reached all peoples of the world. See Matthew 24:14; Revelation 5:9-13

God's Law, through Moses, was also given to this Promised Nation, Israel.

- **Obedience** to the Law would **bring blessing** (Leviticus 26:3-13).
- **Disobedience** would **bring discipline** (Leviticus 26:14-26). The most drastic discipline would be **expulsion** from the Promised Land (Leviticus 26:27-39).
- Restoration to the Promised Land would occur upon Israel's national repentance and confession of their sin (Leviticus 26:40-46).

Because of disobedience to God's Law, the Northern Kingdom of Israel was taken captive by Assyria in 722 B.C. (II Kings 17:6, 22-23).

Because of disobedience to God's Law, the Southern Kingdom of Judah was taken into exile by Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, in 605-586 B.C. (Jeremiah 25:8-11). This brings us to the time of the Prophet Daniel.

THE PROPHECIES OF DANIEL

Daniel was one of the captives taken in exile to Babylon (Daniel 1:3-6).

From Babylon, through God given dreams and visions, Daniel revealed the commencement and course of Gentile world powers and their consummation at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ - as well as events pertaining to Israel during these "Times of the Gentiles" (Luke 21:24).

Daniel's prophecies give a broad prophetic "time-table" without which we would have little foundation upon which to build a correct interpretation of yet unfulfilled prophecies.

For our study of "Last Things" we will examine Daniel's "vision and dream" prophecies in chapters 2, 7, 8, and 9 using the study charts found on pages 6 through 19.

DANIEL CHAPTER TWO NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S "IMAGE" VISION / DREAM

The prophet Daniel records that Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, had a dream, which when he awoke, he could no longer remember nor could his magicians, enchanters, sorcerers and astrologers tell him what he dreamed (2:1-13). However, in a vision / dream - in answer to prayer - God revealed to Daniel what King Nebuchadnezzar had dreamed (2:14-23) and the interpretation of his dream (2:24-45).

PREPARATION --- Please **read** chapter 2. Then, **from the information** provided in the scripture references, **beginning with Daniel 2:32**, write out **the description** and **interpretation** of Nebuchadnezzar's "**IMAGE**" vision / dream **in the spaces provided on the opposite page** (7).

Through this "IMAGE" vision / dream, God reveals His prophetic time-line or time-table depicting the <u>commencement</u> and <u>consummation</u> of Gentile Kings and Kingdoms from Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon (605 B.C.), until the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

When Christ returns, "He (The Rock) will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end" and "will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed" (2:44-45). This is the coming Kingdom of God on earth for which we pray (Matthew 6:10).

DANIEL CHAPTER TWO NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S "IMAGE" VISION / DREAM

THE VISION / DREAM

THE DESCRIPTION

THE INTERPRETATION

100		The state of the s
	2:32a	2:37-38
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	2:32b	2:39a
	2:32c	2:39b
	2.320	2.350
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	2:33a	2:40-43
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	2:33b	
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	2:34-35	2:44-45
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DANIEL CHAPTER SEVEN DANIEL'S "FOUR BEAST" VISION / DREAM

In chapter seven, Daniel had a vision / dream (7:1) in which God revealed the beastly <u>course</u> and <u>character</u> of Gentile world powers (kingdoms) from King Belshazzar, 553 B.C., and Babylon (7:1), symbolized by the lion (7:4), until the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ to establish His Kingdom on earth (7:13-14). "His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him" (7:27).

PREPARATION --- Please read chapter 7. Then, from the information provided in the scriptural references, beginning with Daniel 7:4, write out the description and interpretation of Daniel's "FOUR BEAST" vision /dream in the spaces provided on the opposite page (9).

Through the "10 horned" fourth beast (7:7) we are introduced to "Another horn, a little one" (7:8). His boastful speaking against the Most High, his oppression of the saints (God's people) for a time, times and half time (3 ½ years - 42 months), and his attempt to change the set times and the laws (7:25) identifies this "little horn" as the Beast (The Antichrist) of Revelation 13:1-8.

DANIEL CHAPTER SEVEN DANIEL'S "FOUR BEAST" VISION / DREAM

THE VISION / DREAM	THE DESCRIPTION	THE INTERPRETATION
A Beast Like a Lion	7:4	7:17
A Beast Like a Bear	7:5	7:17
A Beast Like a Leopard	7:6	7:17
A Ten Horned Beast	7:7 and 7:19 7:8 and 7:20-21	7:17
The Ancient of Days The Son of Man	7:9-12 and 7:22 7:13-14	7:18 7:27

DANIEL CHAPTER EIGHT DANIEL'S "RAM and HE - GOAT" VISION

In chapter 8, Daniel had a vision (8:1) in which God **revealed** the fall of the Medo-Persian Empire (**The Ram**) and the rise of the Grecian Empire (**The He-Goat**).

PREPARATION --- Please read chapter 8. Then, from the information provided in the scriptural references, beginning with 8:3, write out the description and interpretation of Daniel's "RAM and HE-GOAT" vision in the spaces provided on the opposite page (11).

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

• The Ram with two horns --- The Medo - Persian Empire

The Ram was the national emblem of Persia (Iran).

The Persians overthrew the Babylonian Empire in 538-39 B.C.

The **longer** horn (8:3) represents **Cyrus** (600-530 B.C.) who ruled the Persians from 550 to 530 B.C.

The shorter horn (8:3) represents Darius The Mede who ruled the Medes from 539 to 525 B.C.

The He-Goat

The "shaggy" goat represents the kingdom of Greece (8:21a).

Greece overthrew the Persian Empire in 330-31 B.C.

The **prominent** or **large horn** that was broken off (8:8) **represents** Alexander The Great (356 - 323 B.C.) the first ruler of the Grecian Empire (336 - 323 B.C.) who died at age 33.

The four prominent horns (8:8) which replaced the "large" horn (Alexander) represent four kingdoms (8:22). Upon the death of Alexander The Great the ruler-ship of the Grecian Empire was divided between four of Alexander's generals.

Ptolemy became ruler of Egypt (South). Cassander ruled Macedonia (West).

Lysimachus ruled Thrace & Bithynia (North). Antigonus ruled the rest of the Empire (East).

• Antiochus 1V (Epiphanes)

In 8:9a, the "other horn", a little or small horn, and in 8:23, the "stern faced king", refers to Antiochus IV. Antiochus IV was the son of Antiochus 111, also called Antiochus The Great from the Selucidan Dynasty in Syria. Antiochus IV ruled over Syria from 175-164 B.C. He overpowered Palestine & captured Jerusalem in 170 B.C. (8:9b) & twice attempted the invasion of Egypt. Flavius Josephus, the Jewish historian, relates how Antiochus IV desecrated the temple in Jerusalem.

He <u>plundered</u> the temple of its valuables. He <u>stopped</u> the Daily Sacrifices & the temple worship. He <u>forbid</u> the practice of circumcision. He <u>destroyed</u> all copies of the Book of The Law which could be found. He <u>raised up idols</u> (Jupiter Olympus and Zeus) on the <u>temples Altar</u> and repeatedly <u>offered swine</u> on the Altar.

This desecration continued for 2,300 days (8:13-14) - from 171 B.C. until December 25, 165 B.C. and led to the Maccabean Revolt under Judas Maccabeus (166 B.C.) which toppled the Syrian rule of Antiochus 1V in 165 B.C. This victory is celebrated by the Jewish Feast of Dedication or Feast of Lights (John 10:22) and the Jewish Festival "Hanukkah."

DOUBLE REFERENCE PROPHECY

The life and actions of Antiochus 1V prefigure or foreshadow the Antichrist of Revelation 13.

In Daniel 8:9-12 and 8:23-25 we find a double reference prophecy where 8:9-12 refers to Antiochus 1V but statements like "not by his own power" (8:24a) and "not by human power" (8:25b) refer to the coming Antichrist - the future "stern faced king" (8:24). This same double reference is seen in Daniel 11:21-35 which refers to Antiochus 1V & 11:36-45 which refers to a different king - the Antichrist and his destruction at Armageddon (Revelation 19:11-21).

DANIEL CHAPTER EIGHT DANIEL'S "RAM and HE - GOAT" VISION

THE VISION	THE DESCRIPTION	THE INTERPRETATION
The Ram	8:3-4	8:20
The He-Goat	8:5-7	8:21
The He-Goat and His Successors	8:8-14	8:22-25

A COMPOSITE CHART OF GENTILE WORLD EMPIRES

The purpose of the composite chart on the opposite page (13) is to put together, in concise manner, an overview of Gentile World Empires. This composite chart brings together the pertinent information from Daniel chapter 2, 7, and 8 which allows us to identify Gentile World Empires from the time of King Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian Empire until the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ (The Rock) and the establishment of His Kingdom on earth.

OBSERVATIONS

- All the prophecies **preceding the Historical Gap** or Time Interval **have been fulfilled**. They are history. The prophecies **which follow the Historical Gap** or Time Interval **remain unfulfilled**.
- We know the fourth world empire or kingdom, depicted by the legs and feet in Nebuchadnezzar's Image Dream in Daniel chapter two, is the Roman Empire.

This Empire was divided (the legs) into the Western Roman Empire and the Eastern Roman Empire by the Roman Emperor, Flavius Theodosius, in 395 B.C. Rome remained the Western Capital and Constantinople became the Capital of the Eastern Roman Empire. Eventually both the Western and Eastern Empires lost their power to rule.

- The Historical Gap represents the time interval between the demise of the Old Roman Empire (depicted by the legs of the Image Dream) and its future revival (depicted by the feet and toes).
- A future revival of the Old Roman Empire is evident as seen in the unfulfilled prophecy concerning the feet and toes in Nebuchadnezzar's Image Dream.

"While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands.

It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them." Daniel 2:34

"In the time of those kings (depicted by the feet and 10 toes), the God of Heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed." Daniel 2:44

This future revival is also evident as seen in the unfulfilled prophecy concerning the ten horned beast in Daniel's Four Beast Vision / Dream.

"The fourth beast (with 10 horns) is a fourth kingdom that will appear on earth." Daniel 7:23 "The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom." Daniel 7:24

• In chapter 8, the Historical Gap represents the time interval between the vision of a person referred to as "another horn" in 8:9-14 and the future fulfillment of the vision in a person referred to as the "stern-faced king" in 8:23-25.

"Understand that the vision concerns the time of the end." Daniel 8:17b

"I am going to tell you what will happen later in the time of wrath, because the vision concerns the appointed time of the end." Daniel 8:19

"Seal up the vision for it concerns the distant future." Daniel 8:26b

The "horn" in Daniel 8:9-14 represents Antiochus 1V - ruler of Syria from 175 to 164 B.C. The "stern-faced king" in 8:23-25 prefigures or is a foreshadow of the rule of Antichrist in the unfulfilled prophecies of II Thessalonians 2:1-12 and Revelation 13, etc..

Compare also the "contemptible person" (Antiochus 1V) in Daniel 11:21-35 with "the king" (the coming Antichrist) in 11:36-45.

A COMPOSITE CHART OF GENTILE WORLD POWERS

INTERPRETATION 8:15-27	DESCRIPTION 8:1-14		INTERPRETATION 7:15-28	DESCRIPTION 7:1-14		INTERPRETATION 2:36-45	DESCRIPTION 2:31-35	ISRAEL IN CAPTIVITY JUDAH IN EXILE GOD'S PEOPLE UNDER GENTILE GOVERNMENTS
		DANIEL'S VISION DEPICTING	KING - KINGDOM 7:17 & 7:23	7:4 Wings ike a ma	DANIEL'S VISION DEP	NEBUCHADNEZZAR 2:37-38	NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S VI: GOLD 2:32	605 BC BABYLONIAN
The Kings of Media and Persia 8:20	THE RAM 8:2-4 "with two horms"	THE FALL	KING - KINGDOM 7:17 & 7:23	0 1	DEDICTING THE COURSE /CHARACTER OF	ANOTHER KINGDOM 2:39	VISION DEPICTING THE COM SILVER 2:32	538 BC PERSIAN
The King of Greece Four Kings 8:21-22 A stern faced king 8:23-27 (Antiochus Epiphanes)	THE GOAT 8:5-14 "A prominent horn" "4 prominent horns" "A little horn"	OF MEDO-PERSIA AND THE RISE OF	KING - KINGDOM 7:17 & 7:23	RD 7:6 Ings on its bac	GENTILE MODID	A THIRD KINGDOM 2:39	COMMENCEMENT & CONSUMATION BRONZE 2:32	330 BC GREECIAN
		THE GREECIAN WORLD	KING - KINGDOM 7:17 & 7:23	A 4TH BEAST 7:7 K Terrifying - Frightening Very powerful - Iron teeth - 10 horns		A FOURTH KINGDOM 2:40	OF GENTILE WORLD IRON 2:33	63 BC ROMAN EMPIRE
				-U D	> G	ו כ	- » c	DHROHWHE A
Also referring to a King in the end times.		EMPIRE	7:24a Another King (Horn) 7:20-21, 24b-25	A TEN HORNED BEAST 7:8 out of which came one "little horn"	EMPIDEC	A Division of the Fourth Kingdom 2:41-43	IRON AND CLAY 2:33	10 KINGS - KINGDOMS
king shall be destroyed. 8:19 & 25	At the end in the time of wrath, the stern-faced		destroys the horn 7:26-28	THE ANCIENT OF DAYS Christ's Kingdom		An indestruct- able kingdom 2:44-45	ROCK 2:34-35	THE ROCK

MAP OF THE OLD ROMAN EMPIRE

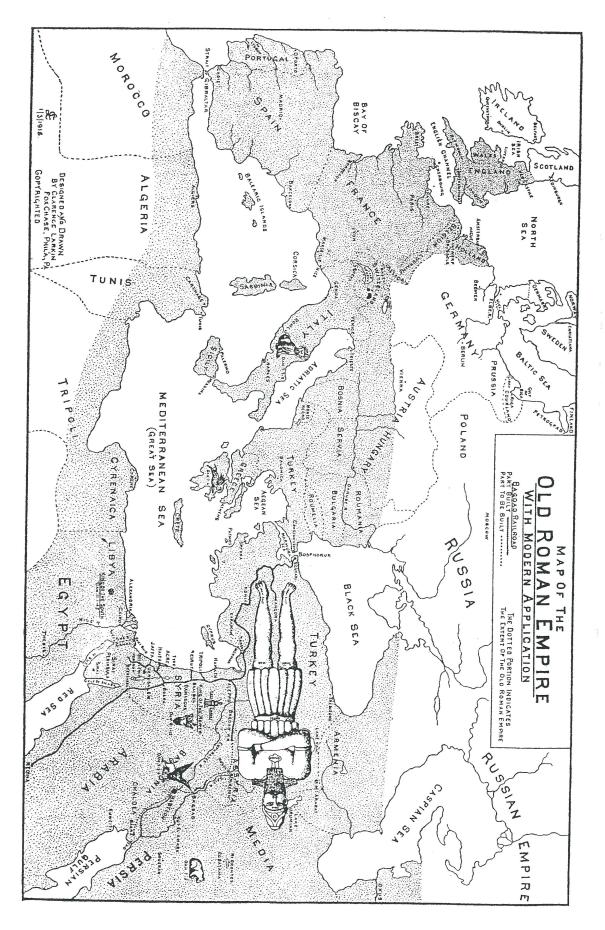
The shaded area of this map shows the extent of the Old Roman Empire.

Nebuchadnezzar's **Image Vision** (Daniel 2:1-45) and the "**Beast /Animal**" **symbols** of Daniel chapter 7: and 8: **are superimposed on this map**.

- **The Lion** for the Babylonian Empire (7:4)
- The Bear for the Medo-Persian Empire (7:5)
- The Leopard for the Grecian Empire (7:6)
- The Terrifying Frightening Beast with 10 horns for the Roman Empire (7:7)
- The Ram for the Medo-Persian Empire (8:2-4) and (8:20)
- The He-Goat for the Grecian Empire of Alexander The Great and the four generals who succeeded him (8:5-8) and (8:21-22)

At a future date in time, it is from within the boundaries of this Old Roman Empire (7:7), that 10 kings or kingdoms will arise (7:24) and through them "another king" (7:24-25). The expression "time, times and half a time" (7:25), meaning $3\frac{1}{2}$ years or 42 months, <u>identifies</u> this "other king" as the Antichrist of Revelation 13:1-10.

MAP OF THE OLD ROMAN EMPIRE



THE VISION OF THE "SEVENTY WEEKS"

Daniel 9:20-27

The chart on the opposite page (17) <u>collates</u> the time elements between Nebuchadnezzar's Image Vision of the "Gentile Nations" (Daniel 2:1-45) & Daniel's Vision of the "Seventy Weeks" (9:20-27). The Seventy Weeks or "Seventy Sevens" represent 490 years (70x7) and reveal events concerning Israel and Jerusalem (9:24).

EXAMPLES - Looking From Top To Bottom

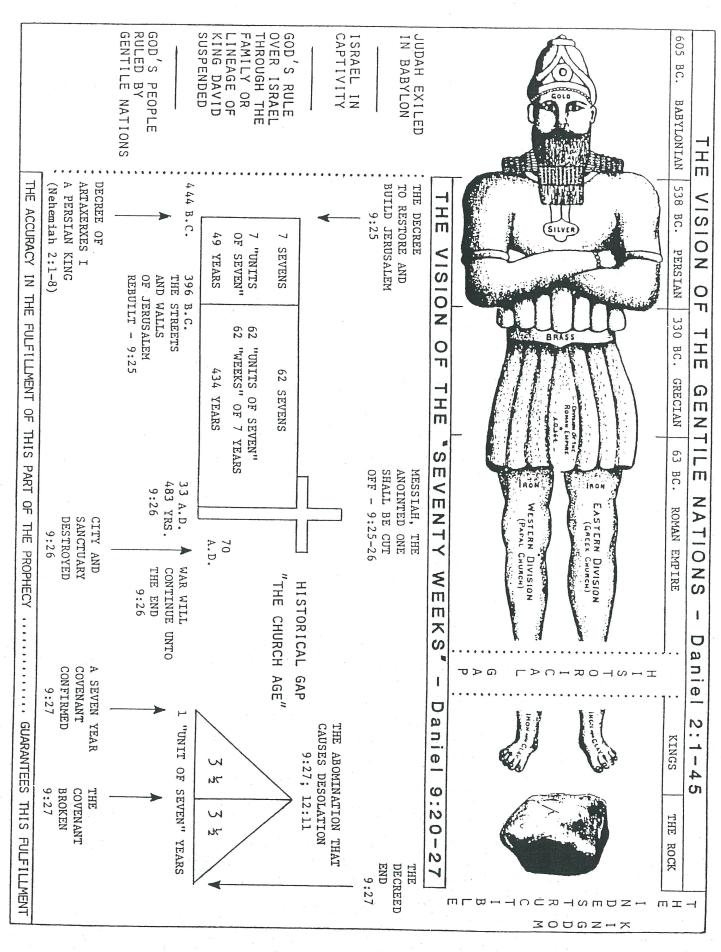
- During the time of the **Persian Empire** (arms and chest of silver), **the decree to restore** and **build** Jerusalem (9:25) was given **by Artaxerxes I**, King of Persia, in 444 B.C. (Nehemiah 2:1-8). **This** is **the beginning date** for the "Seventy Weeks" or 490 years.
- During the time of the Roman Empire (legs of iron), the Messiah (the Christ) would be born at the 69th week, 483 years after the decree of Artaxerxes I, and then be "cut off" or crucified (9:25-26).
 - After the 483 years Jerusalem (city) and the Temple (sanctuary) would also be destroyed (9:26). This happened in 70 A.D. when the Roman General Titus destroyed Jerusalem.
- That there is a "Historical Gap" in Nebuchadnezzar's Image Vision of the Gentile Nations is seen in the following ways:
 - In time, the Roman legs "of iron" become feet and toes of "iron mixed with clay" (2:33, 41-43).
 - -The feet and toes of the image are referred to as future kings or rulers of the Roman Empire "In the time of those kings" (2:44-45).
 - In Daniel chapter 7, the Roman Empire is seen as a "terrifying, frightening, powerful beast with 10 horns" (7:7). The "10 horns" are referred to as "ten kings who will come from this kingdom" (7:24) that is, the Roman Empire.

This prophetic evidence causes us to look for the emergence of a future coalition of 10 kings or rulers from within the geographical boundaries of the old Roman Empire. This is sometimes referred to as the "Revived Roman Empire."

The "historical gap" in Nebuchadnezzar's Image Vision of the Gentile Nations (Daniel chapter 2) collates with the "historical gap" between the 69th and 70th week of Daniel's Vision of the 70 weeks (9:20-27). This "historical gap" (9:20-27) is the "church age" - the time between Israel's present unbelief and their future belief in Jesus as their Messiah. See Romans chapter 9-10-11 and particularly notice 11:25-27.

• The time during the "kings" (10 toes - 10 horns) and the "rock" collates with the 70th week (the last 7 years) of Daniel's Vision (9:27). These last 7 years of Daniel's Vision are the 7 years of the Great Tribulation which begins with "A covenant with many for one 'seven" (9:27).

As the "rock" (Christ) in chapter 2 strikes a crushing blow to the feet of the image, thus ending Gentile world rule (2:34-35, 44-45) and instituting Christ's rule on earth, so Daniel's 70th week or the Great Tribulation will have its "decreed end" (9:27) – in the Second Coming of Jesus Christ who will establish His Kingdom of peace and righteousness over the earth (9:24).



The following is a chart of the prophetic calculations using the prophetic year of 360 days:

33	(Daniel 9:27) 1 week (70th week) 3½ yrs. 3½ yrs.	Destruction Covenant for of Jerusalem 1 week= 7 years		
→ March 30, A.D. 33 (Zechàriah 9:9; Luke 19:28-40)	April 3, A.D. 33 A.D. 70	Destruction of Jerusalem	Crucifixion	Triumphal entry into Jerusalem
→ March 5, 444 B.C. (Nehemiah 2:1-8)	69 weeks7 weeks + 62 weeks	Weeks: 69 Years: 69 × 7 = 483 Days: 483 × 360 = 173,880	173,880 days	 Decree of Artaxerxes

Verification of the prophetic calculations using our calendar (Julian):

a. 444 B.C. to A.D. 33 is 476 yrs. (444 plus 33 is 477, but 1 B.C. to A.D. 1 is 1 year and not two. One must subtract 1 year from 477.)

b. 476 yrs. x 365.24219879 days =

March 5 to March 30 =

173,855 days 25 days 173,880 days

Daniel In The Critics' Den By Josh McDowell Chapter Two, pages 11-31

 The 483 Years and Gregoria	The 483 Years in the Jewish and Gregorian Calendars
 Jewish Calendar (360 days per year*)	Gregorian Calendar (365 days a year)
 $(7 \times 7) + (62 \times 7)$ years = 483 years	444 B.C. to A.D. 33 = 476 years†
483 years × 360 days	476 years × 365 days
 173,880 days	173,740 days + 116 days in leap years‡ + 24 days (March 5-March 30)
	173,880 days
 "See comments on Daniel 9:27b for confirmation of this 360-day year. †Since only one year expired between 1 a.c. and a.b. 1, the total is 476, not 477. †A total of 476 years divided by four (a leap year every four years) gives 119 additional days. But three d subtracted from 119 because centennial years are not leap years, though every 400th year is a leap years.	See comments on Daniel 9:27b for confirmation of this 360-day year. Since only one year expired between 1 a.c. and a.b. 1, the total is 476, not 477. A total of 476 years divided by four (a leap year every four years) gives 119 additional days. But three days must be subtracted from 119 because centennial years are not leap years, though every 400th year is a leap year.

This 490-year period is divided into three segments; (a) 7 "sevens" (49 years), (b) 62 "sevens" (434 years), and (c) 1 "seven" (v. 27; 7 years). The first period of 49 years may refer to the time in which the rebuilding of the city of Jerusalem, permitted by Artexerxes' decree, was completed (444–395 в.с.). Though Nehemiah's wall construction project took only 52 days, many years may have been needed to remove the city's debris (after being desolate for many decades), to build adequate housing, and to rebuild the streets and a trench.

9:26a. The 62 "sevens" (434 years)

9:26a. The 62 "sevens" (434 years) extend up to the introduction of the Messiah to the nation Israel. This second Period concluded on the day of the Triumphal Entry just before Christ was cut off, that is, crucified. In His Triumphal Entry, Christ, in fulfillment of Zechariah 9:9, officially presented Himself to the nation of Israel as the Messiah. He was

evidently familiar with Daniel's prophecy when on that occasion He said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes" (Luke 19:42).

Thus the first two segments of the important time period—the 7 sevens (49 years) and the 62 sevens (434 years)—ran consecutively with no time between them. They totaled 483 years and extended from March 5, 444 B.C. to March 30, A.D. 33. How can 444 B.C. to A.D. 33 equal 483 years? For an answer see the chart "The 483 Years in the Jewish and Gregorian Calendars." (For more details see Harold W. Hoehner, Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1977, and Alva J. McClain, Daniel's Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1969.)

Beginning of 70 weeks

Several commandments or decrees in Israel's history have been suggested as the *terminus a quo* of the 483 years. These are:

- 1. The decree of Cyrus, 539 B.C. (Ezra 1:1-4).
- The decree of Darius, 519-518 B.C. (Ezra 5:3-7).
- The decree of Artaxerxes to Ezra, 457 B.C. (Ezra 7:11-16).
- . The decree of Artaxerxes to Nehemiah, 444 B.C. (Nehemiah 2:1-8). 73/121ff.

However, the one which best fits the data is number four, the decree of Artaxerxes to Nehemiah. (Archer prefers the starting point being the decree of Artaxerxes in the seventh year in 457 B.C. 3/401 Cf. Finegan, Handbook of Biblical Chronology, Princeton, 1964, pp. 294-298.)

J. D. Wilson comments on the starting point of the prophecy: "The next decree is referred to in Neh. ii. It was in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes. The words of the decree are not given, but its subject matter can easily be determined. Nehemiah hears of the desolate condition of Jerusalem. He is deeply grieved. The King asks the reason. Nehemiah replies 'the city, the place of my fathers' sepulchres lieth waste and the gates thereof are consumed with fire. The King bids him make request. He does so promptly, asking an order from the King that The sent to the city that I may build it.' And, as we read, he was sent, and he rebuilt Jerusalem.

"This decree then is the 'commandment to restore and rebuild Jerusalem.' There is no other decree authorizing the restoration of the city. This decree authorizes the restoration and the book of Nehemiah tells how the work was carried on. The exigencies of their various theories have led men to take some other decree for the *terminus a quo* of their calculations, but it is not apparent how any could have done so without misgivings. This decree of Neh. ii is the commandment to restore and rebuild Jerusalem; no other decree gives any permission to restore the city. All other decrees refer to the building of the temple and the temple only." 43/141,142

Wilson then gives the length of the year used in the calculation of the 483 years. "The only years whose length is given in the Bible are of 360 days — twelve months of 30 days each. Gen. vii, 11, viii, 3-4; Rev. xi, 2-3, xii, 6, xiii, 5. It seems not unreasonable to take the period designed as 360 days. In that case the 483d year from [444] B.C. is [33] A.D., the date of the Crucifixion."* 43/143

*Note: The dates I have used in this work are from the most recent scholarship. When older sources with unlikely dates are quoted, the correct dates are set in to avoid confusion. The dates quoted in this work are from H. W. Hoehner's Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ. Hoehner has thoroughly researched this issue, including careful scrutiny of Robert Anderson's The Coming Prince. Therefore, for a complete explanation of the dating, see Hoehner's work (73).

If Daniel is correct, the time from the edict to restore and rebuild Jerusalem (Nisan 1, 444 B.C.) to the coming of the Messiah to Jerusalem is 483 years, each year equaling the 360-day year (173,880 days). Will these calculations match with history and time?

Day of Christ's Crucifixion

Hoehner demonstrates that the only logical day for Christ's crucifixion is Nisan 14, A.D. 33, or according to our calendar, April 3, A.D. 33. See chapters IV and V of Hoehner's Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ.

Calculation of 69 Weeks

Using the 360-day year, Hoehner calculates the terminal day of the 69 weeks of Daniel's prophecy as follows: "Multiplying the sixty-nine weeks by seven years for each week by 360 days gives a total of 173,880 days. The difference between 444 B.C. and A.D. 33 then is 476 solar years. By multiplying 476 by 365.24219879 or by 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, 45.975 seconds, one comes to 173,855 days, 6 hours, 52 minutes, 44 seconds, or 173,855 days. This leaves only 25 days to be accounted for between 444 B.C. and A.D. 33. By adding the 25 days to March 5 (of 444 B.C.), one comes to March 30 (of A.D. 33) which was Nisan 10 in A.D. 33. This is the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem." 73/138

The terminal event of the 69 weeks is the presentation of Christ Himself to Israel as the Messiah as predicted in Zechariah 9:9. This materialized on Monday, Nisan 10 (March 30), A.D. 33. On the following Friday, April 3, A.D. 33, Christ was crucified or "cut off" (Daniel 9:26).

After the termination of the 69 weeks and before the commencement of the 70th week, two events had to occur:

- (1) The "cutting off" of the Messiah.
- (2) The destruction of the city and temple.

The temple was destroyed in A.D. 70 by Titus the Roman. Therefore, according to Daniel's prophecy, the Messiah had to come and be crucified between March 30, A.D. 33 and A.D. 70. Christ was crucified April 3, A.D. 33.

THE EUROPEAN UNION

The following information is taken from Dr. David R. Reagan's Power Point Presentation of "Europe In Bible Prophecy." Dr. Reagan heads the Lamb & Lion Ministries located in McKinney, Texas.

INTRODUCTION

The European Union is mistakenly viewed by many as nothing more than an exercise in regional economic cooperation. But it is much more than that. It was converted from an economic union to a political one in 1993, and the impact on the member states was sudden and, in some cases, overwhelming.

What we are witnessing in Europe today is a revival of the old Roman Empire (in the form of the European Union) as prophesied in the Book of Daniel in chapters 2, 7, 8, 9 and Revelation chapter 13.

THE TURNING POINT

The turning point for the fulfillment of these prophecies came with World War II. Just as the war resulted in the re-establishment of Israel (May, 1948) by motivating the Jewish people to go back home, it also motivated the movement toward European unity.

Europe was in ruins and was desperate. This desperation prompted European leaders to put aside ancient hatreds and jealousies in order to reach out to each other for mutual support and aid.

The result was a series of economic mergers which were ultimately to lead to political integration.

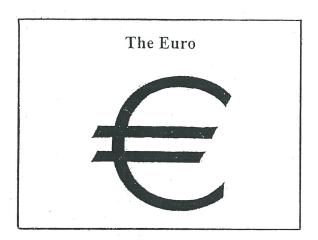
- May 9, 1950 Robert Schuman, the French foreign minister, announced a plan conceived by a French businessman, Jean Monnet. The plan was to pool European coal and steel production. The result was the formation in 1951 of the European Coal and Steel Community, consisting of France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxemburg. May 9 is now "Europe Day."
- March 25, 1957 The Treaty of Rome in which the members of the European Coal and Steel Community agreed to set up a Common Market which went into effect in January 1958. This resulted in the economic integration & unification of the economies of the six participating nations.
- The next step came in 1973 when three nations were added to the European Economic Community. They were Denmark, Ireland, and Britain. Later additions included: Greece in 1981; Spain & Portugal in 1986; Austria, Finland & Sweden in 1995; making at that time a total of 15 nations. Ten nations Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia became members in 2004 with Bulgaria and Rumania following. At the end of 2009 A.D. the European Union consisted of 27 nations representing over 500 million people.
- **February 7, 1992** the Maastricht Treaty (Maastricht, Netherlands) which transformed the European Economic Community into a political and economic entity called **The European Union**, a Union that came into existence **in 1993**. Since that time, the European Union has rapidly evolveed into a **super-state**.

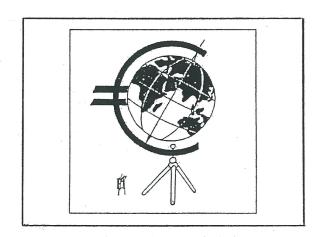
THE EMERGENCE OF A SUPER STATE

• The Council of Europe is the Chief Legislative Body. It consists of 87 representatives appointed by the 27 member states. This body has the power to overrule all national laws of member

states. It is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium.

- The European Parliament consists of 626 members who are elected by regions for 5 year terms. The Parliament acts as a public forum a sort of European town council. Most legislative proposals originate from its deliberations. The Parliament is located in Strasbourg, France.
- The European Commission is the Executive Branch. It consists of 20 members appointed by the member states for terms of 5 years. The Commission selects the chief administration officer of the European Union. The current president and chief administrative officer of the Commission is Jose Manuel Barroso whose term expired October 31, 2009 but who continues as caretaker.
- The European Court of Justice is the Judicial Branch. This body, located in Luxembourg, has the power to override the supreme courts of the member nations.
- The European Central Bank is located in Frankfurt, Germany.
- Revenue comes from a 1.27% tax of each nation's Gross National Income. Revenue is also derived from a VAT tax and custom duties. In 2000, the income totaled \$93 billion.
- The Currency, called the Euro, was introduced in 1999 and replaced the currencies of most memer nations in January, 2002. As indicated by the following graphic (right), the hope is that the Euro will one day become the currency of the world.





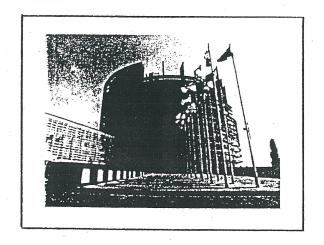
• The Rapid-Reaction Eurocorps - is the European Union's Arm. A French unit of this army was deployed in 2003 to help stabilize a former French Colony - African nation.

SPIRITUAL IMPLICATIONS

• The Tower of Babel Motif

From the beginning, the tower of Babel, which spiritually represents Man's rebellion against God, has been one of the identifying themes of the European Union.

This demonic symbol is used proudly to indicate that Europe will succeed where Babylon failed. From this Tower of Babel Motif the European Union has coined this slogan: "Many tongues, one voice."



The European Union Flag
 The EU Flag features 12 stars in a circle. Why 12 when there are many more member states?
 It's because the symbolism is taken from the Catholic Church's traditional portrayal of Mary.

This imagery is drawn, of course, from Revelation 12 where the woman with a halo of 12 stars represents Israel, not Mary. The EU has confirmed that "The EU flag is a shared flag, blue with 12 gold stars symbolizing completeness. The number will remain 12 no matter how many countries there are in the European Union."



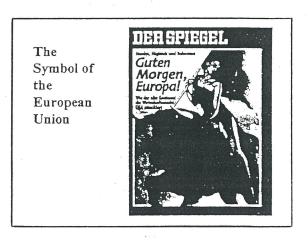
• The European Anthem

The EU Anthem is "Ode to Joy," the prelude of the last movement of Beethoven's 9th Symphony. The words, by Fredrich von Schiller, concern Mankind entering the shrine of a pagan goddess who unites all Men by the power of magic.

• The European Union Logo

The EU Logo is, incredibly, a woman riding a beast! It comes right out of the Satanic imagery of Revelation 17 where a harlot is portrayed riding on a beast in the sea.

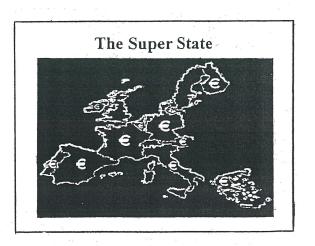
This woman represents the apostate religion of the Antichrist. At the right is the logo as it appeared on the cover of the German magazine, Der Spiegel, in May of 2000. It shows a woman riding a bull while holding the Euro Flag. This symbol can be found in a huge painting in the EU Parliament's new building in Brussels.



CONCLUSIONS

The end time Super State prophesied by Daniel has been born. The Roman Empire is being revived. It is being resurrected from the dead before our very eyes. It will soon give birth to the Antichrist who will use it as his base to conquer the world. Dr. David R. Reagan

Although I would not make as bold or specific pronouncements as Dr. David R. Reagan has, I do consider the formation of the European Union as the <u>nearest</u> and <u>clearest</u> possibility the world has yet seen for fulfilling chapter 7 of Daniel's prophecy - concerning "10 kings" that will arise from within a "Revived Roman Empire"; "another king," the Antichrist of Daniel's 70th Week; and the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ to establish His "Everlasting Kingdom." William G. Arvan



THE DOCTRINE OF "LAST THINGS"

The chart on the opposite page (25) unfolds, in their chronological order, future prophetical events revealed in the Bible. We have labeled these future events as the doctrine or teaching of the "Last Things" which will occur during the Church Age, the Millennial Age, and in Eternity.

These future events are presented from the position of the **Pre-Tribulation** Resurrection and Rapture of the Church and the **Pre-Millennial** Return of Christ to the earth.

In Their Chronological Order, These Future Prophetical Events Are:

The First Resurrection and Rapture Of The Church

I Corinthians 15:35-58; I Thessalonians 4:13-18

• The Marriage Of The Lamb

The Marriage of the Lamb, Jesus Christ, to His Bride, The Church, **takes place in Heaven** following the First Resurrection and Rapture of the Church.

Included in this event is the Judgment Seat of Christ, called the "Bema," where believers in Christ are judged for their works and rewarded for their faithfulness.

II Corinthians 5:10; Matthew 16:27; Romans 14:9-12; I Corinthians 3:5-15

• The Tribulation

The Tribulation is the fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy of the "Seventy Sevens" or 490 years. The Tribulation is the "70th Seven." Daniel 9:25-27

The Tribulation is divided into two parts of 3½ years each with the last 3½ years referred to as The Great Tribulation – a time of "Great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now- and never to be equaled again." Matthew 24:21

The events covering the 7 year tribulation period are revealed in Revelation chapters 4-19.

The Tribulation ends with the Battle of Armageddon and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to the earth. Revelation 19:11-21

• The Millennium

The Millennium is Christ's 1000 year rule / reign of peace and righteousness on the earth.

Revelation 20:1-6

During the Millennium, the unfulfilled prophecies concerning the earth, Israel, and the Church are realized.

The Millennium ends with the Second Resurrection and God's Great White Throne Judgment.

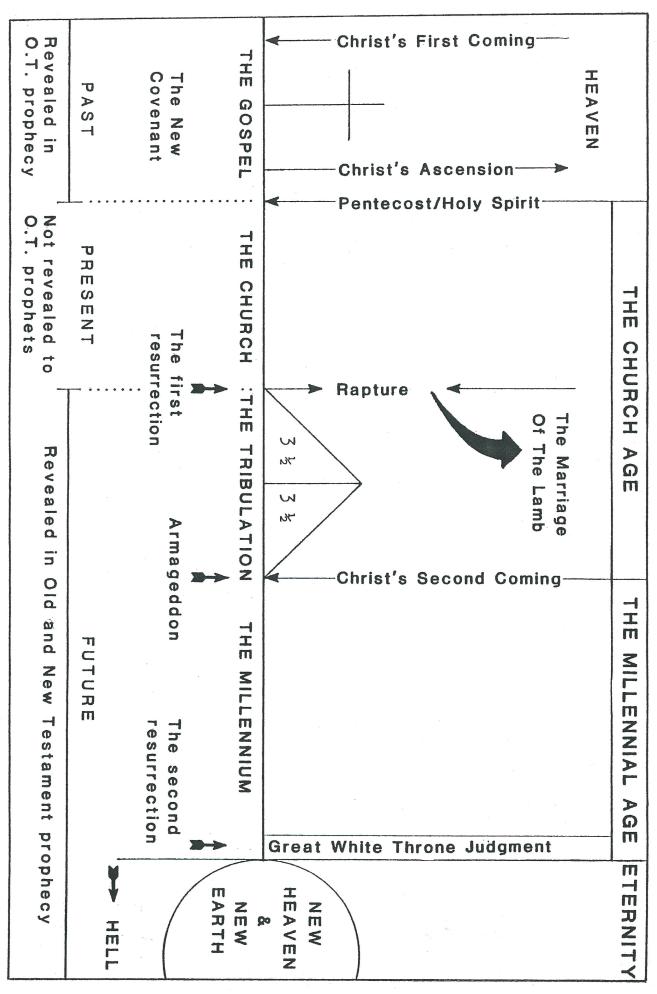
Revelation 20:11-15

• The New Heaven and The New Earth

The New Heaven and New Earth is described in Revelation chapters 21 and 22.

The New Jerusalem is the "City of God" (Hebrews 11:10) and the eternal home of God's people.

"But in keeping with his (God's) promises we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness."



DEATH and DESTINY

"--- Man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment" (Hebrews 9:27).

"Death is the most democratic institution on earth," states Fred Carl Kuehner. "It comes to all men regardless of color, education, wealth, or rank. It allows no discrimination, tolerates no exceptions. The mortality rate of mankind is the same the world over: **one death per person**. The only exceptions we know of are **Enoch** (Genesis 5:21-24) and **Elijah** (II Kings 2:11), both of whom were taken up into the presence of God without dying, and those **believers** who, living at the time of Christ's return, **will be transformed** without passing through death" (I Corinthians 15:51-52; I Thessalonians 4:16-17).

WHAT IS DEATH?

Webster's New World Dictionary **defines death as**: "to become senseless"; "no longer living"; "without life".

The Bible defines death as separation. In spiritual death, man's soul & spirit are separated from God (Ecclesiastes 12:7). In physical death, man's soul & spirit are separated from his body (Acts 7:59-60).

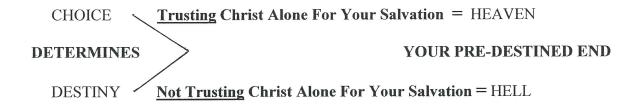
How does James describe death (2:26a)?
How does Luke (23:46) and John (19:30) describe Jesus' death?
"The body becomes lifeless because the spirit or breath has left it." Dr. Lehman Strauss
How does the Apostle Paul describe death in II Corinthians 5:8?
"Death is the separation of the spirit, the real man, from the body, the temporary tabernacle." Dr. H. A. Ironside
What was the original cause of death? Romans 5:12b
Who caused death? Romans 5:12a, 17a, 19a
Who were the first recorded spiritual deaths? Genesis 2:15-17 with 3:1-7
Who was the first recorded physical death? Genesis 4:8

WHAT IS DESTINY?

Examining the meaning of the words "destine" and "destination" will help our understanding of "destiny". The verb destine means, "to pre-determine"; "to set apart for a certain purpose". Destination, a noun, means, "the end for which someone is destined" (pre-destined); "the place toward which someone is going or sent" (headed or bound for).

Destiny, refers to "what will necessarily happen to any person." Webster's New World Dictionary

At death, a person's eternal destiny is already determined. It was determined by the moral choices made during the person's lifetime. The choice is in relation to God's revelation of Himself and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Those who believed God, their destiny is Heaven and eternal life. Those who did not believe, their destiny is Hell and eternal judgment.



"Whoever <u>believes</u> in the Son has eternal life but whoever <u>rejects</u> the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him." John 3;36

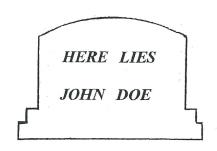
THE <u>INTERMEDIATE</u> <u>STATE</u> <u>OF MAN</u> BETWEEN DEATH and RESURRECTION

THE BODY

- From **what substance** did God form man's body? Genesis 2:7
- At death, what happens to the body? Genesis 3:19
- Are there **exceptions** to this rule? Ecclesiastes 3:20

The body is the material part of man. Tombs, sepulchers, and graves as well as the sea denote places where man's material re-mains are placed. There, the body decays, disintegrates, and returns to dust.

 As Job reflected on the future decay and disintegration of his body, what hope did he express?
 Job 19:25-26



THE SOUL and SPIRIT

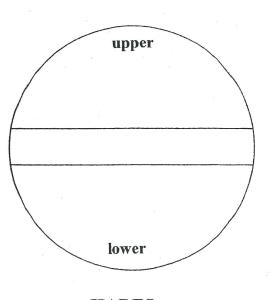
Man is a tripartite person. He is body ('soma', in Greek) which gives him world-consciousness, soul ('psyche') which gives him self-consciousness, and spirit ('pneuma') which gives him Godconsciousness. The soul and spirit are distinguishable but inseparable (I Thessalonians 5:23).

At death, the soul and spirit separate from the body. The body goes to the grave. But what happens to the soul and spirit? In order to answer this question we have to understand the places called Hades and Heaven, and also be able to distinguish believers and unbelievers in relation to these places.

HADES

Luke 16:19-31 gives us information about Hades. Place your answers to the following questions in the provided diagram.

- When Lazarus died his soul and spirit went to the **upper compartment**. What is it **called** in Luke 16:22? How is it **described** in Luke 16:25?
- When the rich man died his soul and spirit went to the lower compartment. What is this called in Luke 16:23a? How is it described in Luke 16:28 and 16:24? During Old Testament times, the soul and spirit of all believers went to the place of comfort. The soul and spirit of all unbelievers went to the place of agony and torment.
- What **separates** these two compartments (Luke 16:26a)?
- What **truth** does this teach us (Luke 16:26b)?



HADES

Hades means "all receiving". It is the intermediate waiting place between death and judgment.

• What judgment were Abraham, Lazarus and all Old Testament believers waiting for? Christ's sacrificial death as payment or judgment for their sins to take place. Why! Because, "In his (God's) forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand (before Christ's death) unpunished" (Romans 3:25).

Now, since the **complete payment** for sin has been made in Christ, **there is no need to wait**. The upper compartment of Hades, the place of comfort, **is now unoccupied**. At the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ, **those who were waiting there were ushered into the presence of God in Heaven**. Ephesians 4:8-10 is a possible **reference** to this event.

•	What judgment are all unbelievers in Hades still waiting for?
	Revelation 20:11-12

NOTE: "The word "Hades" is used 10 times in the New Testament - and is sometimes translated differently: Matthew 11:23 (depths),16:18 (Hades); Luke 10:15 (depths), 16:23 (Hell); Acts 2:27 (grave),2:31 (grave); Revelation 1:18 (Hades), 6:8 (Hades), 20:13 (Hades), 20:14 (Hades). However, it never denotes the grave, nor is it the permanent region of the lost."

W. E. Vine --- Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words

HEAVEN

At the **present time**, the soul and spirit **of an unbeliever** also goes to the agony and torment of Hades. **But what happens to a New Testament believer?** Where does **his soul** and **spirit** go? Paul give us the answer in ---

II Corinthians 5:8	
Philippians 1:21-24	

In II Corinthians 12:2-4 the Apostle Paul uses the word "Paradise" to tell what it is like in God's presence. It means, "a garden"; "a place of great beauty and perfection"; "the sum total of blessedness".

The soul and spirit of all deceased believers, whether Old or New Testament, are now "with Christ" awaiting the first Resurrection.

"Precious in the sight of the lord is the death of his saints."

Psalm 116:15

NOTE: For visuals of this section on The Intermediate State of Man Between Death and Resurrection, and Hades see the charts on page 33 and 35.

NOTE: Any attempt to contact or communicate with the dead is "detestable" in the eyes of God. See Leviticus 19:31, 20:6; and Deuteronomy 18:9-14

THE INTERMEDIATE STATE OF MAN BETWEEN DEATH and RESURRECTION (continued)

What happens when a person physically dies?

The chart on the opposite page (33) traces the experience of both a believer in Christ & an unbeliever between their death and resurrection.

The Believer

Following the "Life" line in the middle of the chart, we find that at death the spirit (and soul) of a believer goes directly to be with Christ (II Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:21-23) and his body goes down to the "Grave" (Genesis 3:19; Ecclesiastes 3:20).

At The First Resurrection, I Thessalonians 4:13-18 teaches that:

- "The Lord himself will come down from heaven" (4:16a) bringing with Him the spirit (and soul) of "Those (believers) who have fallen asleep (died) in him" (4:14).
- Then, the spirit (and soul) of the believer **is reunited with their newly created body** and "*The dead in Christ*" are resurrected out from among the dead (4:16b).
- Next, following the "Life" line, those believers in Christ who are still alive when Christ comes, "Will be caught up together with them in the clouds (the resurrected dead in Christ) to meet the Lord in the air (the Rapture) and so we will be with the Lord forever" (4:17).

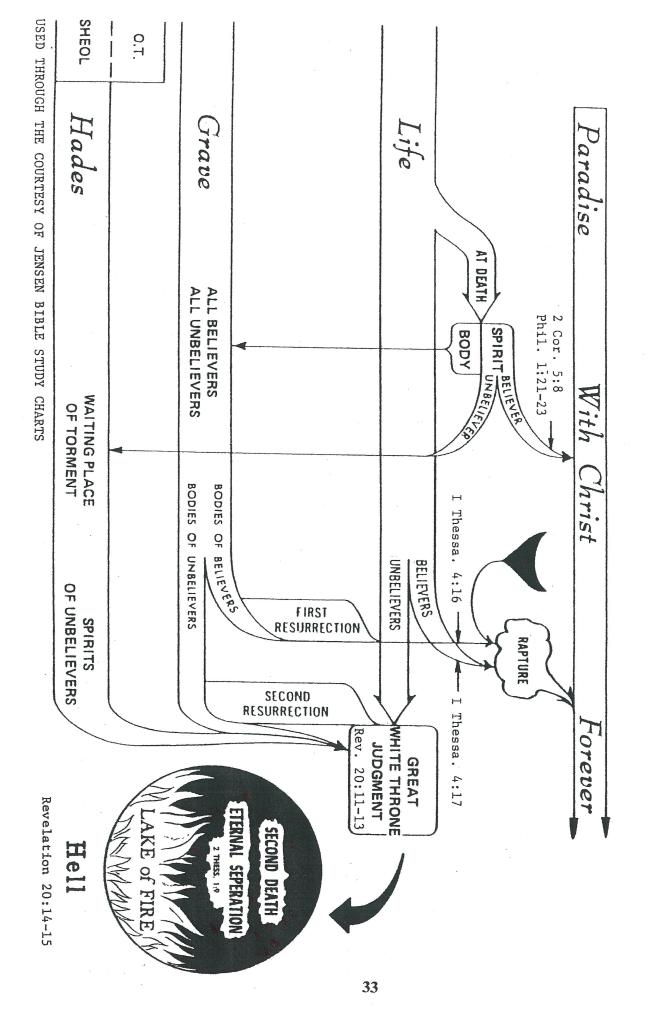
The Unbeliever

Following the "Life" line in the middle of the chart, we find that at death the spirit (and soul) of an unbeliever goes directly to "Hades" (Luke 16:19-31) and his body goes down to the "Grave" (Genesis 3:19; Ecclesiastes 3:20).

At The Second Resurrection, Revelation 20:11-15 teaches that:

- The spirit (and soul) of all unbelievers are raised from "Hades" and reunited with their newly created resurrected bodies (20:13).
- These resurrected unbelievers are brought for judgment before God's "Great White Throne" (20:11-12)
- Having been pronounced "guilty", they are "Thrown into the lake of fire" (Hell). "The lake of fire is the second death" (20:14-15).
- There, in the lake of fire (Hell) they undergo an eternal separation from God. II Thessalonians 1:9

BETWEEN DEATH AND RESURRECTION THE INTERMEDIATE STATE OF MAN



THE INTERMEDIATE WAITING PLACE BETWEEN DEATH and JUDGMENT

The chart on the opposite page (35) diagrams the teaching of Jesus about **Hades** as found in Luke 16:19-31.

This teaching of Jesus, concerning Hades as a "waiting place" between death and judgment, only refers to Old Testament Believers as well as to all unbelievers.

OBSERVATIONS

You will notice on the chart that Hades is composed of three "compartments," upper, lower, & middle.

- The "upper" compartment is called "Abraham's Side" (16:22-23) and the place of "Comfort" (16:25). Jesus also called it "Paradise" (Luke 23:39-43).

 This was the "waiting place" between death and judgment for all Old Testament Believers.
- The "lower" compartment is called a place of "torment, fire, and agony" (16:23-25, 28). This is the "waiting place" between death and judgment for all unbelievers.
- The "middle" compartment is a "great fixed chasm" so that those in the "upper" compartment cannot cross over to the "lower" compartment and neither can those in the "lower" compartment cross over to the "upper" compartment (16:26).
- Tartarus or The Abyss, the dungeons where Fallen Angels are held prior to their Day of Judgment, is thought by some to be an additional or "fourth compartment" of Hades.

II Peter 2:4; Jude 6; Revelation 20:1-3

Old Testament Believers

When an Old Testament believer died, his spirit and soul went to the "upper" compartment of Hades, the place of "Comfort" (16:25) and his body went to the "Grave" (16:22a).

Since Hades is the "waiting place between death and judgment," what judgment were these Old Testament believers waiting for? They were waiting for the Messiah, the Christ, to come who would pay the penalty (judgment) of death which was the due punishment for their sin --- "Because in his (God's) forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand (before the cross upon which Christ died) unpunished." Romans 3:25

Now that Christ has come and paid the penalty (judgment) for their sin (Romans 3:25-26), there is no more waiting. The spirit and soul of these Old Testament Believers are now with God (Ephesians 4:8). The "upper" compartment is empty. It has fulfilled its purpose. Now, after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, when a believer dies his / her spirit and soul go directly to be with God - Christ.

II Corinthians 5:6-8

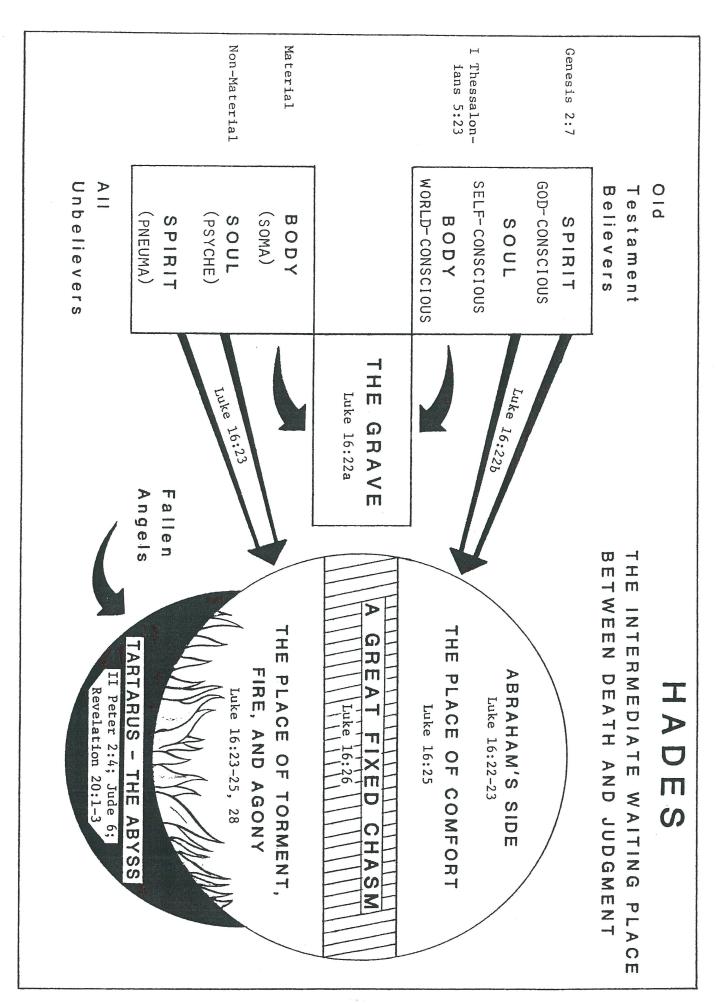
All Unbelievers

When an unbeliever dies, the chart shows that his / her body goes to the "Grave" (16:22a) and the spirit and soul to the "lower" compartment of Hades, the place of torment, fire, and agony (16:23-25, 28).

Since Hades is a "waiting" place between death and judgment, what judgment are all unbelievers waiting for? They are waiting for the Second Resurrection, God's Great White Throne Judgment, and Hell as their final and eternal destination (Revelation 20:11-15).

Fallen Angels

Angels who sin also await judgment (II Peter 2:4). The judgment of the "great Day" (Jude 6), the judgment of the "the lake of burning sulfur" or Hell (Revelation 20:10.



THE FIRST RESURRECTION

Resurrection means, "a raising or a rising up"; "to cause to stand". It is the time when the soul and spirit is reunited with the body. However not everyone believes in a bodily resurrection. Who were some in the Scriptures that did not?

•	Acts 23:8	
	and the second s	

I Corinthians 15:12

Using the following verses, state in your own words what guarantee there is of a future resurrection.

- John 11:25
- I Corinthians 15:20-23
- I Corinthians 15:3-8

There are two general resurrections taught in the Scriptures. How are they called or described in:

- Daniel 12:2
 and

 John 5:28-29
 and

 Acts 24:14-15
 and

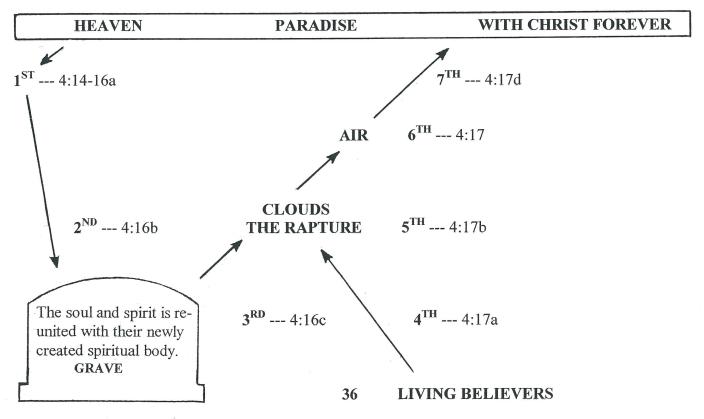
What span of time separates these two general resurrections?

• Revelation 20:5-6

THE BELIEVER'S RESURRECTION and RAPTURE

I Corinthians chapter 15, and I Thessalonians 4:13-18 are the most informative portions of Scripture regarding the believer's resurrection and rapture. I Corinthians 15 speaks of the bodily changes that will take place while I Thessalonians 4:13-18 speaks more of the sequence of events.

In the diagram below, describe the events in I Thessalonians 4:13-18 in the order they happened.



Two questions are asked in I Corinthians 15:35. "How are the dead raised? With what kind of a body will they come?

In answer to these questions, the Apostle Paul compares the difference between a seed that is planted or sown and the plant which is produced to explain the differences between a body that dies and a resurrected body. "When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be ---" (I Corinthians 15:37).

From the following verses in I Corinthians chapter 15, write out those differences.

THE BODY THAT IS SOWN		THE BODY THAT IS RAISED
Verse 42		
Verse 43a		
Verse 43h		
Verse 11		
Verse 49		
* *	es of those believers who a	are still living when Christ returns?
Many questions about the	resurrection remain unan	swered. But stand fast in these truths.
WHEN	"God will give us a bo	dy as he has determined." I Corinthians 15:38
CHRIST	0	(Christ). " I John 3:2-3
RETURNS	"He (Christ) will trans glorious body." Phili	form our lowly bodies so that they will be like his appians 3:21

THE RESURRECTION and RAPTURE! WHEN?

There are three major theological positions regarding the Resurrection and Rapture of the Church. As diagnosed on page 39, they are the Pre-Tribulation, Mid-Tribulation, and Post-Tribulation positions.

The Pre-Tribulation Position states that there are two stages in Christ's Coming. First, Christ comes for His saints - the Church (I Thessalonians 4:13-18). Afterward He will come with His saints (Revelation 19:11-16). The first stage is called the "Rapture." The second, the "Revelation." The Rapture takes place prior to the 7 year period of tribulation spoken of in Daniel 9:24-27, 12:1; the teaching of Jesus in Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21; and as described in Revelation chapters 5-19 thus allowing the Church to escape God's wrath which will be unleashed during that time (I Thessalonians 5:9; Revelation 3:10).

The Mid-Tribulation Position also states that there are two stages in Christ's Coming. However, according to this position, the first stage (rapture) happens at the middle of the 7 year tribulation period. The Church will experience the trials and testings of the first 3½ years and then be raptured (I Thessalonians 5:9) so as to escape the "Great Tribulation" - the outpouring of God's wrath during the last 3½ years. Recently, a new position, similar to the Mid-Tribulation position, has been expounded. It is called the Pre-Wrath Rapture of the Church.

The Post-Tribulation Position holds that the Rapture of the Church and the Second coming of Christ **happen at the same time** - at the end of the 7 year tribulation period. The Church will **be present** during the Great Tribulation but will **be "kept**" (Revelation 3:10) - that is, **delivered** or **protected** from the outpouring of God's wrath. The logic of this position is that the Rapture is preceded **by "signs" of Christ's coming**. These "**signs**," in part, refer to the Tribulation Period (Matthew 24:29-31). Therefore, the Rapture takes place **after these** "**signs**" and at Christ's coming at the end of the Great Tribulation.

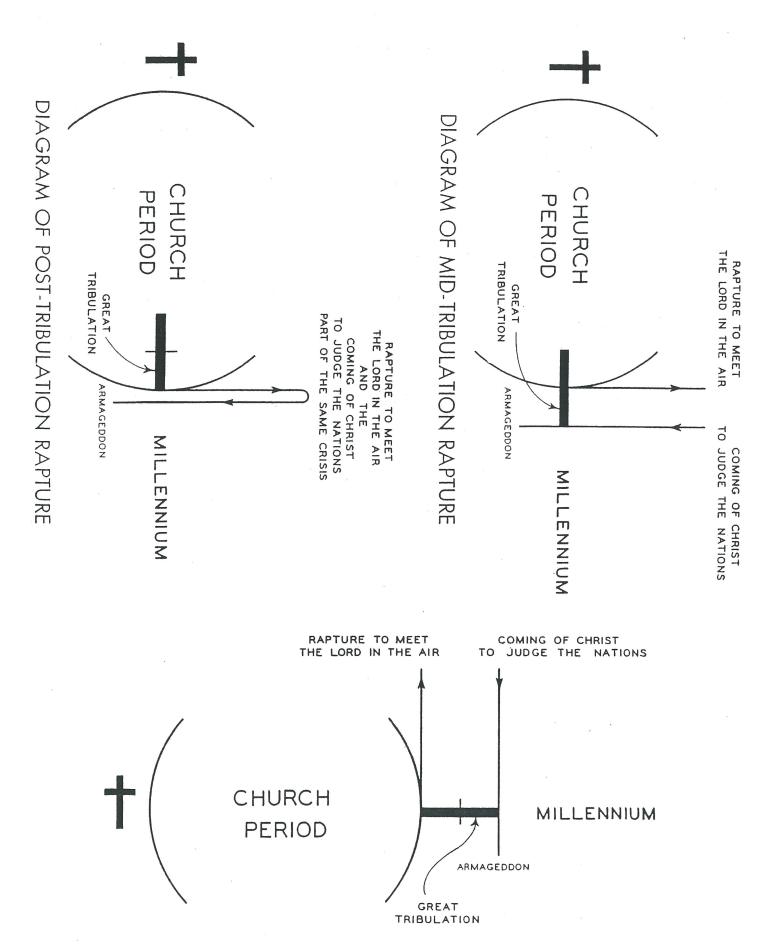


DIAGRAM OF PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURE

THE RAPTURE

There are **three positions** regarding the Resurrection & Rapture of Church Saints. (See chart - page 39) This page, 40, and page 41 **presents two evidences for** a Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church.

THE FIRST EVIDENCE --- THE KNOWN and UNKNOWN DAY OF CHRIST'S COMING.

CHRIST'S COMING
An Unknown Day

VERSES

CHRIST'S COMING

A Known Day

Matthew 24:36, 42, 44

25:13

Daniel 9:27; 12:7

Revelation 12:6, 14; 13:5

The enclosed area of this diagram represents the 70th week or Seven Years of Daniel's Vision of the "Seventy Sevens" and the covenant "a ruler" will make with Israel for this 70th week - one unit of seven years. Daniel 9:27a

"In the middle of the 'seven' (3½ years) he (the ruler, the coming Antichrist) – will set up an abomination that causes desolation." Daniel 9:27b Also Matthew 24:15-16 & II Thessalonians 2:3-4

There are **two** 3½ year divisions or 42 months of 30 days each **or 1260 days**

The evidence presented in the second column will demonstrate that there is a known "day" or time for Christ's coming to the earth.

The **statements** about the 3½ years in the second column lead up to Christ's coming to the earth after the Great Tribulation.

In Daniel 9:27, there is a three and one-half year countdown until the end or consummation.

There are 1260 days or 3½ years that a woman (Israel) is cared for – out of the serpent's (the devil's) reach.

Revelation 12:6 and 12:14

>>>

There is a "time, times, and half a time" (3½ years) before fulfillment.

Daniel 12:6-7

There are 42 months (3½ years) during which the Beast (Antichrist) exercises his authority (Rev. 13:5) and which comes to an end at Christ's coming to the earth. II Thessa. 2:8

CONCLUSION

In the air before the Tribulation.

There are two aspects of Christ's Coming

Church saints cannot know this day.

<<<

Tribulation saints can know this day.

To the earth after the Tribulation

THE <u>SECOND</u> EVIDENCE --- WHERE DO PEOPLE <u>COME</u> <u>FROM</u> WHO WILL <u>POPULATE</u> THE MILLENNIUM?

"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 considered accursed."

Isaiah 65:20

"From this verse we see that people live longer --- but some still die. Death is not yet erased. This is important to notice. During the Millennium people will be walking around on the face of this planet with natural bodies, subject to decay and death which we all inherited from Adam. Where do these people come from?"

(The Pre-Tribulation Rapture, page 40, by Allen Beechick)

• Are they present day Christians?

No, --- they will all have been raptured and living in imperishable immortal resurrected bodies. I Corinthians 15:51-53; I Thessalonians 4:16-17

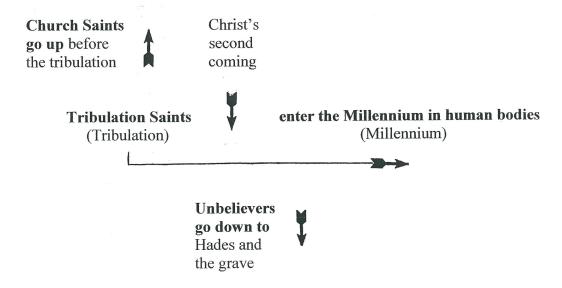
• Are they present day unbelievers?

No, --- they will have died at Christ's second coming.

II Thessalonians 1:7-10a; 2:8-12

• They are Tribulation Saints --- both Jews and Gentiles who have been saved during the Tribulation and are living in natural human bodies when Christ returns.

Revelation chapter 7



CONCLUSION

If the Rapture of the Church is Post-Tribulation, then no one will be left alive in human bodies by which to populate the Millennium. All would have died under God's judgment or have been raptured and living in imperishable immortal resurrected bodies.

Therefore, the Rapture of the Church is Pre-Tribulation, thus, allowing for Tribulation Saints, still living in natural human bodies when Christ returns to the earth, to populate the Millennium.

THE MARRIAGE / WEDDING OF THE LAMB

There were three stages in an Oriental Wedding: The Pledge, The Processional, and The Presentation.

<u>The Pledge</u> (betrothal or espousal) was a <u>contractual agreement</u> between two fathers who pledged their respective son and daughter, while still children and not yet ready to assume adult responsibility, to a marriage by arrangement. When signed before judges, the contract legally bound the man and woman to each other. Although they did not live together, they were spoken of as "married" and were called husband and wife. In Jewish custom, this "marriage" could only be broken by a "Bill of Divorcement."

The Matthew 1:18-25 account of Mary and Joseph illustrates stages 1 and 2 of an Oriental Wedding.

<u>The Processional</u> was the <u>fulfillment</u> of the <u>marriage contract</u>. At an agreed time, the father of the groom led his son, servants, and friends in a procession to the home of the bride. The contract or pledge of betrothal was presented to the father of the bride who then fulfilled the contract by presenting his veiled daughter to the father of the groom and to the bridegroom. Through this ceremony the bride and groom began to live their lives as husband and wife in the home of the groom's father. This is the background of the parable of the Ten Virgins in Matthew 25:1-13.

<u>The Wedding Supper</u> was the occasion <u>for presenting</u> or <u>introducing the bride</u> to a new society composed of the groom's family, relatives, and friends. The Supper or Feast might last one day, the day of presentation, or a week depending on the social and financial status of the groom's family. It was such a feast that Christ attended at Cana as recorded in John 2:1-12 and which is spoken of in Revelation 19:9.

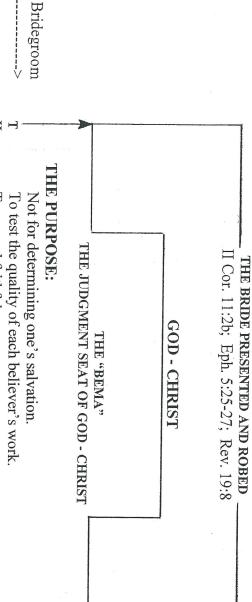
The Marriage / Wedding Of The Lamb

As presented in the chart on the opposite page (43), The Marriage / Wedding of the Lamb follows the three stages in an Oriental Wedding.

- First, believer's are to pledged / promised to Christ.
 - "All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away" (John 6:37). "And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but will raise them up at the last day" (John 6:39).
 - "I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him." The Apostle Paul --- II Corinthians 11:2
- Second, at the rapture of the Church, believers will be presented to Christ, judged at the "Bema" or the Judgment Seat of Christ, and rewarded for their faithfulness while on earth.
 - "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad." II Corinthians 5:10
- Third, at the Second Coming of Christ and the wedding supper of the Lamb, these "robed and readied" believers in Christ, will be presented or displayed to the world as the Bride of Christ and as Co-Heirs with Him.
 - "Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and the bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) --- "Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb." Revelation 19:7-9

THE MARRIAGE / WEDDING OF THE LAMB

Revelation 19:6-16



at the Rapture. ---Presented to the Bridegroom

To reward faithfulness. Romans 14:10-12; I Corinthians 3:10-15, 9:24-27 II Corinthians 5:10

THE REWARDS:

The Wedding Garment

Righteous acts (the righteousnesses) of the believer. Figuratively, the Wedding Garment is made up of the That which remains after testing. Revelation 19:6, 8, 14

capacity in which each believer will serve in the Millennial Possibly, the righteous acts of the believer will determine the Kingdom. Matthew 19:28-30, 20:20-28

The Crowns

Of Life – James 1:12 Of Rejoicing – I Thessalonians 2:19-20; Philippians 4:1 Of Righteousness – II Timothy 4:6-8; Revelation 2:10

Chosen / selected by the Father

II Corinthians 11:2a

John 6:35-40

Ephesians 1:3, 4, 13, 14

THE BRIDE PLEDGED/PROMISED

Of Glory – I Peter 5:1-4

43

Wedding Supper at Christ's Robed and Readied for the

Revelation 19:7-8, 14

THE WEDDING SUPPER

Co-Heirs with Christ II Thessa. 2:13-14 Romans 8:17 Revelation 19:9

THE GREAT TRIBULATION

The word tribulation **means**, "to press; to press together (as grapes in a wine press)" and **refers** to times of oppression, affliction, and distress. In the Bible, the word "**tribulation**" is translated variously as affliction, anguish, persecution, trouble, burden, and distress.

How is this period of tribulation defined in the following Scripture verses?	
Jeremiah 30:7	
Daniel 12:1a	
Matthew 24:21	
Revelation 7:13-14	

DURATION

The Tribulation is a period of seven years. This is revealed in the Vision of the Seventy Weeks or the "seventy sevens" given to the prophet Daniel in 9:24-27. See the chart on page 17

Each unit of seven equals 7 years. Seventy "sevens" equal 490 years. Sixty nine "sevens" or 483 years have already been fulfilled (9:25-26a). One "seven" or 7 years remains unfulfilled. The first $3\frac{1}{2}$ years of this seven year period is referred to as "The Tribulation". The last $3\frac{1}{2}$ years is referred to as The Great Tribulation.

PURPOSE

- **Spiritually** or **religiously**, it will be a time of testing (Revelation 3:10) in which people are forced to choose between Christ and Antichrist (Revelation 14:9-12, 20:4).
- **Judicially**, it is a time of cleansing when God's wrath / judgment is poured out upon all God / Christ rejecting individuals **Gentiles as well as Jews** (Zephaniah 1:14-18; II Thessalonians 1:5-10, 2:12; Revelation 6:12-17, 11:15-18, 15:1, 16:1-17).
- **Politically**, it brings the "**Times of the Gentiles**" (Gentile world rule) to an end and paves the way for Christ's **Millennial Kingdom** (Psalm 2; Daniel 2; Luke 21:20-24; Rev. 16:12-21, 19:19-21).

PRESENCE

In Matthew 24, Jesus spoke of signs of the "end times." Among them were: False Christs (4-5); Wars (6); Famines (7); Earthquakes (7); Persecution of God's people (9); False Prophets (11); and the Gospel being preached to all nations (14). However, "the abomination that causes desolation" is the predominant sign that indicates the presence or nearness of The Great Tribulation (last 3½ years) and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ (15-21, 29-30; and II Thessalonians 2:1-4). See chart on page 49

PRE - EVENTS

• The **Resurrection** & **Rapture** of the Church - New Testament believers (I Thessalonians 4:13-18). **Note**: This event leaves **only unbelievers alive on the earth** at the beginning of the Tribulation.

AT THE RESURRECTION and RAPTURE



ALL BELIEVERS

The Church - The Body of Christ.

ALL UNBELIEVERS >>>>>> GO IN All unbelievers enter the 7 year period of The Tribulation.

• The **removal of the** "**restrainer**", the Holy Spirit and the Church which He indwells, so that the "Man of Lawlessness" or the "**Antichrist**" may be revealed (II Thessalonians 2:3-4, 6-8).

Note, The Antichrist is also known as:

```
The "Little Horn" (Daniel 7:8, 11, 20-21, 24-25);
The "King" or "Ruler" (Daniel 7:24, 9:26, 11:36);
The "Stern-Faced King" (Daniel 8:23);
The "Beast" (Revelation 13:1-2, 17:3);
The "Abomination" - a detestable thing (Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15).
```

• The **Antichrist's Covenant** with Israel (Daniel 9:27a).

MAIN EVENTS

The Main Events of The Tribulation Period are primarily viewed in Daniel 9:24-27, 11:36-12:13; Matthew 24:1-25:46; and Revelation 6:1-19:21 and are visualized on the Main Events Of The Great Tribulation chart on page 49.

The Main Events **begin with** a covenant between Israel and "*The ruler who will come*" (Daniel 9:26-27) i e, **the coming Antichrist**.

The Main Events are **revealed** through a Seven-Sealed Scroll which **only Jesus Christ** has the authority **to open** or unseal and **to administer its judgments** (Revelation 5:1-14).

This Seven-Sealed Scroll gives **an overview** of the 70th week of Daniel's Seventy Week Prophecy (Daniel 9:24-27). The 6th and 7th seals give **a detailed description** of the outpouring of God's wrath / judgment upon a world in rebellion against Him (Revelation 6:1-19-21). This time of judgment is also referred to as "**The Great Tribulation**." For Israel, it refers to **The Time of Jacob's Trouble** (Jeremiah 30:7).

SEALS 1-4

THE RISE OF THE ANTICHRIST (Primarily, the first 3½ years of the 7 year period)

- **Through**: Leadership / Rulership over the Western Confederacy of Nations --- the revived Roman Empire as seen in Daniel's Vision of the "10 horns" and the "little horn" (Daniel chapter 7).
- Through: The 7 year covenant with Israel (Daniel 9:27) which re-establishes the Temple worship.
- **Through**: The **removal** of the **restrainer**. There is now one who holds back the identity of the Lawless One / the Antichrist, so that **he be revealed** by God at the proper time (I Thessa. 2:6-8).
- Through: The power of the Four Horsemen (Revelation 6:1-8).

 Notice! To each of the Four Horsemen in Revelation 6:1-8 there is a command "COME" as though someone or something had restrained their coming up to that point.

From verses 1-8, des	scribe these Four	Horsemen by	y the color (of their	horses and	their actions
----------------------	-------------------	-------------	---------------	----------	------------	---------------

#1.	
#2.	
#3.	
#4.	

	function. NAME	FUNCTION		
	#1. Rev.13:1a			
	#2. Rev. 13:1b - 10			
	13:2b	13:5a, 6		
	#3. Rev. 13:11-17			
	13:11a	13:12		
	13:11a	13:12		
•		over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that aiming himself to be God." II Thessalonians 2:4		
	Through this "abomination", the covena worship and sacrifice is abolished (Dani	ant with Israel is broken (Daniel 9:27). The Temple el 12:11).		
	Rev. 13:11-15 Rev. 20:4b	ed under the reign of the Beast or Antichrist. From the they are martyred.		
	See also Revelation 13:16-17 and 15:2			
The	estion is asked, "Who can stand?" That	great day of God's wrath / judgment. At the end of 6:17, is, who will be able to withstand or endure or survive in 7:1-3. The process of judgment is "put on hold" until		
God God				
God God	's people are sealed (7:3). The seal is a n			
God God	's people are sealed (7:3). The seal is a real the following verses, list the survivors			
God God	's people are sealed (7:3). The seal is a man the following verses, list the survivors Rev. 7:4 See also Revelation 14:1-5 Rev. 12:6 and 14			
God God	's people are sealed (7:3). The seal is a man the following verses, list the survivors Rev. 7:4 See also Revelation 14:1-5	of "the great day of God's wrath."		
God God	's people are sealed (7:3). The seal is a real the following verses, list the survivors Rev. 7:4 See also Revelation 14:1-5 Rev. 12:6 and 14 For complete details, read all of chapter 1 Note: Prior to the opening of the 7 th (Jeremiah 30:1-3), and in spiritual traval Leviticus chapter 26. At this time, Isra	Seal, Israel is still scattered among the gentile nations ail (Jeremiah 30:4-6). See also Deuteronomy 4:25-31 and nel's repentance and conversion takes place (Jeremiah burning, remorse, and regret follow after Christ's return		
God God	's people are sealed (7:3). The seal is a real the following verses, list the survivors Rev. 7:4 See also Revelation 14:1-5 Rev. 12:6 and 14 For complete details, read all of chapter 14 Note: Prior to the opening of the 7 th (Jeremiah 30:1-3), and in spiritual traval Leviticus chapter 26. At this time, Isra 30:7-11 and Zephaniah 1:14 - 2:3). Mo	Seal, Israel is still scattered among the gentile nations ail (Jeremiah 30:4-6). See also Deuteronomy 4:25-31 and nel's repentance and conversion takes place (Jeremiah burning, remorse, and regret follow after Christ's return 13:1).		

SEAL #7 (Revelation 8:1 - 9:21 and 15:1 - 16:21)

Seal #7 unleashes God's wrath / judgment (The Day of The Lord Judgments) **upon all unbelievers**, Jews and Gentiles alike, through a series of **7 "trumpet"** and **7 "bowl" judgments** which culminate in the Armageddon Campaign at Christ's Second Coming.

Who are these unbelievers? How are they described in the following scripture verses? As those who –

Describe God's judgments as seen in the 7 "trumpets" and 7 "bowls." Notice their similarities and the differences in their severity. Revelation 14:14-20 refers to these judgments as "the harvest of the earth."

THE SEVEN TRUMPETS THE SEVEN BOWLS Revelation 8:1 - 9:21 Revelation 15:1 - 16:21 #1. 8:6-7 #1. 16:2 #2. 16:3 #2. 8:8-9 #3. 16:4 #3. 8:10-11 #4. 16:8-9 #4. 8:12 #5. 16:10-11 _____ #5. 9:1-6 #6. 9:13-16 _____ #6. 16:12-16 *#*7. 11:15, 19 #7. 16:17-21

Note: During the time of the 7th Seal NO ONE can be saved. The Day of Salvation by God's grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ has ceased. It is now the great day of God's wrath / judgment. At the close of the 7th Seal (the trumpet and bowl judgments) and the Second Coming of Christ, all unbelievers will have perished. Only believers, who were saved and protected by God during the Tribulation, remain alive to enter the Millennial Kingdom of Christ in their physical bodies.

AT CHRIST'S SECOND COMING

ALL UNBELIEVERS
GO DOWN
V
V
GRAVE - HADES

ONLY BELIEVERS >>>> ENTER THE MILLENNIUM

Those saved and protected by God who remain alive on the earth at the end of the Great Tribulation.

MAIN EVENTS OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION

The chart on the opposite page (49) attempts to place the Main Events of the Great Tribulation in their chronological order.

The triangle represents the unfulfilled 7 years (the 70th "Seven") of Daniel's "Seventy Sevens" Vision of 490 years (Daniel 9:24-27). This is the 7 year Period of Tribulation which begins with "The ruler who will come" making a 7 year covenant with Israel (Daniel 9:27) and concludes with the Second Coming of Jesus Christ at the Battle of Armageddon (Revelation 14:14-20; 16:16; 19:11-21).

The Covenant with Israel is broken in the <u>middle</u> of the 7 year period (Daniel 9:27) thus creating two periods of three and one half years each (1260 days or 42 months).

Notice also, that there are "Pre-Events" as well as "Post-Events" to the 7 year Period of Tribulation.

The 7 Seals (Revelation 5:1-6:17) give an overview of the 7 year Period of Tribulation.

- Seals 1-4, commonly known as the "Four Horsemen," disclose the means for the rise and revealing of the Antichrist.
 - Seal #1 Conquering by means of **diplomacy** (Revelation 6:1-2).
 - Seal #2 Conquering by means of **military power** (Revelation 6:3-4).
 - Seal #3 Conquering by means of **economic power** (Revelation 6:5-6).
 - Seal #4 Conquering by means of ruthless brutality (Revelation 6:7-8).

In the **middle of the 7 year period** a detestable, degrading event occurs in the rise and revealing of the Antichrist. **The Abomination** spoken of by the Prophet Daniel (9:27) and described in II Thessalonians 2:4 takes place.

"He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God."

Through this "Abomination," the covenant with Israel is broken (Daniel 9:27).

• Seal 5 (Revelation 6:9-11), is the "Martyrs" seal. These are those who are put to death by the forces of the Antichrist.

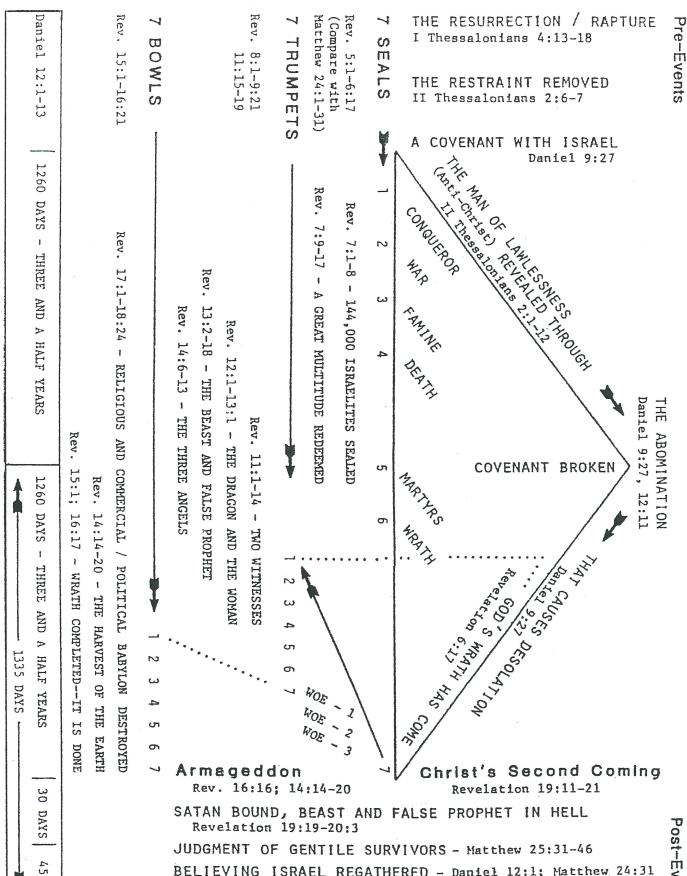
"They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands" (Revelation 20:4). (See also Rev. 6:9-11; 7:9-17; 13:11-17)

- Seal 6 (Revelation 6:12-17), introduces the great day of God's wrath / judgment.
- Seal 7 (Revelation 8:1), unleashes God's wrath (the Day of the Lord's Judgments) upon all unbelievers through a series of 7 "Trumpets" (Revelation 8:6-9:21) and 7 "Bowls" (Rev.15:1-16:21) which culminate in the Armageddon Campaign at Christ's Second Coming (Revelation 14:14-20; 16:16; 19:11-21).

The Post-Events close the Main Events of the Great Tribulation and usher in The Millennium, the 1000 year reign / rule of Christ on earth.

AT

TRIBULATION



RESURRECTION OF TRIBULATION

Daniel 12:2; Revelation 20:4-6

ISRAEL REGATHERED - Daniel 12:1; Matthew 24:31

& OLD TESTAMENT SAINTS

BELIEVING

DAYS

THE ARMAGEDDON CAMPAIGN

In Hebrew, a "har" or "tell" is defined as a "mount" or a "hill." It signifies inhabitable sites situated on hills or mountain sites. The word "Megiddo" is derived from Arabic and means "the trodden place" hence, a level place or a plain. Putting these thoughts together, we find that Har-Megiddo or Ar-Mageddon was an inhabitable mount, hill, or town on the plain of Megiddo located in Israel, near Mount Carmel, and about 20 miles South-Southeast of the modern port city of Haifa. During the first century this "hill" was thought to be about 70 feet high.

BATTLE LOCATIONS

In prophecy, Armageddon (Revelation 16:16), meaning "Mount of Slaughter," is considered the climactic battle (Revelation 16:14) at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ (Revelation 19:11-21). Symbolically, Armageddon is depicted as "the harvest of the earth" (Revelation 14:14-16), "the great winepress of God's wrath" (Revelation 14:17-20 and 19:15), and "the great supper of God" "(Revelation 19:17-18). The word "battle" (Revelation 16:14) should better be translated "campaign" or "war." The following locations are mentioned as the battle sites of the campaign. See map on page 55

• The Plain of Esdraelon and / or Jezreel (God sows).

Located in northern Israel, this plain / valley stretches from the Mediterranean Sea to the Jordan River. **Har-Megiddo or Armageddon** is located **on this plain** and is possibly where the campaign **begins** (Revelation 16:16).

• The Valley of Jehoshaphat (Valley of Judgment or The Lord Judges - Joel 3:2, 9-12) also known as The Valley of Decision (The Valley of Sharp Judgment) - Joel 3:14.

There is a difference of opinion as to this location. **Traditionally**, since the 4th century A.D., the Kidron Valley has been named the Valley of Jehoshaphat (ISBE). This valley runs eastward from Jerusalem, over the Jordan River and then northward. **Contrariwise**, some think it possible that these are other names given for **the Plain of Esdraelon**.

Jerusalem

Battle #1 as described in Zechariah 13:8-9 and 14:2. Battle #2 as described in Zechariah 12:1-3 and 14:3-5.

• Edom (Bozrah, Idumea) as described in Isaiah 34:5-6, 63:1-6 and Jeremiah 49:7-22.

The Edomites were descendants of Esau. Edom extended from the southern end of the Dead Sea southward toward the Gulf of Aqaba along both sides of the Arabah (rift valley). **Bozrah** was a city in Edom.

PARTICIPANTS

As the locations in the Armageddon Campaign vary, so also do the participants. The following SCENARIO is an attempted SYNTHESIS of the Armageddon Campaign and their participants.

(A scenario is an outline or synopsis of a drama in the order of its development.)

(A synthesis is a putting together of parts so as to form a whole.)

THE PARTICIPANTS

THE NORTHERN CONFEDERACY

Magog, Persia, Cush, Put, Gomer and Beth Togarmah Ezekiel 38:1-6

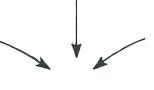
Led by Gog, The King of the North.

Ezekiel 38:1-3; Daniel 11:40

- 1. "The King of the North will storm out against him" i.e. the Ruler or King of the Western Confederacy. Daniel 11:40
- 2. "Reports out of the north." Daniel 11:44a

THE WESTERN CONFEDERACY

Those Kings / Kingdoms characterized by 10 horns which emerge from the 4th beast (the geographical area of the old Roman Empire) in Daniel's Vision of The Four Beasts (Daniel 7:7, 23-24a) and **headed by** the "Little Horn" (Daniel 7:8) or "Another King" (Daniel 7:24-25, 11:36a) or the **coming Beast** / Antichrist (Revelation 13:1-8).



ARMAGEDDON

The kings of the earth gathered to Armageddon Revelation 16:16

THE EASTERN CONFEDERACY

"Reports out of the east."

Daniel 11:44a

"Two hundred million mounted troops." ----- Revelation 9:13-16

Led by the "*Kings of the east*." Revelation 16:12

THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY

Egypt, Libya, Ethiopia (The Nubians).

Daniel 11:42-43 **Led by** The King of the South. ---- Daniel 11:40

"At the time of the end the King of the South will engage him in battle" i.e. the "Willful King" or ruler of the Western Confederacy. --- Daniel 11:36-40

THE ARMIES OF HEAVEN

The Second Coming of Jesus Christ, the "King of Kings and the Lord of Lords," with the "armies of heaven." Revelation 19:11-16

To - "harvest the earth" (Revelation 14:14-16). **To** - "tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty" (Revelation 14:17-20). **To** - "punish those who do not know God and do not obey the Gospel of Christ" (II Thessalonians 1:8) --- "on the great day of God Almighty" (Revelation 16:14).

ACTIONS

- THE KING OR RULER OF THE WESTERN CONFEDERACY (page 52 and map page 55)
 This ruler emerges from:
 - --- Among "those kings", i.e. the 10 toes in King Nebuchadnezzar's statue vision (Daniel 2:31-45).
 - --- Among the " $10\ horns$ " or " $10\ kings$ " in Daniel's dream / vision of the Four Beasts.

Daniel 7:7-8, 19-20, 23-25

--- "Out of the sea" (Revelation 16:1).

He is called:

The "little horn" (Daniel 7:8); "another king" (Daniel 7:24); a "stern-faced king" (Daniel 8:23); the "ruler who will come" (Daniel 9:26); the "willful king" (Daniel 11:36); the "man of lawlessness" (II Thessalonians 2:3, 8-9); the "antichrist" (I John 2:18, 22); the "beast out of the sea" (Revelation 13:1-8); and the "beast" in Revelation 13:11-18; 14:9-11; 15:2; 16:2, 10, 13; 17:3, 7-8, 11, 12-13, 16-17; 19:19-20; 20:4, 10.

This "beast", energized by Satan and the false prophet (Revelation 13:2, 4, 5, 7, 11-17; 19:20, 20:10), and authorized by the 10 "horns" or "kings" (Revelation 17:12-13, 17) rises to become the King or Ruler of the Western Confederacy of Nations. (See page 52 and map on page 55)

THE SEVEN YEAR COVENANT

The "beast," as Ruler of the Western Confederacy of Nations, enters into a seven year Covenant (treaty, alliance) with unbelieving Israel (Daniel 9:27).

Isaiah 28:15 states that **the purpose** of the Covenant was for **military protection** - "When an overwhelming scourge sweeps by, it cannot touch us." **However, the Covenant is called** "a covenant with death, & with the grave." **Why!** Because, by entering into this Covenant, Israel in effect was saying, "the Living God **is not able to protect us** --- but the Ruler of the Western Confederacy **is**." Israel "**made a lie** their refuge **and falsehood** their hiding place" (Isaiah 28:15).

THE BROKEN COVENANT

After 3½ years, the "beast's" Covenant with Israel is broken through an "abomination" (Daniel 9:27). A detestable event takes place. "He (the "beast") will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God" (II Thessalonians 2:4 and also Revelation 13:15).

The Beast / Antichrist forces everyone to receive his "mark" (Revelation 13:16) and to worship him (Revelation 13:8). Those who refuse to worship him are killed (Revelation 13:15).

The Beast / Antichrist and his power **are revered**. His followers ask, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?" Revelation 13:4

THE LAST BELIEVERS

The Martyred

Those who are slain for their faith by the forces of the Beast / Antichrist after the "abomination" and after the "rapture" of the Church. Revelation 6:9-11, 7:9-14, 13:11-15, 20:4

Israeli Survivors

Those believing Israelites who are saved by God <u>after</u> the "abomination" --- and before the outpouring of God's wrath / judgment upon all unbelievers.

- --- The 144,000 "sealed by God" from among the 12 Tribes of Israel. Revelation 7:1-8, 14:1-5
- --- The remnant of Israel who are "saved / redeemed" and protected or "cared for" by God from the Antichrist's fury --- and the outpouring of God's judgment upon the earth.

 Jeremiah 30:7-11; Zephaniah 2:1-3; Romans 11:25-27; Revelation 12:1-6, 14

Gentile Survivors

Those believers from among the Gentile Nations who survive the forces of the Beast / Antichrist and the unleashing of God's wrath upon the earth. Zechariah 14:16; Matthew 25:31-46

• THE OPENING SALVOS (Refer to map on page 55)

The seven year Covenant allows the **Western Confederacy** to occupy Israel and possibly more territory in the Near East (Daniel 11:40b-42). The Beast / Antichrist is in Jerusalem proclaiming himself **to be "God"** (II Thessalonians 2:4) and attempting **to subject all nations** to his authority (Revelation 13:5-8, 16-17). At this point the **Southern Confederacy**, led by the King of the South, "will engage him in battle" i.e. the Beast / Ruler of the Western Confederacy (Daniel 11:40a) **and will be utterly crushed** (Daniel 11:42-43).

Also, the Northern Confederacy, led by the King of the North, "will storm out against him," i.e. this same Beast / Ruler (Daniel 11:40a). There is not agreement as to when this battle with the Northern Confederacy takes place. The options are: **Before** the seven year Covenant with Israel; **during** the first $3\frac{1}{2}$ years of the Covenant; **during** the last $3\frac{1}{2}$ years of Great Tribulation. Whichever is correct, **the outcome** as described in Ezekiel chapter 38 and 39 **is the same** --- **overwhelming destruction** (39:11-13). The valley mentioned in 39:11 seems to refer to the plain or valley of Esdraelon in northern Israel where Armageddon is located.

• THE GATHERING OF THE NATIONS TO ARMAGEDDON (See page 52 & map page 55) "Reports from the east (the 200 million-man army - Revelation 9:16, 16:12) and the north will alarm him" (the Ruler of the Western Confederacy - Daniel 11:44-45) for God is gathering the nations to Armageddon (Revelation 16:13-14, 16).

"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." Joel 3:2, 12

"Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision (determination)! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision." Joel 3:14

Note: That which is being decided or determined is --- "WHO IS LORD?"

THE GREAT DAY OF GOD ALMIGHTY

"I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True." Revelation 19:11 "The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean." Revelation 19:14

This is the Second Coming of Jesus Christ in power and great glory.

"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." Revelation 19:19

"The time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe --- and the earth was harvested."

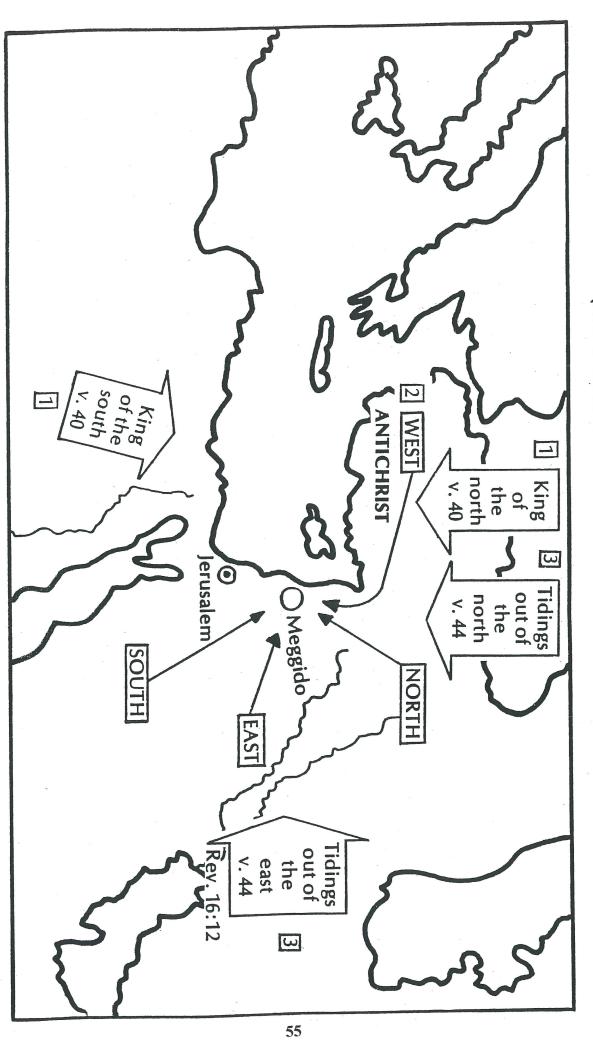
Revelation 14:15-16

"He (Christ) treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty." "Blood flowed out of the press --- for a distance of 1600 stadia" (180 miles). Revelation 19:15 and 14:20

"The beast was captured and with him the false prophet --- the two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur." Revelation 19:20

"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." Revelation 19:21 and 19:17-18

Jesus Christ is "KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS." Revelation 19:16; Zechariah 14:9



DANIEL 11 ANTICHRIST'S CAREER OF WARS (ALL DIRECTIONS ARE RELATED TO ISRAEL.)

THE MILLENNIUM

The word Millennium, from the Latin "Mille" (1000) and "Annum" (year), means a 1000 year period of time. In the Scriptures, the Millennium refers to a future Millennial Kingdom - that Kingdom of God on earth for which we pray (Matthew 6:10, 13). This 1000 year period of time is mentioned six times in Revelation 20:1-7 where the events of this millennial period include:

- The binding of Satan in the Abyss (20:1-3, 7);
- The completion of the First Resurrection all those who will rule & reign with Christ (20:4, 5b, 6);
- The Millennial Reign of Christ over the nations (20:6).

In theology, there are three Millennial positions. (See chart on page 59)

PRE-MILLENNIALISM or PRE-MIL

Pre-Mil is the **oldest** held position. It was held by the early church for the first three centuries. It was known as **Chiliasm**, so named from *Chilioi* (Greek), meaning "**one thousand**".

Pre-Mil is the belief --- in a personal - literal reign of Christ on the earth after the Great Tribulation. Pre-Mil maintains --- a consistent distinction between Israel and the Church and a consistent hermeneutic that allows for the unfulfilled spiritual and physical / earthly blessings promised to Israel to be literally fulfilled during the Millennial Age.

Pre-Mil holds to --- the hermeneutical principle of the grammatical, historical, and literal interpretation of the Scriptures whenever the context supports it.

A-MILLENNIALISM or A-MIL

A-Mil can be **traced back** as far as Augustine and into the Roman Church at the end of the third century.

The A-Mil position holds --- that the Kingdom of God is central in all Biblical history. It has always existed. Presently, the Kingdom of God is in the world through God's Word, God's Spirit, and the Church. Christ will return after the Great Tribulation to establish an Eternal Kingdom, the New Heaven and the New earth. Therefore, there is no need for a Millennial Kingdom.

The A-Millennial or Non-Millennial position holds --- that the unfulfilled prophecies / promises ascribed to the "Millennial Age" are seen to be spiritual and heavenly rather than literal and earthly.

A-Millennialism follows three basic principles of interpretation:

- The **spiritualization** of Scripture; (Spiritualize means, "to invest with spiritual meaning)
- That the Millennium **is to be interpreted allegorically** (symbolically figuratively); (Allegory means, "to so speak as to impute something different.

 Allegorize means, "to understand in a figurative sense, a non-literal sense).
- That the "unfulfilled" Old Testament prophecies / promises given to Israel are spiritually fulfilled in the New Testament Church.

During the Reformation Period, there was a return to Pre-Millennialism.

POST-MILLENNIALISM or POST-MIL

Post-Mil is the latest of the three positions. It was propagated by Daniel Whitby (1638-1726), a Unitarian Commentator.

This position holds to --- a symbolical interpretation of the Old Testament prophecies / promises given to Israel. The Millennium is earthly. However, the spiritual and physical / earthly blessings promised to Israel are spiritually realized during the Church Age in which Christ is ruling / reigning from Heaven. This position holds --- that Christ is in Heaven from which He rules and reigns over His Kingdom, The Church. It is the belief that through the preaching and teaching of the Gospel of Christ by the Church the world becomes better and better until the whole world is Christianized - at which time Christ will return to a kingdom of peace. It interprets Revelation 20:1-8 as figurative and asserts that the Second Coming of Christ to judge the earth and to set up an Eternal Kingdom comes at the end of the Millennium.

PURPOSE OF THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM --THE FULFILLMENT OF THE OLD TESTAMENT MESSIANIC COVENANTS / PROMISES.

• The Restoration Of Israel To The Promised Land. (See map on page 61) Genesis 15:17-18; Isaiah 11:10-16; Ezekiel 37:15-28; Amos 9:14-15

The Restoration Of The Davidic Kingdom

Through the sins of King Solomon, the Davidic Kingdom of Israel was divided into the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and the Southern Kingdom (Judah) in 931 B.C. (I Kings 11:9-13).

Because of their sins, the Northern Kingdom of Israel was deactivated by Shalmaneser, King of Assyria, in 722 B.C. (II Kings 17:1-23) and the Southern Kingdom of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, in 586 B.C. (II Chronicles 36:11-21).

During the Millennium, the Kingdom of David (Israel and Judah) will be reunited. This kingdom will be a Theocracy, a theocratic government over which Christ reigns on the Throne of David (II Samuel chapter 7; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Ezekiel 37:24-28) and through which He will rule on earth for 1000 years (Zechariah 14:9; Revelation 11:15, 20:4-6) with Jerusalem as the capital city (Psalm 2:6; Isaiah 2:1-3).

This is the Kingdom of which the Angels spoke to Mary in Luke 1:26-33 and which the Apostles inquired of in Acts 1:6 and 15:15-18.

• The Spiritual, Moral, and Physical Restoration Of The Earth

Spiritual Restoration:

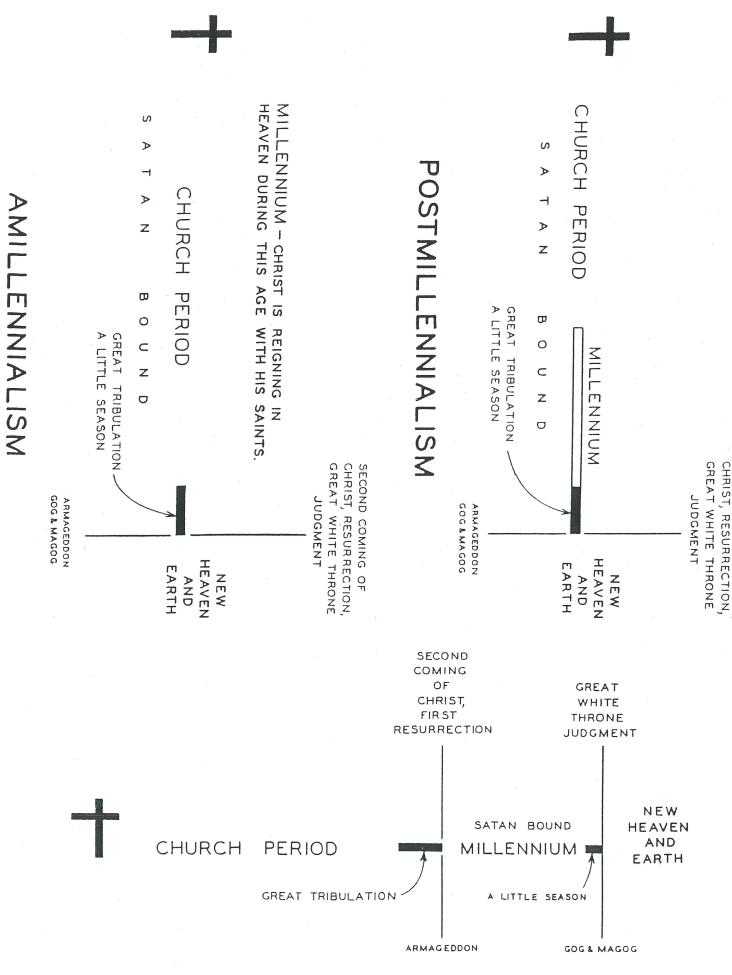
- --- Satan is bound in the Abyss (Revelation 20:1-3).
- --- The Lord is worshipped (Zechariah 14:16-21).

Moral Restoration:

- --- There will be peace on the earth (Isaiah 2:1-5; Micah 4:1-4).
- --- Righteousness and Justice will prevail (Psalm 72:1-2; Jeremiah 23:5-6, 33:14-16).
- --- Christ will rule with an iron scepter (Isaiah 9:6-7; Psalm 2:7-12; Revelation 19:11-16). Good will prevail over evil.

Physical Restoration:

- --- The "curse" removed from the earth (Genesis 3:17-18; Romans 8:18-25).
- --- Abundant agricultural production (Isaiah 35:1-2, 51:3; Amos 9:13).
- --- Long life (Isaiah 65:20).
- --- Peace in the Animal Kingdom (Isaiah 11:6-9, 65:25).



SECOND COMING OF

PREMILLENNIALISM

SUBJECTS OF THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

• Those In Supernatural Resurrected Bodies

Those included in the First Resurrection who reign with Christ for the thousand years.

Rev. 20:5-6

- --- Church Saints (I Corinthians 6:2-3; Revelation 2:26, 27b, 5:10, 20:4a)
- --- Tribulation Saints (Revelation 6:9-11, 20:4b)
- --- Old Testament Saints Apostles (Daniel 12:1-2, 13; Matthew 19:27-28)

• Those In Natural - Human Bodies

Initially, only saved or redeemed believers, in human bodies, who survived the Great Tribulation.

- --- The 144,000 Israelites marked with the seal of God (Revelation 7:1-8).
- --- A Remnant of Israel (Jeremiah 23:3-4, 7-8; Ezekiel 36:24-28; Romans, chapter 11)
- --- Surviving Gentiles (Zechariah 14:16-19; Matthew 25:31-46)

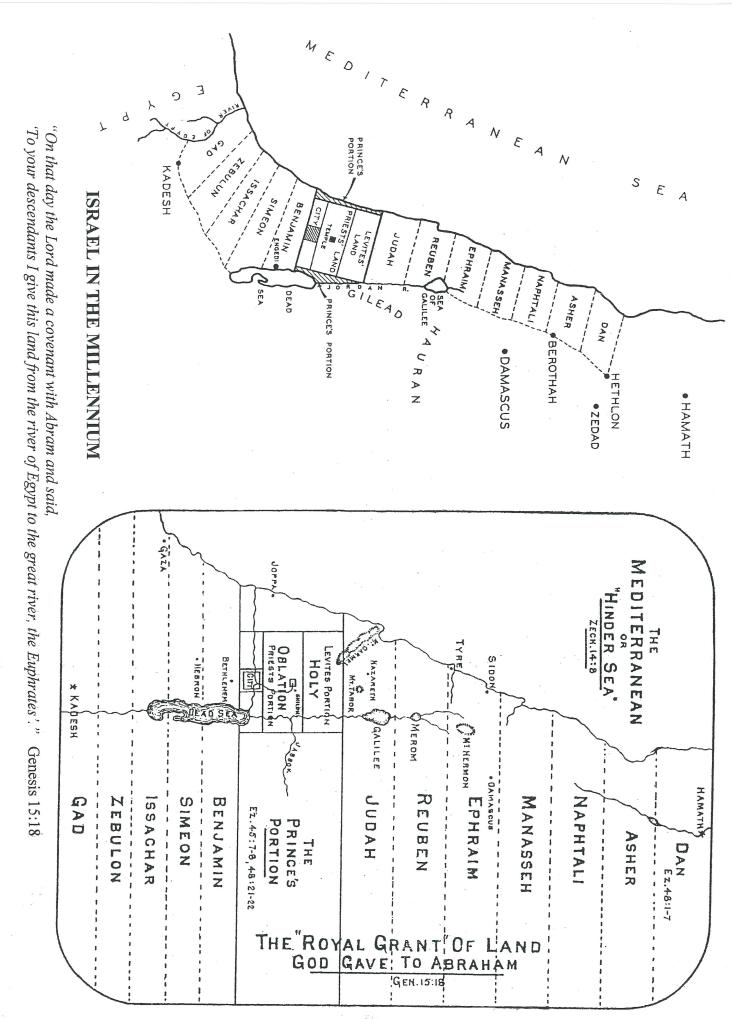
Eventually, as these believers give birth to children with sinful natures, the Millennial Kingdom will then be inhabited by both believers and unbelievers. Because of a longer life span during the Millennium (Isaiah 65:20) there will be an enormous population explosion. At the end of the Millennium there is a final testing of those in natural - human bodies (Rev. 20:7-10).

CLOSING EVENTS

- The **release** of Satan from the Abyss (Revelation 20:1-3, 7a).
- Satan's **final deception** the testing of the millennial nations / people (Revelation 20:8a).
- Earth's final conflict, Gog and Magog (Revelation 20:8b-9a), culminates in a judgment of fire (Revelation 20:9b; II Peter 3:10).
- The Devil / Satan's **final judgment** (Revelation 20:10).

"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." II Peter 3:11-14



THE SECOND RESURRECTION

The Second Resurrection occurs at the end of the Millennium - one thousand years after the completion of the First Resurrection (Revelation 20:5). As the First Resurrection was "unto life", the Second Resurrection is unto "condemnation" - the judgment of eternal death (John 5:28-29). All who were excluded from the First Resurrection are included in the Second Resurrection. (See chart on page 33)

THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT

Revelation 20:11-15 is the **most informative** passage in Scripture concerning the **Second Resurrection**. **From these verses, answer the following questions.**

Where does verse 13 say these dead are raised from?
andand
The 'sea' and 'death' refer to the grave - the place where man's bodily remains were placed.
Hades, the place of torment, is the home of the departed soul and spirit of all unbelievers.
In the Second Resurrection, unbelievers receive new bodies to which their soul & spirit is reunited.
Where are these resurrected ones brought to? 20:12a
In 20:11a, what is this place called ?
Why are they brought there? 20:12-13
What sentence do they receive? 20:14
Why is this sentence pronounced on them? 20:15

"The Great White Throne Judgment is personal & final; it is not a trial to discover whether the person is guilty or not; it is a pronouncement of judgment by the Lord God Almighty on the ungodly and doomed." Alban Douglas

HELL - THE DESTINATION OF ALL UNBELIEVERS

Many do not accept or believe in an eternal Hell. Why? The following are four false theories or teachings shared by Rev. Lehman Strauss in his book "Life After Death".

Conditional Immortality contends "that immortality is conditional upon receiving the gift of everlasting life. If anyone dies, not having the gift of everlasting life, he shall not be punished with everlasting torment. He shall be annihilated."

Universalism contends "that all men will finally be saved and enter into everlasting life. The assumption is that since Christ died for the sins of all mankind, all will be saved. Universalism overlooks the fact that salvation and everlasting life are applied to an individual upon personal faith. It is bestowed as a free gift only to those who believe."

Restitution or Restorationism contends "that all creation, including Satan and fallen angels, will be restored and reconciled to God. John 12:32; Acts 3:19-21; and Philippians 2:10-11 are torn from their contexts to prove this scheme of thought."

Lastly, <u>God's Love</u> will not allow His creatures to suffer eternal torment. To this we answer: "God is love but man has a free will. Men are not doomed and damned to Hell by God, but go there because they have willfully rejected God's only way of escape from sin's penalty --- saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ."

	nat is Hell? How does If Thessalonians 1:9 define it?
FI	have one also form descriptions of Hell. Very will find them in
	here are also four descriptions of Hell. You will find them in: Peter 2:17
	F 1 0 40 40
	Revelation 19:20b, 20:10, 14a, 15
	Revelation 20:6, 14b
1	Who is Hell for?
I	Matthew 25:41
I	Revelation 19:19-20
I	II Thessalonians 1:8-9
	2:9-12
I	Revelation 21:8
]	Is there any escape from Hell? Will it ever cease to be?
I	From the following verses write down those words which tell how long Hell will endure.
ľ	Matthew 25:46
I	II Thessalonians 1:9
1	Revelation 20:10

"As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord,
I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked,
but rather that they turn from their ways and live.
Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die ---?
Ezekiel 33:11

THE NEW HEAVEN and NEW EARTH

"I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away."

The Apostle John - Revelation 21:1

Genesis 1:1 states that "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." The Scriptures reveal that there are **three heavens**.

- The first is earth's "atmospheric heaven." The space for birds, clouds, weather, etc.. This "heaven" is called sky in Genesis 1:6-8 and includes earth's troposphere, stratosphere, and ionosphere. As "ruler of the kingdom of the air" this is also Satan's domain (Eph. 2:1-2, 6:12).
- <u>The second</u> is the "stellar heaven." The space provided for the heavenly planets. That boundless expanse beyond the earth's atmosphere called "outer space" (Genesis 1:14-19).
- The third is the dwelling place of God (Matthew 6:9-10; Hebrews 1:3, 9:24) & His raptured resurrected people (II Corinthians 12:1-4; I Thessalonians 4:16-18; Rev. 2:7).

It is the "Atmospheric" and "Stellar" heavens and the earth, called "the old order of things" in Revelation 21:4b that will pass away. See Isaiah 34:4 as a reference concerning the "Stellar" heaven.

From the following scripture references, describe:

•	II Peter 3:7	s and earth pass away or go away?
	flood, so the present	d" (earth) perished by water and the present renewed earth rose out of the heavens (the atmospheric and stellar heavens) and earth will be destroyed to the new heavens and new earth in which righteousness dwells. II Peter 3:3-13
•	_	this renovation of "the old order of things" bring about in "in the new
	heaven and new earth	
	Rev. 21:1	
	Rev. 21:4	
	Kev. 21.22	
	Rev. 21:23, 22:5b	
	Nev. 21.230, 22.3a	
	Rev. 22:3a	
		"I am making everything new." Revelation 21:5
Fro	m the following script	ure references, <u>list</u> those things that God <u>makes new</u> .
	Rev. 21:1	and
	Rev. 21:2	

The New Jerusalem is approximately 1500 miles square as well as high. (See page 67)

Its features and beauty are described in Revelation 21:9 - 22:7

The following verses reveal new things within the New Jerusalem. What are they?
Rev. 21:3a
Rev. 21:3b
Rev. 21:22
Rev. 22:1-2a
Rev. 22:2b
Rev. 21:23; 22:5
Rev. 21:24
Who reside in the New Jerusalem?
Rev. 21:7
Rev. 21:9
Rev. 21:27b
Rev. 22:14
For how long? Rev. 22:5b
This is the city that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Hebrews 11:8-10) and the Old Testament saints looked for (Hebrews 13:14) and for which New Testament believers also look forward to (II Peter 3:13).
"But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness." II Peter 3:13
"Since the Bible does not in any one passage offer a complete presentation of God's plan for man's activities during the eternal order, it would be good to examine the characteristics delineated by Dr. Pen tecost in his book Things To Come ." Tim LaHaye - Revelation Illustrated & Made Plain, page 319-20
• A life of fellowship with Christ John 14:3; I Corinthians 13:12a; I John 3:2; Revelation 22:4
• A life of rest
Revelation 14:13
A life of full knowledge
I Corinthians 13:12b
• A life of holiness
Revelation 21:27
• A life of joy
Revelation 21:4
• A life of service
Revelation 22:3
• A life of abundance Revelation 21:6
• A life of glory
II Corinthians 4:17; Colossians 3:4
• A life of worship
Revelation 7:9-12, 19:11
Who will not reside in the New Jerusalem? Using Revelation 21:8, 27a, and 22:15, describe in your own words those excluded from the New Jerusalem.

THE HOLY CITY / THE NEW JERUSALEM

"I (John) saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband." Revelation 21:2

The New Jerusalem is an enormous city. There will be ample room for all the redeemed of the Lord. Its measurements are given in three dimensions.

- The New Jerusalem "was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide." Revelation 21:16
 - It was 12,000 "**stadia**," about <u>1,400</u> miles (2,200 kilometers) in **length** and **width** or 1,960,000 square miles (4,840,000 square kilometers). This is nearly 3/5ths of the 3,615,211 square mile area of the continental United States of America.
- The New Jerusalem is like a "cube." It is "as wide and high as it is long." Revelation 21:16

It is 1,400 miles **long** (2,200 kilometers) as well as 1,400 miles **wide** and also 1,400 miles **high**. Multiplying 1,400 miles in **length** by 1,400 miles in **width** by 1,400 miles in **height**, the New Jerusalem measures 2,744,000,000 **cubic miles**.

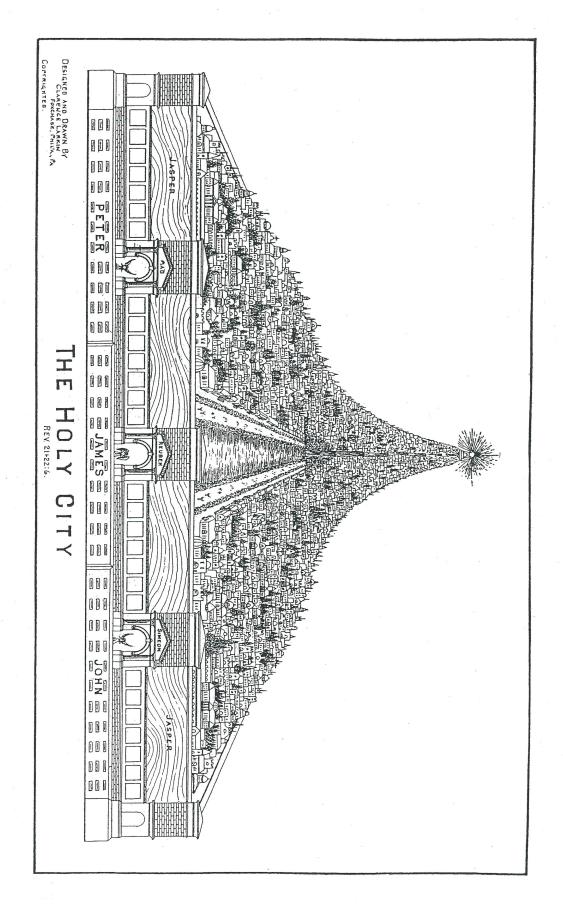
Going upwards! If we allow one mile between "streets" or "levels" going upwards for 1,400 miles (2,200 kilometers) the New Jerusalem would also have an area of 2,744,000,000 square miles (10,648,000,000 cubic kilometers). This is nearly 760 times larger than the area of the continental United States of America; approximately 430 times larger than the land area of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic (6,322,350 square miles); and many times larger than the area of our planet, earth.

The New Jerusalem is the city God is preparing for those who love Him.

- "For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come."

 Hebrews 13:14
- "For he (Abraham) was looking forward to the city with foundations whose architect and builder is God." Hebrews 11:10
- "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me (Jesus Christ). In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." John 14:1-3

The New Jerusalem is the final destination of the redeemed. It is the eternal dwelling place of God (Revelation 21:3) and of "those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life" (Revelation 21:27).



사람이 살아왔다면서 그렇게 되는 것이 없다면 살아 없다면 없다.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bill and Pat Arvan served as Christian missionaries for 36 years in the Republic of The Philippines with SEND International, a mission organization located in Farmington, Michigan, in the United States of America.



Since retirement from ministry in the Philippines in 1990, Mr. Arvan continued to teach Bible in Eastern European countries, Russia and Ukraine, making 10 trips from August, 1992 until October, 2007.

His teaching experience, both in the Philippines as well as in these Eastern European – Asian countries, has convinced him of the need for practical "grass roots" teaching in the Scriptures. This conviction led him to devote his "retirement years" to help meet this need by preparing and publishing basic Bible teaching materials for Christian Workers — particularly in Ukraine and Russian speaking countries.

This book, 7 Basic Bible Doctrines, is the latest of these publications. Other materials are ---

Principles of Biblical Faith; Principles of Biblical Giving; God's Offer (God's Gift of Salvation); and "Keys" To Spiritual Growth.

Bill and Pat have two children. Their son, Bill, is a non-resident missionary in Ukraine. Their daughter, Jane, ministers in evangelism and Bible teaching through her local church & women's organizations. They have two grand daughters serving in full time Christian ministry; Rebecca Arvan in Latvia & her sister, Bethany, in Chicago, Illinois plus four other grandchildren and their spouses — most of whom are also involved in ministry in their local churches.

"My earnest desire and fervent prayer is that this book, 7 Basic Bible Doctrines, will be used for the Glory of God." William G. Arvan