

NEW TESTAMENT PROPHECY

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Introduction

There is no way we could exhaust the prophetic passages of the New Testament and write a commentary on them in a thousand volumes. How good God has been to give us the abundant amount of revelation concerning events before they take place. I have become convinced that God does not want His people in the dark concerning things to come, and especially over the years as we have studied the subject; and especially the Book of Revelation.

The other day I heard a radio preacher say he had pretty much given up on trying to match current events with what the Bible said in prophetic passages. I feel sorry for that man and any others who may feel the same way. God gave us His Word for the very purpose of keeping us thrilled with what has happened, is happening, and what will happen.

While we may not always agree with every little detail of Bible prophecy, it is given to us for our encouragement, enlightenment, and our witness to others who fear what the future holds.

First and foremost, Bible prophecy is meant for the benefit of the Born-again Christian; secondly, it is meant for the conviction of the lost, and to be a source of motivation to the lost to prepare for eternity. As there is a lack of preaching on individual sins, repentance, and hell today, there is also a drought of preaching on the subject of what God says concerning what is coming. I am sure if you knew as you drove down the street, that at the next intersection a drunk driver was going to run a red light and crash into the driver's side of your car, you would do something about it before you got to the next intersection: likewise, I am sure that if the world knew Jesus Christ was coming for His Church tomorrow morning, you, as a Christian, would find your phone ringing off the hook for the remainder of the day today, and for all the night hours. The fact is, we can know what is in the immediate future and use it to win many others to Christ who otherwise would spend eternity in hell. WE KNOW.

God has even pronounced a special blessing for those who read, hear, and keep the words of the prophecy of the Book of Revelation (Revelation 1:3).

Please read the following treatment, pray about it, and look up the references for yourself before sitting in condemnation and judgment on the following material having to do with the subject of Bible prophecy. If you intend to approach it with a closed mind, do not read it: pass it on to someone who needs it.

I do not claim to be always right. God gave us the Holy Spirit to help us be as close to right as possible. According to I Corinthians 2:14, we should be able to have enough understanding to receive what He wants us to have.

Dispensations

There are very obviously seven dispensations of time in God's Word. A dispensation is a period of time during which God deals with mankind by a certain means. It is also obvious that as we progress through the little over six thousand years since creation that each successive dispensation becomes more complex and closer to fulfilling God's complete plan for mankind's restoration, not only to where he was before he sinned and brought death into the world, but far better: in a state of perfection in an eternal present tense with Him in eternity.

Dispensation #1 – The dispensation of innocence

This dispensation would span the period from the creation of man until the sin of the man and woman in the Garden of Eden. During this dispensation God fellowshiped and communicated with man person to person since both the man and the woman were innocent and had not sinned, bringing death to the entire human race, a curse upon the entire creation, and separation between themselves and God, (Genesis chapter 3). All mankind did during this time was fellowship directly with God, enjoy a perfect environment, eat all kinds of edible plants and the fruit thereof, and obey God's one commandment He had given them (Genesis 2:17).

Dispensation #2 – The dispensation of conscience

The dispensation of conscience reached from the fall of man to the flood. During this period man could not fellowship with God for he now had a sin nature. God, however, did speak to select ones from the righteous line (and sometimes to the unrighteous in the case of Cain) in an audible voice. A good example would be Noah when God spoke to him and told him to build the Ark, giving him the dimensions, etc. The unrighteous of that time heard God's message through Noah. Noah preached the message of deliverance to the world of mankind for 120 years while building the Ark. There were others of that dispensation to whom God spoke directly, such as Enoch, who was translated, and others in the righteous line from Adam through Noah's father and grandfather who died the year of the flood. So far as we know, however, God did not speak to anyone on the Ark directly except Noah.

Dispensation #3 – The dispensation of Human government

From the Flood to Abraham was the period of human government. Of all the dispensations, this one is the most difficult in which to trace the righteous line. It seems that it goes through Noah through Shem. Human government after the fall of man was, of course, a grand failure. The only things human government were to do were to defend the people from harm and to punish the evil doers. At this time capital punishment was established and a minimal system of right and wrong was installed. This was the dispensation during which human government, as always, was left to itself, because mob rule rose up against God in the building of the Tower of Babel so as not to have to come under the authority of God. God confused their languages and scattered the various tribes over the earth as it pleased Him.

Dispensation #4 – The dispensation of the Patriarchs

This dispensation begins with a listing of the righteous line from Noah to Abram in chapter 11, and the giving of the Abrahamic Covenant in verses 2 and 3 of Genesis chapter 12. This is where God begins to build a chosen family that will eventually produce the Messiah. God Called Abram out of Ur of the Chaldees, a stronghold of idol worship. After another quarter of a century Abram's name was changed to Abraham (father of many nations) and Sarai's name was changed to Sarah (a princess with God). God's promised son, Isaac (laughter) was then born to them after Abraham was one hundred years old and Sarah was ninety. In Genesis chapter twenty four, Abraham sent his most trusted servant to Haran to get a wife for his son Isaac from his own people. He was keeping the righteous line pure by not taking a wife from the land of Canaan. Rebecca was God's choice for Isaac. They had twin sons, Esau and Jacob. Jacob (deceiver or supplanter) was the second of the twins to be born and should not have received the Patriarchal blessing, but Esau despised his birthright and sold it to Jacob for a mess of pottage. Jacob, at the insistence of his mother, deceived his father into thinking he was Esau and received the patriarchal blessing. Jacob, as the next of the Patriarchs, fled from the wrath of Esau to Haran where he served his uncle Laban, his mother's brother, for twenty years for his two wives, their two handmaids and eleven of his twelve sons. Here he also became wealthy in herds and flocks. Seeing the displeasure of Laban, he secretly fled overnight with his family and all that he had to return to Canaan. His twelfth son, Benjamin, was born on the way back to Canaan. It may seem that Joseph should have been to the end of the Patriarchs, but Jacob (Israel) did not pass on the Patriarchal blessing until he was in Egypt. Although Jacob passed the blessing to Ephraim, Joseph's son, born to him in Egypt, God had chosen the tribe of Judah to produce the Messiah and to be the continuation of the righteous line. Jacob (Israel) went down into Egypt a family of seventy and left Egypt 430 years later a nation of over two million.

Dispensation #5 – The dispensation of the Law

The fifth dispensation begins with Moses and continues to the first advent of Christ. During this dispensation God dealt with His chosen people through the Law given at Mt. Sinai. Moses, born to a family of the tribe of Levi in Egypt, married a Midianite wife by whom he had two sons, but they do not figure prominently in the Biblical Narrative.

The events of the Exodus which are strong types are as follows:

- a. The Passover – The Christian's salvation
- b. The seven more days of unleavened bread – Sanctification
- c. The Exodus, itself – Separation (Egypt is a type of the world).
- d. The crossing of the Red Sea – Baptism
- e. The Giving of the Law at Mt. Sinai – Israel's Constitution

At Mt Sinai Israel received:

- a. The Ten Commandments – The Law of which all else given them was an extension.
- b. The Judgments
- c. The Ordinances

- d. The Statutes
- e. The form of worship
- f. The Tabernacle – the center of their worship
- g. The Priesthood
- h. The priestly clothing
- i. The five offerings and their meaning

The dispensation of the Law continued until the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the Day of Pentecost.

Dispensation #6 – The Dispensation of Grace

The sixth dispensation begins with the day of Pentecost and continues until the second coming of Christ. We are now living in the Dispensation of Grace when God is dealing with man according to the finished redemptive work of Christ. Jesus paid for all the sins of all mankind through His death, burial and resurrection. God's plan of salvation is clearly set forth in the New Testament. See Romans 3:23 – "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

Romans 6:23 - "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 5:12 – Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

Romans 10:9, 10 – "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Romans 10:13 – "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

John 1:12 – "But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name."

This dispensation also includes the Tribulation Period to complete the "Times of the Gentiles."

Dispensation #7 – The Millennial Reign of Christ

This dispensation begins with the second coming of Jesus Christ to the earth to establish His Kingdom and reign for one thousand years. All the Saints from the rapture and the tribulation period will come with Him in resurrection bodies

And will reign with Him for a thousand years. His government will be based on the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew chapters 5 through 7.

LESSON 1 – Study of Revelation

I. **Author** – There was absolutely no question with the early Church concerning the identity of the “John” who wrote the Book of Revelation. Some of the leaders of the early Church listed the Book among the antilegomena (those books important, but not inspired). By the fourth Century A.D., however, it was accepted as meeting all the tests of inspiration. John was exiled to the Isle of Patmos by the emperor Domitian from 81 to 96 A.D. for the crime of preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ, contrary to the laws and religions of Rome. The Book itself tells us John was on the Isle of Patmos when he wrote the Book. Most commentaries place the writing of the Book between 90 and 95 A.D. It is, of course, the last of the inspired Books of Scripture and thus closes the Canon of Inspired Scripture.

II. **Date** – We have already mentioned that the Book was written between 90 and 95 A.D. Although there are some differences in vocabulary between John’s other writings and the Book of Revelation, there are overwhelming evidences as the authorship being that of John

1. The place of the writing of the Book is where John was.
2. The date is correct. John was the youngest of the twelve Apostles and would have been the only one of them still alive at that time.
3. John is the only New Testament writer who used the word “Logos” to refer to Christ, and this term is used in both Gospel and the Revelation.
4. While tradition tells us that John was boiled in oil at one point, he is the only one of the Apostles who died of natural causes.
5. John is the New Testament writer who most often referred to Christ as the Lamb of God. He does so in both the Revelation and his Gospel.
6. His name is given four times in the Book of Revelation as the author.

III. **Purpose** – It is vitally important that the Church have a record as to what is going to happen in the future. As has often been stated, God has revealed enough in His Word as to what the future holds to keep the Church looking for His return in every century, but has concealed enough so that no one knows for absolute certain when that return will be.

IV. **The Key to Interpretation:** It is so important to remember when interpreting Scripture that the Scripture is always to be taken literally unless there is some indication otherwise. This offers more difficulty in the Book of Revelation in that it is a book that uses a number of symbols, but is a book of literal incidents. I believe that the best way to stay on the safe side is to gain an understanding of what the first verse of the first chapter is saying to the reader. John tells us first of all that this is a revelation of Jesus Christ. Second, He tells us that God gave it to Jesus to show to His servants what is soon to come to pass. Third, John says that Jesus sent and **signified** by His Angel (messenger) to His servant, John. The key word is signified. The usual meaning of the word signified is to be a sign or indication of. As it is used in this first verse it means a sign or symbol. In other words, God gave to Jesus a complete account of all that Jesus was going to do in the future, and that He gave it in symbols. Revelation, then, is a book of actual incidents which are going to happen, but that are written in symbols.

V. **Application of the Key** – How are we to know what the symbols mean? Every symbol used in the Book of Revelation is used elsewhere in the Bible. To understand the Book of Revelation, then, will drive us to the rest of the Bible to find out what the symbols mean there. This is why chapter one, verse three pronounces a special blessing on those who read this book, hear the words of its prophecy, and keep those things that are written therein. That is why the special blessing is pronounced on those who understand it and obey it.

VI. **Outline** Revelation 1:1-1:8

I. Introduction to the study:

A. Revelation – The great capstone of the pyramid of God’s Truth

1. The 1st level – Foundation – The Pentateuch or the Law
2. The 2nd level – The Old Testament History books
3. The 3rd level – Old Testament Poetry books
4. The 4th level – The Prophets of the Old Testament
5. The 5th level – The 4 Gospels and the Book of Acts
6. The 6th level – (The Penthouse) The New Testament Epistles
7. The 7th level – (The Capstone) The Book of Revelation

B. Revelation is the consummation of all which begins in Genesis.

1. God created Heaven and Earth – New Heaven and New Earth
2. Sun, Moon and Stars set to rule the day and night – No sun needed for Christ is the light.
3. Satan comes to tempt and destroy – Satan cast into the Lake of Fire.
4. Man banished from the Tree of Life – Free access to the Tree of Life.
5. Earthly Paradise lost – Heavenly Paradise gained.
6. Man and woman set over God’s creation – Christ and His Church to rule over all.
7. First sacrificial lamb killed – Lamb of God on the Throne.
8. The beginning of sin – Sin banished forever.
9. Rise of the wicked system of Babylonianism – Babylon is destroyed.
10. The beginning of sorrow, pain and death – No more sorrow, pain or death.

C. Three ways to study the Book of Revelation:

1. Preterit, or past tense – Relegating everything to a political significance – built around the earthly history of Christianity and Rome, culminating in 70 AD
2. Historic – All of the events have taken place in these 2000 years of Church history, and the vials, trumpets and seals of God are the events of the end of the age.

3. Futuristic – See 1:19 – The events of the book are divided into three parts.
 - a. Chapter 1 – The things which John had seen, - past tense.
 - b. Chapters 2,3 – The things which are, or the Church Age.
 - c. Chapters 4-22 – Things which are to come after the rapture of the Church.

Why do so many Christians fail to read, study and profit from the Book of Revelation? They think it is too hard to understand. It is the only book of the Bible which opens and closes with a special blessing for those who will apply it. See Revelation 1:3 and 22:7 It is a book of symbols. 1:1 Note the word “signified” in Vs 1 – It means given in symbols or signs. To understand the symbols and what they mean, one must find where they appear elsewhere in the Bible and find what they mean there. The study of Revelation is a very special blessing because it takes us to the entire Bible. It is a book of Revelation, singular – Note the order in which it was given. God gives revelation of His son to His son, who gives it to an angel, who gives it to John, who records it for God’s servants. It is the revelation of God’s Son and His dealings with men in the Church Age and in the future.

The Trinity is present with grace at the beginning of this drama as is seen In verses 4-8: God the Father – Vs 4 “Which is, which was, and which is to come:” Moses and the “I Am” Claim made by Jesus in John Chapter eight: Structure of the name Jehovah – Compound of He is, He was, and He is to come: Holy Spirit – Vs 4 “The seven spirits” (Seven aspects of the Spirit of God.)

Here is one of those symbols of which we spoke earlier. Isaiah 11:1, 2: Spirit of the Lord – Commands the life of the believer; Spirit of Wisdom, James 1:5; Spirit of Understanding – Makes it possible for us to understand spiritual things; Spirit of Counsel – Makes known the will of God for us; Spirit of Might – Enables the Christian to do what he or she ought to do; Spirit of Knowledge – He teaches us what we need to know about Christ and the Scriptures as we go along; Spirit of the Fear of the Lord – Reverence and respect; The Son – Vs 5-8 Jesus Christ; Faithful witness on earth – “It Is Finished;” First begotten from the dead in that He, “..raised again for our Justification;” Prince of the Kings of the earth, – “King of Kings and Lord of Lords.”

Coming again with His own – “..those who sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him..” Jesus claims the title which belongs to Him – Eternity See John chapter 8

LESSON 2 – Revelation 1:9-20 - Introduction

John has been exiled to the Isle of Patmos in the Aegean Sea by the Roman ruler, Domitian for the preaching of the Gospel. God causes the wrath of men to praise Him. Were it not for Domitian's exile of John we would not have Revelation. The greatest blessings of God are brought forth in pain. We have the Scriptures because others suffered. The Church is alive today because someone suffered. Salvation is ours today because Christ suffered.

John was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day. Many people go to church on Sunday, but few in the Spirit. To be in the Spirit means the same as walking in the Spirit. It means to be led or controlled by the Spirit of God. It also means to be in a spirit of worship.

The Lord's Day is not to be confused with the Sabbath. What is the Sabbath rest? It was part of God's covenant with Israel. See Exodus 31:14-17. Christ is the Lord of the Sabbath – He arose on the first day of the week and He is the Christian's rest. Hebrews 4:1-11. Some say that the Sabbath is never said to have been done away with in the N. T., but it is never said to be for Christians in the New Testament. It is never given importance after the resurrection. Christ is the Christian's Sabbath rest.

John heard a voice as of a trumpet: See the reasons for the trumpets in Numbers 10:1-10. This is the Revelation of the Risen Christ: The person in this revelation refers to Himself as Deity. See verse eleven.

There are seven Churches listed in an ellipse, with the Lord Jesus Christ in the midst. These churches were chosen because they represent the characteristics of the seven divisions of the church age. John, not Paul, was probably the one who originally planted these seven Churches in western Asia Minor.

The Seven Golden Candlesticks (The seven Churches): Gold represents Deity – Christ's Church is Holy because Christ is God, and God is Holy, and He redeemed it with His own blood. Ephesians 5:25-27. These are not the seven lamps of the Golden Lamp stand in the Tabernacle and Temple: that represented Christ, but these are seven distinct lights in the world. God has had a light or remnant in every age. We who are in Christ are the light of the world reflecting Christ's light in our period of the history of the Church. See Matthew 5:14-16.

Note: Jesus was in the midst of the churches. This is where Jesus belongs – "...Christ in you, the hope of Glory." Jesus dwelt in the midst of the camp of Israel. Jesus appeared in the midst of His Disciples in the upper room. Jesus has promised to be in the midst of His Disciples when they gather in His name. Matthew 18:20.

Like the Son of Man, He took a human form but was God, verse eleven. This was not what Jesus looked like on Earth, but every one of His appearances has a meaning. He was clothed with a garment down to the foot – Robe of the High Priest. Hebrews 9:24-28; 10:1. He was girt about the breasts with a golden girdle which speaks of service. He is our mediator in the Heaven. Hebrews

4:14-16. His head and hair were white like wool. – Daniel 7:9-13 – He is the eternal one. His eyes were a flame of fire which speaks of judgment. For those who believe, He has eyes of mercy, but for those who refuse Him He has eyes of judgment. His feet were like brass. Brass also speaks of judgment; and He walks among His Churches, judging each one's light in the time period of their ministry. His voice was as the sound of many waters. This represents great power as of stormy waves crashing on the rocks of the beach. It also speaks of His authority. Out of His mouth came a two-edged sword. See Hebrew 4:12 and Ephesians 6:17. This represents the Word of God. His countenance was like the sun. It was a blinding light like that which blinded Saul on the Damascus Road. This speaks of His Holiness and purity.

The Christ speaks: He identifies Himself as Christ who died for our sins. This is a strong proof text for the Deity of Jesus Christ. The Christian no longer fears death since Christ has conquered it. To the Christian, to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. II Corinthians 5:1-8. For the unsaved, to be absent from the body is to be consciously present in Hell. Luke 16:22,23.

The three divisions of Revelation are found in Revelation 1:19: the things which thou hast seen – Chapter 1; The things which are – chapter 2 and; and the things which shall be hereafter – Chapters 4-22.

The seven stars are the seven angels, or messengers of the seven churches. This speaks of the testimony or message, witness to the world in each division of the Church Age.

The seven candlesticks are the seven Churches which represent the seven divisions of the Church Age. What the witness of the Churches should be: It should be the "Light of the world," the Gospel of Jesus Christ without compromise.

LESSON 3 - Chapters two and three – Division Two – The Church Age.

Introduction: 1:9 This Revelation has three parts: Things which thou hast seen Chapter 1: Things which are (The Church Age) Chapters 2, 3: Things which shall be (Everything following the Church Age) Chapters 4-22.

There is a mystery to the seven stars, or seven messengers; for that is what the word “Angel” means. They are seven divisions of the church age. Chapter 4 begins with things that are to come there after; therefore chapters 2 and 3 must be the present Church Age.

The seven letters to the seven churches:

Ephesus - (means “Desirable”) Apostolic, or early church period. Chapter 2, verse 2 gives us the characteristics of the period: It is a Church of separation: Ecclesia, or “called-out ones,” as opposed to a one-world church. Today the church tries to be like the world. We do not need growth at the expense of holiness. Chapter two, verse four: They had left their first love – They were already experiencing the letter of the law without love.

Smyrna (means “Myrrh”) An herb which had to be crushed before it could give off fragrance – This is a reference to the persecution from Nero to 312 AD.. Chapter two, verse eight tells us we have a risen Christ as the head. It is strange that God would call this church rich which had the least of this world’s goods – but they had Him. Those who were of the synagogue of Satan were the Judaisers. The Judaisers were that religious, supposedly of Christianity which held that one needed to believe on Christ, but that they also had to keep the moral law in order to be saved. We still have them with us today in the form of such groups as the Seventh Day Adventists. This period of Church history was to experience ten days of persecution – there were ten periods of persecution of the Church during this period. See “Fox’s Book of Martyrs” by John Fox, one of the great reformers

Pergamos (means “Marriage and elevation”) The church was elevated to a place of power, and was married to the world when Constantine came to power in Rome. He declared Christianity to be the religion of Rome. The Christians came out of hiding, but instead of reaching out to win the world to Christ, they sat on their hands while the world moved into the Church. The icons of the religions of the Roman Empire moved into the Church: things such as worshipping Christ on a cross (crucifix) instead of a living Christ; worshipping Mary and the Apostles and praying to them instead of our “..one mediator between God and man, the Man Christ Jesus..” Satan’s throne is the Roman emperor’s throne. The Church Council at Nicea under Constantine had to decide the Issue of the Deity of Christ. It was Athenasius against the Ariens on this matter. Antipus, (“one against all”) = Athenasius who took his stand for the Deity of Christ against the Council and won is undoubtedly Antipus. It was at this time that Constantine took the name (Pontifex Maximus.” Or High Priest of the Heathen – Pope. The reference to Baalam was a reference to the union of the Church and the world. If Athenasius had not won, unitarianism would be orthodoxy in the Church today. Reference to the Nicolaitains is a reference to a movement of that period which subjugated the laity to the hierarchal system. (See the Ephesian letter and Diotrophes in III John Vs 9)

Thyatira (means “continual sacrifice”) Taken from two words meaning an incense offering and that which goes on continually – The Mass. See Hebrews 10:11,12 This was a period signifying the union of church and state. Read “American Freedom and Catholic Power” by Paul Blanchard. It was in the seventh century that the Bishop of Rome was first recognized as the visible head of the Church, and the representative of God on earth, (Pope).

It was in the 7th century that the Bishop of Rome was first recognized as the visible head of the church and the representative of God on earth. (Pope). There was no Protestant church until the reformation. Luther and others rebelled against the false doctrine of the Roman Church. There was no Roman Catholic Church until the formation of the Papacy of Roman Catholicism. The continual sacrifice is none other than the Mass. 2:20; Hebrews 10:8-12. Emphasis is heavy here on works. A large part of the Roman Catholic Church’s activities at this time was charity, exploration, education, etc. The whole system is works. The mention of Jezebel is to use her as a type

1. Jezebel – From the days of King Ahab
 - a. Tried to mix Judaism with Baal worship
 - b. Catholicism – A mixture of Judaism, Christianity and paganism.
 2. Cast into the Great Tribulation – Note that the characteristics of the other churches pass at the end of their period, but the Roman Church is with us yet and will go right on into the Tribulation Period as the false church.
 3. Blessings pronounced on those who stay right with God in spite of the Roman Church during the dark ages.
- A. Sardis (A remnant) or (Those who have escaped)
1. Livest and art dead – Reference to state churches which came out of the Roman Catholic Church, but were dead in relation to saving faith for salvation.
 - a. Infant baptism
 - b. Baptismal regeneration
 - c. Churchianity instead of Christianity
 - d. Covenant theology. (Trusting the birthright instead of the New Birth)
 2. The things which remain – the few biblical doctrines
- B. Philadelphia (means “Brotherly love”) From phileo (filial love) and delphi (brother)
- The period of the great revivals and the preaching of the love of God.
1. The open door refers to missions and the spread of the Gospel.
 2. Refers also to the spread of the Gospel in this country.
 - a. During the early history of this nation. From the “Great Awakening” to about 1900.
 - b. America has been the great home base for missions.
 3. Those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews but are not – Latter day Judaisers and enemies of grace.
 4. The hour of temptation – Great Tribulation

5. Them that dwell upon the earth – as opposed to those whose citizenship is in Heaven.
- C. Laodicea (means “The rights of the people”) The Day of Democracy in the world and the churches. The day when the masses take over.
1. Clearly a picture of the rise of Communism and Democracy
 - a. Students for a democratic society, NAACP, Civil Liberties Union, etc.
 2. A day of lukewarmness on the part of the church
 - a. Church is socially accepted by the world because it no longer has a message or a stand that convicts the lost.
 - b. Church takes on the marks of the world and uses the methods of the world (Ecumenism, Union, Dialog)
 3. The day of material comforts – We have started trusting them
 - a. We trust government to take care of us.
 - b. We spend more money on edifices than on missions.
 4. See what we are counseled to buy.
 5. Vs 20 God leaves off dealing with the organized church and turns His last efforts toward individuals.
 - a. Will you hear His voice?
 - b. Will you open the door?

LESSON 4 – Revelation 4 – The Rapture and Christ on His Throne

- I. Vs 1 Here we have a type of the rapture of the Church of which John is a type.
 - A. See I Thessalonians 4:14-18
 - B. See I Corinthians 15:51-58
 - C. See also II Thessalonians 2:1-8
- II Vs 2, 3 The One who occupies the Throne
 - A. Jasper stone – Probably refers to the diamond since later it is referred to as being clear as crystal.
 - 1. Speaks of the glory of God
 - 2. Last stone in the breastplate of the High Priest and represents Benjamin which means “**The Son of My Right Hand.**” Jesus is the Son of God at the Father’s right hand.
 - B. Sardine Stone – Probably the ruby and was bright red and speaks of sacrifice, or the Blood of Christ. The Sardine, or Sardius was the first stone in the breastplate of the High Priest and represented Reuben whose name means, “**See, a Son.**” The one on the throne means, “**The Son of My Right Hand**” and “**See a Son.**” This can be no other than the Judgment Seat of Christ.
 - C. Rainbow like unto an emerald – Rainbow speaks of a covenant keeping, and promise keeping God,
 - 1. Emerald is the stone of Judah (Tribe of the Messiah) and His name means “**Praise**”.
- I. Vs 4 tells of 24 thrones and 24 elders seated on them.
 - A. I Chronicles 24 says the same thing. It speaks of the 24 elders appointed by King David to represent the entire Levitical priesthood.
 - 1. When the 24 elders gathered in the Temple the whole priesthood was represented.
 - 2. Likewise, when we see these 24 elders present in heaven it is representative of all believers who are priests unto God.
 - a. Clothed in white – righteousness of Christ
 - b. Crowns of gold on their heads – Rewards for faithful service.
- II. Vs 5 These symbols speak of judgment. (Mt. Sinai)
 - A. This is the Judgment Seat of Christ for all Believers. See II Corinthians 5:10
 - B. Seven lamps of fire represent the seven aspects of the Holy Spirit’s ministry as we saw in 1:4
- III. Vs 6-9 The Sea of Glass represents the great sea of the redeemed standing before the Judgment Seat of Christ for judgment on the basis of what we did with what God gave us.
 - A. The four beasts represent the four aspects of the Deity upon the throne.
 - 1. Lion – Divine majesty - Matthew

2. Calf – Divine strength serving man - Mark
3. Man – Humanity of Christ and intelligence and purpose - Luke
4. Eagle - Symbol of Deity – John

IV. Vs 10,11 The redeemed and the four and twenty elders fall before the Lord Jesus Christ and cast their crowns before Him as the One who alone is responsible for their redemption.

A. Crowns were received at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

LESSON 5 - Revelation 5 - The Little Book with 7 Seals

I. Review:

- A. The scene is in Heaven with the Saints around the throne of God.
 - 1. The 24 Elders – All of God’s redeemed at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Romans 14:10 – “. . .for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.”
 - 2. The four living creatures, (beasts) are the four manifestations of Christ.
 - 3. This is immediately after the rapture. Revelation 4:1,2

II. The Book: (Title deed to all the earth. Revelation 5)

- A. This is the throne of God the Father, and God the Son is on His right hand. The right hand is, prophetically, the hand of authority and power.
- B. This book is actually a scroll with seals at seven intervals.
 - 1. It is the Title Deed to all the earth. See Jeremiah 32:6-8
 - 2. Jeremiah’s nephew wanted to get rid of the land because he knew of the coming captivity, and that it would then be worthless.
 - 3. Jeremiah had been told by God that as surely as they were carried into captivity, they would also return and then the land would be worth a lot, and he would hold this title deed.
 - 4. Likewise, when Christ comes back in the second coming, with His own, He will come with the Title Deed to all the earth.
 - 5. He shall then take possession of the earth and will set up His earthly reign.

III. Who can receive and open the book?

- A. Not Adam – He forfeited the right when he sinned against God in the Garden of Eden.
- B. No one else could be found.
 - 1. No man in Heaven – None of the redeemed who had earned the right through good works.
 - a. Salvation is not of works. Titus 3:5 and Eph. 2:8,9
 - b. Salvation is not reformation, but regeneration. John 3:3
 - 2. No man on earth – All who are left on earth are unbelievers.
 - 3. No man under the earth – Certainly no man under the earth, for that is where Satan and the lost were. Only the Lamb who was a Lion. (Christ)
 - 4. John wept because no one could be found who was worthy to open the little book.
 - 5. One of the 24 elders breaks the good news: The worthy one is the LAMB OF GOD who appears as a Lamb which has been slain; but is also the LION of the TRIBE OF JUDAH (Christ). “I shall know Him, I shall know Him: and redeemed by His side I shall stand. I shall know Him, I shall know Him, by the prints of the nails in His hands.” His nail-pierced hands will be evidence

throughout all eternity of His redemptive work for us.

6. Having seven heads and seven eyes: Seven is the number of perfection. Seven is the number of perfection, and horns denote power and authority. The seven eyes are the seven Spirits, or the seven aspects of the Holy Spirit we saw in Chapter one, who is the Spirit of Christ sent forth throughout all the earth.

III. All the redeemed creatures of God's creation rejoice when one is found who is worthy to open the book.

- A. Leading the song is the multitude of the redeemed. They are the personal recipients of God's grace. Can you sing the song of the redeemed? Only those who are washed in the blood of the LAMB can sing it. Everyone in Heaven worship Him because He is worthy.

LESSON 6 - Revelation 6:1-8 - The First Four of the Seven Seal Judgments

- I. There are two vantage points from which to observe Chapters 6-20
 - A. Things as seen by those on earth: The strange disappearance of many people. Preachers for many generations have spoken of the great multitudes, but I think the number of true believers by then will be relatively small. See Matthew 24:10-12; II Timothy 3:1-5; I Timothy 4:1 and Revelation 4:1,2. A period of seeming world peace and safety under the influence of antichrist follows. See II Thessalonians. War breaks out like the world has never seen. Israel is protected, and God defeats Russia and her allies. See Ezekiel 38 and 39 and Matthew 24.
 - B. Things as experienced by those on earth: The four horsemen, who are the first four seal judgments. All of the Seal Judgments take place during the first half of the tribulation period.
 - 1. Revelation 6:1 and 2: John sees a rider on a white horse; a symbol of royalty, for only royalty rode upon white horses or white donkeys. This is the antichrist, not the rider on the white horse in chapter nineteen who is Christ in His second coming. Note: that he has a bow in his hand which speaks of future war. He comes to make war in order that he might gain rulership over the whole earth. There is a brief period of peace before the war begins
 - 2. Revelation 6:3 and 4: John sees a rider on a red horse; a symbol of war; antichrist defeating all opposition to his world-wide rulership.
 - 3. Revelation 6:5 and 6: John sees a rider on a black horse which is a symbol of famine and pestilence. Note that it will cost a full day's wages (a penny) to buy enough wheat or barley to make one loaf of bread; and the reader is reminded not to touch the oil or the wine. These, we assume, will be reserved for the ruling class.
 - 4. Revelation 6:7 and 8: John sees a rider on a pale horse which represents death. See this same progression in Matthew chapter 24.
- III. The only way to escape these awful things that shall come to pass:
 - A. Be sure you receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior now since no one who has heard the Gospel and rejected Christ this side of the rapture will be able to after the rapture. See Second Thessalonians 2:8-12. The Holy Spirit's convicting influence will be removed. Second Corinthians 7:10 and Second Thessalonians 2:1-12

LESSON 7 - Revelation 6:9-17 - The Opening of the Fifth and Sixth Seals

I. Review:

A. Chapter 4 – The Judgment Seat of Christ

1. Twenty four Elders on thrones representing all Old Testament and New Testament believers.
2. Awarding of crowns
3. Worship of Christ and the casting of crowns at His feet

B. Chapter 5 – Christ, the Lion who is the Lamb is the only one worthy to open the seven-sealed book, or scroll which is the Title Deed to all the Earth. Christ alone has purchased the right to open the little book through His once-for-all atonement for the sins of all mankind on the Cross of Calvary.

C. Chapter 6 – The first four seals of the Title deed are opened.

1. This is the seventieth week of Daniel's prophecy.
 - a. Daniel 9:20 – There were to be 69 weeks of years, or 483 years from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah was cut off. (Death of Christ)
 - b. It was exactly 483 years to the crucifixion of Christ. This is when the 69th week ended.
 - c. The 70th week of years is the Tribulation period which begins with the revelation of the antichrist.
2. The first four seals:
 - a. First Seal Judgment: Antichrist (counterfeit Christ) comes to bring false peace to deceive the world and Israel into thinking that he is the Messiah. He is riding on a white horse, but this is not Christ riding on a white horse in chapter 19, but it will deceive many since Christ will be riding a white horse at His second coming. Christ will come with all the redeemed and the heavenly multitude, all on white horses. The antichrist is wearing a crown which speaks of royalty, but Christ will come wearing many crowns for only He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The global war will take place with Russia and her allies against the antichrist, Israel, and the ten kings who rule with antichrist for "one hour" in order for antichrist to take control of a one-world government.
 - b. Second Seal Judgment: The second rider is on a red horse. Prophetically, red represents war. This will be the war for antichrist to take over world rule. Israel will be deceived by antichrist at first and will think him to be the Messiah. Unbelieving Israel will side with him until the middle of the tribulation period and the abomination of desolations. There will also be ten nations (Possibly Great Britain [the bear] and all her cubs [see Ezekiel 38] and all her cubs, including the United States) that will temporarily side with antichrist. The reason Israel sides with antichrist during the first half of the tribulation period is that she sees antichrist as her long-awaited Messiah. It is not until

the middle of the tribulation period when antichrist declares himself to be god and makes the rebuilt Temple his headquarters that Israel sees him as a counterfeit.

- c. Third Seal Judgment: The third rider is riding a black horse which is a symbol of the famine which follows this conflict and brings about Pestilence and death in the wake of the famine takes one fourth of earth's population.
- d. Fourth Seal Judgment: The fourth rider is on a pale horse which represents death.

- 3. These are the natural results on earth of the rejection of Christ as the Messiah by Israel.

II. The fifth seal judgment; When the fifth seal is opened we see the souls of redeemed individuals under the altar in Heaven.

- A. Chapter 6:9-11: Who are these souls under the altar? They can't be the Church since they received their glorified bodies at the Rapture. They would not be the Old Testament Saints since they were present at the Judgment Seat of Christ in Chapter 4. These are what we will call the Tribulation Saints.

- 1. Romans 11:25-28 – When the fullness of the time of the Gentiles is completed, God will breath life into restored Israel which He will have gathered from the four corners of the earth and brought to Israel for judgment. Through their preaching of the Kingdom Gospel, a great multitude out of every nation and people and tongue who have never heard the Gospel before, will be saved. Revelation 7:1-8 and 9-17. At this point in chapter six they had not yet been avenged. Vengeance is not part of the Age of Grace, but is in keeping with the Psalms which cry for vengeance. Why does Christ answer them as He does? Because there are others who will be martyred for their faith before the Tribulation is over. They will receive their resurrection bodies at the end of the Tribulation Period just before Christ comes back in His literal second coming to the earth with all the redeemed. These are called Tribulation Saints, and are part of the first resurrection in that the rapture is the harvest, and the rapture of the Tribulation Saints, the gleanings.

- B. The Sixth seal is opened – Chapter 6:12-17

- 1. These are indicative of the wrath of God on unbelieving men for their treatment of Israel – Israel's revenge.
 - a. Earthquake – Note order in Matthew 24:5-9
 - b. Fig Tree here speaks of Israel.
 - c. See Matthew 24:29-35 This seal represents the judgment of the nations (Matthew chapter 25) based on their treatment of Israel.

LESSON 8 -Revelation Chapter 7 - Events Leading Up To The Seventh Seal

I. Review:

- A. Chapter 1 tells us that Revelation is divided into 3 parts.
 - 1. The things which thou hast seen – Past
 - 2. The things which are – Present
 - 3. The things which shall be hereafter – Future
- B. Chapters 2 and 3 give us the present, or the Church Age and its seven divisions.
 - 1. We are now living in the seventh of the seven divisions.
 - 2. This period is marked by apostasy.
- C. Chapter 4 begins the third division of the book with the rapture of the Church and the Judgment Seat of Christ.
- D. Chapter 5 speaks of the little book which is the Title Deed to all the Earth. – Christ only is worthy to receive it and open its seals.
- E. Chapter 6 deals with the opening of the first 6 seals.
 - 1. Seal 1 – Antichrist and his false peace which lasts for only part of the first half of the Tribulation Period.
 - 2. Seal 2 – War breaks out as Russia moves down against Israel and her ten allied nations under the leadership of Antichrist. Russia and her allies are defeated.
 - 3. Seal 3 – Famine follows the war and the mark of the Beast is required in order to buy and sell.
 - 4. Seal 4 – Pestilence and death follow the famine.
 - 5. Seal 5 – The souls of Tribulation martyrs under the Altar in Heaven cry out to be avenged.
 - 6. Seal 6 – The sixth seal represents the Judgment of the Nations which is based on how they treated Israel.

II. The 7th Chapter – There is a parentheses between seal 6 and seal 7.

- A. Vs 1 (The number “four” is the number of the Earth.)
 - 1. The 4 Angels are 4 messengers of God to the Earth.
 - 2. The 4 corners of the Earth refers to the four continents
 - a. Eurasia
 - b. Africa
 - c. South America
 - d. North America
 - 3. The 4 winds:
 - a. Daniel 7:1, 2 – The four winds of Heaven striving upon the sea bring forth 4 great Kingdoms.

- (1) Babylonian Empire
 - (2) Mede-Persian Empire
 - (3) Grecian Empire
 - (4) Roman Empire
- b. On this occasion the four winds of Heaven are striving to bring about the last part of the fourth empire, or the rule. On this occasion the four winds of Heaven are striving to bring about the end of the fourth empire, or the rule of antichrist, but this is prevented by the 4 angels until something is taken care of.
4. They hold back this effort of the forces of Earth and will not allow it to hurt the Earth – The land of Israel The Sea – Type: The masses of mankind
- a. Nor any tree – Trees are representative of those who exalted themselves against God. Nebuchadnezzar was likened to a great tree. John the Baptist said that the ax was laid to the root of the trees.
- B. Vs 2,3 This Angel is none other than the Angel of Jehovah, or the Lord Jesus Christ.
1. He has authority over the other angels.
 2. He orders those who are singled out as His property be sealed in their foreheads; that is, they are enlightened in their mind as to be able to see Christ for who He is. They are also confirmed as His property. Later, those who follow Antichrist are branded in their hand, (symbol of deeds) and in their foreheads, (symbol of thoughts and mind).
- C. The 144,000 are undoubtedly Israelites, 12,000 out of each of the twelve tribes.
1. Notice: Dan is not listed. Dan is the tribe which first led Israel into Idolatry, and may lead Israel to follow the Antichrist at the beginning of the Tribulation.
- D. Vs 9 The great multitude
1. Could not be anyone who had received the Gospel before the Rapture. II Thessalonians 2:8-12
 2. They are Gentiles, though – Out of every tribe and nation.
 3. They have to be Gentiles who have never before heard the Gospel of Christ.
 4. They will probably be won by the witness of the 144,000.
- E. What shall happen to these tribulation saints?
1. Vs 13 They are clothed in white robes – Righteousness of Christ.
 2. They are washed in the blood of the Lamb. – Justification
 3. Vs 15 They are before God's throne day and night, and serve Him, and He dwells in their midst.
 4. Vs 16 They shall never suffer from hunger, thirst or heat.
 5. Vs 17 God shall feed them, give them water, and comfort them. Picture of what God does for the New Testament Saints.
 6. They will be raptured as the "gleanings" of the first resurrection just before the Second Coming. Revelation 11:11-14

LESSON 9 - Revelation 8:1-13 - The Opening of the Seventh Seal

- I. The opening of the seventh seal
 - A. The Book of Revelation is concerned with four major groups of sevens.
 - 1. The seven letters to the seven churches Chapters 2,3
 - 2. The seven seal judgements
 - 3. The seven trumpet judgements
 - 4. The seven vials of God's wrath
 - B. The seven seal judgements:
 - 1. There are six seals and then a parenthesis.
 - 2. The parenthesis is chapter 7 with the sealing of the 144,000 and the great multitude.
 - C. The opening of the seventh seal reveals the seven trumpet judgments.
 - 1. Six trumpets are blown and then a parenthesis. 10:1-11:17
 - 2. Chapter 11:18 brings us to the Second Coming of Christ.
 - 3. The book, or scroll is then turned over so that we can see the other side.
 - 4. The other side shows us the same events, but as they pertain to Israel.
 - D. The other side of the scroll is the seven Vial Judgements of God's wrath. (The seven trumpet judgements as seen from the recipient's viewpoint).
 - 1. The doom which follows the opening of the seventh seal corresponds with Jude Vs 11-13.
- II. The sounding of the four trumpets:
 - A. There was silence in Heaven when the seventh seal was opened.
 - 1. This is the calm before the storm of God's wrath, much as a calm before a great storm on earth.
 - B. The Angel with the golden censer: Vs 1-6
 - 1. He is an interceding Angel – Old Testament Angel of the Lord, or Jehovah – Christ.
 - a. He is interceding for the 144,000 and the great multitude of Chapter 7 Romans 11:17-36
 - b. He looses the wrath of God upon unbelieving men on the Earth.
 - 2. Seven Angels with Seven Trumpets – This is indicative of the World's fall, pictured by the fall of Jericho.
 - C. The first four Trumpets:
 - 1. Vs 7 Hail, and fire, mingled with blood, and the third part of trees, and all green grass are burned up.
 - a. Trees – Men exalting themselves against God.
 - (1) Nebuchadnezzar was likened to a great tree.

- (2) John the Baptist said the ax was laid to the root of trees.
 - b. Grass – Man in his weakness
 - (1) Isaiah 40:6 – Pictures grass trampled beneath the foot of man, picturing man's weakness.
 - c. The wrath of God is being poured out upon all these who have rejected His Grace and Salvation.
2. Vs 8,9 The great mountain burning with fire is cast into the sea and one third of the sea is turned to blood, a third of the creatures in the sea die and one third of the ships are destroyed.
- a. Jeremiah 51:25 – The Great Mountain is literal Babylon
 - b. This is Commercial Babylon being destroyed those whom she once tyrannized.
3. Vs 10,11 A great star falls from heaven upon a third part of the rivers and fountains of water. The name of the star is Wormwood, and many men die as the waters become bitter.
- a. The Great Star is a great religious personage.
 - b. This great personage brands Christianity as false and leads many to despair.
 - c. This may be the Pope turned against apostate Christianity.
4. Vs 12,13 A third part of the sun, moon and stars are darkened.
- a. Pictures that light is taken from those who rejected the light when they had it.
 - b. Light represents Truth – John 14:6

LESSON 10 - Revelation 9 - The First Two Woes

- I. The first two of the three woes are the fifth and sixth trumpets.
 - A. The 7th seal of the Title Deed to all the world contains the seven trumpets of God's wrath, and is simply an introduction to these judgments.
 - 1. The first trumpet – Fire and hail mingled with blood fell upon the Earth and a third part of the trees and all of the green grass was burned up.
 - a. Picture of God's wrath upon the pride and independence of man, as well as his weakness.
 - 2. The second trumpet – Great Mountain (Ecumenical movement) falls into the sea (masses).
 - a. The fall of spiritual Babylon.
 - 3. The third trumpet – Great star fell from Heaven and turned waters to bitterness.
 - a. Picture of a great religious world figure who denies the very system which he headed. The effect upon men is many will die from the bitterness of its taste.
 - 4. The fourth trumpet – Third part of the sun, moon and stars are darkened. (This could refer to one third of the twenty four hour day).
- II. The First Woe, or the Fifth Trumpet:
 - A. Vs 1 "I saw a star fall from Heaven..." should read, "I saw a star having fallen from Heaven."
 - 1. This is the third trumpet star, or Satan's instrument, Antichrist.
 - B. The Key to open the bottomless pit:
 - 1. The key speaks of authority, as in the keys given to the Apostles of Christ.
 - C. The smoke from the bottomless pit darkens the sun and pollutes the air. (It is generally accepted that this refers to propaganda put forth by antichrist).
 - 1. The smoke represents false teaching, or doctrine or cultism.
 - 2. The darkening of the sun represents the cutting off of the light of God's Truth.
 - 3. The air is Satan's domain, and it is affected by this false teaching. See Ephesians 6:12 and Ephesians 2:2 – "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the Prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience."
 - D. The locusts which came out of the smoke:
 - 1. These seem to represent the various tenants of this false religious system.
 - 2. Like horses prepared to battle – Represents the regimentation of the system.
 - 3. Crowns of gold on their heads – The system for a time will seem to be sovereign, and to sweep all before it.
 - 4. Faces of men – Operates by the intellect of men.
 - 5. Hair of women – Seductive in nature.

6. Teeth as a lion's – The system will tear and destroy men: it is a merciless system much like some present political systems.
7. Breastplate of iron – Impenetrable by the Truth of God.
8. Chariots and horses running to battle – Swiftmess of the system in deceiving men.
9. Tails like scorpions – This pictures the effect upon mankind; poisoning their minds.

III. The second Woe, or the sixth Trumpet:

- A. Four angels bound in the River Euphrates – They are the four Angels of God's Wrath. See Revelation chapter 7:1
 1. Vs 15 They are prepared for an hour. (The Hour)
 2. Vs 16 Two Hundred Million seemed ridiculous until the 20th century. Now China's population is well over one and a half billion. Every young man and woman in China is now required to give two years to military training when they turn eighteen years of age. We can see how it would be easy to field an army of two hundred million right now.
- B. The hoards of the East kill one third of the remaining population except for those who have the seal of God in their foreheads, (Those whose minds are under the control of God).
 1. Notice that the rest of the population, even then, fails to repent. See Vs-20, 21. There is a great difference between chastening and judgment. This is the difference between ninety days in jail and execution. Chastening is to bring about repentance, but judgment is meeting out justice and is not capable of bringing about repentance. If a person refuses God's grace, God's wrath will not turn men to repentance. This wrath is not designed to turn men to repentance: it is their final judgment. See Hebrews 3:7-19.

LESSON 11 - Revelation 10:1-11 - The Parenthesis Between the Sixth and Seventh Trumpets

I. Setting:

- A. This is the parenthesis between the sixth and seventh Trumpets just as there was a parenthesis between the sixth and seventh seal.
 - 1. There was a parenthesis between the sixth and seventh seals in which the 144,000 Jews and the Great Multitude were saved and sealed.
 - 2. There is this parenthesis between the sixth and seventh Trumpets during which we see the “Angel with the little Book” and The Two Witnesses.”
 - 3. There is a brief parenthesis in Revelation 16:15 between the sixth and seventh vials of God’s wrath during which we are reminded to watch for Christ’s coming.
- B. The seventh Trumpet takes us up to the end of the Tribulation Period.
 - 1. Revelation 10:11 refers to the repetition of the prophecy in the seven vials of God’s wrath. The seven Vials are parallel to the seven trumpets, but as seen from the vantage point of the recipients of the judgments.

II. The Mighty Angel from Heaven – Who is he? Vs 1-3

- A. This is the “Angel of Jehovah”, or Jesus Christ whom we saw ministering before the Golden Altar in the Heavenly Sanctuary. See Revelation 8:1-5. Since this deals largely with Israel, He appears to them as He did in the Old Testament. He is clothed with a cloud, (The Cloud). This is the Shikinah Glory of God, or the Divine Glory. In the form of a cloud God led Israel in the wilderness. In the cloud God dwelt between the cherubim in the Temple and the Tabernacle. When Solomon built the Temple, God came to dwell in it in the cloud. Ezekiel tells how the cloud departed from the Temple, hovered reluctantly over the Mount of Olives and then was caught up to God when the desolation of God’s house was declared.
- B. The cloud was never returned to Israel until the Transfiguration of Christ. Moses appears representing those Saints who have died and will be raised at the Lord’s return. Elijah appears representing the Saints who were caught up without seeing death. The Rainbow, the sign of God’s covenant with Noah is about His head. In Chapter 4 it was around the throne of God. It speaks of the fact that His promises are sure. His face was as the sun; the same face Paul saw on the Damascus Road. His feet were as pillars of fire; the same as in Chapter 1 where His feet were as brass heated in the fire. Daniel saw Him thus in the seventh chapter of his prophecy.
- C. He had a little book in his hand. This is the little Book which is the Title Deed to all the Earth. (When He comes He will have the Title Deed to all the Earth with Him.
- D. His voice is as the voice of a conqueror. Thunder again represents judgment. He places one foot on the land, Israel, and the other on the sea, Gentile world. All the Earth as His inheritance.

III. Why was John not allowed to record what the seven thunder voices spoke? These constitute the secret things of the Lord. They were not to be revealed until the end of time. Isn’t it strange that many people lose out on what is revealed because they are always trying to find out the meaning of what God has not revealed. All we need to do is trust God for the future. We should not question and falter because we do not understand His ways. Proverbs

3:5,6

- A. In the end of Vs 6, “There should be time no longer” should be translated, “There should be delay no longer.” Without any further delay, the Lord, the righteous judge will no longer be patient with evil men when the seventh angel sounds and all His wrath is loosed.
- B. John is told to eat the book. It is sweet to the taste, but bitter to digest. The book also represents the Word of God, especially the prophetic parts. Ezekiel 3:1-8 When we first encounter prophecy it is an attraction for us. The application of the Word of God is often bitter because: we must depart from iniquity. Hebrews, chapter six speaks of the one who has tasted of the Word of God but backed off when it came to the application of it. God would have us to be doers of the Word and not just hearers. Anyone who receives and digests the Word will never be satisfied with the world again.
 - 1. Have you really received the Word of God and been truly converted? The entrance of God’s Word giveth life.

LESSON 12 - Revelation 11 - The Parenthesis Between Trumpets Six and Seven (Continued)

- I. The first 13 verses deal with the parenthesis between the 6th and 7th Trumpets, or 2nd and 3rd Woes. The measuring has to do with God's preparing to take possession of what is His. This has reference to the restoration of Israel as promised in Zechariah's prophecy. (See Zechariah 2:1). The Jews were to be returned out of every nation, and from "The Country to the North" (Magog). The Gentiles were to tread under foot the City of Jerusalem for the last three and a half years of the Tribulation Period. The Tribulation Period ends the Period of the Gentiles. See Daniel's prophecy. Christ returns with His own to judge mankind at the close of this period.
- II. Who are the two witnesses, and when do they witness?
 - A. Many believe these are two distinct people.
 1. Some say Moses and Elijah since they appeared with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration.
 2. Some say Elijah and Enoch since they were translated and did not see death.
 3. Some say Elijah and John the Baptist representing the Old and the New Testament.
 4. Others believe it is two other individuals raised up for just this incident.
 - B. I am persuaded that we have already seen the two witnesses in the Book of Revelation.
 1. Remember, the book is a book of symbols.
 2. Look at the parenthesis between the 6th and 7th seals in Chapter 7.
 - a. John receives a preview of coming judgement progressively unfolding in the opening of the scroll.
 - b. There are two groups named here. (See Romans 1:16)
 - (1) 144,000 Hebrews representing the Old Testament
 - (2) Great Multitude, representing N.T. Gentiles.
 3. These two witnesses appear at the middle of the Tribulation Period.
 - C. Vs 7 The Beast out of the Bottomless Pit comes to make war on the two witnesses.
 1. People are so glad to get rid of the two witnesses that they send gifts to one another.
 - a. It is becoming harder these days to witness for Christ.
 - b. Jesus says we are the light of the world. Matt. 5
 - c. The world hates light because it dispels the darkness of its ways. John 3:19,20
 2. Christ warned His own that the world would hate them. John 15:18-25
 - D. These are taken up to the Lord just before His second coming, at the close of the Tribulation Period. Vs 12,13
 1. After they are removed, the final judgement of God comes upon unbelieving men. Chapter 7

- III. What is the event of the last Woe and the last Trumpet, and what does it usher in? Vs 14-18
- A. The Seventh Trumpet incorporates the Second Coming of Christ with His own from Heaven, and the judgement of the nations under Antichrist.
1. The voices in Heaven Vs 15 announce the coming of Christ to claim the Kingdoms of this world.
 - a. Satan tried to get Christ to bypass the cross in Matthew when he tempted Christ in the wilderness.
 - b. The Kingdoms of this world were his temporarily, as he is the god of this world. See Ephesians 6:12
 2. Revelation 19:11-21 In this parallel passage we see the detailed description of the return of Christ with His own.
 - a. Note Revelation 19:15 speaks of the Judgement of the Nations. See Matthew 25:31-34
 - b. This is the same event of which we read in Matthew 24:29-31.
 3. Vs 16 pictures the 24 elders (representing Israel and the New Testament saints) rejoice in the fact that they have at last realized the promised Kingdom of Christ on the Earth.
 4. Vs 17 makes it clear that the Millennial reign of Christ beginning at this point.
- B. Vs 16.17 incorporate the entire millennial reign of Christ.
- C. Vs 18 deals with the judgement of the unbelieving dead at the close of the millennial reign of Christ. See Rev. 20:4-15
1. This is the Great White Throne Judgement.
 2. Vs 19 belongs to the next chapter.
- D. Everything between 11:18 through 20:15 is incorporated in the verses we have considered here. Are you ready to meet Jesus Christ?
1. You will see Him at the Rapture as your Savior if you have received Him as such in this life before the Rapture.
 2. You will face Him as your judge if you do not know Him as your Savior.

LESSON 13 - Revelation 12 – The Second of Four Great Openings in Revelation

I. The four great openings in Revelation:

A. In order to understand the passage fully we must go back to Chapter 11:9.

1. The first opening is in 4:1 where there is a door opened in Heaven – Picture of the Rapture.
2. The second opening is found in 11:19 where we see the Temple of God opened in Heaven.
3. The third opening will be in 15:5 where we will see the Temple of the Tabernacle of the Testimony opened in Heaven.
4. The fourth opening will be in 19:11 where we will see the Heavens opened and Christ coming on a white horse. Second Coming of Christ.

B. In this second opening we see God's faithfulness to His people, the Jews, as the Temple of God is opened in Heaven and the Ark of the Covenant is seen.

1. This represents God keeping His promises to Israel
2. His wrath is poured out upon her enemies.

II. Who are the woman and the man-child? Vs 1-6

A. What does the woman represent?

1. Some erroneous ideas:

- a. Some say she is the Church – But the Church did not give birth to Christ.
- b. The Roman Catholic Church sees her as Mary, but Revelation is a book of symbols.
- c. Many groups have claimed that it applied to them.

2. What do the other Scriptures say?

- a. She is obviously that which gives birth to the man-child.
- b. Who is the man-child?
 - (1) Psalm 2:7-9 - Here we learn that only Jesus Christ was to inherit the nations and rule over them with a rod of iron
 - (2) Revelation 2:26-28 – Jesus Christ will not reign alone but the saints from the age of grace will rule with Him.
 - (3) The man-child then has to be Jesus Christ, the Head and His Church, which is His body. See First Corinthians 12:12
- c. The woman can only be Israel.
 - (1) Joseph's dream of the sun, the moon and the twelve stars bowing down to him represented Jacob, Rachel, and the twelve sons, or all of Israel.
 - (2) Romans 9:5 tells us that Christ came from Israel.
 - (3) Isaiah 9:6 – "Unto us a child is born. . . ." (To Israel)\

- B. Micah 5:2; Isaiah 66:7,8
 - 1. These verses point up the fact that Israel was to give birth to Christ before her travail.
 - a. This is a picture of the Messiah coming forth before Israel went into the Tribulation.
 - 2. Jesus Christ will be born (recognized in the consciousness of Israel in the Tribulation.
- C. The twelve stars on her head represent the twelve tribes of Israel.
- D. The moon beneath her feet speaks of the reflected glory of the old Covenant under the Law.
- E. The Sun in which she is wrapped speaks of the New Covenant Glory in which she appears before God.

III. God's faithfulness to His people:

- A. The Dragon, (Satan Vs 9) declares all-out war against Israel and seeks to destroy her.
 - 1. God has a place prepared in the wilderness. (Petra?)
 - 2. Satan is called the accuser of the brethren. 12:10 (Remember Job) Here he is cast down.
 - 3. Vs 14 The woman was given the wings of a great eagle. (Should be The Great Eagle)
 - a. The Eagle is God. Isaiah 40:31
 - b. God tells Israel that He bore them on Eagle's wings. See Exodus 19:4
- B. The flood from the mouth of the Dragon represents a flood of propaganda or teaching against Israel. It serves to drive Israel to God and to cause them to recognize the Christ they rejected as the true Messiah.
 - 1. The fulfillment of prophetic events in this present day should serve to turn us to God's Christ and salvation.

LESSON 14 - Revelation 13:1-10 – The First Beast: The Antichrist

- I. The first of the two beasts in Chapter 13:
 - A. This follows immediately after the effort of the great Dragon, (Satan) to destroy the woman, (Israel) and her Son, (Jesus Christ).
 - 1. We must go back to the book of Daniel and look at the two major revelations found there.
 - a. Nebuchadnezzar's dream: Daniel 2:31-35
 - (1) Golden head – Babylon
 - (2) Silver breast and arms – Medo-Persian
 - (3) Brass belly and thighs – Grecian-Macedonians
 - (4) Legs of iron and feet of iron and clay – Roman
 - b. Daniel's vision: Daniel 7:1-8
 - (1) We see the Lion with eagle's wings – Babylon and Nebuchadnezzar
 - (2) We see the Bear with 3 ribs in its mouth – Medo-Persian Empire with the destruction of the 3 main cities of Babylon
 - (3) We see the Leopard with 4 heads – Grecian-Macedonian Empire divided into 4 parts after Alexander's death.
 - (4) Dreadful and terrible beast with iron teeth and ten horns – Ten horns are the same as those in Rev. 13.
 - B. Both of these revelations are the same events.
 - 1. They represent "The Times of the Gentiles."
 - a. Period from the captivity of Judah by Babylon to the end of the Tribulation period.
 - 2. The first three Kingdoms were swallowed up by the fourth -The Roman Empire.
 - C. The first beast of Revelation 13 is the antichrist whose empire is that of the revived Roman Empire.
 - 1. Ten Horns – (Same as the ten toes of Nebuchadnezzar's dream) are a combination of ten confederate nations which stand with Antichrist and Israel (Imperialism – iron) and (Social-democracy – clay and will reign with him.
 - 2. The Seven Heads – See Revelation 17:8-14 – These would have to be the 7 major dynasties of Rome.
 - a. Five had already been at the time John wrote, one more was then ruling, and there was a seventh to come, out of which the head of the revived Roman Empire would come, the Antichrist.
 - b. The seven hills also have to be Rome.
 - 3. The various Beasts of Vs 2 correspond to Daniel's vision.
 - a. Notice: There are only three listed here, but they go together to make

up the fourth.

4. The seventh head is wounded to death, but is miraculously revived.

a. This is the revival of the Roman Empire under the reign of Antichrist.

II. What does he do?

- A. He is given the ability to deceive the people of earth for three and a half years. II Thess. 2:1-10 (First half of the Tribulation Period)
- B. He commits sacrilege against God and blasphemes the True. Matthew 24:15 and II Thessalonians 2:4
- C. He holds power over all people of the earth. II Thess. 2:9-11
- D. He makes war against the Tribulation Saints.
- E. All men not written in the Lamb's Book of Life were deceived by him and worship him.
- F. He shall eventually be brought down by God at the end of the Tribulation Period. II Thess. 2:8 – "And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the Spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming."

LESSON 15 - Revelation 13:11-18 – The Second Beast: The False Prophet

- I. The contrast of the first beast and the second:
 - A. The origin of the two beasts:
 - 1. The first beast comes from the sea. Vs 1
 - a. The Sea represents the masses of mankind and represents the Gentile Nations.
 - 2. The second great beast comes from the earth, (The Land of Israel) and indicates he is a Jew.
 - a. Daniel 11:36-45 refers to “The God of His Fathers” which indicates he is of Israel.
 - b. He would probably have to be of the Tribe of Judah or the Jews would not listen to him.
 - B. The identity of the two beasts:
 - 1. The first beast is the 8th ruler of the Roman Empire which results from the 7th.
 - a. The first five governments of the Roman Empire came before John’s time.
 - b. The 6th was in power when John wrote. This is the wounded one. (Death of the Roman Empire)
 - c. The 7th is the revival of the old Roman Empire at the end of the Church Age.
 - d. The 8th comes out of the 7th and takes place of leadership. Revelation 17:7-11
 - e. This beast is the Antichrist.
 - f. He represents the one-world government brought about with the help of the one-world-church.
 - 2. The second beast is the False Prophet, or the counterfeit Holy Spirit who gives glory, and points men to the first beast.
 - a. He has two horns as of a lamb. (He speaks with the gentleness and sincerity of a lamb, but his words are deceiving. Vs 11
 - b. He still speaks as a dragon (symbol of Satan)
- III. The work of the second beast:
 - A. He enables the first beast to unite the whole world under one banner. See Vs 12
 - 1. One world church
 - 2. One world government
 - 3. One world monetary system
 - 4. One world control of all thing
 - B. He enables the first beast to be able to make fire come down from heaven. (Even as

Elijah did.

1. This power of Satan is displayed in the first few miracles performed by Moses before Pharoah and duplicated by the magicians of his court.
 2. This could also be the work of orbiting missile stations, missiles on the moon, or orbiting laser base.
- C. Vs 14 Philosophy that might makes right II Thess. 2:3-
- D. Vs 15 He gives power and life to the image of the beast and all must worship it.
- E. Vs 16,17 This may be a literal mark which will be required in order to do business, or buy and sell.
1. It may also, as elsewhere in Scripture, represent complete control by Antichrist over the thought life, or allegiance of those who follow him in their thought life – forehead, and their deeds – hand.

IV. What does the number of the Antichrist mean?

- A. The number six is the number of man.
1. False God and Father – Satan
 2. False God the Son – Antichrist
 3. False Holy Spirit – False Prophet

LESSON 16 - Revelation 14 – The Lamb on Mount Zion

I. Introduction

A. The 14th chapter is a vision divided into six parts:

1. The Lamb of God on Mt. Zion – The 144,000 are rewarded by their Messiah nearing the close of the Tribulation. Vs 1-5
2. The preaching of the Everlasting Gospel to those who had never heard the Gospel. Vs 6,7
3. Babylon is fallen – Destruction of apostate church Vs 8
4. Last opportunity for repentance given on earth. Vs 9-13
5. The harvest time on earth. Vs 14-16
6. The Vintage, or application of the wrath of God on those who finally refuse His last offer of mercy. Vs 17-20

II. Detailed study of the six divisions:

A. Vs 1-5 The Lamb of God on Mt. Sion

1. A literal place – Jerusalem and Mt. Sion
 - a. This is the Lord's return to Mt. Sion, and His reunion with the 144,000 whom He has kept through the Tribulation Period.
 - (1) In chapter 7 He promised to keep them and remain faithful.
 - (2) In like manner He has promised to be with us and to keep us in this dispensation.
2. These are the same 144,000 of chapter 7
 - a. These are the First-fruits of the Kingdom Age. Vs 4
 - (1) Christ is the first-fruits of the present dispensation.
 - (2) We are the first-fruits of His creatures
3. Vs 5 In their mouth was found no guile.
 - a. This does not mean that they had not sinned.
 - b. This means they had confessed their sins to God.
 - c. I John 1:9 – Those who confess have no guile.

B. The preaching of the Everlasting Gospel. Vs 6-7

1. The same Gospel now preached in the Age of Grace.
 - a. There could be no other Gospel. Galatians 1:8
 - b. Men of every age have always been saved the same way.
2. These are those who as yet had not heard the Gospel and had a chance to believe. A last demonstration of God's Grace.

C. The fall of Babylon Vs 8

1. The One-World-Church is in the making at the present time.

- a. Roman Catholic Church called the 1960s the age of reconciliation – Bringing strays back to the Mother Church.
 - b. The Ecumenical Movement – Tell what it really is. II Corinthians 6:14-18
- 2. People will look to this church for help and security during most of the tribulation, but the Antichrist will destroy it when he is through with it.
 - a. Those with a true born-again experience can tell the true from the false today. I John 4:1
- D. Message of the third Angel – Follow the Beast and worship his image and taste of God’s wrath. Vs 9-13
 - 1. The lips of those who refuse the cup of salvation shall be forced to drink of the cup of God’s wrath.
 - a. This result of rejection is eternal. Vs 11
 - b. What are you now doing with God’s offer of mercy and pardon?
 - 2. Vs 13 does not apply to this present dispensation, but to those who die from this point on during the Tribulation.
 - a. It will be so hard for the people of God that they will be better off if they died than if they lived.
- E. The Harvest at the end of the Tribulation Period Vs 14-16
 - 1. Not to be confused with the Great White Throne Judgement.
 - 2. This is just before the Millenium.
 - a. Jesus spoke of it.
 - (1) Separation of the sheep and goats
 - (2) Angels gathering the tares from the wheat
 - (3) Separation of the just from the unjust
 - 3. This is a discriminating judgement.
 - a. Only Christ is qualified to do the judging.
 - b. Notice that it is the Lord who sits on the white cloud.
- F. The Vintage, or the final and irrevocable application of the wrath of God. V17-20
 - 1. Notice the use of “The Vine of the Earth.”
 - a. This is a reference to Israel who was the vine.
 - b. This is the Vine of the Earth, or the false Vine which had rejected God’s Son.
 - 2. Jesus said that He was the true Vine. John 15
 - a. He came first to Israel and was rejected by them as a nation. John 1:11,12
 - b. Those who did receive Him were the branches of the True Vine.
 - 3. The entire country of Palestine will experience this bloodbath.
 - a. Vs 20 One thousand and six hundred furlongs is about the length of

Palestine.

- b. Keep in mind it is the result of rejecting the Savior.
4. Go over John 1:11-13 again and make application today. See I John 5:11, 12

LESSON 17 - Revelation 15 and 16 – The Seven Vials of God's Wrath

- I. Chapter 15 – An introduction to the 7 vials of God's wrath.
 - A. These are a parallel to the seven trumpet judgements.
 - 1. Trumpets pictured the wrath of God on the unbelieving in the last half of the Tribulation from the standpoint of the followers of Antichrist.
 - 2. Vials are the same judgements as they relate to Israel.
 - a. Vs 1 The wrath of God is completed in the seven vials.
 - b. Vs 2 This congregation is not the Church, but the 144,000 who came through the horrors of the Tribulation.
 - (1) Victory over the mark of the beast, etc.
 - c. Vs 3 They sing the song of Moses, etc. – This would have to be Israel.
 - (1) “King of Saints” should translate, “King of Nations” or King of Ages”.
 - d. Thus, the vials show the wrath of God against the beast, his kingdom and the entire sphere of Antichrist.
 - (1) God always avenges His own. Romans 12:19
 - (2) It is a just thing for God to recompense tribulation to those who persecute His own. See II Thessalonians 1:4-6
 - (3) He does the same for the Church in this dispensation. Philippians 4:19
 - (4) Many have questioned the plea for vengeance from David in the Psalms – Illustration of man who thought this was unjust, but wanted to see Federal troops destroy Richmond in the Civil War.
 - B. Previously we saw the 144,000 on Mt. Zion reunited with the Lord Jesus.
 - 1. Now the stage is set for God's wrath to rain upon those who persecuted them.
 - 2. God has kept the Abrahamic covenant perfectly. Genesis 12:1-3
- II. Chapter 16 contains the judgement of the seven vials.
 - A. Revelation is a book of symbols, but these may be more literal than we think.
 - 1. Things symbolized are usually more terrible than the symbol.
 - B. There is a parallel between these vials and the plagues sent upon Egypt in Exodus.
 - 1. God is again delivering Israel from bondage for the last time.
 - C. The seven vials of God's wrath:
 - 1. Vs 2 A noisome and grievous sore upon men with the mark of the beast.
 - a. Parallel to Egyptian plague of boils upon man and beast
 - b. Perhaps symbolic of spiritual plague which would bring man as much suffering spiritually as the boils did physically

- c. Sphere of this plague is the earth and answers to the 1st trumpet of chapter 8 which affected the earth. Ch. 8:7
- 2. Vs 3 Linked with the second trumpet which also affected the sea. (Increased intensity)
 - a. Death comes to those who refuse Christ. I Jn. 5:11,12
- 3. Vs 4-7 Affects the rivers and fountains of waters as when God turned the rivers of Egypt to blood.
 - a. This strikes at the very source of life-giving water
 - (1) Same area affected in 3rd trumpet.
 - b. Vs 5-7 Reiterates the right of God to recompense the persecutors of His people.
- 4. Vs 8,9 Affected the sun as did the 4th trumpet. (Increased intensity – Perhaps depletion of ozone layer)
 - a. Parallel of plague of darkness in Egypt. (Attack of sun god)
 - b. Notice: Judgement does not result in repentance.
 - (1) This should open eyes of those who believe God's punishment should be to reform the offender – thus the need of Capital punishment.
 - (2) These men only blasphemed God all the more.
- 5. Vs 10,11 Poured out on the throne or power center of the beast
 - a. This is the Star, fallen from Heaven in 9:1 in 5th trumpet
 - b. Brings complete darkness or confusion to his kingdom (as in Germany just before her collapse in World War II)
 - c. Notice: There is still no repentance – There will be weeping in Hell because of the torment, but also gnashing of teeth at God in anger.
- 6. Vs 12-14 This is the preparation of the final Battle of Armageddon.
 - a. Who are the Kings of the East?
 - (1) This is undoubtedly China, the great sleeping giant come to join herself with the rest of unbelieving against Christ and His people, Israel. 9:13-16
 - b. This battle will be in the Plain of Jezreel at the foot of Mt. Megiddo.
 - c. Vs 15 A parenthesis which is a warning for us today even more than for the people of that day.
 - (1) We are to guard our conduct lest we be ashamed before the entire world.
 - (2) Warning to have no part with the world system.
- 7. Vs 17-21 This last vial is poured out into the air, (Satan's domain) and Satan's rule comes crashing down to destruction. (The death blow)
 - a. This indicates the destruction of every spiritual and religious institution apart from God.

- b. How about you? Have you tried to order your life without God? Have you trusted in religion or some false hope?
- (1) Flee now from the wrath of God which is to come
 - (2) Jesus invites you to come unto Him and find safety
 - (3) Don't harden your heart as did Lot's sons-in-law when Lot tried to get them to flee God's wrath.

LESSON 18 - Chapter 17 – Mystery Babylon

I. Introduction:

- A. The Mystery of Iniquity in its final form: Babylon the Great
 - 1. We want to identify the woman who sits on the beast.
 - 2. We want to recognize again the identity of the beast.
 - 3. We want to trace the origin and progress of the Mystery of Iniquity.

II. The Beast – Vs 7-14

- A. We have twice identified this beast.
 - 1. He is the head of the revived Roman Empire.
 - a. Five governments had been before John wrote.
 - b. The 6th was in power at the time of this writing.
 - (1) Wounded to death, but revived during the Tribulation Period.
 - c. Seventh head is the beast and he becomes the eighth as he takes all power to himself.
 - 2. He has a ten-nation confederacy, which backs him in his wars against Gog and Magog.

III. The origin of the Mystery of Iniquity and the woman who is the symbol of this system. Vs 1-6

- A. In order to understand the Mystery of Iniquity, Babylon the Great, we must look back into Scripture and see its development in the Old Testament.
 - 1. Sons of Noah – Shem, Ham, and Japheth
 - a. Ham sinned against his father, and Noah cursed Ham's son, Canaan since God had already blessed the sons of Noah.
 - b. Ham's grandson, Nimrod the Mighty Rebel (Hunter) before God, led the people of the lower Euphrates valley in rebellion against God and His Truth.
 - (1) Building of the Tower of Babel represents Gospel-hardened people.
 - (2) Was to be the Tower of Babel – The Gate of God
 - (3) God came down and changed it to Babel – Confusion.
 - c. Nimrod's wife, Simeramis, according to ancient lore, gave birth to a son named Tammuz, introducing the Mother/Child worship, an ancient form of idolatry and the beginning of the Mystery of Iniquity.
 - (1) Satan's counterfeit for God's promise to Adam and Eve concerning the Seed of the woman. Genesis 3:15
 - (2) Developed as the "Queen of Heaven with a child in her arms and spread to other nations under other names.
 - (a) Ashtoreth and Tammuz – Phoenicia

- (b) Isis and Horus – Egypt
 - (c) Aphrodite and Eros – Greece
 - (d) Venus and Cupid – Italy
- 2. Within 1,000 years Babylonianism has become the religion of the world, which had rejected God's, will and Word.
 - a. Lesser mysteries linked with this mystery from the outset
 - (1) Purgatorial purification after death
 - (2) Salvation by countless sacraments such as a priest's absolution, the offering of round cakes to the Queen of Heaven, sprinkled with Holy Water.
 - (3) Dedication of virgins to the Queen of Heaven – or sanctified prostitution.
 - b. Tammuz was traditionally slain by a wild boar and returned to life.
 - (1) The evergreen tree was his symbol.
 - (2) The Yule log was burned with symbolism concerning him.
- 3. Abraham was separated from the mystery religion when he was called out of Ur of the Chaldees, the center of this worship
 - a. Abraham's descendants had constant trouble with it.
 - b. It was grafted onto what was left of the religion of Israel under Jezebel, a Phoenician princess who influenced the Northern Kingdom of King Ahab.
 - c. Judah was polluted with it in the form of Baal worship.
- 4. When Babylon died, her religion did not die with her.
 - a. Priests and initiates fled to Pergamos where the symbol of the serpent was set up as an emblem of hidden wisdom. Revelation 2:12-17
 - b. It then crossed the sea to Italy where it settled in the Etruscan plain. Rome eventually became its head.
- 5. During church history, doctrine has been replaced by sacraments and heathen philosophy for salvation.
 - a. Name which appeared on Miter of Caesar – Pontifex Maximus – which means, High Priest and Chief Ruler, came from the High Priest of Babyloniansim.
 - (1) Appeared on Miter of all rulers of Rome starting with Constantine who was both High Priest and Ruler.
 - (2) Same appears on crown of Pope.
 - (3) Pope also wears ring with fish inscribed on it – not a symbol of Peter the fisherman, but of fish god, Dagon.
 - b. This development of Babylonianism held all Europe in its grasp until the Great Reformation.
- 6. The present effort to unite Anglican, Roman, and Greek churches in one

ecumenical body is the culmination of Babylonianism during the Tribulation Period.

- a. The league of ten nations is formed and has power with the Beast for one hour.
- b. The recognized Babylonian Church, the Woman is back in the saddle again for a time.
- c. They soon find her to be empty and unable to satisfy their needs, and they turn on her and destroy her.
- d. According to verses 1 and 15, the scope of her influence
- e. Has reached to all the nations of the earth.
- f. Verses 9-11 show us plainly that the woman is Romanism, the outgrowth of Babylonianism.

IV. Warnings to us today concerning this system:

- A. Jeremiah 50:38 – “It is the land of graven images; they are mad upon their idols.
- B. Jeremiah 51:6-9
- C. Will you flee Babylon, and flee to the mercy of Jesus Christ?
 - 1. “Him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out.”

LESSON 19 - Revelation 18:1-19:5 – The Fall of Babylon the Great

I. Introduction:

- A. We have identified: “Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots, and Abominations of the Earth.”
 - 1. Babylonianism – The worship of the Mother-son symbol which began in geographic Babylon in the time of Nimrod and which has continued down to us in the form of Romanism.
 - 2. This is Satan’s counterfeit for the “Seed of the Woman”. Genesis 3:15
- B. Chapter 17 – She had influenced every nation of the world. Vs 2, 18, 25
 - 1. Romanism has permeated every nation of the world and has become the national religion of many.
- C. Chapter 18 and the beginning of chapter 19 give the details of her destruction.

II. Chapter 18:1-3 The time of her destruction and the nature of her influence.

- A. The Angel here corresponds to the one in 14:8
 - 1. This is the Angel with the 7th vial.
 - 2. Says that Babylonianism will last till the end of the Tribulation.
 - a. The Beast and his ten kings shall destroy her when she is no longer of use to them, and just before the true “Seed of the Woman” comes to destroy them.
- B. The nature of her influence
 - 1. Since she is a counterfeit, those who reject the True will gravitate to her.
 - a. Meaning of the references of her inhabitants in Vs 2
 - 2. Man is incurably religious.
 - a. If he rejects an infallible Bible, he will look for something else infallible on which to lean. (An infallible church)
 - b. The corruption of the best is always the worst corruption.

III. The warning to God’s people concerning her Vs 4

- A. This is not only for God’s people of a future time during the Tribulation, but is for God’s people today.
 - 1. So many who were set free from Romanism in the Reformation are now victims of the effort to reunite with it again.
 - 2. Vs 2 mentions the unclean bird. (Satanic influence)
 - a. II Corinthians 6:17 says to come out from among them and be ye separate, and touch not the unclean, and He will receive us.
 - b. Romans 12:1 tells us we are first Holy, then acceptable.
 - 3. Many present day professing Christians have a Babylonian garment hidden under the tent floor of their life.
 - a. It is time for individuals, churches, families, nations, etc., to refuse to

have anything to do with this influence.

B. She will not stop in her influence until the Scarlet Woman again rides the beast and the One-World-Church dominates all.

1. Illustration of the riots in Ireland

2. Illustrations from “American Freedom and Catholic Power” Pages 266-269

C. Vs 5-24 tell of the nature of her destruction.

1. Heavy emphasis is placed upon her commercialization.

a. Illustrations of how the church and her beliefs have been commercialized.

b. Relics are an example. (Tortilla with face of Christ and bleeding pictures and statues)

2. Involvement of the Roman Catholic Church in business today is greater than any other single force, group or country in the world.

a. Every nation of the world is affected and will therefore have a part in her destruction.

IV. The rejoicing of God’s people in Heaven is justified. 19:1-5

A. God has said that vengeance belongs to Him.

B. God will always bring righteous judgement on the enemies of the Righteous.

1. “Fear thou not for I am with thee. . .”

2. “And lo, I am with you always...”

3. “I will never leave thee nor forsake thee...”

C. This assurance belongs only to those who belong to Him.

1. By faith we become heirs of promise.

LESSON 20 - Revelation 19:6-21 – Two Great Suppers

- I. Introduction: Contrast of the two great suppers
 - A. The first – The marriage Supper of the Lamb
 - 1. A wonderful time of rejoicing
 - B. The second – The Great Supper of God
 - 1. A horrible time of destruction
- II. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb Vs 6-10
 - A. Identity of the bride
 - 1. Theories
 - a. Old Testament Saints Isaiah 54:6
 - b. Saints of this age Ephesians 5:22-32
 - c. Some say it is both – (examine together
 - 2. Salvation in both Old Testament and New Testament is by the same means.
 - a. Israel is called the wife of God.
 - b. Each New Testament Saint is part of the Body of Christ.
 - (1) God sees all this as an eternal present tense.
 - (2) God sees the complete wife from the beginning.
 - 3. The Bride, then, in a particular sense, is made up of New Testament believers and we become part of the wife of God at the Wedding Feast of the Lamb.
 - a. All made possible by faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior
 - 4. Only those who trust Christ as their Savior will be at this feast.
 - a. I John 5:11,12
 - b. John 14:6
 - c. Remember, no one who has heard the Gospel before the Rapture will be able to be saved after the Rapture. What you do with Jesus you must do now.
 - B. The appearance of the Bride: Vs 8
 - 1. Arrayed in Fine Linen, clean and white
- III. Second Coming of Jesus with His bride – Armageddon Vs 11-21
 - A. Appearance of Christ:
 - 1. Riding on a White Horse – Contrast with white horse when the first seal was opened. Chapter 6
 - a. This is a symbol of authority
 - b. Rider of the first seal comes from the earth and his work is doomed to failure.
 - c. This time the rider is from Heaven and cannot fail. (All who come as

Christ and are not from Heaven are imposters)

2. Eyes were a flame of fire – 1:14 (Judgement)
3. Many crowns were on His head – Authority over all kingdoms of the earth. He wore no crowns in chapter 1 when John first saw Him.
4. Clothed in a vesture dipped in blood – Before it was His own blood shed for our redemption, but now it is the blood of His enemies.
5. His names – 3 of them
 - a. Name known only to Himself – His dignity as the eternal Son.
 - b. The Word of God – The incarnation
 - c. King of Kings and Lord of Lords – His second coming to set up His kingdom

B. His Army – made up of:

1. Old Testament Saints
2. New Testament Saints
3. Tribulation Saints

C. The sharp sword which went out of His mouth

1. This is the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. See also II Thessalonians 2:8
 - a. By this He created.
 - b. By this He revealed Himself to man.
 - c. By this He keeps us true to Him.
 - d. By this He will conquer.

IV. The Great Supper of God Vs 17-21

A. This is a supper provided for the fowls of the air on the carcasses of the enemies of God.

1. The Beast, the False Prophet and the armies of the nations come together to do battle with God and with His Christ.
2. The Beast and the False Prophet are taken alive and, without experiencing physical death, are cast into the Lake of Fire.

V. Conclusion:

A. Which supper do you want to take part in?

B. The only way to be at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb is to take Christ as your Savior now.

C. Then will follow the Millennial Reign of Christ.

1. Six milleniums have passed since the creation of man. (These correspond to the six creation days)

LESSON 21 - Revelation 20 – The Millennial Reign of Christ and the Great White Throne

- I. We are to consider two great last events in this book.
 - A. The Millennial Reign of Christ
 - 1. The word does not appear in the Bible, but is Latin for a one thousand year period of time.
 - 2. Some say there is no Millennial Reign because the word is not in the Bible. The teaching is, however.
 - a. Trinity not in the Bible, but teaching is.
 - b. Substitution . . .
 - c. Deity . . .
 - d. Eternal Sonship . . .
 - e. Incarnation . . .
 - f. Depravity and Fall of Man . . .
 - g. Rapture. . .
 - B. The Great White Throne Judgement
 - 1. Time when God pronounces final judgement on those who refused His grace.
- II. The Millennial Reign of Christ:
 - A. The Latin expression for that which does appear here six times.
 - 1. Sixth Millennium is now drawing to a close.
 - a. Type of six creation days in Genesis 1 in which God created all things.
 - 2. There is one more millennium to go – a type of when God rested from His creative work.
 - B. Conditions during the Millennium:
 - 1. Not necessarily a sinless period
 - a. Satan is bound, but men will still have a sinful nature.
 - b. If man sins during the Millennium, it will be because of the hardness of his own heart, and his own self-will, not because he is deceived.
 - c. The judgement of God upon sin during this period will be sudden and thorough.
 - 2. The Saints of God will reign with Him. Vs 4-6
 - a. This includes not only Saints from this dispensation.
 - b. Also those martyred during the Tribulation Period Vs 4
 - c. It includes believers who come out of the Tribulation Period.
 - 3. In the present dispensation, those who live godly in Christ Jesus suffer persecution, but at that time they shall reign with Him. II Timothy 2:12
 - 4. Vs 5,6 The First Resurrection includes:

- a. Both O.T. and N.T. Saints' bodies raised at the resurrection
 - b. The Tribulation Saints who shall receive their resurrection bodies toward the close of the Tribulation Period.
- 5. No one can have part in the first resurrection without having received Christ as his or her Savior.
- C. Satan is loosed from his prison for a time at the close of the Millennium.
 - 1. There will still be those from the Millennium who only paid lip service to Christ.
 - 2. In Eden (innocence) disobedience
 - a. Man disobeyed the only prohibition placed on him.
 - b. When tested under the dispensation of conscience man filled the earth with violence and God sent the flood.
 - c. Under the dispensation of divinely appointed government, man turned to idolatry.
 - d. Tested under the Law, he crucified the Lord of Glory
 - e. Under Grace, man rejects Christ and chooses sin.
 - f. Tested under the personal reign of Christ, there will be those who side with Satan and rebel against God.
 - 3. One final attempt is made to overthrow God's authority. See Vs 8-10
 - a. Vs 10 Satan is removed once and for all.
 - b. We see the eternal nature of the Lake of Fire.

III. The Great White Throne Judgement: Vs 11-15

- A. All the unbelieving dead are here present for pronouncement of their sentence.
 - 1. What is death? – Separation
 - 2. Three kinds of death:
 - a. Physical death – Separation of you from your body
 - b. Spiritual death – Separation of the soul from God
 - c. Eternal death – To remain spiritually dead until you die physically.
 - 3. The dead, small and great are found here.
 - a. Unbelieving dead from Hades, both Old and New Testament
 - b. Unbelievers from every era, dispensation, walk of life, stratum of society, financial bracket, etc.
 - c. This is the second resurrection.
- B. This is not a trial, but a pronouncement of sentence against sin.
 - 1. Nothing shall be overlooked. Hebrews 4:12
 - a. Because the judgement shall be from the Word of God. Compare Vs 12 and Jesus' statement that His words, and Moses' words would judge the Old Testament and New Testament unbelievers.

- b. They shall be judged from the Book of Life, according to their works, or sins.
 - (1) Many would think they were all right because of church membership.
 - (2) Many will have depended on good works.
 - (3) Many will have depended on the goodness of parents or other relatives.
 - (4) Many will have trusted in false religions.
 - (5) Many will be there because of procrastination.
 - (6) Many will be there because they worshipped at the shrine of materialism.
- 2. God will know where to find every one of them.
- C. There is only one way to escape this judgement.
 - 1. John 14:6 – Jesus is the only way.
 - 2. I John 5:11,12 – If you have Christ you have life

LESSON 22 - Revelation 21:1-8 – Eternal Issues

I. Introduction:

A. We have seen nearly all the picture of eschatology.

1. The Church Age closes with a great apostasy and coldness among professing Christians. Rev. 3:15-20 & II Thess. 2:1-3
2. The Rapture – Christ comes for His own in the air. Rev. 4:1 and II Thessalonians 2:7
3. Then comes the Great Tribulation on Earth. Revelation chapters 4-19
4. Christ returns with His own to do battle with His enemies, and to begin His Millennial reign on Earth. Rev. 20
5. Satan is loosed for a brief time at the close of the Millennium, and then comes the Great White Throne Judgement.
6. The last two chapters are divided into three parts:
 - a. Rev. 21:1-8 The Eternal Issues
 - b. Rev. 21:9-22:5 A detailed description of the New Jerusalem, the City of God, holding sway over the whole Earth during the time of the Millennium.
 - c. Rev. 22:6-21 The Divine Epilogue

II. Eternal Issues

A. The first is the New Heavens and the New Earth. II Pet. 3:4-7

1. All of this New Creation will be made by Him who sits on the throne; Jesus Himself, who made all things in the beginning. Genesis 1 and John 1
2. God will do away with the following things for all eternity.
 - a. All tears – This is followed by all the things which cause tears
 - b. Death – separation; what man fears the most.
 - c. Sorrow – Including all disappointments
 - d. Crying – Weeping: Example of the Jews' tear bottle
 - e. Pain – Suffering, especially in the area of injustices

B. The Holy City, The New Jerusalem:

1. This is a picture of God dwelling in the midst of His people as He wanted to do from the beginning.
 - a. Adam and Eve in the garden
 - b. The Tabernacle in the wilderness
 - c. The Temple in Jerusalem
 - d. II Corinthians 6:14-18
2. There shall never again be anything to mar this relationship.

III. The warning here is for us as well as for those of that time. Vs 7,8

- A. Vs 7 How do we overcome? I John 5:4 Notice: This is an eternal relationship.
- B. Vs 8 The Second Death – This is also an eternal state.
 - 1. Fearful – Those who fear the cost of being a Christian
 - 2. Unbelieving – This is the crowd who, for one reason or another, rejects Christ and the written Word – Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.
 - 3. Abominable – Loathsome and detestable: God cannot allow sin into Heaven.
 - 4. Murderers – In any fashion
 - 5. Sorcerers – Those who practice witchcraft or the occult
 - 6. Whoremongers – All those who have been totally corrupted by, and given over to immorality.
 - 7. Idolaters – Those who put anything else ahead of God.
 - a. Could include a lot of professed believers
 - b. Those today who love the world more than God
- C. Note the comparison between this list and the Ten Commandments.
- D. Will you:
 - 1. Be on this list?
 - 2. Be in Christ by His Grace?

LESSON 23 - Revelation 21:9-22:5 - The New Jerusalem

I. The New Jerusalem; what is it? Vs 9,10

- A. According to these two verses, it is made up of the wife of the Lamb, or, formerly, the Bride of Christ.
 - 1. Just as Heaven, for the Christian, is to be where Christ is, so then, to be in the Bride of Christ is to be in the New Jerusalem.
- B. It can be described as:
 - 1. An eternal honeymoon
 - a. God often compares spiritual relationships to earthly relationships.
 - (1) Coming into God's family – New Birth John 3:3 and John 1:12, 13
 - (2) Father-son relationship between God and Christian II Corinthians 6:17,18
 - (3) Wife-husband relationship between Christ and the Church Ephesians 5:22-33
 - (4) So with Christ, the Lamb and His Bride
 - 2. A restoration of a perfect relationship between redeemed mankind and God.
 - a. As we spoke of Babylon as both a city and a woman, so we see the New Jerusalem as a city of the redeemed and the Bride of Christ.

II. The symbols and their meaning. 21:11-22:5

- A. The twelve gates – Twelve tribes of Israel Vs 12,13
 - 1. Obviously includes New and Old Testament Jewish Saints, but more than that.
 - 2. They are pictured as the gate to the city.
 - a. The only way to enter this city is through Christ who:
 - b. Came through David, who:
 - c. Came through Abraham – Abrahamic Covenant, all nations of the earth to be blessed, who:
 - d. Came through righteous line of Adam to whom:
 - e. The promise of the redeemer/Savior was given. Gen. 3:15
 - 3. A description of the gates:
 - a. Twelve pearls – Pearls are formed by much pain – speaks of the sufferings of Israel. (Today they do not even know what drives them on.)
- B. The foundation of the walls – The 12 Apostles Vs 14
 - 1. The New Testament believers, but more than that:
 - 2. Walls speak of limits – Whosoever of the Gospel
 - a. John 3:16 – That whosoever believeth in Him. . .

- b. John 1:12 – But as many as received Him. . .
 - c. Revelation 22:17 – Whosoever. . .
- 3. A wall speaks of separation.
 - a. Eternal separation from sin, Satan and the World
 - b. Separation eternally unto the Lord Jesus Christ
 - c. In the Garden man separated himself from God through sin, now God, through Christ, restores perfect fellowship forever. (eternal honeymoon)
- 4. The description of the walls
 - a. Vs 18 Speaks of purity – the refining fires of adversity – Anything we do for God will be met with trial. I Corinthians 3:12-15
- C. The measurements of the city: Vs 15-17
 - 1. Not a cube – 12 thousand furlongs each way at the base and 12 thousand high Pyramid with God’s throne at top.
- D. No temple there – Perfect fellowship of Garden of Eden restored Vs 22
 - 1. Gen. 3 – Fellowship broken by sin Rev. 21 – Fellowship restored eternally through Christ
- E. No evil permitted there Vs 27
 - 1. Genesis 1 and Genesis 3, sin came to God’s perfect creation through Lucifer’s rebellion and then through the corruption of mankind – Revelation 21. No evil shall ever again tempt the redeemed.
- F. No need of sun, moon or stars Vs 23-26 and 22:5
 - 1. Genesis 1 – 1st day light; 4th day sun, moon and stars
 - 2. Revelation 21, the Lamb is the light in that city
 - a. John 1 – He is the light that lighteth every man. . .
 - b. John 3 – Men loved darkness rather than light. . .
- G. 22:1 – River of Life flows from the Throne of God
 - 1. Genesis 2 – four rivers to water the Garden of Eden
 - 2. Revelation 22:1 – God provides an eternal River of Life.
- H. 22:2 – The Tree of Life is there.
 - 1. Man separated from the Tree of Life in Garden of Eden because of sin. Genesis 3
 - 2. God places the Tree of Life at man’s disposal now for he is confirmed in righteousness.
- I. 22:3,4 – The curse is removed forever and perfect fellowship takes its place.
 - 1. Note results of curse in Genesis 3:14-24
 - a. Curse upon the beasts of the field, but most of all on the serpent.
 - b. Enmity between the seed of the woman and the serpent

- c. Curse on woman two-fold – Pain in childbirth and she is to be subject to man
 - d. Curse on the ground – Man to earn living by the sweat of his brow.
 - e. Physical death
 - f. Spiritual death
2. Never again will any of the redeemed experience any of these things.

LESSON 24 - Revelation 22:6-21 – God's Final Invitation

- I. The purpose of this prophecy
 - A. Vs 6 That His servants might be warned ahead of time: I Thess. 5:1-11 – The man who gives heed and obeys these sayings will be happy and blessed.
 - B. Vs 10-16 That we might remain true to His commandments and be found faithful at His coming.
 - 1. The times will be marked by:
 - a. The unjust will become even more unjust.
 - b. The filthy will become even more filthy.
 - c. The righteous will become even more righteous.
 - d. The Holy will become even more Holy.
 - 2. There is a reward for those found faithful.
 - a. They will have access to the Heavenly City and the Tree of Life.
 - 3. Vs 15 makes it clear that all others will have part with the abominable in the Lake of Fire. Revelation 21:8
 - B. To identify Christ as the fulfillment of all prophecies concerning the Messiah.
- II. God's final invitation Vs 17
 - A. The Holy Spirit through the Bride, (The Church) invites the unsaved to come.
 - 1. John 16:8-11 – “And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgement; of sin because they believe not on me; of righteousness because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; of judgement because the Prince of this world is judged.”
 - B. All who will hear are urged to come.
 - 1. John 5:24 – “Verily, verily I say unto you, he that heareth my Word, and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.
 - C. All who are thirsty should come.
 - 1. John 4:14 – “But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst, but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.”
 - D. All who will may come.
 - 1. John 7:17 – “If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.”
- III. Results of disregarding or changing the prophecy:
 - A. Vs 18 To add to the prophecy would be to add to God's Word and visa-versa.
 - 1. We have in God's Word all we need to be saved. Romans: 3;23, Romans 6:23; Romans 5:12; Romans 10:22, 12; Romans 10:13; and John 1:12.
 - 2. We have in God's Word all that we need to live a victorious Life in Christ.

3. There is no problem or need in the Christian life but what is met met in God's Word.
- B. Vs 19 On the other hand, God does not want anyone to tamper with His Word
1. His Word is verbally inspired, Matthew 4:4 and II Peter 1:21.
 2. His Word is plenarily inspired, II Timothy 3:16.
- C. Christ seals his prophecy with His signature.
1. The writer is the one who is coming again, Acts 1:11
 2. He is coming quickly or suddenly, Matthew 24:42-51
 3. Jesus is His name, Matthew 1:21; Lord, Matthew 22:43; and Christ, John 20:31.
 4. He is the giver of grace, Revelation 1:4, 5; II Timothy 2:1; and John 1:1

OTHER MAJOR PROPHETIC PASSAGES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

I. Matthew 24 – Parallels Revelation chapter 6.

A. Vs. 1-14 seem to parallel revelation 6.

1. This passage in Matthew 24 is called the Olivet discourse. Jesus, sitting on the Mt. of Olives overlooking Jerusalem, receives a question from His Disciples which is, to the Disciples, one question, but that is multi-faceted as far as Jesus is concerned. 24:1-3
2. “When shall these things be?” This question was prompted by Jesus’ statement in Vs 2, “And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? Verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.”
 - a. This prophecy would be fulfilled in 70 A.D. when Titus and the Roman armies overthrew Jerusalem and destroyed it and the Temple. The interior of the Temple was lined with Gold, and Josephus says that the Roman soldiers burned the Temple and only stopped their slaughter of the Jews long enough to dig all of the melting gold from the walls of the Temple taking it apart stone by stone to get as much of the gold as they could. According to Josephus, they did not leave one stone standing on another.
3. “What shall be the sign of thy coming?” As yet, the Disciples did not understand the sequence of events about to take place. As many times as Jesus had told them about the crucifixion, His death and resurrection, they still thought He was going somewhere to establish His earthly Kingdom, and return. They were simply asking, “When are you going to establish your Kingdom on earth?” The answer to this question was lengthy, but Jesus, in answering it, goes to the signs of His coming in the beginning of the tribulation period. This is the part of Matthew 24 which parallels Revelation 6.
 - a. Jesus says in Vs 5 that many shall come in His name and shall deceive many. This is an age-long sign in the Church age that is a metaphor for the first of the four horsemen in Revelation 6. Here we find the counterfeit Christ, the antichrist, coming with a single crown on his head, riding a white horse, and carrying a bow which speaks of war.
 - b. In Vs 6 Jesus says there will be wars and rumors of wars. This corresponds to the second horseman in Revelation. The second horseman rides a red horse which always is a symbol of war. I believe this war is portrayed in the 38th chapter of the Prophecy of Ezekiel. It takes place at the beginning of the tribulation period and is for the purpose of bringing all of the nations of the world under antichrist’s control. Ezekiel 38 even tells us the nations that will be on each side in the war. Against Israel in this war will be Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. Magog is obviously the ruler of this country, and the country is Gog. Almost all Bible scholars are agreed that this is the country of Russia. The western and eastern capitals of Russia today are Moscow (Meshech in Hebrew), and Tubalsk (Tubal in Hebrew); Persia (today, Iran); Ethiopia (Biblical

Ethiopia was not the present day Ethiopia, but was the Arabian and the Sinia peninsulas.); Gomer (Germany) and all her bands (western Europe); and the house of Togarmah of the north quarters and all her bands (Netherlands). For Israel and the antichrist will be Sheba and Dedan (the northeast part of Saudi Arabia where the U.S. has had airfields and a troop presence ever since the Gulf War); The merchants of Tarshish (Those who depend on the middle east for oil, but Tarshish could be Spain. Tarshish means Tin, but the British Isles also are a land of tin.); and all the young lions thereof (If the land refereed to here as Tarshish is the British Isles, its symbol is the Lion, and her young lions could be all of her former colonies – the U.S., Canada, etc.) If this is the lineup, then the nations are all in place right now with the proper allegiance. This is especially interesting in the light of Russia's increasing presence in the Middle East right now. Obviously the middle-eastern and North African countries which are producing the main terrorists now would be set against Israel. The stage is set for world war III, but we do not know when it will take place.

- c. Vs 7 Nation against nation is simply what it implies, and we have seen, and are seeing many of these wars taking place right now, but kingdom against kingdom implies a group of allied nations going to war against a group of nations, and that is what we see in Ezekiel 38. This great conflict takes place at the beginning of the tribulation period so that antichrist can gain control over the whole world. Both Revelation 6 and Matthew 24:7 tell us that the third horseman is famine and pestilences that will follow the war causing the antichrist to require the mark in the hand (deeds) or forehead (thoughts) to be required in order for a person to buy or sell, get a job, or do business of any kind. It is during this period that the 144,000 Israelites (Revelation 7) will preach the Gospel to all who have never heard. (A great multitude out of every nation and tongue will believe at the cost of their lives and will, along with the 144,000 make up the Tribulation Saints, Gleanings). The Saints of the Age of Grace [harvest Saints] will be raptured at the end of the Church Age, but the Tribulation Saints who are the gleanings will be raptured just before the Second Coming of Christ.
- e. Vs 8 of Matthew 24 Says that these are only the beginning of sorrows. This is a reference to the first half of the tribulation period. Verses 9-14 refer to the incidents set forth in the previous paragraph. Those who truly believe and are willing to lay down their lives for the Lord Jesus Christ shall be saved.
- f. Vs 14, I believe, refers to the entire Tribulation Period. It Is obvious that, while there will be no people saved during the second half of the Tribulation Period, the presence of the Kingdom Gospel, held by Israel by then, will be a thorn in the flesh to antichrist and Satan.

THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATIONS AND THE PREPARATION FOR ISRAEL

- B. Verses 15-22 deal with the incidents which mark the middle of the Tribulation Period and setting of the stage for the second half of the Tribulation Period, including God's special provision for all of Israel during the second half.
1. Vs 15 speaks of the "abomination of desolation". This refers to the time when the antichrist shall set himself up as God in the rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem on Mt. Moriah. At this time the eyes of all Israel will be opened as to the true identity of the antichrist.
 2. When antichrist first comes on the scene he will defend Israel and they receive him as their Messiah. Now that he has established himself to the whole world as "God", they see he is a counterfeit .
 3. Verses 16 through 20 tell us of Israel's flight to the place which God had prepared for them in the wilderness for their protection from God's wrath which will be poured out on the antichrist, the false prophet and their reign during the second half of the Tribulation Period. They are urged to flee. God has prepared a place in the wilderness for them (perhaps Petra Revelation 12:14) where Israel will be protected during the pouring out of the wrath of God during the second half of the Tribulation Period, called the "Great Tribulation" (See Vs 21).
 4. Vs 22 makes the statement, "Except those days should be shortened. What days? For an answer see Daniel 12:11, 12
 - a. Verses 24-26 tell us that from the going forth of the commandment to rebuild Jerusalem (The decree of King Xerxes (Ahasuerus's son, Artaxerxes I), given to Nehemiah, to the cutting off of Messiah would be 483 years. This leaves seven years for the fulfillment of Daniel's 70 weeks of years. These seven years are the Tribulation Period. Daniel tells us the same thing that Matthew does: in the middle of the Tribulation Period, the antichrist will exalt himself (abomination of desolation), or the desecration of the Temple as the antichrist establishes himself in the rebuilt Temple and claims that he is God. Daniel tells us that this is when great trouble begins (second half of the Tribulation Period). See also II Thessalonians 2:1-4
- C. Matthew 24:22 – Daniel 12:11, 12 – From the time antichrist sets himself up as God in the rebuilt Temple to the end of antichrist's reign will be one thousand, two hundred and ninety days. The passage, however says that the person is blessed who comes to the one thousand, three hundred and thirty five days. What happens during those other 45 days?
1. The literal return of Jesus Christ to the earth. Revelation 19:11-16
 2. The Battle of Armageddon. Revelation 19:17-21
 3. The establishment of Christ's earthly Kingdom Revelation 20:1-6
 - a. This is why Matthew 24:13 says that they that endure (are real believers and stay true to the end shall be saved).
 - b. These passages in Matthew 24:21-28 and 29-35 correspond to Revelation 19:11-21.

- D. Matthew 24:23-28 correspond to the second half of the tribulation period but give us no more detail than these six verses.
1. Verses 23-26 Many will follow the antichrist and receive the mark of the beast, but Jesus warns His own to not fall for his lies and follow after him.
 - a. The “secret chambers” of verse 26 would probably be a reference to the Temple; perhaps the very Holy of Holies.
 2. Matthew 24:27, 28 correspond to Revelation 19:17, 18. The fowls of the air are always a symbol of evil. In this case, however, it seems that they are to be taken literally. For some time now the fowls of the air that are scavengers, such as the eagle, buzzard, hawk, etc have been rapidly building in numbers in the Middle East
 3. Verses 29-31 speak specifically of the second coming of Jesus to the earth.
 - a. The four winds mentioned in verse 31 simply refer to the four directions: north, south, east and west: these are the four winds of Heaven, not earth. Some who are Post-tribulationists teach that the rapture for all the Saints does not take place until just before Christ’s return in the second coming, the Saints are clearly gathered from Heaven to return with Christ.
 - b. Here are some important terms:
 - (1) Pre-tribulationists – Those who believe that Jesus will come in the air and take His own home with Him before the tribulation. This does not mean that the Saints of the Church Age will not have persecution and tribulation, but that they will not go into the Tribulation Period. See Revelation 4:1, 2 and II Thessalonians 2:1-8 (Rapture).
 - (2) Mid-tribulationists – Those who believe that Jesus lets the Church go through the first half of the Tribulation Period, but will rapture the church before the second half.
 - (3) Post-Tribulationists – Those who believe that the Church will go through the entire Tribulation Period and will be raptured just before the Second Coming of Christ to the earth.
 - (4) Pre-Millennialists – These are those who believe Christ is coming back to establish His earthly Kingdom before the beginning of the Millennium.
 - (5) Post-Millennialists – These are those who believe the Church is going to win the world to Christ, things will become better and better, and the Church prepares the world for Christ Kingdom reign before He returns.
 - (6) A-Millennialists – These are those who do not believe in a real, literal Millennial Reign of Christ, but believe it is figurative and that when the end of the world comes, all the Saints will be with Christ in Heaven forever.
 4. Christ’s Second Coming to reign on earth is not going to be a happy reunion with those still surviving on earth. Vs 30 tells us that the tribes of the earth shall mourn. This is also when the people of earth cry for the rocks and the

mountains to fall on them and hide them from the face of Him.

E. Verses 29-35 have to do with the actual second coming of Christ.

1. Verse 29 makes it clear that the Second Coming of Christ marks the close of the Tribulation Period.
 - a. Great darkness falls suddenly on all the earth.
 - b. The stars shall fall from Heaven. This could have a variety of meanings.
 - (1) Along with the darkening of the sun and the moon it could mean that the light of the stars suddenly goes out.
 - (2) It could refer to a sudden, colossal star-shower as the stars fall out of their courses.
 - (3) Since stars prophetically refer to important personages it could refer to the fall of the antichrist's rule along with the power of the false prophet and all their followers.
 - (4) This could also be a reference to the horrors of the Battle of Armageddon

F. The Parable of the fig tree: Revelation 24:32-35

1. There are two trees that prophetically represent Israel.
 - a. The Fig Tree – Represents Israel as a sovereign nation.
 - (1) In Ezekiel chapter 37 we have the restoration of Israel in the Tribulation Period. Ezekiel was told by God to prophesy twice to the valley full of dry bones which represents dead Israel during the “Times of the Gentiles”. The first time he prophesies it is to the bones themselves and they come together and flesh and sinew came upon the bones, but they were still dead spiritually. This would represent Israel as it is now. Since 1948 Israel has once again been a sovereign nation, but she is spiritually dead. You will recall the fig tree Jesus cursed and it withered away. He cursed it because it looked like a fig tree, but had no fruit.
 - (2) The second time Ezekiel was told to prophesy it was to the wind (breath), and when he did so, life came into the bones and they stood upon their feet. This represents spiritual Israel. This spiritual restoration will take place during the tribulation when God will bring all the Israelites back to the Land of Israel and will judge and restore them spiritually to Himself.
 - b. The Olive Tree – The olive tree represents spiritual Israel because it produces the oil for the lamps in the Temple which represent Christ as the Light of the World. See John 1:4, 5.
2. In verses 32-35 Jesus is telling His Disciples that when they see the fig tree (Political or Geographical Israel) begin to bud (this began in 1948), they will know that the fulfillment of the things He has been telling them are about to come to pass.
 - a. Wars and rumors of wars

- b. False christs
 - c. Nation against nation
 - d. Kingdom against Kingdom
 - e. Famines and pestilences
 - f. Tremendous increase in the frequency of earthquakes.
 - g. The love of many is waxing cold
 - h. Iniquity is abounding in every form.
 - i. The Believers will be hated of all nations for Jesus' name.
3. If you will recall when we were studying Revelation chapters 2 and 3 we said that we are now living in the Laodicean Church period. It is a period which fits the picture perfectly.
 4. See also Romans 1:18-32 is a perfect picture of our present culture.
 5. See I Timothy 3:1-3 describes these times (latter times = end of the last days.
 6. See II Timothy 3:1-5 gives us a list which fits out times perfectly. The "Last Days" extend from the Day of Pentecost to the end of the Times of the Gentiles, or the Second Coming of Christ. The "latter Times" is the approaching end of the last days.
 7. II Thessalonians 2:1-12 give us the clear order of events leading up to the Second Coming of Christ and the destruction of antichrist and his reign.
 - a. Vs 1 – We are beseeched to listen to what Paul has to say in the light of the promise of the Rapture of the Church.
 - b. Vs 2 – We are told not to be shaken or troubled concerning the Second Coming of Christ to the earth immediately, even if you hear it by some spirit of a cult, by a rumor, or even by some letter supposedly from Paul Himself, for there are some things that must first take place before He comes back to the earth.
 - c. Vs 3 – There are two things listed in this verse that must take place before Christ returns to the earth to reign.
 - (1) There must come a falling away first (Apostasy). This is the same apostasy God is speaking of in Revelation 3:14-22 in the period of church history in which we are now living. Apostasy is not reversible. There has never been a Christian organization, Church, denomination, or professing Christian who turned irrevocably from the truth that ever returned. We are now, at the beginning of the 21st century, deeply into the apostasy, so we are undoubtedly on the doorstep of the rapture of the Church.
 - (2) The man of sin be revealed (antichrist), the son of perdition. He may very well be alive now. He will have to be someone acceptable to the Jews, for they accept him at first as the Messiah. It will have to be someone who is a prominent religious-political leader who can work well with the Roman Catholic Church. He will have to be the above-reproach type

person who outwardly convinces people that he has the answers to the world's problems.

- d. Verses 6 and 7 have to do with the next events after the rapture of the Church.
 - (1) It is, according to verse 7, the Holy Spirit is seen as the one who presently “witholdeth” that the antichrist might be revealed in his time.
 - (2) Verse 7 uses an antiquated middle English word which, over the years, has changed its meaning completely: the word “let”. Today it means to allow, but in the 1600s it meant to restrain, or hold back. Note carefully; The first sentence says, “For the mystery of iniquity doth already work.” The mystery of iniquity refers to the coming of the spirit of antichrist and his political agenda veiled in religious piety. The next phrase is, “Only He who now letteth will let..” This can only refer to one personality, the Holy Spirit. He who now restrains the antichrist from coming on the scene will continue to restrain until the coming of the appointed time. The last phrase is the most important of all: “Until He (the Holy Spirit) be taken out of the way.” We know that the Holy Spirit is God, the third person of the Holy Trinity, and that He will always be omnipresent, but this is referring to His convicting work (see John 16:7-11) through the Church. Now if that convicting work of the Holy Spirit through the true Church is removed, it means that the Church is removed. Paul is telling us here that the rapture takes place just before the appearing of the antichrist on the scene. Verse 8 then says, “And then shall that wicked (one) be revealed...”

Now let us return to Matthew 24.

- II. Matthew 24:36-44 In this passage Matthew tells us that no one knows when the Second Coming of Christ to the earth will actually take place. There are, however, many hints as to the events of eschatology.
 - A. We have already looked at the age-long signs in Matthew 24.
 - B. We have already seen the hints in the transition from the Church Age in Revelation 3 to the rapture in Revelation 4.
 - C. We have already examined II Thessalonians chapter 2.
 - D. Now let us examine more carefully, passages like I Timothy 5; and II Timothy 3:1-5.
- III. I Timothy 4:1-5 – This passage deals with the latter times. The Latter Times are the very last of the last days. The Last days are that period from the Day of Pentecost until the Second Coming of Christ; so when we are speaking of the Latter Times we are speaking of events at the last part of the last Days. What things does Paul say will mark this final, and irrevocable decline?
 - A. “Some shall depart from the faith.” Here again we have a reference to apostasy. Again, real apostasy is irreversible.
 - 1. In this instance, departing from the faith refers to those; ministers and laity

who professed to believe God's Word and be believers, but turn from that to false doctrine.

- B. "Giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils."
 - 1. These could not have been truly born-again or they would be able to discern the false from the true. Also, no true believer could ever deny the faith and turn to false doctrine.
 - 2. Doctrines of devils are teachings directly opposite to the cardinal doctrines of the true Faith. These are hellish, destructive, deliberately devised teachings to lead people to hell.
- C. "Speaking lies in hypocrisy" – First, they know they are lying, but they are lying for a purpose.
 - 1. They want to mislead the unsaved into believing some unscriptural means of salvation such as sacramental grace.
 - 2. Yet they do it with piety and a show of devotion to God.
- D. "Having their conscience seared with a hot iron." Their conscience is so given to lies and deliberate deception that they cannot turn back to the Truth.
- E. "Forbidding to marry." This is a clear reference to the Roman Church and a few others whose followers supposedly marry Christ, or the Church for life. Any departure from this relationship would mean excommunication.
- F. "Commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the Truth.....for it is sanctified by the Word of God and prayer." This would speak of groups such as the seventh Day Adventists. These are the present day Judaisers who would try to mix Law and Grace.

IV. II Timothy 3:5, 6 – This passage also speaks of the last days, but, as in the first division of Matthew 24, these characteristics of the age seem to have a double application: one to the entire period of the last days, and one to an escalating nature as we go through the last days so that we might say they imply that things will get worse and worse as we approach the end of the last days.

- A. "This know also that in the last days perilous (trouble-filled) times will come" WHY?
- B. "For men shall be lovers of their own selves.." I believe this has the connotation that men (and women) will put themselves ahead of everything else (especially God).
- C. "Covetous": I believe we might say this is spending money we don't have, to get things we don't need simply because we feel we must have them because others do.
- D. "Boasters": Boasters always try to draw attention to themselves and what they have done so as to exalt themselves.
- E. "Proud"; Pride, it is said, was the original sin. It is the basis, in a sense, for all other sins. It is self exaltation
- F. "Blasphemers": Literally, to blaspheme means to use the name or act of God loosely, profanely, deliberately attributed to others.
- G. "Disobedient to parents": If ever there was a generation which fills this mold, it is this generation. We have seen this growing since the early sixties. It has escalated

rapidly since the Bible was forced out of the public (government) schools in 1963. Many parents are afraid to discipline their children for fear of being incarcerated, or that they will lose their children to the State. But instead they loose them to the world.

- H. “Unthankful”: An unthankful generation is an ungodly generation, for when we cease to be thankful for the things God has provided for us, especially salvation, we become hard-hearted and calloused in all our ways. Things which are undeserved blessings become entitlements to us. A man who is unthankful for God providing a job is a man who soon will be on welfare refusing the job God provided.
- I. “Unholy”: Ungodly. An unholy person is one who live with no thought or consideration of God in their lives.
- J. “Without natural affection”: This is a person who is licentious, or lascivious in their lives. This almost always refers to one who is unrestrained in their sex life, or unnatural, homosexual, or lesbian in nature.
- K. “Trucebreakers”: These are people who claim to be friends but plot against us or try to use us for their ungodly ends. They make promises, but they do not hesitate to break them.
- L. “False accusers”: These usually accuse others of things they themselves have done. They are false witnesses which love to break God’s commandments.
- M. “Incontinent”: Uncontrollable, out of control, and demanding that others conform to whatever they want them to do. See the last two verses in Romans chapter one. They are willing to kill, steal, beat, lie: anything they must do get others to do what they want.
- N. “Fierce”: Ferocious, mean, vicious, extremely dangerous.
- O. “Despisers of those that are good”: For an illustration we might use the Islamic terrorists. They hate everyone but their own. But this is someone who can only tolerate someone as evil as they themselves.
- P. “Traitors”: A traitor is one who betrays another, his country, etc. He is also defined as one who is guilty of treason or treachery.
- Q. “Heady”: Impetuous, rash, or willful. They often do evil impetuously because it gratifies their hateful nature.
- R. “High minded”: They think highly off themselves. They are haughty, proud, and arrogant.
- S. “Lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God”: This may be the most interesting statement in the whole list. God’s Word does not say that they do not love God , but that they love pleasure more than they love God. Unfortunately this applies to many churches that use to be good Bible-believing churches. There are many in our own area that screen the Super-Bowl on the big screen for their congregations on Sunday night rather than to have an evening service. They even have godless secular shows at Christmas time rather than having a Christmas Cantata or a reenactment of the old Christmas story. They have sacrificed the Prayer Meeting and the Evening Service so that they can be free for pleasures
- T. “Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof”: I have a list in my files of forty six churches listed in the phone book as Independent Baptist Churches, but I only know of perhaps three or four that doctrinally fit the title. When it comes to the

term fundamental, almost all shy away from it like it was a cultists title.

- U. They may look good on Sunday morning (except for the music), but they have no outreach for the lost, no mind for missions, and no program to reach and disciple children and young people for the future Church. Most have substituted something else for Prayer Meeting and Sunday Evening service. Television, social media, “Christian” movies, dinners, rock groups, etc. are used to bring in the people to help pay the bills. See Revelation 3:14-22
- V. “From such turn away”. God does not want the true believer trying to fellowship with such people. We move among such people daily, and we should be friendly and polite to them, but we should be careful not to run with them and try to fellowship with them. II Corinthians 6:14-18

V. Romans 1:1-17 - Introduction

- A. Vs 17 The sixteen verses which have gone before this passage have made it clear that salvation is by faith and not by works.
 - 1. In verses one and two Paul emphasizes that he is called of God and separated (from all the attractions of the world) unto the Gospel of God. There is only one message of good news, and that is the Gospel of God.
 - 2. Verses three through seven emphasize the identity of Jesus Christ.
 - a. Vs 3 His humanity came through the seed of David (Mary, descended not through David’s son Solomon, but through his son Nathan, one of the four born to David by Bathsheba).
 - b. Vs 4 However, it was, by the Spirit of Holiness (Holy Spirit) that He displayed His Deity by the resurrection from the dead.
 - c. Vs 5 Paul states that he has received grace and apostleship to carry out his commission among all nations.
 - (1) The Christian needs grace (God’s unmerited favor) to carry out his or her commission.
 - (2) The Christian needs (not Apostleship, for there are no Apostles in the biblical sense today) authority from God in the biblical sense to carry it out. See Matthew 28:18-20
 - d. Vs 6 The called of Jesus Christ are those to whom God has extended the invitation to trust Christ and they have accepted it. All are called (I John 2:1, 2) but only those who hear and accept Christ are the elect of God once they are in Christ.
 - e. Vs 7 Obviously this epistle is written to the believers living in Rome. Note, however, that the epistle is not written to the Church at Rome, but rather to all that be at Rome. There was not as yet an organized Church with Apostolic authority in Rome. There was a church meeting in the home of Priscilla and Aquila (Romans 16:3-5).
 - 3. Verses 8-15 Paul’s care for the believers at Rome: Although Paul had not yet been to Rome when he wrote the Roman epistle, most of the believers at Rome were his converts, or converts of his converts. In verse 15 Paul makes it clear to them that he was ready to come and preach the Gospel to them at Rome also.

4. In Verse 16 Paul expresses what should be the testimony of every born-again believer:
 - a. “For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ.” Unfortunately, too many Christians today are ashamed of it and are afraid to share it with those who need to hear.
 - b. “For it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth;” The Greek word for power here is *Dunamas* from which we get our English word *Dynamite*. The power of the Gospel is unlimited: it can save from the uttermost to the guttermost.
 - c. “To the Jew first,” This does not mean that every Christian should witness to a Jew first before witnessing to a Gentile, but that the Gospel was to first go to the Jews, and when they refused it as a nation, it went to the Gentiles.
 - d. “and also to the Greek.” The plucking of the branches from the true Olive Tree (Israel), made it possible for the branches of the wild olive tree (the Gentiles) to be grafted in. See Romans chapter 11.
5. Verse 17 The word “therein” in this verse refers back to the Gospel in Vs 16. In the Gospel, the righteousness God is revealed in that He was willing to come in the person of Christ and die on the cross for our sins so that He could “righteously” forgive our sins in Christ and “justly” give us sonship in His family through faith in the finished work of Christ.

VI. The Prophetic portion of Romans 1 – Verses 18-32

A. Vs 18 The wrath of God

1. It is poured out, and shall be poured out in the Tribulation
2. It is poured out against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men.
 - a. Everything that is contrary to the person and nature of God Himself.
 - b. Obedience always brings blessing, but sin brings the wrath of God.
3. Those who hold the Truth in unrighteousness.
 - a. Those who take the Truth and twist it to fit their own personal desires:
 - b. A good example of this would be the Roman Catholic Church over the ages have taken the true doctrine of God and twisted it to create sacramental grace, purely a system of salvation by works, contrary to God’s true salvation by grace through faith. See Titus 3:5 and Ephesians 2:8, 9.

B. Vs 19, 20 God has clearly revealed Himself in the things which He has made.

1. The knowledge of God has been programmed into every human being from birth.
 - a. From the creation of the world God has revealed Himself in His handiworks. Herein is the unbridgeable gap between creation and evolution.
 - b. More and more evolutionists are slowly coming to the biblical position of intelligent design instead of mindless selection over millions of years. “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the

firmament sheweth (shows) His handiwork.” “Day unto day uttereth (utters) speech, and night unto night sheweth (shows) knowledge.
Psalm 19: 1, 2.

2. The “invisible things” mentioned here would be God Himself and the unseen forces by which He made all things of nothing.
 3. God makes it clear that the Teleological argument made here is irrefutable. Common sense tells us that the complete beautifully designed universe had a maker. John 1:1-3; a master designer.
 - a. So that man is without excuse. The intricate and complex systems God has made in the universe leave man with only one conclusion: God made it all.
- C. The logical arguments for the existence of God: Taken from “The Great Doctrines of the Bible” by Williams Evans.
1. The Argument from Universal Belief: Anywhere one might go in the world, be it the most civilized or the most primitive, you will find man worshipping some supreme being. This argument gives us a supreme being; a prime force in the universe.
 2. The Cosmological Argument: The argument from cause and effect. Every effect must have a cause. When we see something we ask what caused it. Our awesome universe just came from a dot no larger than that at the end of a sentence on this page, according to evolutionists. That dot, supposedly came from nothing. That spot began to spin, faster and faster until it exploded into gasses that condensed into stars, planets, galaxies: our massive universe. But we are still left with the question, what was the original cause? What caused the dot? What caused it to start spinning? What caused it to explode? What caused every planet, star and galaxy? This argument, added to the previous one gives us a prime force in the universe which is the original cause.
 3. The Teleological Argument: The argument from design. Design demands a designer. Everything in the universe from the largest Galaxy to the smallest sub-atomic particle shows design. This argument gives us a supreme being who is the original cause, who is the designer of all things.
 4. The Ontological Argument: The argument from being. Man has an idea of an infinite, perfect being. Where did he get this idea? Did he get it from finite, imperfect being like ourselves? Impossible. Man cannot conceive of an idea greater and more perfect than himself. It had to be inborn. This argument gives us a supreme being that is an original cause, that is the designer of all things, and that is a perfect and infinite being. Such a being demands personality.
 5. The Anthropological Argument: This is the argument that man has an intellectual and moral nature. He had to receive this from a creator who is an intellectual and moral being. It also gives us a personal God.
 6. The Argument from Congruity: The belief in a personal God who is the key to every lock, the answer to every question, and the reason for everything that exists: the giver of life and creator of every living thing. He also is the only means of salvation and eternal life.
 7. The Biblical Argument: The Bible does not argue the existence of God; it

simply states it. "In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth."

D. Vs 21-32 The consequences of men rejecting God:

1. Vs 21 There was a time when all men knew of God and that he had created all things. Man has never wanted to have to answer to a Holy God, but, as Lucifer, they rebelled against Him. As always, there were and are unavoidable circumstances.
 - a. They became vain in their imaginations.
 - b. Their foolish heart was darkened.
2. Vs 22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.
 - a. When a person turns their back on God they often think they are very wise and have the answers to life's problems. As they apply their personal solutions to problems, the problems always get worse.
 - b. Example: Psychiatrists have decided that the answer to sexual promiscuity among high school and college young people is to teach them sex education in school and supply them with prophylactics and pills to prevent pregnancy. They think abstinence is old fashioned and just doesn't work. As a result, teen pregnancies have sky rocketed and many have chosen to just live together and not marry. Fewer and fewer people are getting married. There is a tremendous decrease in commitment and true love.
3. Vs 23 Rather than to worship the true God in spirit and in truth, men are replacing God with things which do not permanently satisfy. Men have created every kind of god in order to avoid the true God. People have made gods out of their houses, jobs, cars, money, children, and pets. There are many times more money spent on just pet food each year than is spent on foreign missions. People will take their children out of Christian school and send them to public (government) schools just so they can buy a new car when their old one is still fine.
 - a. This verse is also an excellent picture of the growth of the false theory of evolution where so-called scientists have traded the true answers to life science's biggest questions for their own ridiculous and improvable theories.
4. Vs 24, 26, and 28 Carried far enough and long enough, here are the consequences of unbelief.
 - a. Vs 24 Because they irrevocably chose to turn their backs on God, God gave them up to their sexual sins and lusts and the consequences of them. God does give up on some while they are still living. When He knows that they will not repent regardless of how much time He gives them, He gives them up to their sins.
 - b. Vs 26 Because there are people who change the Truth of God into a lie, and worship and serve the creature more than the Creator, He gives up on them. In Vs 25 we have a vivid picture of evolution.
 - c. Vs 28 Because they chose not to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind to do the things they have chosen to do. A reprobate mind is not reversible.

5. As we see what these choices are, remember these prophecies were made some 1960 years ago as of this writing.
 - a. Vs 23 Idolatry
 - b. Vs 25 Blasphemy of God's Word
 - c. Vs 27 Homosexuality and lesbianism
 - d. Vs 28 Refusal to believe God
 - e. Vs 29 Unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness, envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity, whisperers
 - f. Vs 30 Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,
 - g. Vs 31 Without understanding, covenant-breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful.
6. Vs 32 – And though they know the judgment of God, they take pleasure in getting others involved in doing them.

KEY PROPHETIC PASSAGES

There are prophetic scriptures on practically every page of the Bible. We stated in the beginning of the text that there is no way in which we can deal with every important prophetic passage, but there are certain passages which just cannot be ignored; and which need to be understood by the Christian in order to be able to teach and defend the perfection and accuracy of the Scriptures. We have tried to do this in the Old Testament thus far, but the New Testament must be approached differently since it is such a mixture of fulfilled prophecies and those which are yet to be fulfilled.

Bible-believing Christians are agreed on those passages which must have our attention and be clearly understood by believers. We are, at this writing, living in a chronological period in which prophecies are being fulfilled before our very eyes almost daily. How privileged we are to see these things coming to pass, and to know what they mean. While the actual time of the fulfillment of the main incidents of eschatology is not given us, incidents that lead to these incidents are happening to show us that we are getting very close to the ones which are next on God's calendar. How exciting to live in these times.

MATTHEW CHAPTERS 24 AND 25

The Gospel of Matthew is probably the second of the New Testament books to have been written: the Book of James being the first. Bible scholars are pretty much agreed that Matthew wrote his Gospel somewhere between 46 and 48 A.D. in Aramaic. He then translated it into Koine Greek around 50 A.D. It is the most Jewish of the four Gospels, and was written to target Jewish believers. Matthew, when speaking of the Kingdom, uses the expression "Kingdom of Heaven." The Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God are not the same. We can safely say that the "Kingdom of Heaven" is the Kingdom for which Jesus taught His disciples to pray when He said in His sample prayer, "...Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven." The will of God will only be done on earth as it is in Heaven when Jesus reigns on earth during His millennial reign. Prophecies in some instances similar to those concerning the Kingdom of God will always have some minor element that makes it only identifiable with the Kingdom reign of Christ on earth. Also, Jesus would not have instructed us to be praying for a Kingdom that had already come. Jesus taught that the "Kingdom of God" is in the heart of men. According to John chapter three, the Kingdom of God is a spiritual Kingdom entered by means of the new Birth; a spiritual birth, and that it is entered instantly when one receives Jesus Christ as their Savior by the grace of God, through faith in the completed, substitutionary, redemptive work of Christ. See John 3:3, 5 and Ephesians 2:8, 9. While the Kingdom of God is a spiritual kingdom which is eternal, and the means by which we enter the family of God, the Kingdom of Heaven is a physical kingdom of limited time.

As we already pointed out, the Book of Matthew is directed primarily to the Jewish believers. When we deal with Prophetic passages we are dealing primarily with incidents and events which apply mostly to Israel. Such is the case with Matthew chapters 24 and 25. These chapters maintain a close parallel to the events of Revelation chapters 6 through 20. The first seven judgments found in the Book of Revelation are those called the seal judgments. The seven seals are seven intervals at which the little book (scroll) which is the title deed to all the earth is sealed. It is generally

thought that these judgments take place during the first three and a half years of the tribulation period. The first five of them closely parallel the first twenty one verses of Matthew chapter twenty four.

Matthew chapters 24 and 25 are commonly referred to as the Olivet discourse. When Jesus' disciples were discussing the Temple as they sit on the Mount of Olives, Jesus referred to the fact that the Temple would be destroyed, and that not one stone was going to be left standing upon another. This prophecy was fulfilled in 70 A.D. when the Roman army under the leadership of General Titus destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple, and the remaining Jews were dispersed throughout the world. The Disciples asked when these things would take place, when the time of His coming would be, and when the end of the world would be. Instead of answering these questions directly, Jesus gave them a number of incidents in a particular order that would signal the approach of these events. Revelation chapter six lists the first six seal judgments: the first four being called the four horsemen of the apocalypse. I will list the judgments in order from Matthew 24 and the parallel judgment from Revelation chapter six.

Matthew chapter 24

Vs 5 antichrists will come claiming to be Christ, and will deceive many.
symbol of war

Vs 6 Wars and rumors of wars
nation against nation and kingdom
against kingdom

Vs 7 famines

Vs 7 Earthquakes in divers places

Revelation chapter 6

Vs 2 antichrist will come riding on a
white horse, and carrying a bow, a

Vs 4, 5 rider on a red horse, a symbol
of war.

Vs 5, 6 rider on black horse - famine
and pestilence.

Vs 12 a great earthquake, and the sun
became black as sackcloth of hair and the moon
became as blood.

Many commentators refer to these signs as age-long sins, meaning that these are signs which identify the entire Church age, but I believe we are beginning to see that these signs have been, and continue to escalate throughout the Church age, marking it as being the definite period that precedes the rapture of the Church and the beginning of the tribulation period. Matthew 24:8 tells us that these are only the beginning of sorrows. Revelation tells us that there must be the establishment of a one-world government prior to the reign of the antichrist. We are presently seeing this very thing beginning to shape up. Liberals in our own government want to open our country to peoples of all the countries of the world. They want open borders and a universal socialistic form of government. How much clearer could it be than what is taking place before our eyes right now.

If antichrist is definitely an individual, and I believe he is, he could be alive at this present time being groomed for his role in the one-world government, using the one-world Church to bring the whole world together under a one-world economy. Revelation refers to this system as Babylonianism. It represents all that is evil and filthy. All aspects of this ungodly system are already a distinct possibility, and are shaping into exactly what the Word of God says will take

place.

Matthew 24:14 tells us that the Gospel that will be preached during the first half of the tribulation period is the “Kingdom Gospel.” It will be preached by the 144,000 Israelites to a great multitude of Gentile peoples out of every tribe and nation and tongue who have never heard the Gospel previously. The 144,000 have their spiritual eyes opened to the fact that antichrist is a counterfeit when he establishes himself as god in the rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem in the middle of the tribulation period. This is called the abomination of desolation. See Matthew 24:15-22. When the antichrist first appears on the scene as the man with all the answers for the world’s problems, the Israelites will generally receive him as their long-awaited Messiah, but the abomination of desolation will show them how wrong and deceived they were. The 144,000 and their converts will purchase their new-found faith with martyrdom. Without the mark of the beast they will not be able to get employment, purchase food, get housing, etc. The Church which is raptured out just before the beginning of the tribulation period is called the harvest. These tribulation converts are referred to as the gleanings. They will be resurrected just before the second coming of Christ. Both groups are part of the first resurrection. At the second coming of Christ all of the redeemed of the Old and New Testament periods will be with Christ in Heaven. See Ephesians 4:8-10; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I Corinthians 15:51-58; Revelation 14:1-5; and Revelation 11:1-14.

APOSTASY IN PROPHECY

It is generally held by Bible-believing theologians that there are no signs of the rapture prior to its happening. I beg to differ with that position. It seems to be clear from several major passages that apostasy continues to escalate throughout the Church age and is the major indication that we are getting closer to the rapture. Growing apostasy does not tell us exactly when the rapture will take place, nor does any other sign, but the rapidly increasing rate of apostasy, and the positioning chronologically of its occurrence in relation to prophesied events seems to indicate that we are rapidly approaching that eschatological event called the rapture of the Church. See II Thessalonians 2:1-8. Verse one makes it clear that the passage is speaking of the rapture, for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ when we will be gathered together unto Him is not the second coming but the rapture. He comes in the air and we are gathered unto Him, ever to be with Him. See I Thessalonians 4:16-18. This event takes place prior to the tribulation period and introduces it. See II Thessalonians 2:7, 8. Verse seven tells us that He who now letteth (the Holy Spirit) shall let until He be taken out of the way. The middle English word “let,” at the time of the translation of the King James meant to restrain, or prevent; just the opposite from what it means today. This passage is saying that the Holy Spirit will restrain or prevent the flood of iniquity on earth until He be taken out of the way. The question then arises, if the Holy Spirit is God, and thus omnipresent, how can He be taken out of the way. This is not speaking of the person of the Holy Spirit, but the influence of the Holy Spirit. The influence, or operation of the Holy Spirit is presently through believers. When the Church is removed in the rapture, the working of the Holy Spirit through the Church is instantly removed. Note that verse eight states that that very moment marks the introduction of the Man of Sin, the antichrist, and not until. Escalating apostasy is clearly prophesied until this event takes place. The last fifty years have been a shocking display of apostasy in theological circles. Many formerly good sound Christian broadcasts, telecasts, denominations, and individual Christian leaders have gone rapidly from being fundamentalists, to neo-evangelicals, to the new-fundamentalism, to intellectualism, to out and out compromise. A rapid return to the theology of the reformation, mixed with the new intellectualism has robbed the Church of its evangelistic zeal. How long has it been since you saw people come weeping down the isles to repent of sin and

receive Christ at an old-fashioned altar? The flood of new translations of the Bible, many of which are based on concept inspiration instead of verbal and plenary inspiration have confused hosts of professed believers. Few carry their Bibles to Church any more since they never know what “translation” their pastor is going to use. The Scriptures should be taken literally unless it is clear that a passage is meant to be taken otherwise.

Another passage that speaks strongly to this matter of apostasy is chapters two and three of Revelation. The seven churches listed here make it clear that they represent seven divisions of the Church age. Even in the meanings of the names of these Churches we see the progression from the first century A.D.; or the Apostolic Age to the present Laodicean period. There is no question that we are deeply into the Laodicean period with its luke-warmness, materialism, apathy, humanism, evolution, and satisfaction with the status-quo. The end of chapter three brings the end of the Church age and the beginning of chapter four brings a breath-taking, beautiful picture of the rapture and the Judgment Seat of Christ for believers. All of this is brought out clearly in the notes on Revelation with which this book concludes. The name “Laodicea” means “the rights of the people,” or “democracy.” It more accurately portrays mob-rule which we see in the streets of America right now. Prophecy has not been given us simply as an exercise of the mind, but as a scriptural guide as to what is coming next in the life of the believer so that we might be prepared. While Matthew 24 and 25 warn the nation Israel of what is coming for them in the tribulation period, the Book of Revelation warns the New Testament believer of what is in store for them.