THE BOOK OF Revelation

· SYLLABUS ·

by BILLYE BRIM

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A Foreword
From Billye Brim

Here are important keys to understanding The Book of Revelation before we begin with the Scriptures themselves.

Judgment

The Future is as Bright as God Can Make It!!!!!

> The Numerical Bible: Hebrews to Revelation,
> F. W. Grant (page 289)
>
> • The future before the world is largely, alas, made up of judgment, although it is true that the judgment is for a blessing which lies beyond it, and which is as bright as God can make it.
>
> • Yet the judgment is emphatically a judgment of the world as it is, a judgment in which the whole present fashion of it passes away; and how important that we should know *why* it should pass away, and now apprehend the mind of God with regard to that which he is going to judge!
>
> • In this way prophecy is of the most practical nature, and a grand help to real holiness; that is, to a separation from evil which necessarily is found in fellowship with Him. If there are things with which finally it will be seen that He cannot allow to go on, then how clearly this must enter into our present estimate of them! ...God's moral ways the end will perfectly bring out.

The Peoples of the Book

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

> The Bible is the Word of Truth. But it must be rightly divided.
> A key to rightly dividing the Word of Truth is to determine which of the three groups of peoples are written to, or about, in any passage.

1Cor. 10:32 Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the *Gentiles, nor to the Church of God:

The three groups to or about whom Scripture speaks are:

1) The Jews

2) The Nations (The Gentiles)

3) The Church

Original manuscripts say *Greeks, because the Gentile world had been Hellenized after the conquests of Alexander the Great. In the O.T. the word translated "gentiles" is the Hebrew word, *goyim. Goyim* means nations. The nations are introduced in Genesis 10.

One must rightly divide the Book of Revelation according to the specified group of peoples.

The Numerical Bible: Hebrews to Revelation,
F. W. Grant (page 273)

- **We must not merge Israel and the Church,** or forget even **the purposes of God as to the earth**, in higher and heavenly ones. The true revelation to interpret prophecy can only be found therefore, not in self-imagined canons, but by having before one the great promises of God, remembering **how He challenges every thought of their (Israel's) undoing,** especially with regard to Israel, His people (Jer. 31:35, 36), and that, even as to the new heaven and the new earth (Isa. 66:22).
Thus, an interpretation of Revelation which practically, if not theoretically, leaves Israel out, cannot have the needed largeness, cannot give us the mind of God. (page 273).

Syllabus
The Book of Revelation
Chapter 1

Introduction: Revelation 1:1-2

Rev. 1:1 ¶ The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show unto His servants, even the things which must shortly come to pass: and He sent and signified it by His angel unto His servant John;
Rev. 1:2 who bare witness of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, even of all things that he saw. (ASV)

- The Divine Title:
  The Revelation of Jesus Christ

- Revelation – Greek *apokalupsis,* whence "Apocalypse"
  kalumma = a veil
  apo = from
  apokalupto (v) = to unveil

- E. W. Bullinger: The Unveiling, Revealing, and Presentation to earth and heaven of the Lord Jesus Christ (Messiah) as KING of kings and LORD of lords. (The Companion Bible, page 1883.)

- Clarence Larkin: The unveiling of those events that precede and accompany His return to earth. (The Book of Revelation, page 1.)

- God gave the revelation to Jesus to show unto His servants.
  This is of utmost importance to we servants living nearer the time.

- "things which must *en speed* come to pass"

  The Book closes with Jesus saying, "Surely I come quickly."
  As God sees time a day equals a thousand years, and a thousand years a day. (Psalm 90:4, 2 Peter 3:8.)
  Jesus' return to be in approximately two days.

- His angel is involved.

- The Apostle John (writer of a Gospel and three Epistles) is the Witness of things shown him, and also the Scribe. The year, approximately 96 AD.

John was in exile on the Isle of Patmos in the Agean Sea.
He was in his 90s. Others of the Twelve died martyrs deaths.
Attempts had been made on John's life, but God
protected him, evidently to give him this Revelation.

Tertullian, the Second Century theologian, in The Prescription Against Heretics, in Chapter 36 writes:
Since, moreover, you [skeptics] *are close upon Italy, you have Rome, from which there comes even into our own hands the very authority (of apostles themselves). How happy is its church, on which apostles poured forth all their doctrine along with their blood! Where Peter endures a passion like his Lord's!* [Crucified upside down]. *Where Paul wins his crown in a death like John's.* [Beheaded as John the Baptist.] *Where the Apostle John was first plunged, unhurt, into boiling oil, and thence remitted to his island-exile.*

The Blessing: Revelation 1:3

Rev. 1:3 ¶ Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand. (KJV)

- The only Book which promises blessing for reading, hearing....

Tehillim ArtScroll Tanach Series, comments on Psalm 115:12-14
"These words provide a most accurate description of *bracha* (blessing).
Blessing means increase and abundance; whereas the closest definition of *klalah* (curse) is decrease and loss." (Ibn Ezra)

Brim suggestion: Ask for the Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation as you begin the study of this Book (Eph. 1:17.)
Expect blessing, and increase from the One Who promised it.

"The Book is Prophecy..." Revelation 1:3

- God has chosen that His Holy Written Word be more than one-half prophecy. Some say two-thirds.

- Most has been fulfilled.

- This Book is about to be fulfilled.

- God's Litmus Test for being God: *Telling the end from the beginning.* Isaiah 41:8, 9, 11, 12, 22, 23, 26

•The Book of Revelation shows us the beginning from the end.

•Peter gives Source and Key to correct interpretation of Prophecy:

> **2Pet. 1:19** ¶ We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise:
> **2Pet. 1:20** *In your hearts knowing this first, that **no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.
> **2Pet. 1:21** For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost.
> (KJV)

*Brim note: I have taken the liberty to move the last phrase in v.19 to v.20. There is no punctuation in the original Scriptures. An elderly gentleman who did a Finnish translation of the Bible explained to me that it should be so, as He has already arisen in the believers' hearts—and it is only to the world that His arising as the Day Star is in the future.

Peter calls New Testament believers to take heed to Old Testament Prophets.

The Book of Revelation declares:

> **Rev. 10:7** But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the **prophets**.

Brim note: The light of the O.T. prophets shines into the otherwise darkness of today's world events. Just as Jesus said, watching the fig tree and the other trees (nations) sheds light on His coming (Luke 21:29-33.)

** "no prophecy of the Scripture is of any isolated interpretation."

All prophecy must harmonize with the whole body of Scripture. One cannot lift a word of prophecy out of its place within the whole body of scriptural prophecy, and give it an isolated, or private interpretation.

Any interpretation of the Book of Revelation must recognize its harmony with the Old Testament. It harmonizes with all O.T. prophecy, but is especially connected to Genesis and Daniel.

The Revelation to be sent to Seven Churches
Verses 4-7 – The Introductory Cover Letter

Rev. 1:4 ¶ John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him Who is and Who was and Who is to come; and from the seven Spirits that are before His throne;
Rev. 1:5 and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loveth us, and loosed us from our sins by his blood;
Rev. 1:6 and He made us to be a kingdom, to be priests unto his God and Father; to Him be the glory and the dominion for ever and ever. Amen.
Rev. 1:7 Behold, He cometh with the clouds; and every eye shall see Him, and they that pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth shall mourn over Him. Even so, Amen.

To: The Seven Churches in Asia (Minor)

Seven churches then in existence, in a relatively small area of what is now Turkey, known as Asia Minor.
Not all the churches then in existence are mentioned.
There were others for example: Corinth, Phillipi, Antioch, etc.
Perhaps symbolic.

From: The Godhead, The Holy Trinity
(Listed here in this order: The Eternal Father, The Holy Spirit, The Son.)

From: Him *Who Is, and Who Was, and Who Is to Come*

This is the translation of His Name – יהוה
Reading from right to left the letters are: Yod, Heh, Vav, Heh
This is the Name we mispronounce Jehovah, or Yaweh

יהוה

(L to R: Yod, He´, Vav, He´)

The Ineffable Name of God
Ineffable: Inexpressible, beyond words, unutterable, unspeakable

Mispronounced: Jehovah, Yaweh

The Stone Edition of the Chumash,
ArtScrolls, Page 304 and 305
This Name…represents the eternity of God, for it is composed of the letters that spell…*He was, He is, and He will be*, meaning that God's Being is timeless. It is a proper noun, for it is the actual Name of God, and is known as Shem HaMeforash, or the "Ineffable Name." In respect for its great sanctity, it is not pronounced as it is written. Instead, it is pronounced Adonoy during prayer or when reading from the Torah; in ordinary speech, the word HaShem [The Name] is substituted for it.

Brim Note: The King James Version carries out this tradition using LORD for the Name יהוה

•David Baron in his book, Israel in the Plan of God (pages 31-) describes it as:

"The Glorious Name."

The "Name" of God, which is so often spoken in Scripture, reminds us first of all of the great and glorious fact of *His self-revelation*….There is much about God which men might learn from nature. The heavens declare His glory, and the firmament showeth His handiwork. But nature, though it testifies of His existence, and of His infinite power and wisdom, does not reveal to us His Character or *His moral glory…His moral character*…His special relationship to those whom He has endowed with intelligence and with the sense of moral responsibility.

The Name had to be revealed; God had to make Himself known… "The Name" stands in Scripture *as the embodiment of God's character, as He Himself has revealed it.*

…this particular Name is the *personal* Name of the God of the history of Redemption…God Himself first "proclaimed the Name Jehovah," with all the glorious attributes which appertain to it, to Moses—on that memorable day when after he was safely put in a cleft of the rock, God "*descended in the cloud and stood with him there…and Jehovah passed by before him and proclaimed—Jehovah, Jehovah, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in lovingkindness and truth; keeping mercy (or 'lovingkindness') for thousands, forgiving iniquity, transgressions, and sin; and that will by no means clear the guilty…"*(Exodus 34:5-7).

Consider the revelation of His Character in these Compound Names of Jehovah:
Jehovah Raphe'cha - The LORD Your Healer, Exodus 15:26
Jehovah Roi – The LORD My Shepherd - Psalm 23:1
Jehovah Tsidkinu – The LORD Our Righteousness – Jer. 23:6; Jer. 33:16
Jehovah Shalom – The LORD Peace – Judges 6:24
Jehovah Shamma – The LORD is There – Ezekiel 48:35
(It is enlightening to consider how they apply to Israel, Jerusalem, and to the future.)

From: The Seven Spirits Who Are Before His Throne

The Holy Spirit: Identified by His Seven Attributes

> **Is. 11:2** And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;
>
> These attributes are symbolized in the branches of the Menorah (lampstand). The six branch out from one central stem.
>
> **Exodus 25:31, 32** (The Stone Edition of the Chumash)
> You shall make a Menorah of pure gold, hammered out shall the Menorah be made, its base, its shaft, its cups, its knobs, and its blossoms shall be [hammered] from it. Six branches shall emerge from its sides...
>
> Wikipedia: The **menorah** (Hebrew: מְנוֹרָה [məno:ˈra:]) is described in the Bible as the seven-lamp (six branches) ancient Hebrew lampstand made of gold and used in the portable sanctuary set up by Moses in the wilderness and later in the Temple in Jerusalem. Fresh olive oil of the purest quality was burned daily to light its lamps.

The six branches, taken two by two represent,
- The Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding
- The Spirit of Counsel and Might
- The Spirit of Knowledge and of the Fear of the Lord

The six branch off the Center Stem representing the Holy Spirit's source as The Father God Himself.

From: Jesus Christ, The Faithful Witness…

He "loosed" us from sin in His own blood,
He made us a royal priesthood, a kingdom of priests. We are all priests and kings.
He is Coming Again! (Rev. 1:5-7.)

Jesus Identifies Himself with Revelation of Who He Is

Rev. 1:8 ¶ I am the Alpha and the Omega, saith the Lord God, Who is and Who was and Who is to come, the Almighty.

Brim Note: I believe that Jesus did not say, "I am the Alpha and the Omega."
These are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet.

1. Jesus did not speak Greek in His earthwalk.
   He spoke Aramaic, the everyday language during His time.
   He studied the Scriptures in Hebrew; He spoke Hebrew.

2. The oldest N.T. manuscripts now in existence are in Greek, because
   The Apostles went out to the Greek-speaking world.

3. When Paul heard a voice from Heaven, it was in the Hebrew tongue.
   Acts 26:14.

I believe Jesus identified Himself as, "I am the Aleph, and I am the Tav."

These are the first and last letters of the Hebrew Alephbet, (as well as Aramaic).

את

Aleph, Tav
(Reading right to left)
The first and last letters of the Hebrew Alephbet
Pronounced: Et
No translation

אמת

R to L: Aleph, Mem, Tav
The first, middle, and last letters of the Hebrew Alephbet
Pronounced: Emet
Translation: Truth

A good reference Bible gives the Hebrew Alephbet in Psalm 119.
Under each letter there are eight verses.
Each verse begins with the letter that heads that group of eight.
Children learned to read from this.
Also, there are several Psalms which are in the order of the Alephbet; they are considered fundamental.
Aleph is the first letter—Bet the second.
Therefore this is the Hebrew Alephbet.

Greeks later called their first letter Alpha and the second Bet.
So Greek and English have an Alphabet.

The Aleph and the Tav—the first and last letters of the Hebrew also spell a word.
This important word is in the Hebrew of Genesis 1:1, but is not translated into any of our English translations.
It is untranslatable.

Spelled את (Aleph Tav.) Hebrew is read from right to left.
Pronounced ET.
It marks someone, or something, as unique, notable.
We might attempt to see it as "from A to Z."
Everything. All there is.

It is in the original of Genesis 1:1, but left out in translation, as follows:

Gen. 1:1 ¶ In the beginning God created (אב) the heavens and the (אב) earth.

Here is Genesis 1:1 in the original Hebrew text:



Phonetically from right to left it reads: B'Rishit (In the Beginning), bara (created), Elohim (God) et h'shamayim (the heavens), and et h'aretz (the earth.)

ספר בראשית

THE BOOK OF GENESIS.

בראשית

CHAPTER I.

IN the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* upon the face of the deep. And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

4 And God saw the light, that *it was* good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

6 And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.

7 And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which *were* under the firmament from the waters which *were* above the firmament: and it was so.

8 And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.

9 And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one

א בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֵת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֵת
ב הָאָרֶץ: וְהָאָרֶץ הָיְתָה תֹהוּ וָבֹהוּ וְחֹשֶׁךְ
עַל־פְּנֵי תְהוֹם וְרוּחַ אֱלֹהִים מְרַחֶפֶת עַל־
ג פְּנֵי הַמָּיִם: וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יְהִי־אוֹר
ד וַיְהִי־אוֹר: וַיַּרְא אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הָאוֹר
כִּי־טוֹב וַיַּבְדֵּל אֱלֹהִים בֵּין הָאוֹר וּבֵין
ה הַחֹשֶׁךְ: וַיִּקְרָא אֱלֹהִים ׀ לָאוֹר יוֹם
וְלַחֹשֶׁךְ קָרָא לָיְלָה וַיְהִי־עֶרֶב וַיְהִי־בֹקֶר
יוֹם אֶחָד: פ
ו וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יְהִי רָקִיעַ בְּתוֹךְ הַמָּיִם
ז וִיהִי מַבְדִּיל בֵּין מַיִם לָמָיִם: וַיַּעַשׂ
אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הָרָקִיעַ וַיַּבְדֵּל בֵּין הַמַּיִם
אֲשֶׁר מִתַּחַת לָרָקִיעַ וּבֵין הַמַּיִם אֲשֶׁר
ח מֵעַל לָרָקִיעַ וַיְהִי־כֵן: וַיִּקְרָא אֱלֹהִים
לָרָקִיעַ שָׁמָיִם וַיְהִי־עֶרֶב וַיְהִי־בֹקֶר יוֹם
שֵׁנִי: פ
ט וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יִקָּווּ הַמַּיִם מִתַּחַת הַשָּׁמַיִם

ב׳ רבתי א׳ ו׳

Jesus is the Aleph Tav, the A to Z, the Everything of Genesis 1:1.

> **John 1:1** ¶ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
> **John 1:2** The same was in the beginning with God.
> **John 1:3** All things were made through him; and without him was not anything made that hath been made. (ASV)

Rev. 1:8 ¶ *I am the Alpha and the Omega, saith the Lord God, Who is and Who was and Who is to come, the Almighty.*

Just after identifying Himself as the Aleph and the Tav, He identifies Himself with the Name of God: Who is, Who was, and Who is to come, the Almighty.

This same association is made where the seal in the foreheads of the 144,000 is revealed in the original manuscripts to be "His Name and His Father's Name." (The King James does not translate the following correctly. So I use another translation.)

> **Rev. 14:1** THEN I looked, and behold, the Lamb stood on Mount Zion, and with Him 144,000 [men] who had His name and His Father's name inscribed on their foreheads. (Amplified)

I believe this to be one Name, the יהוה

This is the Name that was on the golden plate on the High Priest's forehead.

> Exodus 28:36-38 (Stone Edition Chumash)
> 36 You shall make a Head-plate of pure gold, and you shall engrave upon it, engraved like a signet ring, "HOLY TO יהוה"...
> 38 It shall be on Aaron's forehead...always to bring them favor before יהוה

Brim Note: In thinking on Jesus calling Himself by the Name of His Father, perhaps this is the Name above all names that was given to Him—joined to His Name.

> **Phil. 2:9** Wherefore also God highly exalted him, and gave unto him the name which is above every name;
> **Phil. 2:10** that in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven and *things* on earth and *things* under the earth,
> **Phil. 2:11** and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (ASV)

I used the ASV, because the KJV does not get the article right. It uses "a" name... The original manuscripts use the definite article "the."

Rev. 1:9 ¶ I John, your brother and partaker with you in the tribulation and kingdom and patience which are in Jesus, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.
Rev. 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day and I heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet
Rev. 1:11 saying, What thou seest, write in a book and send it to the seven churches: unto Ephesus...Smyrna, ... Pergamum, ... Thyatira, ...Sardis, ... Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea. (ASV)

- Some believe that John was "in the Spirit" in a state of ecstasy on a Sunday...
- Some believe that he was transported into "the Day of the Lord..."

I lean to the latter. Sunday was not called "the Lord's day" until much later.

Rev. 1:12 Then I turned to see [whose was] the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands,
Rev. 1:13 And in the midst of the lampstands [One] like a Son of Man, clothed with a robe which reached to His feet and with a girdle of gold about His breast.†
Rev. 1:14 His head and His hair were white like white wool, [as white] as snow, and His eyes [flashed] like a flame of fire.†
Rev. 1:15 His feet glowed like burnished (bright) bronze as it is refined in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters.†
Rev. 1:16 In His right hand He held seven stars, and from His mouth there came forth a sharp two-edged sword, and His face was like the sun shining in full power at midday.† (AMP)

The Amplified translation correctly translates *lamp stands*, and not *candle stick*.
A candle stick holds a candle which burns a wick coming out of a candle.
See the definition of the Lampstand (Menorah) above. It is holds lamps which burn pure olive oil, symbolic of The Holy Spirit.

Rev. 1:17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:
Rev. 1:18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

(See Col. 3:15, Ps. 68:18; Isa. 53:12; Eph. 4:8...)

Rev. 1:19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

Verse 19 is KEY to rightly dividing the Book of Revelation. For it contains things Past, Present (at that time, approximately 96 AD), and Future.

Jesus interprets the symbols:

Rev. 1:20 As to the hidden meaning (the mystery) of the seven stars which you saw on My right hand and the seven lampstands of gold: the seven stars are the seven angels (messengers) of the seven assemblies (churches) and the seven lampstands are the seven churches. (AMP)

Seven stars = Seven Angels of the assemblies (churches.)

I believe these to be God's own angels, supernatural heavenly beings. True assemblies (churches) have angels assigned to help them just as individual believers have angels assigned to help them.

Seven Lampstands = The Seven Churches

Keep this in mind as we go to Chapter Two where the Lord speaks of removing an assembly's lampstand.

In Chapter One, The Holy Spirit is described in His seven attributes as the Lampstand before the Throne of God.

The idea is that the assemblies (churches) on earth are also Lampstands which are to be receiving their light from the Holy Spirit, the Lampstand in Heaven.

An assembly on earth is to receive light from the Throne in Heaven, and to transmit it to earth.

Earth's people have a right to expect the true light from Heaven to be reflected in the assemblies of God on earth.

When Jesus corrected the assembly at Ephesus, he said that if they did not repent, He would remove their Lampstand. (Revelation 2:1-5.)

It is sad but true, that it is possible to meet in a group that calls itself a church (it may even look like a church) but it has no Lampstand transmitting light and revelation from God's throne.

Syllabus
The Book of Revelation
Chapter 2

Chapters 2 and 3 record the Lord's message to Seven Churches then in existence when He appeared to John in 96AD. Some see these as prophetic of the entire church age. While I have considered that point of view, I see no clear statement in this Book that this is so. I'm not saying that it is not so; I just have no illumination along that line. I agree with Dr. Hilton Sutton's view, however, that they hold wondrous truth for the church today.

Dr. Hilton Sutton, Revelation Revealed, Pages 69, 70
"All seven letters to the churches are vitally important to us, because they are the inspired Word of God. Each contains a message for us—either instruction or warnings for us to heed, lest we fall into the same snares as six of the churches."

Rev. 2:1 ¶ "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: ¶ The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this:
Rev. 2:2 ¶ 'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false;
Rev. 2:3 and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary.
Rev. 2:4 'But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.
Rev. 2:5 'Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place — unless you repent.
Rev. 2:6 'Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.
Rev. 2:7 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.' (NASB 1995)

- The assemblies (churches) are New Testament Churches in existence at the time. Therefore these churches were in the "things which are" category. (Rev. 1:19.)

- Jesus says that He walks among the lampstands, the assemblies. Inspecting them.

  Biblical precedent: Zech. 1:7-11. See David Baron's Commentary on Zechariah.

Also, on BVOV I give an account of Jeanne Wilkerson's seeing Jesus on His white horse at a Kenneth E. Hagin Prayer Seminar in Tulsa in the early 1980s.

- Jesus begins with what is good and right about them.
  Then follows with His Counsel as to what they need to correct.

- Jesus used the word "repent" to New Testament churches that needed to do so.

  Dr. Hilton Sutton, Revelation Revealed, Pages 45, 46

  "First, Jesus commends each church for its characteristics which please Him. He points out faith, patience, works, love, service, hatred for evil...

  Second, He calls attention to the things which displease Him, such as loss of first love, wrong confession, false doctrines, false teachers, spiritual death, fear, and loss of power.

  Third, without putting any church under condemnation, Jesus calls for repentance. A call to repentance is a work of love, because it looks beyond faults to what can be.

  Fourth, Jesus warns of the price to be paid for persistent disobedience. His love again prevails in His warning...Pointing out the consequences of disobedience can be a loving act."

- To every assembly: "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches...." The Holy Spirit is revealed as always speaking, always giving light...

  Dr. Hilton Sutton, Revelation Revealed, Pages 48 and 49

  "After the Church Age began, the Holy Spirit was the predominant influence on the Church. On the Jewish Feast of Pentecost [Shavuot, Weeks], the Holy Spirit fulfilled a divine assignment. He manifested for the express purpose of energizing the true Church, the Body of Christ. His oversight and strengthening of the Church will continue until He provides a mature and glorious Church and plays His role in its resurrection and catching up.

  "Since the Holy Spirit is the overseer of the Church, our sensitivity to Him is vital. We must allow Him to open God's Word to us, showing us how to become spiritually mature and how to please God more. He will show us how to keep our faith strong and unpolluted."

  Billye Brim: When Jesus walked the earth, He was sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. He offered them an earthly, visible, kingdom. When their leaders rejected it, Jesus turned to speaking to the disciples of an age hidden in all the Old Testament. We call it "The Church Age." In its mysteries is the new creation man. A brand new species that had never before existed. The New Testament Letters reveal the wonders of this mystery so succinctly put in Colossians 1:26, "Christ in you, the hope of glory."

  Jesus began to speak of New Creation realities from John 13:31 – John 17. The epitome of His revelation was to be the indwelling of The Holy Spirit in every born again child of God. I often meditate, especially when I need guidance, what the Lord told us about the Holy Spirit. Notice how He speaks, teaches, brings light...

John 14:17 *even* the Spirit of truth: whom the world cannot receive; for it beholdeth him not, neither knoweth him: ye know him; for he abideth with you, and shall be in you.

John 14:26 But the Comforter, *even* the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said unto you.

John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, *even* the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall bear witness of me:

John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he shall guide you into all the truth: for he shall not speak from himself; but what things soever he shall hear, *these* shall he speak: and he shall declare unto you the things that are to come.
John 16:14 He shall glorify me: for he shall take of mine, and shall declare *it* unto you.
John 16:15 All things whatsoever the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he taketh of mine, and shall declare *it* unto you. (ASV)

In my meditation for guidance, I often consider the following from a minister Jeanne Wilkerson often quoted:

Alexander Maclaren With Christ in the Upper Room, page 13
Commenting on John 14-1 6
"...every believing soul has this Divine Spirit for his Teacher, and...may, if we will, learn of Him and be led by Him into profounder knowledge of that great Lord...the belief in the actual Presence with the church of a Spirit that teaches all faithful members thereof, is far too much lost out of sight of the common Christianity of this day (1890). We ought to be the standing witnesses in the world of the reality of a Supernatural Influence...."

- In every assembly, He addressed the overcomers: "To him that overcometh...
  And He promised a reward for overcoming.
  In every assembly there were overcomers—just as there are overcomers today.

  Consider the seven statements made to overcomers:
  Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26-28; 3:5, 12, 21.

  There is not one hint in the Word of God that the believer is ever to be overcome. We are always told to overcome... And we are told how to overcome with the weapons of our warfare which are not carnal.

  The use of the word "overcome" reveals that there are things we need to overcome. There is satanic strategy against the plans and purposes of God.

But, seated in our Overcoming Lord at the right hand of the Father we are to overcome, to rule and reign in this life. (Ro. 5:17; Ephesians 1:17-2:6, 4:27, 6:10-18; Col. 1:12; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8,9; Rev. 12:10-12.)

Ephesus: Revelation 2:1-7

- A wonderful revelation of how important it is not to leave our First Love.
  Not to put the work of the Lord above the Lord of the work.

- Here we meet again in verse 7, the Tree of Life from the Book of Beginnings

Smyrna: Verses 8-11

- Jesus encourages them to be overcomers even in their circumstances.

Pergamum

Rev. 2:12 ¶ And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write:
These things saith he that hath the sharp two-edged sword:
Rev. 2:13 I know where thou dwellest, even where Satan's throne is; and thou holdest fast my name, and didst not deny my faith, even in the days of Antipas my witness, my faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwelleth. (ASV)

While I have not seen, though others may have, prophetic symbolism of the church age in the seven churches, I can say with conviction that The Holy Spirit has given me what I would call a revelation, on Satan's seat, or throne, from what He said to the church in Pergamum.

See the Appendix entitled "The Seat of Satan."

Thyatira

Rev. 2:25 Nevertheless that which ye have, hold fast till I come.

Light on this came to me through the teaching of Kenneth E. Hagin.
He asked, "Why would you have to hold fast to something?"
He gave the answer, "Because someone is trying to take it away from you."
Then he went on to teach on *How To Keep Your Healing*, emphasizing that even though one receives Divine Healing, it can be lost. For the enemy is trying to steal it. This can be said for all the good things of God. Hold fast to the good things of God. Don't let the devil talk you out of them.

Syllabus
The Book of Revelation
Chapter 3

Sardis

Rev. 3:1 ¶ And to the angel of the church in Sardis write:
These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars: I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and thou art dead.
Rev. 3:2 Be thou watchful, and establish the things that remain, which were ready to die: for I have found no works of thine perfected before my God.
Rev. 3:3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and didst hear; and keep it, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.
Rev. 3:4 But thou hast a few names in Sardis that did not defile their garments: and they shall walk with me in white; for they are worthy.
Rev. 3:5 He that overcometh shall thus be arrayed in white garments; and I will in no wise blot his name out of the book of life, and I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

Clarence Larkin, in his The Book of Revelation, gives each of the seven churches short descriptions as follows: Ephesus (A Backslidden Church); Smyrna (A Persecuted Church); Pergamos (A Licentious Church); Thyatira (A Lax Church); Sardis (A Dead Church); Philadelphia (A Favored Church); Laodicea (A Lukewarm Church).

The Lord's saying that Sardis claimed to be living, but was dead—even with things ready to die, reminds me of one of the perils of the last days:

> **2Tim. 3:5** Having a form of godliness, but denying the power (dunamis) thereof from such turn away.

John G. Lake said that electricity is the power of God in the natural realm, and that The Holy Spirit is the power of God in the spiritual realm. How dangerous it is to try to "have church" without the manifestations of The Holy Spirit in power.

Even Sardis was offered space to repent. And even in Sardis there were those who walked worthy of the Lord.

Philadelphia

Rev. 3:7 ¶ And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth and none shall shut, and that shutteth and none openeth:
Rev. 3:8 I know thy works (behold, I have set before thee a door opened, which none can shut), that thou hast a little power[dunamis], *and didst keep my word, and didst not deny my name.*
Rev. 3:9 Behold, I give of the synagogue of Satan, of them that say they are Jews, and they are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.
Rev. 3:10 Because thou didst keep the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of trial, that hour which is to come upon the whole world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.
Rev. 3:11 I come quickly: hold fast that which thou hast, that no one take thy crown.
Rev. 3:12 He that overcometh, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go out thence no more: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God, and mine own new name.

The only church that received only commendation.

"You kept My Word!"
"You have power (dunamis)!"
"You did not deny My Name!"

Again the admonition to "hold fast" that which you have.

A look at what might be future is indicated in verse 10.
An hour of trial, will come upon the world, to test those on the earth.
This may be what is known as the "tribulation period."
In any case, they will be kept from it. (As will all the true Body of Christ.)

More about the New Jerusalem, the Heavenly City later.

Is the new name He speaks of here that Name of His Father's, by which He has identified Himself?

Laodicea

Rev. 3:14 ¶ And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write:
These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God:
Rev. 3:15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.
Rev. 3:16 So because thou art lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spew thee out of my mouth.
Rev. 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and have gotten riches, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art the wretched one and miserable and poor and blind and naked:
Rev. 3:18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold refined by fire, that thou mayest become rich; and white garments, that thou mayest clothe thyself, and that the shame of thy nakedness be not made manifest; and eyesalve to anoint thine eyes, that thou mayest see.
Rev. 3:19 As many as I love, I reprove and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.
Rev. 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

No commendation is given this church.

It is important to keep in mind that He is addressing a church, an assembly. Someone called our ministry very upset. They were worried, after hearing someone preach on the end times, that they would not go to Heaven because they might not be considered "hot" or "cold." Individuals know salvation by grace through faith.

This was a deceived assembly. They thought they were rich. And probably they were rich with riches of this world. But they were spiritually poverty-stricken. Their blindness was "shortsightedness." They saw only the here and now. He loved them. That's why He reproved them. There was still space to "repent."

The 20th verse has been preached to the world, to sinners. Yet to do so is to take it out of context.

Once inside this church, or it would not be a church, He is now on the outside. He has stationed Himself at the door and is knocking. The call is to "any man" within even this lukewarm assembly—to any one who will hear His Voice and open the door. He will come in to him and will sup with him. I am reminded of two unnamed disciples, who walking with Him on the road to Emmaus after He had arisen, did not know Him until, "He was known of them in the breaking of bread (Luke 24:35)."

Syllabus
The Book of Revelation
Chapter 4

Rev. 4:1 ¶ After these things I saw, and behold, a door opened in heaven, and the first voice that I heard, a voice as of a trumpet speaking with me, one saying, Come up hither, and I will show thee the things which must come to pass hereafter.
Rev. 4:2 Straightway I was in the Spirit: and behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and one sitting upon the throne;
Rev. 4:3 and he that sat was to look upon like a jasper stone and a sardius: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, like an emerald to look upon.
Rev. 4:4 And round about the throne were four and twenty thrones: and upon the thrones I saw four and twenty elders sitting, arrayed in white garments; and on their heads crowns of gold.
Rev. 4:5 And out of the throne proceed lightnings and voices and thunders. And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God;
Rev. 4:6 and before the throne, as it were a sea of glass like unto crystal; and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, four living creatures full of eyes before and behind.
Rev. 4:7 And the first creature was like a lion, and the second creature like a calf, and the third creature had a face as of a man, and the fourth creature was like a flying eagle.
Rev. 4:8 And the four living creatures, having each one of them six wings, are full of eyes round about and within: and they have no rest day and night, saying,

Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God, the Almighty,
who was and who is and who is to come.

Rev. 4:9 ¶ And when the living creatures shall give glory and honor and thanks to him that sitteth on the throne, to him that liveth for ever and ever,
Rev. 4:10 the four and twenty elders shall fall down before him that sitteth on the throne, and shall worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and shall cast their crowns before the throne, saying,
Rev. 4:11 Worthy art thou, our Lord and our God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power: for thou didst create all things, and because of thy will they were, and were created.

We come now to what the key verse (1:19) calls "the things which shall come to pass hereafter." The future.

Scene change: Heaven. The Throne Room
An open door.

John hears the same Voice he heard before (1:10) calling him up, "Come up hither!...

> The first thing the Body of Christ hears at the catching away, or rapture, is the shout of the Lord (1 Thess 4:16). It may be the glorious call, "Come up hither....."
>
> From this point the Church is in Heaven.
> Even during her earth walk, the church age, the She was seated at the Right Hand of the Father in union with Her Savior and Lord (Eph 2:4-6).
> Now she has been caught away and is in Heaven.
> (See Appendix: The Rapture)

The Throne of God

The Throne of God is the center of power of all creation.
The One upon it, the Sovereign God, now to officiate in The Day of the LORD.

The rainbow, which surrounds His throne, is a token of His covenant with earth.
Tokens as signs of covenant were displayed throughout the Bible.

> **Gen. 9:13** I do set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a **token** of a covenant between Me and the earth.
>
> **Ex. 12:13** And the blood shall be to you for a **token** upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you,
>
> **Josh. 2:12** Now therefore, I (Rahab) pray you, swear unto me by Jehovah, since I have dealt kindly with you, that ye also will deal kindly with my father's house, and give me a true token;
> **Josh. 2:13** and that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and will deliver our lives from death...
>
> **Josh. 2:21** And she said, According unto your words, so be it...
> And she [Rahab]sent them away, and they departed: and she bound the scarlet line in the window.

The Father displays before Him always the token of His covenant with earth.
Events now, directed from the Throne, move forward toward His glorious plans and purposes for earth. The future is "as bright as God can make it:"

The Numerical Bible (p. 289)
The future before the world is largely, alas, made up of judgment, although it is true that the judgment is for a blessing which lies beyond it, and which is as bright as God can make it.

The Twenty-Four Elders

Elders in Scripture are people. Not angels. These are saints from earth who are recognized elders, already risen, glorified, enthroned, and crowned. White garments in Scripture are worn by priests, and the righteous saints. Most see their number as 2 times 12. Twelve is a governmental number. And most see them as elders of the Old Testament and the New Testament. Governmentally there were 12 tribes and 12 Apostles.

The Holy Spirit

Again we see the Holy Spirit in the Seven Lamps of the Lampstand.

The Holy Spirit is Omnipresent. Just because we see Him in Heaven does not mean that He is nowhere present on the earth.

Dr. Hilton Sutton, Revelation Revealed, pages 78, 79
"There is only one Spirit of God, but He has many manifestations, diversities and operations. The number seven refers to God's completion, the perfect operation of the Holy Spirit. (Isaiah 1:2.)
"...The Holy Spirit is not removed from the earth. As God the Holy Ghost, He is always present in heaven and on the earth. His earthly assignment will continue throughout the seven years of Tribulation."

H. A. Baker and his wife were missionaries in China before the Communist takeover in 1949. His book, *Visions Beyond the Veil*, records an amazing visitation of the Holy Spirit upon the children and young people of the Adullam Rescue Mission. (I have thought that perhaps these boys looked into Heaven for days and saw things that prepared them for when the missionaries had to leave.) Here are come excerpts...

H. A. Baker, *Visions, Beyond the Veil*, page 11,

"The children and young people of the Adullam Rescue Mission were, for the most part, beggars in the streets of the city...(some orphans, some prodigals)...mostly boys ranging...from 6 to 18...
"During this visitation from the Lord, all were treated impartially. The oldest and the youngest, the first arrivals and the latest comers, the best and the worst, all sitting together around their common Father's table, were alike treated to His heavenly bounties.
"This falling of the Spirit was clearly a love gift of grace 'apart from works' or personal merit. It was not something that was worked up; it came down...it was a blessing of God that came from above...

> "...On many different occasions, various Adullam residents perceived the Holy Spirit as a tongue of fire upon the head of each person in the room...many felt the Holy Spirit as a wind blowing upon them...
>
> "On several occasions, older and younger children alike saw the Holy Spirit represented as seven lamps. At times of special outpourings of the Holy Spirit, these seven lamps of fire were seen being let down from heaven into the room in our very midst. At other times, in the visions of the throne of Christ in heaven, the children saw the "seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God" (Rev. 4:5). But we all recognized that the seven lamps meant that the Holy Spirit was in our midst."

Refer again to Revelation 1 where the Holy Spirit in Heaven is a 7-branched Lampstand and the churches on earth are called Lampstands. Here with the Adullum children we see how it was demonstrated.

The Crystal Sea

The main proof Scriptures I see for the Church being in heaven have to do with what is happening on earth. It does not involve her. It involves the Jews and the Nations. I will explain this further when we look at that time on earth. But just for a quick reference, the tribulation on earth is described as the time of God's wrath (Rev 6:16, 17; 11:18; 15:1; 16:1). God makes it clear in the Letters that the church is not appointed to wrath ((Ro 5:9; 1 Thess. 5:9; 1 Thess. 1:10.)

Dr. Sutton sees the Crystal Sea as evidence of the church's presence in heaven.
I'm not sure about this. But in view of his expertise, I include it for your consideration.

> Dr. Hilton Sutton, Revelation Revealed, pages 79, 80
>
> "...This is not a body of water...in Scripture a description of a mass of people accompanies the word sea whenever it is used without reference to the name or location of an existing body of water.
>
> "The crystal sea is a great company of people standing before the throne of God. They are referred to as a sea because of their vast numbers and as crystal because of their right standing before God. Since the 24 elders are representatives, the Church whom they represent must also be in heaven. Thus the crystal sea before the throne is the symbol of the whole Church company in heaven.
>
> "Crystal is the only earthly substance in which flaws cannot be hidden: in fact... The Lord will present to Himself **a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing, but...be holy and without blemish** (Eph. 5:27).

The Four Living Creatures

The Greek word is *zoa.*
They are guardians of the Glory, declarers of His Holiness, and of His Name יהוה.

Why their appearance is as described Dr. Sutton calls, "the first of a number of unknowns in the Book of Revelation."

I knew Dr. Kenneth Hagin from 1967 until he departed for Heaven in 2003. For 10 years I was his editor at Kenneth Hagin Ministries in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The Lord told him to put his teachings into print. And I helped him do that. His life was blessed with open visions of the Lord Jesus. They began in 1951 when Jesus took him to Heaven. In private conversation, he would sometimes talk about that vision. He seemed particularly amazed at these living creatures. He said their eyes were about the size of quarters.

Kenneth E. Hagin, *I Believe in Visions*, page 45

> "...When I reached Him [Jesus], together we continued on to Heaven. We came to the throne of God, and I beheld it in all its splendor. I was not able to look upon the face of God; I only beheld His form.
>
> "The first thing that attracted my attention was the rainbow about the throne. It was very beautiful. The second thing I noticed was the winged creatures on either side of the throne. They were peculiar looking creatures and as I walked up with Jesus, these creatures stood with wings outstretched. They were saying something but they ceased and folded their wings. They had eyes of fire set all around their heads, and they looked in all directions at once."

What marvelous worship the 24 Elders lead!
What a marvelous song is sung, as crowns are cast before the throne of The Creator of all things!

Syllabus
The Book of Revelation
Chapter 5

Rev. 5:1 ¶ And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the back, close sealed with seven seals. (ASV)

This is a scroll. The seals probably do not run up and down the seam of the scroll. It has been suggested that they each seal a section to be unrolled one by one.

Rev. 5:2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a great voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?
Rev. 5:3 And no one in the heaven, or on the earth, or under the earth, was able to open the book, or to look thereon.
Rev. 5:4 And I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open the book, or to look thereon:
Rev. 5:5 and one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not; behold, the Lion that is of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath overcome to open the book and the seven seals thereof. (ASV)

Israel comes into view. Her Messiah steps forth as The Lion of the Tribe of Judah, and the Root, or Source, of David. His role as the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world made Him worthy to open the scroll. He will now manifest the characteristics of The Lion of the Tribe of Judah.

> *The Numerical Bible: Hebrews to Revelation,* (Pages 378, 379)
>
> ...we have to notice first, what is emphasized...that it is "the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David," who prevails to open the book. It is astonishing how little such a title as this seems to have impressed the mass of the interpreters of Revelation; but the lack of discernment as to Israel's place in prophecy, and that, as the apostle has said, to Israel belong the Old Testament promises...
>
> [W]e are at the end of the addresses to the Church—the whole place of vision has now removed from earth to heaven—and that there the saints are upon their thrones around the throne of God—that the rainbow also around the throne is prophesying of a salvation by judgment of the earth itself—how plainly significant it is that we should find here just "the Lion of the tribe of Judah" coming to the front, and power put into His hand!
>
> Israel and the earth are in the closest possible connection with one another. No blessing for the earth can be until Israel is blest, and thus the conqueror-King of Israel as seen here is every way significant.
>
> ...As we find in the second Psalm, against the One whom God has declared His Son, against Jehovah and His Anointed, alike, "the kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together;" and this spirit of rebellion, vain as it is, will not be ended until the Shepherd of Israel comes forth with His iron rod. Then, when the heathen [nations] are given Him for His inheritance, and the

> uttermost parts of the earth for His possession, He shall tend them (as the word is) with a rod of iron, and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel...Christ must come to put down all rule and all authority and power... In Him at last judgment shall return to righteousness; and the rod of power which, *out* of His hands, has assumed the serpent form, now that He puts forth His hand to grasp it, is to return obediently to Him.

Rev. 5:6 And I saw in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, having seven horns, and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent forth into all the earth.
Rev. 5:7 And he came, and he taketh it out of the right hand of him that sat on the throne.
Rev. 5:8 And when he had taken the book, the four living creatures and the four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having each one a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. (ASV)

Take particular note of the bowls of incense which are the prayers of the saints.
Later we will examine the important part these prayers play in earth's trying time.

Rev. 5:9 And they sing a new song, saying,
Worthy art thou to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and didst purchase unto God with thy blood men of every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation,
Rev. 5:10 and madest them to be unto our God a kingdom and priests; and they reign upon the earth. (ASV)

This "new song" can be sung by the Body of Christ. When Peter reported to the church at Jerusalem how God had visited the Gentiles, James said:

> **Acts 15:14** Symeon hath rehearsed how first God visited the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. (ASV)

Note the difference between The Body of Christ and Israel in relation to each being God's inheritance. The nation of Israel is God's portion among the nations. "They are the only people which, *as a nation*, God has chosen as His own peculiar possession out of all the nations of the earth," David Baron writes in *Israel in the Plan of God*. They are a nation separated, as a nation, from the Gentile nations. We, the Body of Christ, are a people for His Name taken out of every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation among the Gentiles (nations).

> *The Companion Bible*, Appendix 186
> The Greek word, *ekklesia*, means assembly, or a gathering of called-out ones.

> **Rev. 5:10** And You have made them a kingdom (royal race) and priests to our God, and they shall reign [as kings] over the earth!† (AMP)

I have repeated verse 10 in the Amplified because of its better translation of the Greek preposition *epi*. The direction is from above downward.

> John A. MacMillan, *The Authority of the Believer*, (See pages 10-15.)
> The Divine Purpose of the Ages...God, having redeemed a people and purified them, has introduced them potentially into the heavenlies...they will in actuality take the seats of the "powers of the air," ...This purpose, present and future, is very definitely stated in Ephesians chapter 3:9-11. Here it is revealed as the divine will that "now (*nun*, the present time) unto the principalities and powers in the heavenly places might be made known through the church the manifold wisdom of God" (3:10). The Church is to be God's instrument in declaring to these rebellious and now usurping powers the divine purpose, and in administering their principalities after they have been unseated and cast down.
>
> This is further declared to be "according to the eternal purpose of the ages which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord" (3:11). That is to say, God through all the past ages, has had in view this wonderful plan of preparing in Christ Jesus a people, chosen and called and faithful, whom He might place in these heavenly seats to rule through the ages yet to come...the overcoming Church, raised to sit in the heavenlies...Israel will administer the earthly kingdom and will be head of the nations, but overall will rule the exalted Church as the executive of God.

Rev. 5:11 ¶ And I saw, and I heard a voice of many angels round about the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;
Rev. 5:12 saying with a great voice,

Worthy is the Lamb that hath been slain to receive the power, and riches, and wisdom, and might, and honor, and glory, and blessing.

Rev. 5:13 ¶ And every created thing which is in the heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and on the sea, and all things that are in them, heard I saying,

Unto him that sitteth on the throne, and unto the Lamb, be the blessing, and the honor, and the glory, and the dominion, for ever and ever.

Rev. 5:14 ¶ And the four living creatures said, Amen. And the elders fell down and worshipped. (ASV)

Magnifical and Full of Glory is this Heavenly scene!!!

Syllabus
The Book of Revelation
Chapter 6

The judgments of The Book of Revelation take place in a seven-year cycle.
That cycle is Daniel's 70th week (Daniel 9:27).
It is a seven-year *schmittah* cycle.

(See Appendix: Time: *Schmittah* Cycles.)
(See Appendix: Daniel's Seventieth Week)

First Four Seals
Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

Rev. 6:1 *¶ And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, Come.*

One of the Guardian Zoa gives the order to the first rider to "*Come*..."
They can only come forth as they are allowed by Heaven to do so.
And unbeknownst to them, they ride to their doom.

Rev. 6:2 *And I saw, and behold, a white horse, and he that sat thereon had a bow; and there was given unto him a crown: and he came forth conquering, and to conquer.*

The rider is not the Christ. The rider is the antichrist.
The Christ is holding the scroll and opening the seals.
The Christ is already the conqueror (Ephesians 1; Colossians 2:15).
This false one comes forth "to conquer."
The white horse does not symbolize purity, but the mount of a leader in battle.
The antichrist sets out to dominate the world.
The following riders are at his disposal throughout the seven years.

Rev. 6:3 *¶ And when he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, Come.*
Rev. 6:4 *And another horse came forth, a red horse: and to him that sat thereon it was given to take peace from the earth, and that they should slay one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.*

War!

Rev. 6:5 ¶ And when he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, Come. And I saw, and behold, a black horse; and he that sat thereon had a balance in his hand.
Rev. 6:6 And I heard as it were a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, A measure of wheat for a shilling, and three measures of barley for a shilling; and the oil and the wine hurt thou not.

Famine!
Shortage of food.

Brim Thought: These four horsemen ride throughout the seven years. For 3 ½ years, Israel (the woman) is hidden and nourished. If the church is the wheat harvest, could the oil and the wine refer to Israel? (Revelation 12:13, 14.) Just a thought.

Rev. 6:7 ¶ And when he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, Come.
Rev. 6:8 And I saw, and behold, a pale horse: and he that sat upon him, his name was Death; and Hades followed with him. And there was given unto them authority over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with famine, and with death, and by the wild beasts of the earth.

Hilton Sutton, *Revelation Revealed* (page 93).
Over the seven years of the Tribulation, these Four Horsemen have authority over only ¼ of the earth. From this reference along with Isaiah 19, Zech. 14, Daniel 11:25, 30, 32, 40, 41, 44, and Revelation 9, we know the Antichrist will never rule the world, only the European-Mediterranean area comes under the Antichrist's influence. However, there is much destruction and death caused by these Four Horsemen.

Fifth Seal
Tribulation Period Martyrs

Rev. 6:9 ¶ And when he opened the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of them that had been slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:
Rev. 6:10 and they cried with a great voice, saying, How long, O Master, the holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?
Rev. 6:11 *And there was given them to each one a white robe; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little time, until their fellow-servants also and their brethren, who should be killed even as they were, should have fulfilled their course.*

I. These are Tribulation Period Martyrs (A Special Class.)

Not martyrs from the beginning (Abel and onward.)

Not martyrs from the church age.
Their bodies were resurrected and caught up with the church.

II. Their Call: For Judgment and Vengeance

E. W. Bullinger, *The Companion Bible*
"Avenge..." A call consistent with the day of judgment, not with the present day of grace.

Brim Note: A call from the present day of grace would be for forgiveness.
The Savior: "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34).
Stephen: "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge (Acts 7:60).

Numerical Bible: The call for judgment...indicates...the passing of the long parenthesis of grace upon the earth, during which God has been gathering a people for heaven. It is the day of wrath and judgment that is at hand, thus it is of God that they should cry for judgment — a judgment which is ready to be executed.

Clarence Larken, *The Book of Revelation*, (page 59)

These martyrs are those who will be killed for the "Word of God" and their "testimony" after the church is caught out.

According to Christ (Matt 24:9-14) a persecution will be brought about by the preaching of the "Gospel of the Kingdom." When the church is caught out, the preaching of the "Gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:24), which is being preached now, will cease, and the preaching of the "Gospel of the Kingdom" will be revived.

It is the Gospel that John the Baptist preached, "Repent ye: for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand (Matt 3:1,2), and that Elijah the Prophet...will preach (Mal. 4:5,6). It is to be preached by the Jews, and will be the announcement that Christ (The Messiah) is coming back to set up His Earthly Kingdom, and rule over the affairs of men.

Brim Note: Could be Jews (or at least include them) who remember the ancient promise from the Great Song of Moses:

> **Deut. 32:43** Rejoice, O ye nations, *with* his people:
> For He will avenge the blood of His servants,
> And will render vengeance to His adversaries,
> And will make expiation for His land, for His people.

III. Heaven's Answer to These Martyrs

- White robes are given them only *after* their cry.

- Rest for a little season (3 ½ years) until their number (tribulation period martyrs) is filled up. (See other instances where one thing has to be "filled up" before another can come: Genesis 15:16; Romans 11:25.)

The Sixth Seal

Rev. 6:12 ¶ And I saw when he opened the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the whole moon became as blood;
Rev. 6:13 and the stars of the heaven fell unto the earth, as a fig tree casteth her unripe figs when she is shaken of a great wind.
Rev. 6:14 And the heaven was removed as a scroll when it is rolled up; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.
Rev. 6:15 And the kings of the earth, and the princes, and the chief captains, and the rich, and the strong, and every bondman and freeman, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains;
Rev. 6:16 and they say to the mountains and to the rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:
Rev. 6:17 for the great day of their wrath is come; and who is able to stand?

The Wrath

The absolute assurance that the Body of Christ is not on the earth during this period is substantiated by these Scriptures:

Rom. 5:8 But God commendeth his own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
Rom. 5:9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, shall we be saved from the wrath *of God* through him.

1Th. 1:9...and how ye turned unto God from idols, to serve a living and true God,
1Th. 1:10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, *even* Jesus, who delivereth us from the wrath to come.

1Th. 5:9 For God appointed us not unto wrath, but unto the obtaining of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

E. W. Bullinger, The Companion Bible,
These are the signs immediately preceding the Advent of Revelation 19.
Matthew 24 covers exactly the period of the six seals thus:

Bullinger's Chart Follows:

Matt 24	The Seals	Rev 6
4, 5	1st The False Messiah	1, 2
6, 7	2nd Wars	3, 4
-7-	3rd Famines	5, 6
-7-	4th Pestilences	7, 8
8-28	Martyrdoms	9-11
29, 30	6th Signs in Heaven of Advent	12-17

Brim Note:
The church is not on the earth for the Six Seals nor for Matthew 24.

See Appendix: Comparison of Matthew 24 and Luke 21.

Syllabus
The Book of Revelation
Chapter 7

Dr. Hilton Sutton, *Revelation Revealed*, Page 97
Revelation 7 interrupts the story of the events taking place on earth to inform us of God's activities. Contrary to what some people think, God does not turn the seven years over to Satan and the Antichrist. During this time, God performs in all His greatness.

Rev. 7:1 *¶ After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, *holding the four winds of the earth, that no wind should blow on the earth, or on the sea, or upon any tree.*
Rev. 7:2 *And I saw another angel ascend from the sunrising, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a great voice to the four angels to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,*
Rev. 7:3 *saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we shall have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.*

*Greek: *kraeto* = holding back

- The Four Angels and the Four Winds

  Numerical Bible, Hebrews to Revelation (Page 392)
  The winds of the earth are the various influences, which from outside affect it;
  Surely not divine influences, or they would not need to be restrained...
  The power of the enemy working...for Satan is the "prince of the powers of the air..."
  [However] God is above all...Nothing is but as it is permitted to be....

- Another Angel from the East

  Literally: From the rising of the Sun
  He has the seal of the Living God
  The judgment is in the hand of God, although the players upon the final stage of the age may be working their own will.

The 144,000

Rev. 7:3 *saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we shall have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.*

Rev. 7:4-8 And I heard the number of them that were sealed, a hundred and forty and four thousand, sealed out of every tribe of the children of Israel:

Rev. 7:5 Of the tribe of Judah were sealed 12,000

Reuben	12,000
Gad	12,000
Asher	12,000
Naphtali	12,000
Manasseh	12,000
Simeon	12,000
Levi	12,000
Issachar	12,000
Zebulun	12,000
Joseph	12,000
Benjamin	12,000

God's seal in Scripture marks out the ones sealed as belonging to God.
For the 144,000 it includes protection during the tribulation.
Especially from the locust plague (Revelation 9:3, 4).

Scriptural precedent includes those who grieved over the abominations occurring in Israel before the destruction of the First Temple (Ezekiel 9:4).

In the Exodus the blood of the Passover lamb marked the doorposts and the lintels so that the destroyer could not touch them.

> **Ex. 12:23** For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer **the destroyer** to come in unto your houses to smite *you*.

The Mark of the Beast

> The antichrist and his system will demand a mark to buy and sell.
> Related to 666. (Revelation 13:16-18.)

"144,000 Out of Every Tribe of the Sons of Israel.

Named in a peculiar manner. Order found nowhere else.

Judah holds place of honor.

Dan is not listed here, but "assuredly, when the tribes are brought back to their Land at last, Dan will not be wanting."
Jacob, the father, the dying patriarch, prophesying of the tribes at the end of days, assures that Dan shall judge his people as one of the tribes of Israel (Genesis 49:16).
In the Millennial division of the Land to the twelve tribes, Dan is included.

> **Ezek. 47:13** ¶ Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: This shall be the border, whereby ye shall divide the land for inheritance according to the twelve tribes of Israel: Joseph *shall have two* portions.
> **Ezek. 47:14** And ye shall inherit it, one as well as another; for I sware to give it unto your fathers: and this land shall fall unto you for inheritance...
>
> **Ezek. 48:1** ¶ Now these are the names of the tribes: From the north end, beside the way of Hethlon to the entrance of Hamath, Hazar-enan at the border of Damascus, northward beside Hamath, (and they shall have their sides east *and* west,) Dan, one *portion*.
> **Ezek. 48:2** And by the border of Dan, from the east side unto the west side, Asher, one *portion*...
>
> **Ezek. 48:32** And at the east side four thousand and five hundred *reeds*, and three gates: even the gate of Joseph, one; the gate of Benjamin, one; the gate of Dan, one. (ASV)

Dan, who will have an earthly inheritance in the Millennium, is not included in this select group who will have a heavenly appearance. Speculation might surmise that it is because of the idolatry introduced by the tribe of Dan.

> Clarence Larkin, *The Book of Revelation*, page 65
> The 144,000, 12,000 from each Tribe, will be of the earthly Israel, the literal seed of Abraham, living at that time, and not of a mystical or spiritual Israel.
>
> Dr. Hilton Sutton, *Revelation Revealed*, page 101
> The descendants of Abraham are Israel. To say that the Church has taken the place of Israel violates Paul's teachings Paul distinctly distinguishes between the natural seed of Abraham—the nation of Israel—and the spiritual seed—the Church. (See Rom. 11.)
>
> Clarence Larkin, *The Book of Revelation*, page 65
> Though the "Twelve Tribes" were long ago lost among the nations, their whereabouts is not unknown to God. And though they may have lost their genealogical books and records, so as not to be able to trace their Tribal descent, God knows **where they are**, and **who is who**, and in that day the angels with **omniscient precision**, will seal them according to their Tribes....
>
> E. W. Bullinger, The Companion Bible
> The Divine sealers know....
>
> *The Numerical Bible, Hebrews to Revelation*
> We cannot separate from this what we find of the 144,000 in the 14th Chapter, who there stand with the Lamb upon Mount Zion, and upon whose foreheads the Name of His Father is seen written...The Seal being a stamp, which marks out manifestly those who are the Lord's...On the forehead... Prominent

The Divine Seal
יהוה

*Rev. 14:1 ¶ And I saw, and behold, the Lamb standing on the mount Zion, and with him a hundred and forty and four thousand, having **his name, and the name of his Father**, written on their foreheads.* (ASV)

The King James does not translate Revelation 14:1 correctly.
It translates:...**having his Father's name** written in their foreheads....

Other translations agree with the oldest manuscripts that it is "**His name and the name of His Father.**" For another example here is the Amplified translation.

> **Rev. 14:1** THEN I looked, and behold, the Lamb stood on Mount Zion, and with Him 144,000 [men] who had **His name and His Father's name** inscribed on their foreheads. (AMP)

I believe that Name is יהוה
Please see our comments on Revelation 1:1-8.

The 144,000 Sing A New Song

Rev. 14:2 And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and the voice which I heard was as the voice of harpers harping with their harps:
*Rev. 14:3 and they sing as it were **a new song** before the throne, and before the four living creatures and the elders: and no man could learn the song save the hundred and forty and four thousand, even they that had been purchased out of the earth.* (ASV)

> Bullinger, *The Companion Bible*
> v. 14 a *new* song, by a *new* company, with a *new* theme.
> Only instance where the words of the song are not given.

We see "harpers" described in Revelation 15:2 as those "that come off victorious from the beast, and from his image, and from the number of his name...having harps of God."

Rev. 14:4 These are they that were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they that follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were purchased from among men, to be the firstfruits unto God and unto the Lamb.
Rev. 14:5 And in their mouth was found no lie: they are without blemish.

These have come up through translation (a catching up.)
They are the first fruits of the restored nation of Israel.
They are not the first fruits of the church, for they were gathered long before.

Larkin has an interesting take on their being "virgins."

> Clarence Larkin, *The Book of Revelation*, page 131
> ...they are either all men of the character of the Apostle Paul, who did not marry, or, as is most likely, and as the word translated "virgins" means persons of either sex, they are "virgins" in the sense that they kept themselves clean of the crowning sin of that day—FORNICATION, for the crowning sin of the Tribulation Period will be fornication (Rev. 9:21; 14:8), ...

A young Israeli Jew who'd heard me speak to my Christian seminar tour group, said to me,
"I believe what you say."
"Have you converted?" I asked.
"Oh, no." he said. "I don't want to miss my chance of being one of the 144,000."

I thought, *He's married; he couldn't be one.* But I'd not yet read Larkin's comments.
I'm not sure I'm convinced of Larkin's idea, but we all see through a glass darkly now.
Time will tell!!!!!!
And that's how it is with much of this Wonderful Book of The Revelation of Jesus Christ!

Just who are the 144,000? I ponder this often.
If Jesus comes as soon as I think He's coming, they must be alive on earth now.
They may or may not know they are Jews.
God knows.
The Heavenly Sealers will know.
So-called "Lost Tribes" are being discovered. But in reality, they are not lost to God.

Fornication includes spiritual fornication. (Idolatry, for instance; false religions.)

Fornication is indicative of all sexual sins and immorality.
That this sin will be the crowning sin of the Tribulation Period is easily seen today.
Television commercials...sitcoms...
Movies. Laxness. Looseness of morals. Immodesty in dress.
What will it be like when the church is gone....

> Dr. Hilton Sutton, *Revelation Revealed*, pages 101, 102
> Approximately four years after the Tribulation begins, these [144,000] servants of God finish their assignment... [He sees the Great Multitude as the fruit.]

The Great Multitude

Rev. 7:11 ¶ And all the angels were standing round about the throne, and about the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,
Rev. 7:12 saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

Rev. 7:13 ¶ And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, These that are arrayed in the white robes, who are they, and whence came they?
Rev. 7:14 And I say unto him, My lord, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they that come out of the great tribulation, and they washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
Rev. 7:15 Therefore are they before the throne of God; and they serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall spread his tabernacle over them.
Rev. 7:16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun strike upon them, nor any heat:
Rev. 7:17 for the Lamb that is in the midst of the throne shall be their shepherd, and shall guide them unto fountains of waters of life: and God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes.

> Dr. Hilton Sutton, *Revelation Revealed*, page 104
> The company of Revelation 7 differs considerably from the Church company of Revelation 4 and 5. Jesus meets the Church in the air. At the rapture of the Great Multitude, the dead are not resurrected... The members of the Church have crowns of gold, sit upon thrones and sing the new song. None of this applies to the Great Multitude. The members of the Church declare themselves to be kings and priests reigning with the Lord, whereas those of the Great Multitude identify themselves as both Jews and Gentiles.
>
> Bullinger, *The Companion Bible*
> They washed their (own) robes. Works. Not grace.
> For comparison to the Church, consider 1 Cor. 6:11:
>
> > **1Cor. 6:11** And such were some of you: but **ye were washed**, but ye were sanctified, but ye were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.

Though it is not in *Revelation Revealed*, I remember hearing Dr. Sutton say that the Bible records seven "catchings up" or raptures. I believe they were as follows:

1. Enoch
2. Elijah
3. Jesus
4. The Church
5. The 144,000
6. The Great Multitude
7. The Two Witnesses

I can see that there are some who come up during the seven years, perhaps as members of the wedding party, though not a part of the bride.

Syllabus
The Book of Revelation
Chapter 8

Rev. 8:1 ¶ And when he opened the seventh seal, there followed a silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.
Rev. 8:2 And I saw the seven angels that stand before God; and there were given unto them seven trumpets.

Think of it! Silence in Heaven!
The Living Creatures stop saying Holy! Holy! Holy!
Saints and Angels stop singing and praising. Heavenly music stops!
Heaven's harmonic sound system is interrupted by a long silent pause.

And we are not told why. We can only guess. My guess is that it is in contemplation of the judgment about to be released upon the earth. For the day of the LORD has come.

The Prayers of the Saints

Rev. 8:3 ¶ And another angel came and stood over the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should add it unto the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.
Rev. 8:4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand.
Rev. 8:5 And the angel taketh the censer; and he filled it with the fire of the altar, and cast it upon the earth: and there followed thunders, and voices, and lightnings, and an earthquake.

In commenting on Chapter 5:8, I asked you to note that the twenty-four elders held "golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints." Here again, we see that the prayers of the saints are before God and play a major part in what happens on earth.

I asked you to do this, because I want to relate something Sister Jeanne Wilkerson shared with me. She was a woman of much prayer and Bible study. And she was a true prophetess. I believe the Lord used her, more than any other person, to deliver His prophetic word to Dr. Kenneth E. Hagin. This began in the sixties when she walked into a church in Tulsa where Dr. Hagin was teaching. The Lord pointed her out to him and told him she was a prophet. Brother Hagin accepted her as standing in that office.

She was one of my God-given mentors. She shared the following at one of her own very special teaching sessions which she held somewhat regularly.

Sister Wilkerson was a champion of intercessory prayer. In teaching us, she related how she had literally kept a man alive for years with her intercession for him in his long battle with cancer. While she was out of town ministering, he passed away rather suddenly.

Perturbed, she went to the Lord and said something like, "I prayed for him for years. There's also another situation I've been praying about for years which has not gotten better. (She named it to the Lord.) You know that when I pray, it is real and not just a little 'Lord bless so-and-so.' I need answers. I don't like to waste my time. I don't like to waste my prayers."

At that, she was caught away to Heaven. There stood the man who had died. And there stood the Lord Jesus.

The man spoke first, "Sister Jeanne, don't feel badly that I came on to Heaven... There are things you don't know...."

Then he told her about the storing up of prayers. He said, "It works like a blood bank. I was a donor of blood on the earth. [She was unaware of this. Later she checked it out and found that earlier he'd donated blood regularly.] That blood was stored. And then when needed, it could be withdrawn. You are well known in the bank of prayer in Heaven. You have much stored. And you have a right to make withdrawals when you or yours need prayer...."

Then Jesus taught her to this effect, "Prayer is never wasted. Intercessory prayer is never ineffective. When the prayer is initially made for a person, a situation, a nation, the forces of Heaven are released to the object of the prayer. If the object of the prayer receives what Heaven sends, the answer is manifest in that case. But, if the prayer is unheeded, the prayer can become judgment...."

Then the Lord quoted to her Revelation 5:8 and Revelation 8:3-5. He said that it is the unheeded prayers for the earth that are poured out as judgments in the tribulation period.

The Seven Trumpets
Mid-Tribulation

Rev. 8:6 ¶ And the seven angels that had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

The first four angels sound trumpets releasing plagues.
Five of the plagues of Egypt are repeated during the tribulation period.

> Dr. Hilton Sutton, *Revelation Revealed*, page 110
> The plagues are controlled by the Two Witnesses who use them against the Antichrist throughout the last half of the tribulation as they deem necessary.

Rev. 8:7 ¶ And the first sounded, and there followed hail and fire, mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of the earth was burnt up, and the third part of the trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.

The Third Part of the Earth
The prophetic earth includes the lands surrounding the Mediterranean Sea. The Bible calls the Mediterranean Sea, The Great Sea. By the time of the Roman Empire, the Mediterranean Sea was as a huge lake surrounded by the Roman Empire. These were the lands of the Four Empires of Daniel. These are the nations that the O.T. prophets told their end. These are the nations Jesus told us to watch as signs of His Coming when said to "Behold the fig tree (Israel) and all the trees (the nations of prophecy)" (Luke 21:29-31).

> *The Numeric Bible, Hebrews to Revelation*
> The third part of the earth...The earth is not the globe, but the prophetic earth; and this is practically the territory of Daniel's four empires.

Rev. 8:8 ¶ And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood;
Rev. 8:9 and there died the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, even they that had life; and the third part of the ships was destroyed.

Does not say that it is a mountain, but something like a great mountain.
Possibly from space, a meteor, etc.

Rev. 8:10 ¶ And the third angel sounded, and there fell from heaven a great star, burning as a torch, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of the waters;
Rev. 8:11 and the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.

Personal Experience: April 26, 1986 was the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in the Ukraine. I was in Israel with the "Tone Down" tour. Chernobyl is a Ukrainian name for mugwort, a species of Artemisia, known as common wormwood—a bitter herb.
Much fear resulted from the disaster. Some even claimed the Chernobyl, or Wormwood disaster fulfilled this prophecy. It did not.

Belarus was the country most polluted by the fallout. On a later trip to Minsk, Belarus, we visited a hospital where the patients were all children affected by the widespread and terrible results of Chernobyl. I cannot describe the sights and suffering we saw. While Chernobyl did not fulfill the prophecy, it chillingly foreshadowed the disastrous effect of poisoned waters and food affected by something called Wormwood.

Revelation 8:12, 13. (Please read in your Bible.)

Compare with the Sixth Seal.
Signs preceding the Second Coming of Christ. (Luke 21:25-28.)

Syllabus
The Book of Revelation
Chapter 9

Rev. 9:1 And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven fallen unto the earth: and there was given to him the key of the pit of the abyss. (ASV)

The angel makes a rapid descent from Heaven. Has to be God's angel for the Master holds the keys of death and of hades (Rev. 1:18). This pit of the abyss, a bottomless pit, is a holding place, a dungeon. Not the lake of fire. (See Revelation 20:2,3.)
Prisons house and holding place until the resurrection of the wicked.

Personal Experience: In June 1989, I drove across Oklahoma from the northeastern part of the state where I lived to minister in a meeting for Pastor Charles Mendenhall in Guymon in the far west. It was a ten-hour drive. Along the way, I heard the Lord say in my spirit, "I want you to watch the news while you're in this meeting." He made me to know that something was going to happen regarding the end times, and He wanted me to watch....

I was going to preach on *The Glory of God and The Glorious Church*. Normally, when I preached, unless my subject involved current events as they revealed prophecy, I did not watch the news. But at the Lord's direction, I did so. And something did indeed happen.

The Ayatollah Khomeini died. He had led the 1979 Iranian Revolution that overthrew the friendly-to-the West Shah and turned Iran into a radical Islamic nation. As I watched the massive funeral procession (I'd been to a middle-east funeral), I knew the simple wooden coffin mourners were carrying high above their heads held the Ayatollah's shroud-wrapped body and was probably open. For later they would slip that body right out of the box and into the grave. "Our Father! Our Father," they cried hysterically. Suddenly, amidst the frenzy, I saw the Ayatollah fall out of his box! The screen went black.

> **Mourners Rip Shroud, Khomeini's Body Falls**
> June 7, 1989...Chicago Tribune
> TEHRAN—Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini went to his grave Tuesday amid scenes of emotional frenzy unmatched since the dramatic mass demonstrations that brought his Islamic republic to power 10 years ago.
>
> At one point, crowds of mourners brought Khomeini's funeral procession to a halt and, in a moment of hysteria, ripped his white shroud to pieces, causing the body to fall to the ground. It was swiftly recovered and carried by helicopter to the vast Behesht-e-Zahra cemetery on the southern outskirts of Tehran.

The Lord spoke to me. "I will show you where he is." Then he took me to a passage, which has to do with the judgments of the earth.

> **Is. 24:19** The earth is utterly broken, the earth is rent asunder, the earth is shaken violently.
> **Is. 24:20** The earth shall stagger like a drunken man, and shall sway to and fro like a hammock; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it, and it shall fall, and not rise again.
> **Is. 24:21** ¶ And it shall come to pass in that day, that Jehovah will punish the host of the high ones on high, **and the kings of the earth upon the earth.**
> **Is. 24:22 And they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison; and after many days shall they be visited.**
> **Is. 24:23** Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed; for Jehovah of hosts will reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem; and before his elders shall be glory. (ASV)

I saw that the Ayatollah was being held in the pit that is the holding place until the resurrection and judgment of the wicked. I was told that he was in a cell there. And I knew the identity of another of Israel's worst enemy's who was in the cell next to him.

It's worth a word to say that this passage gives three reasons why earth's kings and nations know such judgment.

> **Is. 24:4** The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the lofty people of the earth do languish.
> **Is. 24:5** The earth also is polluted under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant. (ASV)

The third is they broke "the everlasting covenant." The Word of our Covenant-Keeping God (Deut. 7:9) defines the everlasting covenant in Psalm 105:8-11 and 2 Chronicles 16:15-18.

> **Psa. 105:8** He hath remembered his covenant for ever,
> The word which he commanded to a thousand generations,
> **Psa. 105:9** *The covenant* which he made with Abraham,
> And his oath unto Isaac,
> **Psa. 105:10** And confirmed the same unto Jacob for a statute,
> To Israel for an everlasting covenant,
> **Psa. 105:11** Saying, Unto thee will I give the land of Canaan,
> The lot of your inheritance;

The judgment of the nations as nations immediately following the tribulation has solely to do with how they treated "His brethren the Jews" (Matthew 25:31-46).

> **Matt. 25:31** ¶ But when the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the angels with him, then shall he sit on the throne of his glory:
> **Matt. 25:32** and before him shall be gathered all the nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as the shepherd separateth the sheep from the goats; (ASV)

The Locust Plague
Revelation 9:3-23

- Demonic – Not natural. Natural locusts have no king (Prov. 30:27).
- Abaddon and Apollyon – Both names mean destroyer.
- A torture to which death is preferable, but not possible.

> Larkin: God's judgment is foremost in this infliction, but there is also Satan's power in it."

The Sixth Angel/Trumpet
The Second Woe

Rev. 9:13 ¶ And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the horns of the golden altar which is before God,
Rev. 9:14 one saying to the sixth angel that had the trumpet, Loose the four angels that are bound at the great river Euphrates.
Rev. 9:15 And the four angels were loosed, that had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, that they should kill the third part of men.

The Vast Army

Rev. 9:16 And the number of the armies of the horsemen was twice ten thousand times ten thousand: I heard the number of them.
Rev. 9:17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates as of fire and of hyacinth and of brimstone: and the heads of the horses are as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths proceedeth fire and smoke and brimstone.
Rev. 9:18 By these three plagues was the third part of men killed, by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone, which proceeded out of their mouths.
Rev. 9:19 For the power of the horses is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails are like unto serpents, and have heads; and with them they hurt.

In my study, I found different points of view. Again, we see through a glass darkly. Time will tell. To sum up, two prevailing views are: 1. Demonic armies. 2) Actual physical armies.

> Clarence Larkin, *The Book of Revelation*, page 79
> Satan has his armies, and among them horsemen...the 200,000,000 Horsemen mentioned here are Satan's Horsemen, for no such army of ordinary horsemen ever was, or ever could be4, assembled on this earth.

Dr. Hilton Sutton, *Revelation Revealed*, pages 116-121

The angels who rebelled with Satan against God were exiled to earth and bound in chains of darkness (Jude 6). These four angels of verse 14 are part of that company of fallen angels.

...given a fixed period of one year, one month, one day and one hour...to operate. During that time, they create a vehicle through which they will destroy one third of the people in their path. That vehicle is an awesome army of 200 million men equipped with weapons of tremendous military firepower...not natural horses...John is describing a military vehicle with awesome firepower which has taken the place of the horse...

Revelation 16 also relates the story of earth...and both events (Revelation 9 and 16) involve the river Euphrates.

> **Rev. 16:12** ¶ And the sixth poured out his bowl upon the great river, the *river* Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way might be made ready for the kings that *come* from the sunrising.

Only the Orient can produce a 200 million-man army...
Early in the last month of the seventh year of the tribulation, the Oriental army arrives at the then dry river Euphrates. The army crosses and turns south into...Israel... Its members gather into the Valley of Megiddo, which stretches into the plains of the Valley of Jezreel...for the Battle of ArMageddon.

The European and Mediterranean armies, under the leadership of the Antichrist and the False Prophet, also gather for the Battle of Armageddon.

The Oriental army is under the command of fallen angels, not of the Antichrist. The Orientals are on a collision course with the Antichrist, both forces attempting world conquest. When they discover a common foe—Jesus Christ—they combine forces to resist His return. Of course, their defeat is inevitable. On the final day of the tribulation, the Orientals and the armies of the Antichrist are destroyed in one hour. This accounts for the last month, one day, and one hour.

They Refuse to Give Up Their Sin

Rev. 9:20 And the rest of mankind, who were not killed with these plagues, repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and the idols of gold, and of silver, and of brass, and of stone, and of wood; which can neither see, nor hear, nor walk:
Rev. 9:21 and they repented not of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

It is a wonder to me, that even deep into the tribulation, first, that the offer to repent is still open, but most of all, that men refuse to repent.

Murder:	Violence. No regard for life.
Sorcery:	The Greek word is *pharmakeia*. Our word pharmacy comes from it. It includes drugs. Drug induced sorcery. Witchcraft. The occult.
Fornication:	All sexual immorality. Spiritual fornication includes idolatry.
Theft:	No regard for the rights or property of others.

Syllabus
The Book of Revelation
Chapter 10

Rev. 10:1 ¶ And I saw another strong angel coming down out of heaven, arrayed with a cloud; and the rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire;
Rev. 10:2 and he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left upon the earth;
Rev. 10:3 and he cried with a great voice, as a lion roareth: and when he cried, the seven thunders uttered their voices.
Rev. 10:4 And when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying, Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not.

> Not a few commentaries agree that this "mighty angel" *may* be the Lord Himself. The "little book" opened may be that of Old Testament prophecies. Including the prophecies of Daniel, once sealed, but now opened.

Rev. 10:6 and sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created the heaven and the things that are therein, and the earth and the things that are therein, and the sea and the things that are therein, that there shall be delay no longer:
Rev. 10:7 but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then is finished the mystery of God, according to the good tidings which he declared to his servants the prophets...

> The King James translation of verse 6, might lead to the misinterpretation that "time should be no longer." It simply means, as most translate, that there shall be no longer delay in fulfilling what was declared to the prophets.

Rev. 10:10 And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and when I had eaten it, my belly was made bitter.
Rev. 10:11 And they say unto me, Thou must prophesy again over many peoples and nations and tongues and kings.

> Perhaps the prophesying *again*, is what is contained in the O.T. prophets with additional revelation.

Syllabus
The Book of Revelation
Chapter 11

Rev. 11:1 ¶ And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and one said, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.
Rev. 11:2 And the court which is without the temple leave without, and measure it not; for it hath been given unto the nations [Gentiles]*: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.* (ASV)

The language and terms are Old Testament and Israel.
A reed, given here to John, is a measuring instrument.
In the prophecies of Zechariah, the measuring of the holy city indicated the assurance that it would be built. (Zechariah 2:1,2.)

The forty two months are the language of Daniel's prophecy. They show us this is in the middle of his seventieth week. (See Appendix: Daniel's Seventieth Week.)

The antichrist and his following have polluted the sanctuary (Daniel 11:12).
He has revealed his true being and has gone to the rebuilt sanctuary and proclaimed himself to be God (Matthew 24:13; 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4). (See Appendix: Seat of Satan.)

He might have held a press conference to make the announcement.
The Scriptures say that he proclaims himself to be God, but they do not not say that people believe him. It would be hard to believe that one was God who could not handle two witnesses!!!

The Two Witnesses

Rev. 11:3 And I will give unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.
Rev. 11:4 These are the two olive trees and the two candlesticks, standing before the Lord of the earth.
Rev. 11:5 And if any man desireth to hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth and devoureth their enemies; and if any man shall desire to hurt them, in this manner must he be killed.
Rev. 11:6 These have the power to shut the heaven, that it rain not during the days of their prophecy: and they have power over the waters

to turn them into blood, and to smite the earth with every plague, as often as they shall desire. (ASV)

Such power! Such authority! Who are they?

Before I began this study, I would have said they are Moses and Elijah. But nowhere in the Book of Revelation does it say who they are. There's no harm in speculation, just so long as we know that it is just that. Popular choices are:

Moses and Elijah
The Law and the Prophets
They were at the Mount of Transfiguration

Malachi 4:1 says, "I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord."
But Jesus said Elijah had come in John the Baptist (Matthew 17:10-13).
Perhaps two men in the time of the tribulation will also have upon them the spirit and power of Elijah as John did.

Enoch and Elijah
Neither died and the Bible says it is appointed unto man once to die.
However, some did die twice.
For instance, Lazarus, the son of the widow of Nain, Dorcas, etc...

So much of The Book of Revelation is still a mystery. And again, time will tell.

Rev. 11:7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that cometh up out of the abyss shall make war with them, and overcome them, and kill them.
Rev. 11:8 And their dead bodies lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.
Rev. 11:9 And from among the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations do men look upon their dead bodies three days and a half, and suffer not their dead bodies to be laid in a tomb.
Rev. 11:10 And they that dwell on the earth rejoice over them, and make merry; and they shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwell on the earth.

When they have finished their testimony, and not before, the Lord allows the antichrist to kill them. Their bodies are put on display in Jerusalem for three and ½ days.

The antichrist and his devotees have taken over the city of Jerusalem and so polluted it, the atmosphere has become like Sodom [sexual debauchery] and Egypt [false gods, persecution of the Jews].

A heinous world-wide party! People rejoice and send gifts to one another.

The prophets who pointed out their sin and rebellion, and ultimate defeat, are dead!

Can you imagine! And can you imagine their surprise when before the eyes of the world the two witnesses raised up from the dead!!!

Rev. 11:11 And after the three days and a half the breath of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them that beheld them.
Rev. 11:12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they went up into heaven in the cloud; and their enemies beheld them.
Rev. 11:13 And in that hour there was a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell; and there were killed in the earthquake seven thousand persons: and the rest were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven. (ASV)

> Personal Experience: We had a genius on our board of directors for many years. This southern gentleman was Clyde McGee. He was one of three men who developed and launched the first synchronous orbit satellites. Before that satellites went straight up a relatively few miles and orbited around the earth. Satellites in geosynchronous orbit with the earth, and going up thousands of miles, was a great advance. [If Clyde were still here, he would give me the correct figures.] This development allowed our telecommunication of today. Clyde was the ATS launch operations manager for Hughes Aircraft at NASA. At one time he had launched and maintained more satellites than any other person.
>
> Eufaula, Clyde's wife, was a person of prayer and Bible study.
> She asked Clyde, "Honey, be sure to tell me when you launch the satellite that will allow something to be seen all over the world at once."
> And one day he told her, "The next one is it."
> Eufaula said, "This is the fulfillment of prophecy. This is how they will see all over the world the resurrection of the two witnesses!"
>
> And that's how it is. In the natural, as well as the supernatural. Time brings with it enlightenment of the fulfilling of what the Prophets said.

When you read the rest of the chapter in your own Bibles, take note of this verse:

Rev. 11:18 And the nations were wroth, and thy wrath came, and the time of the dead to be judged, and the time to give their reward to thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and to them that fear thy name, the small and the great; and to destroy them that destroy the earth.

He does not destroy the earth. He destroys those who destroy the earth.

> **Nah. 1:2** ¶ ... Jehovah taketh vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth ***wrath*** for his enemies.

Syllabus
The Book of Revelation
Chapter 12
Informational

Dr. Hilton Sutton, *Revelation Revealed*, page 143
This chapter is the prime example of John's adherence to the instructions of writing that which is past, present, and future (Revelation 1:19). John writes the historical record in order for it to support the story of the future. By inspiration of the Holy Spirit, John ties together past and future events, giving insight into the entire story of Israel and Jesus Christ in relation to The Revelation.

Brim Note: A scriptural precedent in the Word of God is what is known as The Song of Moses—Deuteronomy 32. In this song the LORD proclaims, "For the LORD's portion is His people: Jacob is the lot of His inheritance" (Deuteronomy 32:9).

> David Baron, *Israel in the Plan of God*, (page 17).
> This sublime song (Deuteronomy 32), which for loftiness of style and sublimity of language has scarcely anything to equal it...has been described by an old German writer, as "God's Manifesto" in relation to the Jewish nation. It is, indeed, a condensed but very comprehensive prophecy, setting forth all the dealings of God with that nation—past, present, and future. In a very ancient Midrashic work, older than the Talmud, the exposition of this chapter closes with the exclamation: "How great is this Song! In it is to be found the present, the past, the future, and the events of the age to come" (*Sifre debe Rab*).

Rev. 12:1 *¶ And a great sign was seen in heaven: a woman arrayed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars;*
Rev. 12:2 *and she was with child; and she crieth out, travailing in birth, and in pain to be delivered.*

The woman is Israel. (See Joseph's dream: Genesis 37:9, 10.)
The Child she is to be delivered of is The Messiah. The New Testament clearly states that it is Israel "of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came"(Romans 9:4, 5).

Rev. 12:3 *And there was seen another sign in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his heads seven diadems.*
Rev. 12:4 *And his tail draweth the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon standeth before the woman that is about to be delivered, that when she is delivered he may devour her child.*

Satan (*Adversary* in Hebrew) has known the Promised Seed was coming since the Garden. It is an amazing study to see how he opposed Israel's seed down through History. Sometimes he got as close as he could. The Seed was eventually marked to come from Judah. Judah would have died childless had it not been for the misunderstood actions of Tamar to deceive him into conceiving a son. (Genesis 38. Notice particularly verse 26. "And Judah acknowledged *them*, and said, She hath been more righteous than I;)
Atheliah destroyed all the heirs to David's throne but one baby boy who was hidden. Satan was the ancient adversary. At the birth of Jesus, he was suspicious of the Magi from the East following a star. None of his efforts availed. He was not able to kill that Seed until he played into God's hand and Jesus was offered upon the altar of the Cross, the perfect sacrifice, the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world for the sins of humanity.

And at that time, He, the Jewish Messiah was cut off exactly as Gabriel told the Prophet Daniel in answer to his intercessions for "my people Israel...." (Daniel 9:20).

Rev. 12:5 *And she was delivered of a son, a man child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and unto his throne.*

Satan is the dragon.
A third of the angels followed him in rebellion.
Scripture is clear that the Child who will rule all nations with a rod of iron is Jesus (Revelation 19:15).
And, of course He was caught up to Heaven to be seated at the right hand of the Father.

Rev. 12:6 *And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that there they may nourish her a thousand two hundred and threescore days.*

Here we have the Lord's protection of the remnant of Israel during the last half of Daniel's seventieth week. (See Appendix: Daniel's Seventieth Week.)

Rev. 12:7 ¶ *And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels going forth to war with the dragon; and the dragon warred and his angels;*
Rev. 12:8 *and they prevailed not, neither was their place found any more in heaven.*
Rev. 12:9 *And the great dragon was cast down, the old serpent, he that is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world; he was cast down to the earth, and his angels were cast down with him.*

I see this war as past, as did Dr. Sutton.

> Billye Brim, *The Blood and the Glory*, (pages 30, 31).
> The criteria for God's work is that it is "perfect" and "glorious" (Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 111:3). Therefore the beings He designed to work with Him must contain a

certain "thing." That "thing" is dangerous to the Creator. But His created beings would be nothing more than puppets without it. That "thing" is a free will.

God is not a creator of Pinocchio's, nor even of marvelous looking humanoid creatures programmed by microchips to worship and obey Him without fail...Worship is only meaningful when the worshipper wills to worship. Obedience can bring God pleasure only when the "obeyer" chooses to obey.

One's will is his "chooser." With it he makes the choices which determine his eternal destiny.

God gave Lucifer—as He gave all the angels—a free will in the day of his creation. Lucifer must have used it to worship and please God for some measure of Eternity. How long the Bible does not reveal. But it does reveal that he was the first to turn his will against the Father's and that caused his fall.

How did he fall? How did it happen? The following passage gives the answer. (Satan is not in hell now. But when he goes there, earth's kings that he deceived are waiting on him. They are imprisoned awaiting final judgment. Astonished at his weakness, they ask the question, "How art thou fallen?")

> **Is. 14:9** Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet *thee* at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, *even* all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations.
> **Is. 14:10** All they shall speak and say unto thee, Art thou also become weak as we? art thou become like unto us?
> **Is. 14:11** Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, *and* the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee.
> **Is. 14:12** How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!
> **Is. 14:13** For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:
> **Is. 14:14** I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.
> **Is. 14:15** Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.
> **Is. 14:16** They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, *and* consider thee, *saying, Is* this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;
> **Is. 14:17** *That* made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; *that* opened not the house of his prisoners?

Lucifer's five treasonous "I wills" reveal much.

"I will ascend into heaven." His kingdom was in a place from which he had to go up to carry out his rebellious plan.

"I will exalt my throne above the stars of God." Lucifer had a throne, and therefore a kingdom.

"I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north." This describes the place of God's throne. Lucifer was after the throne of God.

"I will ascend above the heights of the clouds." The atmosphere of Lucifer's kingdom included clouds—clouds he would surmount in an attempt to exalt his throne. many Bible scholars agree that his kingdom was here on earth. it was "the world that then was" (2 Peter 3:5, 6).

"I will be like the most High." All this entails we do not know. But his later temptation of Jesus reveals that he wanted to receive rather than to give worship.

There was a real *star wars*!

Lucifer deceived even one third of the angels and led an organized revolt against the Most High God.

What was the outcome?

Jesus told us. "And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven" (Luke 10:18).

Rev. 12:10 *And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.*
Rev. 12:11 *And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.*

"The accuser of our brethren." How telling.
It is he who accuses us. Before God. To the world. To each other. And to ourselves.
I am not perfect at it, but I make a very conscious effort not to be on his side as the accuser of the brethren.

How marvelous that we can overcome him!
How marvelous the always-overcoming power of the blood of the Lamb!
How marvelous the word of our testimony as to the efficacy of the power of the blood!
There are those in the scope of things who give their lives in martyrdom.
There are many more who give up personal ambitions and yearnings to serve the Master.

Rev. 12:12 *Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe for the earth and for the sea: because the devil is gone down unto you, having great wrath, knowing that he hath but a short time.*

The Greek word translated "time" is *kairos*, a fixed time.
Adam was granted a six-day work week—a day being a thousand years.
Legally, but not morally, Adam turned over his authority to Satan.
Satan knows when Adam's lease is up.
With great wrath, he is now desperately fighting for his survival.

Rev. 12:13-17
Satan knows that if he can stop God's Word from coming to pass, he can defeat God.
God has spoken much regarding His portion among the nations, Israel and the Promised Land. His people and His Land (Joel 3:2).
For thousands of years, the adversary of God has attempted to keep those words from coming to pass by persecution of Israel. Through the Romans, through the Crusades, the Inquisition, Russian Pogroms, the Holocaust, Anti-Semitism etc., he has attempted to wipe out the relatively small number of Jews in the world. And he will continue it until their Messiah comes on His white horse to banish Satan to the pit. God protects "the woman" till then.

Syllabus
The Book of Revelation
Chapter 13

Introduces the Satanic Trinity

The Dragon, Satan	Counterfeit of The Father
The Antichrist	Counterfeit of The Son, The Christ, The Messiah
The False Prophet	Counterfeit of The Holy Spirit

Rev. 13:1 and he stood upon the sand of the sea.
And I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns ten diadems, and upon his heads names of blasphemy.

The beast is both a person and a system. The beast system upon which the beast, the Antichrist, operates is a conglomerate of the beasts of Daniel's visions.

> **Dan. 7:2** Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of heaven brake forth upon the great sea.
> **Dan. 7:3** And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.
> **Dan. 7:4** The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made to stand upon two feet as a man; and a man's heart was given to it.
> **Dan. 7:5** And, behold, another beast, a second, like to a bear; and it was raised up on one side, and three ribs were in its mouth between its teeth: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.
> **Dan. 7:6** After this I beheld, and, lo, another, like a leopard, which had upon its back four wings of a bird; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.
> **Dan. 7:7** After this I saw in the night-visions, and, behold, a fourth beast, terrible and powerful, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth; it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with its feet: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.

Daniel 7:2, 3, declares they came up from The Great Sea. The Great Sea in the O.T. is The Mediterranean Sea. The Four Empires were vast, stretching all around the Mediterranean. By the time of the Roman Empire, that Sea was like a lake

surrounded by the Empire of Rome. This shows us the prophetic earth. It limits the scope of the antichrist's greatest authority.

Rev. 13:2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his throne, and great authority.

The conglomerate beast of the tribulation carries attributes of the Four Empires.
The body of the beast is like unto a leopard. Greece. Grecian in appearance.
Long ago, I noticed a scripture concerning the antichrist which caused me to do not a little study.

> **Dan. 8:21** And the rough he-goat is the king of Greece: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king. [Alexander the Great]
> **Dan. 8:22** And as for that which was broken, in the place whereof four stood up, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not with his power.
> **Dan. 8:23** And **in the latter time of their kingdom,** when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up.
> **Dan. 8:24** And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper and do *his pleasure*; and he shall destroy the mighty ones and the holy people.
> **Dan. 8:25** And through his policy he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and in *their* security shall he destroy many: he shall also stand up against the prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.

Alexander the Great headed the great Grecian Empire. He died in Babylon at the young age of 33, having conquered so much of the prophetic earth. His kingdom was divided among four of his generals, just as the Lord prophesied.

The phrase that drew my attention was, "in the latter time of their kingdom."
I see that the beast system of Revelation is the old Roman Empire revived.
Yet this refers to the antichrist arising "in the latter times of the kingdom of Greece."

Many years ago, I came across a set of Time Life books on the empires. There I found the answer. The books brought out that the Greek Empire left the biggest footprint on our society. So much that we have is of Greek origin. (Philosophy. Democracy. Sport. Olympics. Gymnasium. Art and an ideal of beauty. Architecture. Medicine. Theatre. Biology. Geometry. Epic and Lyric Poetry. Tragedy and Comedy. Etc.) The Time Life books said, "Rome brought little new. They promulgated Grecia."

And so we see in Revelation 13:2 that the body, the largest part, of the conglomerate beast is the leopard representing Greece.

"...and the dragon gave him his power, and his throne, and great authority..."

The dragon is Satan.
People say Satan has no power.
If that is so, how could he give the beast system and the antichrist power and authority?
Jesus has conquered him, and given us authority over him, but he is still on the loose.
Satan gives the antichrist power (dunamis) and authority.
And he gives him a throne.

Rev. 13:3 *And I saw one of his heads as though it had been smitten unto death; and his death-stroke was healed: and the whole earth wondered after the beast;*

Dr. Hilton Sutton sees the beast as a satanic system of governments, commerce, and religion.

> Dr. Hilton Sutton, *Revelation Revealed*, pages 160-162
> ...the Beast is more than a man. The Beast refers to an entire system and two men. Some teachers declare that the man who heads the Beast System, the Antichrist, will be assassinated, then resurrected by the False Prophet... It would be impossible for the False Prophet to resurrect the Antichrist, because only God the Holy Ghost has resurrection power, and He would not resurrect this ungodly man.
>
> One of the Beast's heads is wounded unto death. Each head represents a kingdom. Because the seal of Daniel 12 has been lifted, we know from studying the biblical and historical records that the Beast's fatal wound is the destruction of one of the great empires, the Roman Empire.
>
> The fall of the Roman Empire causes the demise of the entire system, which will indeed be resurrected by Satan, amazing all the world.
>
> ...it is the system, not the man who is mortally wounded.

Rev. 13:4 *and they worshipped the dragon* [Satan], *because he gave his authority unto the beast; and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? and who is able to war with him?*
Rev. 13:5 *and there was given to him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and there was given to him authority to continue forty and two months.*

> Dr. Hilton Sutton, *Revelation Revealed*, page 163
> ...the man who will become the Antichrist does not take this image upon himself until the last half of the Tribulation. During the first half he attempts to pass himself off as a man of peace.
>
> He will be an outstanding leader of the European states, a diplomat of the first order. We know this because Daniel 9:26 tell us that "...the people (Rome) of the prince who is to come (the Antichrist) shall destroy the city (Jerusalem) and the sanctuary (the Temple). This occurred between 68-70 AD with the Roman empire...
>
> Using his ability to combine the governments, commerce, military, and religion...he affects the resurrection of the Beast system.

Brim note: Please see "Appendix: Seat of Satan," and "Appendix: The Image of Europe."

Rev. 13:6 And he opened his mouth for blasphemies against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, even them that dwell in the heaven.
Rev. 13:7 7And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and there was given to him authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation.

The Church is in Heaven. The saints are Israel.

Please see "Appendix: The Antichrist" for a list of Scriptures concerning him.

Another Beast
The False Prophet

Rev. 13:11 ¶ And I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like unto a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.
Rev. 13:12 And he exerciseth all the authority of the first beast in his sight. And he maketh the earth and them that dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose death-stroke was healed.
Rev. 13:13 And he doeth great signs, that he should even make fire to come down out of heaven upon the earth in the sight of men.
Rev. 13:14 And he deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by reason of the signs which it was given him to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast who hath the stroke of the sword and lived.
Rev. 13:15 And it was given unto him to give breath to it, even to the image of the breast, 11that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as should not 12worship the image of the beast should be killed.
Rev. 13:16 And he causeth all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free and the bond, that there be given them a mark on their right hand, or upon their forehead;
Rev. 13:17 and that no man should be able to buy or to sell, save he that hath the mark, even the name of the beast or the number of his name.
Rev. 13:18 Here is wisdom. He that hath understanding, let him count the number of the beast; for it is the number of a man: and his number is 13Six hundred and sixty and six.

There is no salvation for those taking the mark of Satan.

Syllabus
The Book of Revelation
Chapters 14, 15
Informational

Revelation, Chapter 14

Verses 1-5
The 144,000 (See Chapter 7)

Rev. 14:6 ¶ And I saw another angel flying in mid heaven, having eternal good tidings to proclaim unto them that dwell on the earth, and unto every nation and tribe and tongue and people;
Rev. 14:7 and he saith with a great voice, Fear God, and give him glory; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made the heaven and the earth and sea and fountains of waters. (ASV)

> No need for conjecture. We are given the words of the gospel the angel preaches.

Verse 8
Babylon is Fallen – (See Appendix: The Babylonian System)

Verses 9-11
No Salvation for those who receive the mark of the beast.

Dr. Hilton Sutton, *Revelation Revealed*, pages 189, 190
The remainder of Revelation 14 previews the forthcoming Battle of Armageddon. Christ is pictured preparing to harvest the whole earth. This event involves His return when He takes over all governments. Chapter 19 describes the Battle in greater detail.

Rev. 14:14 ¶ And I saw, and behold, a white cloud; and on the cloud I saw one sitting like unto a son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.
Rev. 14:15 And another angel came out from the 1otemple, crying with a great voice to him that sat on the cloud, Send forth thy sickle, and reap: for the hour to reap is come; for the harvest of the earth is 11ripe.
Rev. 14:16 And he that sat on the cloud cast his sickle upon the earth; and the earth was reaped.

Revelation, Chapter 15
The severity of the seven last plagues and the vials full of the wrath of God.

Syllabus
The Book of Revelation
Chapter 16

We have already met the subjects expounded upon herein.

I shall comment on a few verses.

God, The Judge of All
יהוה

Rev. 16:5 And I heard the angel of the waters saying, Righteous art thou, who art and who wast, thou Holy One, because thou didst thus judge:
Rev. 16:6 for they poured out the blood of saints and prophets, and blood hast thou given them to drink: they are worthy.
Rev. 16:7 And I heard the altar saying, Yea, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.

Verse 12
The kings of the east. See comments on Chapter 9.
Also, Daniel 11:44: Tidings out of the east trouble the antichrist.

Rev. 16:15 (Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.)

The description of his coming as a thief has to do with the day of the Lord and these times, and not with the rapture of the church. (See 1 Thessalonians 5:2.)

Rev. 16:13 And I saw coming out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits, as it were frogs:
Rev. 16:14 for they are spirits of demons, working signs; which go forth unto the kings of the whole world, to gather them together unto the war of the great day of God, the Almighty.
Rev. 16:16 And they gathered them together into the place which is called in Hebrew Har-magedon.

The Beast system gathers forces for the final battle.

Syllabus
The Book of Revelation
Chapter 17

See Appendix: The Babylonian System

Rev. 17:1 ¶ And there came one of the seven angels that had the seven bowls, and spake with me, saying, Come hither, I will show thee the judgment of the great harlot that sitteth upon many waters;
Rev. 17:2 with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and they that dwell in the earth were made drunken with the wine of her fornication.

Many commentators see "the great harlot" as false religion.

The Numerical Bible, pages 460, 461
The woman here is a harlot in guilty relation with the kings of the earth...
She has managed to divorce morality from religion...
"Babylon the great" means "Confusion the great."

Dr. Hilton Sutton, *Revelation Revealed*, pages 171-173, 180
The harlot is the personification of false religion. She is the amalgamation of all man's religion into one organization. Fornication refers to [includes] false religion...the harlot is carrying on an affair with the Beast...The harlot...has been supported by the Beast System from its beginnings...Mystery is the first name...She is of a religious nature, mystical, spiritualistic. Close historical examination reveals that she dominated the seven great empires supporting her. It is not surprising to note that spiritualist mediums or people who practiced witchcraft controlled the leaders of the great empires from the time of Egypt until the fall of the Roman Empire...The harlot has operated over a vast period of time...

When the Antichrist is ready to pursue his ambition to become God, he must destroy the religious system in order to rule unopposed as the spiritual leader.

Rev. 17:16 And the ten horns which thou sawest, and the beast, these shall hate the harlot, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and shall burn her utterly with fire.
Rev. 17:17 For God did put in their hearts to do his mind, and to come to one mind, and to give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God should be accomplished.

The Revived Roman Empire

Rev. 17:8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and is about to come up out of the abyss, and to go into perdition. And they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, they whose name hath not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast, how that he was, and is not, and shall come.

Rev. 17:11 And the beast that was, and is not, is himself also an eighth, and is of the seven; and he goeth into perdition.

Rev. 17:12 And the ten horns that thou sawest are ten kings, who have received no kingdom as yet; but they receive authority as kings, with the beast, for one hour.
Rev. 17:13 These have one mind, and they give their power and authority unto the beast.
Rev. 17:14 These shall war against the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them, for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings; and they also shall overcome that are with him, called and chosen and faithful.

As I have mentioned in the previous chapters, and especially in the Appendices, I have for years gone to Brussels and searched out the ten-toed, and ten-horned, multi-headed Roman Empire revived as in the European Union.

Much conjecture has been put forth about the number ten.
I reached a measure of satisfaction about it in the following personal experience.

Several years ago we were at Parliament on a special day when it was promoting the idea of "Regions." We slipped into a session with Ireland. They were being "sold" on "saying yes to everything" (See Appendix: The Image of Europe, Picture of geese in flight.) The Irish delegation was made up of representatives of a section of their populace seeking badly needed roads. The parliamentarian said to them, "We have to stop thinking of ourselves as individual countries, and begin to think of ourselves as regions." He mentioned some names of regions, as that was the idea being sold everywhere that day. The one I remember was the Madrid region.

The thought came to me. *We have always thought ten nations. But the number ten is all the Bible really reveals.* That there will be ten is absolutely without doubt. The government will be made up of ten "somethings" no matter what they turn out to be.

They will give their power and authority to the beast (verse 13).
They will be the platform from which the antichrist and the system operates.

Of course, it is God who is in ultimate control, and those who must be judged, will play right into His hands.

Syllabus
The Book of Revelation
Chapter 18

Rev. 18:1 ¶ After these things I saw another angel coming down out of heaven, having great authority; and the earth was lightened with his glory.
Rev. 18:2 And he cried with a mighty voice, saying, Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, and is become a habitation of demons, and a hold of every unclean spirit, and a hold of every unclean and hateful bird.
Rev. 18:3 For by the wine of the wrath of her fornication all the nations are fallen; and the kings of the earth committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth waxed rich by the power of her wantonness.
Rev. 18:4 ¶ And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come forth, my people, out of her, that ye have no fellowship with her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues:
Rev. 18:5 for her sins have reached even unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

For my comments and thoughts on this chapter, please see "Appendix: The Babylonian System."

I would only add this comment on verse 4.
Evidently there are those of His own on the earth "having fellowship with her sins."
He calls them "out of bed with her," so to speak. So I will repeat the following comment from The Numerical Bible:

The Numerical Bible, *Hebrews to Revelation*, Page 289
The future before the world is largely, alas, made up of judgment, although it is true that the judgment is for a blessing which lies beyond it, and which is as bright as God can make it. Yet the judgment is emphatically a judgment of the world as it is, a judgment in which the whole present fashion of it passes away; and how important that we should know *why* it should pass away, and now to apprehend the mind of God with regard to that which He is going to judge! In this way prophecy is of the most practical nature, and a grand help to real holiness; that is to a separation from evil which necessarily is found in fellowship with Him. If there are things with which finally it will be see that He cannot allow to go on, then how clearly this must enter into our present estimate of them!

...God's moral ways...the end will perfectly bring them out.

Syllabus
The Book of Revelation
Chapter 19

Rev. 19:1 ¶ And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:
Rev. 19:2 For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.
Rev. 19:3 And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever.
Rev. 19:4 And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.
Rev. 19:5 ¶ And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. (KJV)

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

Rev. 19:6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.
Rev. 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.
Rev. 19:8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.
Rev. 19:9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God. (KJV)

Hallelujah! For the Lord God Omnipotent Reigneth

If we could include sound here, you would hear me singing this line form Handel's Messiah. This is our wedding music, I believe. And George Handel wrote it.
I've read much about his writing the music for *The Messiah*.

> **CBN News, December 26, 2012** (Originally aired on December 16, 2011.)
> Handel is believed to have composed "Messiah" in only 24 days. Many believe it was divinely inspired…
> It's said that Handel never left his house during those three weeks, and a friend who visited discovered him sobbing with intense emotion.

> After he wrote the "Hallelujah" chorus, Handel was quoted as saying, "I did think I did see all heaven before me, and the Great God Himself."
> ...George Frideric Handel did not want the credit.
> At the end of "Messiah," Handel wrote the letters "SDG" for Soli Deo Gloria, which means, "To God Alone the Glory."

The Lord is taking quite a number of people to Heaven now and sending them back with a report of its Glory. Brother Kenneth E. Hagin told me this would happen just before Jesus came, and that I was to write a book about it. Well, it is happening and they are writing their own books. Several have said they were told how music is composed there and sent to earth through those who can receive it.

Weddings of the Kings and Queens of earth's royalty through the ages do not compare with The Marriage of the Lamb and His Bride, The Glorious Church.

The Church, The Bride

The Lord Jesus declared Himself as the Bridegroom.
(Matthew 9:15, Mark 2:19, 20; Luke 5:34, 35.)

He is the most Glorious Bridegroom ever there was, or ever will be.
He will have the most Glorious Bride ever there was, or ever will be.
He will have us ready. We will be The Glorious Church before we leave.

> **Eph. 5:25** ¶ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,
> **Eph. 5:26** so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,
> **Eph. 5:27** that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.
> **Eph. 5:28** So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;
> **Eph. 5:29** for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church,
> **Eph. 5:30** because we are members of His body.
> **Eph. 5:31** FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.
> **Eph. 5:32** This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. (NAS95S)

I used the New American Standard Revised here because it, like the Amplified and others, correctly translates the pronoun "her" rather than "it." In fact everywhere in the N.T. where the word *ecclesia* is used, it is feminine. (Though the best translation of *ecclesia* would be assembly, it is most often translated church.)

The picture in Ephesians 5:26 is that of the Bridegroom preparing His beloved as a bride is prepared in the East. The Bible is an Eastern book. To understand, see how Esther was prepared to go before the king (Esther 2:12).

Presentation of the Bride

Notice in verse 27 that He prepared her for *presentation* to Himself. I like the King James translation's using "a Glorious Church."

> **Eph. 5:27** That he might present it [her] to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it [she] should be holy and without blemish.

[For what immediately precedes "The Presentation" of the church, see Appendix: The Rapture.]

> **2Cor. 11:2** For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. (KJV)

> **2Cor. 4:14** Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you. (KJV)

> **Jude 24** Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, (KJV)

New Jerusalem, Home of the Bride

My dear friend and mentor, Dr. Hilton Sutton (and you can see from this syllabus how much we agreed on) did not see that the church is the bride of Christ.
He saw New Jerusalem as the bride based on the following:

Rev. 21:9 ¶ And there came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls, who were laden with the seven last plagues; and he spake with me, saying, Come hither, I will show thee the bride, the wife of the Lamb.
Rev. 21:10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

This is a Hebrew idiom.
For instance when one says Israel, it can mean either of two things, or both of them together: the Land, or the people, or both. They go together.

Consider these examples:

> **Matt. 3:4** And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.
> **Matt. 3:5** Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan,

The city of Jerusalem and its buildings did not go out to see John.
The people did. Jerusalem can mean the city, or the people of the city.

> **Matt. 23:37** O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *thou* that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee,

The city and its buildings did not kill the prophets. The people did.
Throughout the Bible when Jerusalem is named, it can mean the city, or it can mean its people. Or, it can mean both together.

It is the same with Heavenly Jerusalem.
We were born there (Galatians 4:23). We are born from above (John 3).
We are citizens of Heaven right now (Philippians 3:20).
Our minds and affections are to be placed there (Col. 3:1-4).
We are seated there now, from there we are to rule and reign now (Eph. 2:4-7; Ro. 5:17).

Heavenly Jerusalem is *The Place* He prepared for His Bride (John 14).
The Place (Ha Makom in Hebrew) has special meaning. Too much to go into here. But to appreciate earthly Jerusalem being *The Place* of Israel, and of Heavenly Jerusalem being *The Place* that Jesus prepared for His Bride, you can get my teaching on this wonderful truth: *Ha Makom.*

The Last Adam

An argument I once heard put forth that we are not His bride had to do with the church being referred to as "he" in the following:

> **2Th. 2:7** For the mystery of lawlessness doth already work: only *there is* one that restraineth now, until he be taken out of the way.

He is a pronoun. In every place where the word *ekklesia* translated church is used it is feminine. However, even the pronoun *he* is no problem.

We are the Body of Christ.
He is the Head. We are His Body.
This fits with our being one with Him (Ephesians 5:30-32).

He is called "The Last Adam."

> **Gen. 5:1** ¶ This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him;
> **Gen. 5:2** Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.

They were one body in the day they were created. Their name was Adam. It was not until they were separated, and even after their fall that Adam named her *Chaya*, Eve (Genesis 3:20).

The Lord builded her from one side of Adam.
The Hebrew word is *tsela* (side). It has come to be translated rib, but its meaning is side.
As she was taken from his side, we are taken from the riven side of our Lord.

> **Eph. 5:30** because we are members of His body.
> **Eph. 5:31** FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.
> **Eph. 5:32** This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. (NAS95S)

It is a mystery! A great glorious mystery! We cannot really understand it now, but I believe there is overwhelming scriptural proof that the Church is The Bride of Christ!

Rev. 19:10 And I fell down before his feet to worship him. And he saith unto me, See thou do it not: I am a fellow-servant with thee and with thy brethren that hold the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

The marriage scene is so glorious that John falls down to worship his heavenly guide.
The guide refuses the worship and identifies himself as one of us.

The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of all true prophecy.

Rev. 19:11 ¶ And I saw the heaven opened; and behold, a white horse, and he that sat thereon called Faithful and True; and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.
Rev. 19:12 And his eyes are a flame of fire, and upon his head are many diadems; and he hath a name written which no one knoweth but he himself.
Rev. 19:13 And he is arrayed in a garment sprinkled with blood: and his name is called The Word of God.
Rev. 19:14 And the armies which are in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and pure.
Rev. 19:15 And out of his mouth proceedeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness of the wrath of God, the Almighty.
Rev. 19:16 And he hath on his garment and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

The scene changes!
King Jesus leaves Heaven to settle things on earth.
When He came to meet the church in the air, his purpose was to make love.
Now He goes to put his feet down on earth, with fire in His eyes, and his purpose is to judge and make war.

On the earth, the antichrist too has prepared to make war.
He gathered his forces to Armageddon (Revelation 16:16).
War has spread over the land, and he has besieged Jerusalem.

> **Zech. 14:1** ¶ Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.
> **Zech. 14:2** For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.
> **Zech. 14:3** Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.
> **Zech. 14:4** And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which *is* before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, *and there shall be* a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

Just as the antichrist thinks he's at last succeeded in wiping out Israel, he looks up and sees Israel's Messiah coming on a White Horse.
Earth's rightful King has come to dispossess the usurpers.

He may be shocked, for even some Bible teachers regard the white horse as allegorical. But it is not. He's riding the real white horse of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

And the armies, which were in Heaven, are following Him on white horses.
The armies are not on earth, trying to make earth ready for the King, as some teachings declared. They follow Him from Heaven on their own white horses.

A most revealing name of God is Jehovah of Hosts.
David Baron writes concerning this covenant name, "He is the Lord of all things, at whose call all created forces must marshal themselves as if for war...."
He is Jehovah of armies.
The Church is His army.
Israel is His army.
The stars are His army.
Hailstones are His army.
The angels are His army.
He is Jehovah of Hosts.
And He goes forth to fight against those nations who have fallen into His trap.

Each member of His bride, arrayed in fine linen, rides a mount that is gaited to how closely that person followed the Lord in the earth life.
(On the BVOV program, available on DVD and CD, I shared Mrs. Jeanne Wilkerson's amazing revelation of this.)

Rev. 19:17 ¶ And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in mid heaven, Come and be gathered together unto the great supper of God;
Rev. 19:18 that ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses and of them that sit thereon, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, and small and great.

The great birds were summoned long ago. Israel is a land bridge between three continents, Europe, Asia, and Africa. During migration the huge birds ride the thermals over Israel. The rabbis, in considering the war of Ezekiel 38 and 39, think it might occur in the autumn, a time of migration.

When Israel gave up the Sinai to Egypt to make peace, they were left with only the small air space over their country, which is the size of New Jersey. They began to lose fighter planes to the big birds. In dealing with the problem, they discovered they could exactly predict the times of the migrations.

The Antichrist and the False Prophet

Rev. 19:19 ¶ And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat upon the horse, and against his army.
Rev. 19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought the signs in his sight, wherewith he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast and them that 12worshipped his image: they two were cast alive into the lake of fire that burneth with brimstone:
Rev. 19:21 and the rest were killed with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, even the sword which came forth out of his mouth: and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

Two of the unholy trinity are cast into the lake of fire.
And what of the dragon?

Syllabus
The Book of Revelation
Chapter 20

Rev. 20:1 ¶ And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.
Rev. 20:2 And he laid hold on the dragon, the old serpent, which is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years,
Rev. 20:3 and cast him into the abyss, and shut it, and sealed it over him, that he should deceive the nations no more, until the thousand years should be finished: after this he must be loosed for a little time. (ASV)

Satan does not yet go to the lake of fire.
He goes to the pit of holding for the 1000 year duration of the Millennium—the seventh 1000 year day after Adam's work week of six 1000 year days. The Millennial Sabbath.
Why is this?

Judgment of the Nations

The *goyim*, the nations as nations, are judged on how they treated the separated nation, chosen by Jehovah to reveal Himself to the nations. That judgment is going on now in our day. Jerusalem is a particular touchstone (Zechariah 12:1-3).

When Jesus, the King of Kings comes back on His white horse of power, judgments of the nations takes place as follows.

All judgment takes place in Jerusalem. When the Lord touches His feet on the Mount of Olives, a new valley is created. God judges the nations there as follows:

> **Joel 3:2** I will gather all nations and will bring them down into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, and there will I deal with *and* execute judgment upon them for [their treatment of] My people and of My heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations and [because] they have divided My land. (Amplified)

Shaphat is Hebrew for judge. *Jeho* is Jehovah. *Jehoshaphat* is Jehovah shall judge.
Notice that He calls Israel "My people" and "My heritage Israel."
He judges them for their treatment of His People and His Land.
"They have divided My Land." It is a serious thing for a nation, or a leader in a nation to design or support the dividing of Israel, and especially of Jerusalem.

Now notice another passage. The following takes place at the coming in the Lord in His glory. It is a judgment of the nations. Not of Israel. Not of the Church. There is no such thing

as a sheep goat judgment of the Church. The Church will be there, observing, or taking part as time will tell. But you will not end up in the goat pile if you are a born again child of God.

> **Matt. 25:31** ¶ But when the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the angels with him, then shall he sit on the throne of his glory:
> **Matt. 25:32** and before him shall be gathered all the nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as the shepherd separateth the sheep from the goats;
> **Matt. 25:33** and he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.
> **Matt. 25:34** Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:
> **Matt. 25:35** for I was hungry, and ye gave me to eat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in;
> **Matt. 25:36** naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me; I was in prison, and ye came unto me.
> **Matt. 25:37** Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee hungry, and fed thee? or athirst, and gave thee drink?
> **Matt. 25:38** And when saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?
> **Matt. 25:39** And when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?
> **Matt. 25:40** And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these my brethren, *even* these least, ye did it unto me.
> **Matt. 25:41** Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, 12Depart from me, ye cursed, into the eternal fire which is prepared for the devil and his angels:
> **Matt. 25:42** for I was hungry, and ye did not give me to eat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink;
> **Matt. 25:43** I was a stranger, and ye took me not in; naked, and ye clothed me not; sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.
> **Matt. 25:44** Then shall they also answer, saying, Lord, when saw we thee hungry, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?
> **Matt. 25:45** Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not unto one of these least, ye did it not unto me.
> **Matt. 25:46** And these shall go away into eternal punishment: but the righteous into eternal life.

The time of the sheep-goat judgment of the nations is after the great victory of The King of Kings. He is about to set up the earthly Millennial reign and He is assigning places.

Notice that there is no mention of resurrection here.
The nations before Him were on earth during the time of the tribulation.

This is a works judgment. It is based on how the nations treated the ones the Lord called, "My brethren." He is referring to His brethren the Jews, who were also upon the earth during the seven years.

> **Mic. 5:2** ¶ But thou, Beth-lehem Ephrathah, which art little to be among the thousands of Judah, out of thee shall one come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.

> **Mic. 5:3** Therefore will he give them up, until the time that she who travaileth hath brought forth: then the residue of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel.
> **Mic. 5:4** And he shall stand, and shall feed *his flock* in the strength of Jehovah, in the majesty of the name of Jehovah his God: and they shall abide; for now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth.

How beautifully understood in the light of the end of days, is this passage from Micah. Not only did it prophesy His coming as the Babe of Bethlehem, but of His Majestic return to His brethren who recognize Him the second time (Zechariah 12:9-13:1; Acts 7:13).

The sheep nations shall go into the Millennium to the kingdoms prepared for that day.

The earthly Millennial people (Jews and Gentiles) will have longevity restored to their earthly bodies. They will continue to bear children.

> **Is. 11:6** ¶ And the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.
> **Is. 11:7** And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
> **Is. 11:8** And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.
> **Is. 11:9** They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of Jehovah, as the waters cover the sea.

The Church is not a part of this group. His heavenly people will have glorified bodies, like unto His glorious body.

> **1Cor. 15:51** Behold, I tell you a mystery: We all shall not sleep, but we shall all be changed,
> **1Cor. 15:52** in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.
> **1Cor. 15:53** For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. (KJV)

> **Phil. 3:20** For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:
> **Phil. 3:21** Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself. (KJV)

> **Phil. 3:20** But we are citizens of the state (commonwealth, homeland) which is in heaven, and from it also we earnestly *and* patiently await [the coming of] the Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah) [as] Savior,
> **Phil. 3:21** Who will transform *and* fashion anew the body of our humiliation to conform to *and* be like the body of His glory *and* majesty, by exerting that power which enables Him even to subject everything to Himself. (Amplified)

The Church, the Body of Christ, is a brand new creation. The action of the Gospel of Grace has brought us into a new birth. During the Church Age on the earth, our bodies were not yet transformed. But as the old gospel song goes, "We'll get a new body!!!"

The sheep nations will have longevity restored to their bodies. They will live out the 1000 years of the Millennium under The King Messiah. They will not know the temptation of Satan. However, they got into the Millennium on a works judgment. They still have their own flesh to contend with. They have their own wills that must obey God's will. If nations do not go up to Jerusalem, for instance, at the Feast of Tabernacles, they will get no rain. (Zechariah 14:16-19.)

At the end of the 1000 years, Satan is let loose. He goes about his old ways to deceive the nations. I am amazed that he is able to gather a huge following from those who have only known righteous government. God uses this to finally purge from the earth those who refuse to submit to Him.

> **Rev. 20:7** ¶ And when the thousand years are finished, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,
> **Rev. 20:8** and shall come forth to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to the war: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.
> **Rev. 20:9** And they went up over the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down out of heaven, and devoured them.
> **Rev. 20:10** And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where are also the beast and the false prophet; and they shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

The Great White Throne Judgment
(See Revelation 20:11-15)

Here's another judgment the Church will not have to face. Jesus has faced judgment for us. The only judgment seat we must go to is just after the Rapture when we go to the judgment seat of Christ to receive reward and job assignments for the future.
(See Appendix: The Rapture)

At the Great White Throne Judgment there is a resurrection of "the rest of the dead" (v 5.)

Thank God, we are a part of the first resurrection (v 6).

Syllabus
The Book of Revelation
Chapter 21

As we approach these final chapters, my human limitations to adequately comment on the Glories these chapters hold, is ever before me. Thank God, for the revelation He is bringing us in this hour. I remember a day, probably around 1980 when Dr. Kenneth E. Hagin walked into my office, as he often did, and sat down and began to talk. He told me we are approaching the end of an age. He said that when ages meet, there is an overlapping. That it is not like stepping over a log and suddenly everything is different. He said the coming age will overlap into this one. He said there would be an increase in the appearance of angels. He said there would be an increase in witnesses from earth who would go beyond the veil into the Glory and would come back and give eyewitness accounts. Some would be through near death experiences, and some would not. People would just be caught away there.

"You are to write a book about it," he prophesied to me.

So, I began collecting testimonies of such experiences. I flew to California 30 or so years ago to talk to a young boy, Tommy Slayton, who had been raised from the dead, and gave an amazing account of what he experienced. I've since met many others. Several are now my friends. It is captivating to have a conversation with someone who has visited Heaven.

People from a wide range of life's experience have been given these divinely granted experiences. Just a few include beggar boys in China, the 4-year-old son of a pastor, a gifted young artist, medical doctors, surgeons, ministers, etc. ...Their number is increasing. And they are writing their own books. Modern media has afforded the more recent witnesses a far-reaching platform from which to tell the world of their visits to Heaven.

Dr. Kenneth E. Hagin, whose books I edited for ten years, and with whom I stayed in fellowship until his Homegoing in 2003, had himself been to the Throne of God. (See his book, *I Believe in Visions*.) Recently, my own grandson, Branden, was taken there where he attended two classroom sessions.

I said all this to say that I approach these chapters with a sense of awe. I'll comment, but by no means am I an expert on them. I'll even confess to you that I have done something Brother Hagin always counseled us not to do. I have asked the Lord to let me go there and come back—especially if He expects me to write a book. But He has not granted my request thus far. From what I read that others saw, I probably would plead with Him to let me stay.

So, let us now approach what the Apostle John saw, which became the Written Word of God, about Heaven and Earth and their Glorious Futures. I have included my thoughts, which may prove incorrect, certainly incomplete, as time will surely tell. But I remember Dr. Sutton's saying, "You might come up to me in Heaven and say, 'Hilton, this is not exactly as you taught it.' And I'll say, 'But it is so much more glorious, we don't even care.'"

Rev. 21:1 ¶ And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth are passed away; and the sea is no more. (ASV)

Perhaps this refers to the atmospheric heaven around earth becoming new. (See Hebrews 1:10-12.) And, of course, the mid-heavens where Satan operated will become new.

> **Rev. 21:1** THEN I saw a new sky (heaven) and a new earth, for the former sky and the former earth had passed away (vanished), and there no longer existed any sea. (AMP)

As to the sea, of course there are waters, rivers, spoken of even in these final chapters. The Bible speaks of large numbers of Jews returning to Israel and increasing, so much so that there is lack of space for them. Perhaps, in the ages to come, with people living such long lives on earth, room will have to be made with a decrease in the size of the seas (Zechariah 10:10).

Rev. 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.
Rev. 21:3 And I heard a great voice out of the throne saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he shall dwell with them, and they shall be his peoples, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God:
Rev. 21:4 and he shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and death shall be no more; neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain, any more: the first things are passed away. (ASV)

I have come to believe that the Heavenly Jerusalem will be over earthly Jerusalem, and probably visible during the Millennium. David Baron, too, saw it this way.

(A word here about David Baron. A Jew, born in Russia in 1855, he was trained in the best rabbinical schools. His knowledge of Hebrew brings so much light. After becoming a Christian he was a prolific teacher and author. Two of his books are quoted in this Syllabus.)

> David Baron, *Israel in the Plan of God*, page 301, 302
> And the joy and blessedness of returned and redeemed Israel in literal Zion will be a type and reflection also of the even fuller joy and greater blessedness of the ransomed of the Lord out of every nation and people and tongue—which will then be safely gathered unto Him in the heavenly Zion, "the Jerusalem that is above," of which the literal Jerusalem will, during the millennial period, be, as it were, the earthly vestibule.

Once, I was in Pastors Mark and Brenda Thomas' office, preparing to speak. They introduced to me a young man who was the grandson of John G. Lake. He brought Lake's Bible. My son, Chip, touched it first.

"Oh!" he said. "Something like fire is going up my arm."

I took the Bible, and experienced the same thing. I looked in the flyleaf to see if Dr. Lake had written anything there. He had written only two statements:

"Is anything too hard?"
and
"Heaven is not far away."

Many of those who come back, testify to the nearness of that realm.

Dr. Gary Wood was killed in an automobile crash in 1966. He immediately "slipped out of his body" and went to Heaven where his young friend John who had been beheaded in a car accident, now every whit whole, escorted Gary through Heaven.

> Dr. Gary Wood, *A Place Called Heaven*, page 20
> The hills and mountains that were before us, towered in breathtaking beauty. I noticed a host of people on the hillside. They were observing things taking place on earth. When they witnessed a lost soul being told about the saving grace of God, if that person accepts Jesus as his Lord and Savior, all the people on the hillsides, mountaintops, and in the city would break out in applause and spontaneous praise. The mountains would begin to sing and the trees in heaven would clap their limbs together. And you could hear, "Rejoice, rejoice, for a lost soul is coming home!" ...I saw a man come to Christ and these witnesses went and found his mother to tell her that her son had accepted Jesus.

Insight into this is given in Hebrews 12. There is a great cloud of witnesses.
And we on earth, ARE NOW COME to the heavenly Jerusalem.
From the right hand of the Father—where we were set in the Jesus—we rule and reign in this life. (Hebrews 12:1, 22-24; Ephesians 1:17-2:8; Romans 5:17.)

When I began going to Israel in the 80's I was rather startled at how aware they are of the Heavenly Jerusalem. They paint it in the air above earthly Jerusalem. They call it, "Yerushalayim sh' Ma'alah" (guessing at English spelling). That means "Jerusalem that is above." They recognize it as the place where Heaven and earth meet.

In one of the oldest synagogues in Jerusalem there is such a painting above the ark where the Scrolls are set. Jerusalem above is painted symbolically as a menorah in the clouds. I asked the very old rabbi, how they knew so much about Jerusalem that is Above."

"Moses told us," he said. "He went there."

Well, it dawned on me, *I suppose if someone could go there now, surely Moses in all those days with God did ascend the Heavenly Mount.* I asked for a Scriptural reference, for I found more about the Heavenly Jerusalem in the New Testament.

He gave me one of the songs of ascent (degrees) that they sang when they went up to Jerusalem.

Psa. 122:3 Jerusalem, that art builded
As a city that is compact together; (ASV)

This shows Jerusalem above and below, builded, united together.
The very name of the city, in the Hebrew pronunciation, shows its duality in the ending of the word.

Rev. 21:5 And he that sitteth on the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he saith, Write: for these words are faithful and true.
Rev. 21:6 And he said unto me, They are come to pass. I am the Alpha [Aleph] and the Omega [Tav], the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.
Rev. 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit these things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. (ASV)

Rev. 21:8 But for the fearful, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and fornicators, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, their part shall be in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone; which is the second death. (ASV)

I remember Brother Hagin's saying, that in God's category of sin here, He lists fear and unbelief first, whereas men would be prone to list other things first. He was emphasizing the gravity of fear and doubt.

Of course, this does not mean anyone who has a doubt, or a fear, or tells a lie, or even commits a murder... In the age of grace many have repented of such, including Paul the Apostle... This means those who "*are*" that. The state of their being is like their father's "a liar, a murderer, etc."

Rev. 21:9 ¶ And there came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls, who were laden with the seven last plagues; and he spake with me, saying, Come hither, I will show thee the bride, the wife of the Lamb.
Rev. 21:10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,
Rev. 21:11 having the glory of God: her light was like unto a stone most precious, as it were a jasper stone, clear as crystal:
Rev. 21:12 having a wall great and high; having twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:
Rev. 21:13 on the east were three gates; and on the north three gates; and on the south three gates; and on the west three gates.
Rev. 21:14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. (ASV)

I believe that Heaven is "our place."
Our place of headquarters and operation now, and in the future.

A word about "place."

One of the names the Jews have for earthly Jerusalem is *Ha MaKom*, The Place.
Here are only a few of the Scriptural reasons:

They were told that when they came into The Land, they were not to worship like the *goyim*, under every green tree, but only in "The Place" God would choose to place His Name there.
Read Deuteronomy 12 and notice how many times he repeats "The Place."

Abraham saw "The Place." (Genesis 22:4).
Jacob saw "The Place." (Genesis 28:11, 16-17).
David sought "The Place." (Psalm 132:5).
David found "The Place." (1 Chronicles 15, 18, 28).
Solomon began to build "in The Place that David had appointed" (2 Chronicles 3:1).
God confirmed to Solomon he had found "The Place" (1 Chronicles 7:12; 15).

In the Gospels, Jesus was offering an earthly kingdom to Israel.
When they did not accept it, on His way to the Cross, He began to speak of "new creation" realities from John 13:31, through John 16.
He told them that He was going to the Father (John 14:12, 28; 16:5, 16, 28).
He said, "No man cometh unto the Father, but by Me" (John 14:6).
It is only the Body of Christ who is prepared to go the Father (Ephesians 1:4).

And Jesus said, "I go to prepare *a place* for you" (John 14:2).
Ha MaKom for us is in His Father's house.
(See Ephesians 1:3, 4.)

We are born from above (John 3:3, 7). *Greek: from above.*
"Jerusalem, which is above (this is the name Jews call it) is free, which is the mother of us all" (Galatians 4:26).
We are citizens NOW of Heaven, (Philippians 3:20, 21).
We are seated there now (Ephesians 2:4-7).
We are His heavenly people (Colossians 1, 2).

Rev. 21:15 *And he that spake with me had for a measure a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof.*
Rev. 21:16 *And the city lieth foursquare, and the length thereof is as great as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs: the length and the breadth and the height thereof are equal.*
Rev. 21:17 *And he measured the wall thereof, a hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel.*
Rev. 21:18 *And the building of the wall thereof was jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto pure glass.*
Rev. 21:19 *The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald;*

Rev. 21:20 the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprase; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst.
Rev. 21:21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the several gates was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.

Most say the city is 1500 miles high, 1500 miles in the length and the breadth.
Some say it is a pyramid in shape. In the visions granted the Chinese orphan boys before the Communist takeover, they told of the revelation of its structure given them.

> H. A. Baker, *Visions Beyond the Veil*, pages 67, 68
>
> Finally they reached the third heaven and came within sight of the New Jerusalem. As they approached this heavenly city, they saw its light in the distance. Coming nearer, they saw the beautiful wall radiating its wonderful jasper light. The foundations were of indescribable beauty, sparkling with red, yellow, orange, purple, blue, green, violet, and the other colors of the twelve most beautiful jewels.
>
> The children experienced this city in the sky as three cities in one; one city suspended above another, the largest city below, the smallest city on top, making a pyramid. Since John first described this city as surrounded by a wall, and since the city is one thousand five hundred miles high, Bible students have supposed the heavenly city is not a cube, but a pyramid. Our children, however, knew nothing of this...
>
> One of our small boys spoke in prophecy when in vision at the feet of the Lord. In this prophecy the Lord said that He had made heaven big enough for every living soul. He revealed that He had made it in three cities one above another, and that His throne is in the upper city.

Hmmm! Time will tell.... And we shall see!....

Rev. 21:22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God the Almighty, and the Lamb, are the temple thereof.
Rev. 21:23 And the city hath no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine upon it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the lamp thereof is the Lamb.
Rev. 21:24 And the nations shall walk amidst the light thereof: and the kings of the earth bring their glory into it.
Rev. 21:25 And the gates thereof shall in no wise be shut by day (for there shall be no night there):
Rev. 21:26 and they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it:
Rev. 21:27 and there shall in no wise enter into it anything unclean, or he that maketh an abomination and a lie: but only they that are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Verse 24: The Heavenly City just above earth will provide light for the nations who live below on earth. These would be the sheep nations, as well as the separated nation of Israel. The following is Millennial and speaks of "every one that is left" on earth.

> **Zech. 14:16** ¶ And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations that came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, Jehovah of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.
> **Zech. 14:17** And it shall be, that whoso of *all* the families of the earth goeth not up unto Jerusalem to worship the King, Jehovah of hosts, upon them there shall be no rain.
> **Zech. 14:18** And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, neither *shall it be* upon them; there shall be the plague wherewith Jehovah will smite the nations that go not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.
> **Zech. 14:19** This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all the nations that go not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.
> **Zech. 14:20** In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLY UNTO JEHOVAH; and the pots in Jehovah's house shall be like the bowls before the altar.
> **Zech. 14:21** Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holy unto Jehovah of hosts; and all they that sacrifice shall come and take of them, and boil therein: and in that day there shall be no more a Canaanite in the house of Jehovah of hosts.

Glory in Revelation 21:26 means *wealth*.
In fact glory meant wealth in the first mention of glory in the Bible (Genesis 31:1).

I believe there will be "interplanetary travel" so to speak between earth and the heavenly city above it.
Kings bring of their wealth into it.
Certain earthlings will have access.
But certainly not the peoples of verse 27.

When Satan is loosed at the end of the thousand years of the Millennium, he is able to command a following "the number of whom is as the sand of the sea" (Revelation 20:8). Certainly these have never been near the Father.

In the writings of Sadhu Sundar Singh, I first read of the difference in the degrees of glory upon the people who enter heaven. Jesse Duplantis spoke with me about it.

And after he witnessed the supernatural days with the Chinese beggar boys visiting Heaven, missionary H. A. Baker did an in depth study of others who had been there. His writings about it include the visit to Heaven by William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army. Reverend Baker said that all are happy in whatever degree of glory they abide. But that the plan is they ascend to a higher degree. (You can download his *Heaven and the Angels* from the Internet.)

To sum up, people enter Heaven with varying degrees of glory. Sister Wilkerson said that death does not transform one who was recently born again into a great saint who had walked with God for years.

But it seems one can only endure certain degrees of glory. Saints and angels from higher degrees of glory come to teach the ones of lower degree. Some report the ones from higher degrees must even veil their glory, lest they overwhelm those of lower degree.

One of my friends who was taken to Heaven told me that he wondered that not everyone who enters Heaven can go immediately to the Father.

Those who stand before The Father of Glory must be prepared for the power of His Glory.

First Corinthians 15 reveals that there are different degrees of glory.
The plan is that we be changed from one degree of glory to another....

> **2Cor. 3:18** And all **of** us, as with unveiled face, [because we] continued to behold [in the Word **of** God] as in a mirror the **glory of** the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into His *very own* image in ever increasing splendor *and* from one **degree of glory** to another; [for this comes] from the Lord [Who is] the Spirit. (AMP)

When my 23-year-old grandson, Branden, was caught up, he was facing a difficult decision. The Lord dealt with him about having the courage to make that decision. "Courage" scriptures would be brought to his mind. One day while he was lying down, meditating upon those scriptures, angels appeared over him. They put thin layers of heavenly substance (each one about the size of a sheet of paper), layer upon layer, into his chest area. He felt power go into him. Then he was caught away and into a classroom in Heaven. He shared quite a bit of detail, but I'll only say here the class was on "Courage" and David was the teacher.

Then Branden was in another classroom. The teacher was quite different. Evidently an elder, with a long white beard, wearing long flowing clothing. A huge Bible was before him. The class was on "Numbers in Scripture." Branden thought, *This is a class more suited for my grandmother.* The teacher said, "Every number in the Bible has meaning. Today we will study the Number Eight."

Oh, I wish I could have been in that classroom before doing this syllabus. For the number eight is the number of new beginnings. The very figure 8 speaks of infinity. After the six days of Adam's workweek are over, and the final shmittah cycle is over (with its earthly and heavenly events,) and the fulfillment of the real Jubilee has come, and the thousand-year Seventh day is over, and Satan has been put into the lake of fire, the Great White Throne judgment is finished, the cleansing and transformation of earth complete, there will be NEW BEGINNINGS!!!!!!!

Eternity of Eternity will unroll with its Eternal Glories for Earth! For Heaven! For All Creation!

Hallelujah!!!!!!!

Syllabus
The Book of Revelation
Chapter 22

Rev. 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb,
Rev. 22:2 in the midst of the street thereof. And on this side of the river and on that was the tree of life, bearing twelve manner of fruits, yielding its fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. (ASV)

Earth mirrors Heaven.

A River flows from the Throne of God in Heaven.

The Old Testament tells of the waters of *Shiloah* or *The Gihon* that were the water source of Jerusalem. A divinely supplied source of waters flowed down from the Temple Mount. *Shiloah* means sent. The waters were sent from God and represented to Israel that their trust was to be in Him. I first discovered them and their meaning in this Scripture.

> **Is. 8:6** Forasmuch as this people have refused the waters of Shiloah that go softly, and rejoice in Rezin and Remaliah's son;
> **Is. 8:7** now therefore, behold, the Lord bringeth up upon them the waters of the River [Euphrates], strong and many, *even* the king of Assyria and all his glory: and it shall come up over all its channels, and go over all its banks;

Here in Isaiah because the king did not trust in God, but in unholy alliances, the Lord would bring upon them judgment from the land of the River Euphrates.

We see these waters in the New Testament gathered at the Pool of Siloam.

The earthly waters reflected the Heavenly River that flows out of the Throne of God.

In the Millennium the earthly River will again flow from the Millennial Temple described in Ezekiel Chapters 40-47.

> **Ezek. 47:1** ¶ And he brought me back unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward; (for the forefront of the house was toward the east); and the waters came down from under, from the right side of the house, on the south of the altar.

> **Ezek. 47:3** ¶ When the man... measured a thousand cubits, and he caused me to pass through the waters, waters that were to the ankles.

> **Ezek. 47:4** Again he measured a thousand, and caused me to pass through the waters, waters that were to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and caused me to pass through *the waters*, waters that were to the loins.
> **Ezek. 47:5** Afterward he measured a thousand; *and it was* a river that I could not pass through; for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed through.

These earthly waters will flow from the Millennial Temple down through the Judean Desert and everything in their path will come to life. Even what we call The Dead Sea. A thriving fishing industry is described (Ezekiel 47:8-10.) Every time I pass where Engedi flows into The Salt Sea (the Dead Sea), I think about how this will be a hot fishing spot.

Now notice how earth reflects Heaven. And the close association of Heaven and earth.

Rev. 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb,
Rev. 22:2 in the midst of the street thereof. And on this side of the river and on that was the tree of life, bearing twelve manner of fruits, yielding its fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

> **Ezek. 47:6** ¶ And he said unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen *this*? Then he brought me, and caused me to return to the bank of the river.
> **Ezek. 47:7** Now when I had returned, behold, upon the bank of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other.

> **Ezek. 47:12** And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow every tree for food, whose leaf shall not wither, neither shall the fruit thereof fail: it shall bring forth new fruit every month, because the waters thereof issue out of the sanctuary; and the fruit thereof shall be for food, and the leaf thereof for healing.

During the Millennium there will be no more curse. Satan, the source of sickness, will be in the pit. But I suppose one could still be injured in a fall, etc. If so, these leaves are for healing.

Psalms 46, 47, and 48 are prophetic, and in the order of their fulfillment.
During Psalm 46 there is trouble for the Chosen People, but the River of God still flows...

> **Psa. 46:4** There is a **river**, the streams whereof make glad the city of God,
> The holy place of the tabernacles of the Most High.

Psalm 47 shows the King and His Reign. The correct Hebrew translation is not "clap" your hands all ye people, but is as follows. It tells the nations to join hands in the Millennium.

> <u>Psalm 47:2, 3, ArtScrolls</u>
> All you nations, join hands!
> Call out to God with a cry of joy.
> For HASHEM (the LORD) is Most High, awesome
> a great king over all of the earth.

Rev. 22:3 And there shall be no curse any more: and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be therein: and his servants shall serve him;
Rev. 22:4 and they shall see his face; and his name shall be on their foreheads.
Rev. 22:5 And there shall be night no more; and they need no light of lamp, neither light of sun; for the Lord God shall give them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

The Messenger

Rev. 22:6 ¶ And he said unto me, These words are faithful and true: and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show unto his servants the things which must shortly come to pass.

Rev. 22:8 ¶ And I John am he that heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel that showed me these things.
Rev. 22:9 And he saith unto me, See thou do it not: I am a fellow-servant with thee and with thy brethren the prophets, and with them that keep the words of this book: worship God.

Rev. 22:10 ¶ And he saith unto me, Seal not up the words of the prophecy of this book; for the time is at hand.

Daniel was told to seal — John is told to reveal. For the time is at hand!

Entry: Allowed or Denied

Rev. 22:14 Blessed are they that wash their robes, that they may have the right to come to the tree of life, and may enter in by the gates into the city.
Rev. 22:15 Without are the dogs, and the sorcerers, and the fornicators, and the murderers, and the idolaters, and every one that loveth and maketh a lie.

I am wondering. And it is that. Wondering.
Speculation is allowed, if one says that's what it is.
Could this be Millennial when the Great Satellite City is over earth.
For this seems to be a "works" allowing of entry.
They washed their own robes.
Without, are those who will be in the group Satan gathers.
I do know that with Prophecy, it is not always chronological.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Rev. 22:7 And behold, I come quickly. Blessed is he that keepeth the words of the prophecy of this book. (ASV)

Rev. 22:12 Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to render to each man according as his work is.
Rev. 22:13 I am the Alpha [Aleph] and the Omega [Tav], the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

Rev. 22:16 ¶ I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things for the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright, the morning star.

Rev. 22:20 ¶ He who testifieth these things saith, Yea: I come quickly. Amen: come, Lord Jesus.

I still remember the postcard. It was from a young woman in our church. She wrote, "Did Jesus miss it? It has been 2000 years!"

No. Jesus cannot miss it. It is just that He sees time from God's perspective.
A thousand years is as a day. A day is as a thousand years. (Psalm 90:4; 2 Peter 3:8.)

The entire Book of Second Peter is prophetic. Without going into a long teaching here, Peter was writing to believers out of the Jews. (1 Peter 1:1,2; Galatians 2:7). He called them to be mindful of what their holy prophets said, as well as what the apostles of the Lord said (2 Peter 3:1, 2). He is talking about the Coming of the Lord (v. 3). Then he instructed them not to be ignorant of one thing as they considered this.

> **2Pet. 3:1** ¶ This is now, beloved, the second epistle that I write unto you; and in both of them I stir up your sincere mind by putting you in remembrance;
> **2Pet. 3:2** that ye should remember the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and the commandment of the Lord and Saviour through your apostles:
> **2Pet. 3:3** knowing this first, that 1in the last days mockers shall come with mockery, walking after their own lusts,
> **2Pet. 3:4** and saying, Where is the promise of his 2coming? for, from the day that the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.
> **2Pet. 3:5** For this they wilfully forget, that there were heavens from of old, and an earth compacted out of water and 3amidst water, by the word of God;
> **2Pet. 3:6** by which means the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

> **2Pet. 3:7** but the heavens that now are, and the earth, by the same word have been 4stored up for fire, being reserved against the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. (ASV)
> **2Pet. 3:8** ¶ But forget not this one thing, beloved, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.
> **2Pet. 3:9** The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some count slackness; but is longsuffering to you-ward, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Those former Jews would have known immediately which prophet Peter referred to who related the plight of the Jews to two days.

> **Hos. 5:14** For I will be unto Ephraim as a lion, and as a young lion to the house of Judah: I, even I, will tear and go away; I will carry off, and there shall be none to deliver.
> **Hos. 5:15** I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me earnestly.
> **Hos. 6:1** ¶ [Saying] Come, and let us return unto Jehovah; for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.
> **Hos. 6:2** After two days will he revive us: on the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live before him.
> **Hos. 6:3** And let us know, let us follow on to know Jehovah: his going forth is sure as the morning; and he will come unto us as the rain, as the latter rain that watereth the earth. (ASV)

They could only be "torn" and "carried away" to the four corners of the earth because He allowed it. No one could deliver them. But they would repent and say in their return, "He hath torn. He will heal and make us whole. He has smitten. He will bind us up.

When? After two days. On the third day, He will raise us up.

Remember that Daniel's Seventieth week promises the fulfillment of all the Prophets said.

The Jews are God's Time Clock.
Jesus said to watch the Fig Tree.

Rev. 22:12 Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to render to each man according as his work is. (ASV)

> **Rev. 22:12** And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. (KJV)

> **Rev. 22:12** Behold, I am coming soon, and I shall bring My wages *and* rewards with Me, to repay *and* render to each one just what his own actions *and* his own work merit.† (AMP)

Members of the Body of Christ will receive reward for the works done in their bodies after the new birth. One is born again, saved by grace. After that one is rewarded for the works

done in his body. At the judgment seat of Christ, each one will receive eternal reward for the works done in the body after the new birth.

Revelation 22:12 may include reward for the Jews and Nations.

Also, I think there is something else in verse 12. Especially in the King James translation. It seems to me a passing out of job assignments for the next age may be included.

There is rank in resurrection.
Hebrews 11:35 speaks of those who did things that they "might obtain a better resurrection."

I'm believing for a great job assignment.
In the next age. And in the ages upon ages throughout Eternity.

There is purpose in all of Creation.
The One who did not waste the left over loaves and fishes, created everything with design.
There are untold galaxies in God's Great Creation. I'd like to help in their development.

A statement from prophetic Second Peter inspires me to such thinking. He is speaking of an "abundant entrance" into the Eternities when he says some only see what is near.

> **2Pet. 1:9** For he that lacketh these things is blind, seeing only what is near... (ASV)
>
> **2Pet. 1:9** But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off,... (KJV)
>
> **2Pet. 1:9** For whoever lacks these qualities is blind, [spiritually] shortsighted, seeing only what is near to him,

My aim is not to be shortsighted.....

The Book of Revelation is of the greatest help in doing so.

Today is the Day of Invitation
Whosoever Will May Come

Rev. 22:17 ¶ And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And he that heareth, let him say, Come. And he that is athirst, let him come: he that will, let him take the water of life freely.

Blessing and Cursing

Rev. 22:7 And behold, I come quickly. Blessed is he that keepeth the words of the prophecy of this book.

Rev. 22:17 ¶ 19And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And he that heareth, let him say, Come. And he that is athirst, let him come: he that will, let him take the water of life freely.

Rev. 22:20 ¶ He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.
Rev. 22:21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. (KJV)

His Promise:
Surely I come quickly.

Our Glad Response:
Amen!
Even so, Come Lord Jesus!!!!!!!

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Appendix: The *Rapture
The Catching Up of the Church

All the Bible is for the Church, but not all the Bible is about the Church. Some is about other people. (1 Cor. 10:32.) The part of the Bible that is to, for, and about the Church is the New Testament Letters. The present and the future of the Church are revealed in the Letters.

The Church was hidden in the O.T. And even in the Four Gospels. The mystery of the church was first revealed to Paul. It came over a period of at least 17 years (Gal. 1:11-2:2).

The first letters written to the Body of Christ were First and Second Thessalonians.
A troubling concern had arisen. Believers were dying and Jesus had not come. After Jesus arose, He walked upon the earth 40 days (Acts 1:3). Then when He ascended, Heavenly attendants announced that "*This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into Heaven*" (Acts 1:8). Early believers expected Him back within a short time. When people died, questions arose. So "the Word of the Lord" came as follows:

> *1Th. 4:13 ¶ But we would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning them that fall asleep; that ye sorrow not, even as the rest, who have no hope.*
> *1Th. 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also that are fallen asleep in Jesus will God bring with him.*
> *1Th. 4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we that are alive, that are left unto the coming of the Lord, shall in no wise precede them that are fallen asleep.*
> *1Th. 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven, with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first;*
> *1Th. 4:17 then we that are alive, that are left, shall together with them be caught up in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*
> *1Th. 4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.* (ASV)

Prior to the "catching up" the Holy Spirit would have completed His work of preparing the Body to be a habitation of God's Glory. The Glorious Church.)
(See: Ephesians, 2:20-22; 5:25-27, 30, 32; 2 Cor. 3:18.)

Man is tripartite. He is a spirit, like His Creator. He has a soul (mind, will, and emotions). He lives in a body. (2 Thess. 5:23).

The New Testament does not use death in association with believers. It speaks of departure (Gr: exodus) from ones tent (house).

The spirit of man departs to be with the Lord, the soul accompanies the spirit; the body is buried awaiting the redemption, the glorification, of the body.

> **2Cor. 5:8** we are of good courage, I say, and are willing rather to be **absent** from the body, and to be at home with the Lord. (ASV).

At the catching up of the Church, the spirits who have been at home with the Lord, come with Him to receive their glorified bodies.

At the rapture:
The Lord will meet His Body "in the air."

At the end of the 7-years,
He will come and put His feet down upon the earth at the same place of His Ascension. The Mount of Olives. (Acts 1:12; Zech. 14:4.)

The Judgment Seat of Christ

After the "catching away" the Body of Christ will appear at the only judgment seat she will ever face. The Lord has already met judgment for her. Yet she has an appointment to receive her rewards. (And the shedding of anything that could not go with her as she is presented to the Lord.)

> **2Cor. 5:10** For we must all be made manifest before the judgment-seat of Christ; that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad. (ASV)

At the new birth from above, one becomes a brand new species. A new creation that has never before existed. Saved by grace through faith, and not of works. However from that point, one is "ordained unto good works." And for all that is accomplished in the body, man will receive reward. And rank in resurrection. Then comes...

The Presentation

> **2Cor. 11:2** For I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy: for I espoused you to one husband, that I might present you *as* a pure virgin to Christ.
> (See also: 2 Cor. 4:14; Eph. 5:27; 2 Cor. 4:14.)

*The word rapture is not in the Bible. However it is in common use for "caught up together in clouds to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thess. 4:17)."

Appendix

Time: *Moeds*

On my first trip to Australia, I called my daughter, Brenda. Her then young and very inquisitive son, Jared, answered the phone. I decided to get him going, so I said, "Hello, Jared, this is MiMi. I'm calling from tomorrow. Don't be concerned about yesterday; it turned out all right."

It is possible when flying from Sydney, to arrive in Los Angeles before you left Sydney. That is, as far as time on the clock and calendar is concerned.

On the way home from that first trip, the Captain made an announcement that we had just crossed the International Date Line. At that, I heard distinctly the authoritative Voice of the Holy Spirit in my spirit.

God invented time.
Precisely.
Scientifically.
Mathematically.
He measured out a piece of Eternity, and called it Time, for His dealings with man.
Each passing second, counts off time, until the end of time, and its usefulness to God.

God Inhabits Eternity

> *Is. 57:15 For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy:...* (ASV)

I used to say that God knows the future better than we know the past. And of course, He does. But it is deeper than that. He knows the future, because He lives there. He inhabits Eternity. As His Name יהוה declares: *He is, He was, He is to Come*

Kenneth E. Hagin said, "When science discovered timelessness, they discovered God."

God is in no way affected or limited by time, except in His dealings with man.

God's Calendar

Man fell. Earth came under the curse.
God is the Redeemer of both.
God will bring both to perfection according to His plan.
And He orchestrates it as is revealed in His Great Calendar of Redemption.

God does not work according to the Gregorian calendar most of the world accepts today.
The world grew anxious and worried in anticipation of the year 2000.
I knew nothing was going to happen. God doesn't work by our calendar.
Pope Gregory XIII introduced the calendar in February 1582.
It was commissioned to more accurately calculate the date of Easter.
It counted years from the traditional date of the nativity of Jesus.
But it counted incorrectly. Jesus had to have been born before Herod died.
Herod the Great died a terrible death in the Spring of 4 BC.
Since Jesus was born in the days of Herod the king (Matthew 2:1), and Herod killed the innocents 2 years and under, our calendar is incorrect.

Certainly God did not work by the Julian calendar before the Gregorian.
Nor the Roman calendar before that.
Nor by the Mayan calendar.
Nor by any of men's flawed calendars.

But God does have His own calendar by which He works, and according to which
The Great Events of Redemption have occurred right on time. For example:

> **Gal. 4:4** but when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,
>
> **Luke 22:7** ¶ Then came the day of unleavened bread, when the passover must be killed.
> **Luke 22:8** And he sent Peter and John, saying, Go and prepare us the passover, that we may eat.
> **Luke 22:15** And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer:
>
> **Acts 2:1** ¶ And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.
> **Acts 2:2** And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

Moeds
God's Special Appointed Times

On the LORD's Calendar, there are special days called *Moeds.*
These are the days that stand apart from all others.

Moed means *an appointed time; a fixed time.*
It can also mean *an appointed place.*

We first meet the word *moed* in Genesis 1:14.

> *Gen. 1:14 ¶ And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons* [moeds], *and for days and years:*
> *Gen. 1:15 and let them be for lights in the firmament of heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.*

> *Gen. 1:16 And God made the two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.* (ASV)

The sun and the moon are for *signs* and for *seasons*, verse 14 reveals.
That they are for *signs* is interesting enough.
But even more interesting is that they are made for *moeds*.

The Hebrew word translated seasons is the plural of *moed.*
I will use the letter s to indicate the plural of *moed,* although the Hebrew plural is different.

God's Two Calendar Years

The Bible marks out, and Israel keeps two calendar years:
a sacred year, and what I will call, a civil year.
The new year begins in the autumn with Rosh HaShanah, but in Exodus 12:1 at the first Pesach (Passover) God initiated a sacred calendar year beginning the first day of the month of Pesach (Passover).

The Sacred Year

> *Ex. 12:1 ¶ And Jehovah spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying,*
> *Ex. 12:2 This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.* (ASV)

Time is marked with sevens.

With what He said to Moses and Aaron in Exodus 12:1, God took the seventh month of the civil year and made it the first month of the sacred year.
The first month of the civil year became the seventh month of the sacred year.
If your head spins a little at this, the important thing to remember is that time is marked with sevens. That's easy enough. There are seven days in a week, etc.

Moeds, the special days God circles, so to speak, on his calendar, occur in seven months of the 12-month year.

I wrote the following note in my Bible at the beginning of Exodus 12. I failed to note the source:

> The Jewish people have been keeping track of time since God spoke this to Moses... [He gave them] the responsibility of keeping track of years, time....

Exodus 12 records the coming out of Egypt and the first Pesach (Passover).
Prior to marking out what is to be done, and on which day it is to be done, the LORD gives them the beginning date of the new sacred calendar year (Exodus 12:2).
It is now called *Rosh Hodesh Nissan*. The Head, or First Day of the month of Nissan.

The New Year (I've called it the civil year) begins in Tishrei, the month of *Rosh HaShanah*. (*Rosh HaShanah* translates: the Head of the Year.)
However, the months are counted from the First of Nissan, the sacred year,

God's Great Calendar of Redemption

God's Calendar is given us in Leviticus 23. I have taken the liberty to insert the word *moed* where it is in the original Hebrew. And I am leaving out the word *feasts or festivals*. Notice the sevens. I have highlighted all sevens. I have also highlighted Sabbath, for the word is a form of seven, the seventh day. I have put into bold type the names of the Moeds.

Lev. 23:1 ¶ And Jehovah spake unto Moses, saying,
Lev. 23:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, The moeds of Jehovah, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my moeds.
Lev. 23:3 Six days shall work be done: but on the seventh day is a sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation; ye shall do no manner of work: it is a sabbath unto Jehovah in all your dwellings.

Lev. 23:4 ¶ These are the moeds of Jehovah, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their appointed moeds.
Lev. 23:5 In the first month, on the fourteenth [2 x 7] day of the month at even, is Jehovah's **Passover [Pesach].**
Lev. 23:6 And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the **feast of unleavened bread** *unto Jehovah: seven days ye shall eat unleavened bread.*
Lev. 23:7 In the first day ye shall have a holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work.
Lev. 23:8 But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto Jehovah seven days: in the seventh day is a holy convocation; ye shall do no servile work.

Lev. 23:9 ¶ And Jehovah spake unto Moses, saying,
Lev. 23:10 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye are come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring the sheaf of the first-fruits of your harvest unto the priest:

Lev. 23:11 and he shall wave the sheaf before Jehovah, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it.
Lev. 23:12 And in the day when ye wave the sheaf, ye shall offer a he-lamb without blemish a year old for a burnt-offering unto Jehovah...

Lev. 23:15 ¶ And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave-offering; seven sabbaths shall there be complete:
Lev. 23:16 even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meal-offering unto Jehovah...
[Hebrew: Shavuot – Weeks. Translated Pentecost in the first Greek translation, the Septuagint for in the Greek 7 x 7 = 49, plus 1 equals 50, therefore Pentecost.]

Lev. 23:23 ¶ And Jehovah spake unto Moses, saying,
Lev. 23:24 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, shall be a solemn rest unto you, a memorial of blowing of ***trumpets,*** *a holy convocation...* [Rosh HaShanah – Head of the Civil Year, i.e. the New Years Day of the Civil Year.]

Lev. 23:26 ¶ And Jehovah spake unto Moses, saying,
Lev. 23:27 Howbeit on the tenth day of this seventh month is the ***day of atonement****: it shall be a holy convocation unto you, and ye shall afflict your souls; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto Jehovah.*
Lev. 23:28 And ye shall do no manner of work in that same day; for it is a day of atonement, to make atonement for you before Jehovah your God...
Lev. 23:32 It shall be unto you a sabbath of solemn rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth day of the month at even, from even unto even, shall ye keep your sabbath.

Lev. 23:33 ¶ And Jehovah spake unto Moses, saying,
Lev. 23:34 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, On the fifteenth day of this seventh month is the ***feast of tabernacles*** **[Sukkot]** *for seven days unto Jehovah.*
Lev. 23:35 On the first day shall be a holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work.
Lev. 23:36 Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto Jehovah: on the eighth day shall be a holy convocation unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto Jehovah: it is a solemn assembly; ye shall do no servile work.

Lev. 23:37 ¶ These are the moeds of Jehovah, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire unto Jehovah, a burnt-offering, and a meal-offering, a sacrifice, and drink-offerings, each on its own day;
Lev. 23:38 besides the sabbaths of Jehovah, and besides your gifts, and besides all your vows, and besides all your freewill-offerings, which ye give unto Jehovah.
Lev. 23:39 ¶ Howbeit on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruits of the land, ye shall keep the festival of Jehovah seven days: on the first day shall be a solemn rest, and on the eighth day shall be a solemn rest.
Lev. 23:40 And ye shall take you on the first day the fruit of goodly trees, branches of palm-trees, and boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before Jehovah your God seven days.
Lev. 23:41 And ye shall keep it a festival unto Jehovah seven days in the year: it is a statute for ever throughout your generations; ye shall keep it in the seventh month.
Lev. 23:42 Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are home-born in Israel shall dwell in booths;
Lev. 23:43 that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am Jehovah your God.
Lev. 23:44 And Moses declared unto the children of Israel the moeds of Jehovah.

• The Sacred Calendar of the History of Redemption...[It] foretells and sets forth The Great Plan of Redemption. (David Baron, *Types in the Psalms.*)

• The Great Calendar of Prophecy. (*The Numerical Bible*).

• Seven marks in Scripture the sacred measurement of Time.

The Three "Feasts of the Feet"
(With Your Feet, You Go Up Before the LORD)

*Deut. 16:16 **Three times** in a year shall all thy males appear before Jehovah thy God in the place which he shall choose: **in the feast of unleavened bread (Pesach)**, and in **the feast of weeks**, and in **the feast of tabernacles**; and they shall not appear before Jehovah empty:* (ASV)

Each of these three *Moeds* have three criteria:

1) A Historical Event
2) Harvest
3) Prophetic Fulfillment

Pesach (Passover)

1) Historic Event	The Exodus
2) Harvest	Barley
3) Fulfillment	Jesus, The Passover Lamb

Shavuot (Weeks) (Pentecost)

1) Historic Event	The Giving of the Word, the Ten Commandments
2) Harvest	Wheat
3) Fulfillment	The Giving of the Holy Spirit, Acts 2

Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles)

1) Historic Event	The Shelter the LORD Provided in the Wilderness
2) Harvest	Wine and Oil (Grapes and Olives)
3) Fulfillment	Not yet fulfilled. Probably the Jubilee when the King Messiah sets up His earthly, kingdom.

Note: The Spring and early Summer *moeds* are fulfilled. (Pesach and Pentecost.)
There is a lapse of about 4 months between the fulfilled and the unfulfilled moeds.
None of the *moeds* of the High Holy Days in the Autumn month of Tishrei have reached fulfillment. These are: Rosh HaShanah (Trumpets), Yom Kippur, Sukkot (Tabernacles.)

The Moon and *Moeds*

Psa. 104:19 He appointed the moon for seasons [moeds]:

When I first saw this verse in the Hebrew, I was aware of its great meaning.
(See Time: Eclipses)

Stone Edition of the Chumash (ArtScrolls) pages 682 and 683
(Commenting on Leviticus 23:2, "*moeds that you are to designate...*")
According to *Sifra*, this designation refers to the Sanhedrin's regulation of the calendar, by means of proclaiming the new months. The festivals must be based on the calendar, as fixed by the court, and this requirement is symbolic of the relationship between God and Israel. The calendar is based upon the sighting of the newly visible moon and upon the responsibility of the Sages to add months when necessary to assure that Pesach will always fall in the springtime...(R. Hirsch).

Brim Note: For hundreds, even thousands of years, they had no pre-calculated calendar. Witnesses appointed by the Sanhedrin, watched for the new moon. How important was this? If they got the first day of the month wrong, all other *moeds* of that month would be wrong.

Leap Years

Months were determined by the new moon, therefore the calendar is lunar.
However, the calendar must also be solar for the harvests to be at the right time.
Otherwise the *moeds* would change with the seasons. For instance, Ramadan is constantly appearing at another time on the Islamic lunar calendar.

So, the chosen witnesses of the Sanhedrin would examine the crops. They would "feel" the barley, for instance, to make sure it was in the "*aviv*" stage. *Aviv* is literally a stage in the ripening of the grain. The LORD declared that Pesach had to be in the month of "*Aviv*." [*Aviv* is the word currently used for Spring. The name of the month now is *Nissan*.]

> **Deut. 16:1** ¶ Observe [Hebrew: *shamor*, guard] the month of Aviv, and keep the **passover** unto Jehovah thy God; for in the month of Aviv Jehovah thy God brought thee forth out of Egypt by night. (ASV)

The lunar calendar = 29.5 days in a month. (Approximately)
The lunar calendar = 354 days in a year.

The solar calendar = 365 days in a year.

So, to catch up, in leap years, an entire month is added to the calendar.
It is called Second Adar.
It follows the month of Adar, which in leap years is called First Adar.
First and Second Adars occur in the Gregorian months of February and March.

How often is this done?
In every cycle of 19 years there are 7 leap years.
There's that number again: Seven!

Be sure to study the Appendix: Time: The *Shmittah* Cycles

Appendix

Time: *Shmittah* Cycles and The Jubilee

The judgments of The Book of Revelation take place in a seven-year cycle.
That cycle is Daniel's 70th Week (Daniel 9:27).

The seven-year *Shmittah* cycles and the 50th year *Yovel* (Jubilee), by which time is marked on God's calendar, are a key to the time-cycle of The Book of Revelation.

Here is how the LORD introduced the seven-year Shmittah cycle and 50th year Yovel to Moses at Sinai.

> *Lev. 25:1 ¶ And Jehovah spake unto Moses in mount Sinai, saying,*
> *Lev. 25:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye come into the land which I give you, then shall the land keep a sabbath unto Jehovah.*
> *Lev. 25:3 Six years thou shalt sow thy field, and six years thou shalt prune thy vineyard, and gather in the fruits thereof;*
> *Lev. 25:4 but in the seventh year shall be a sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a sabbath unto Jehovah: thou shalt neither sow thy field, nor prune thy vineyard.*
>
> *Lev. 25:8 ¶ And thou shalt number seven sabbaths of years* (7 cycles of 7 years) *unto thee, seven times seven years; and there shall be unto thee the days of seven sabbaths of years, even forty and nine years.*
> *Lev. 25:9 Then shalt thou send abroad the loud trumpet* [teruah] *on the tenth day of the seventh month; in the day of atonement shall ye send abroad the trumpet throughout all your land.*
> *Lev. 25:10 And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubilee unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family.* (ASV)

- Seven marks the LORD's reckoning of time.
- Creation: The Creator created for six days, and rested on the seventh.

- Adam: Given a six-day workweek for the development of earth.
  A thousand years being a day.
  The Seventh Day – The Millennium

- Seven days = One Week
  The Jews law of Sabbath. Six-day workweek. The Sabbath (seventh) rest.

- *Moeds* that are seven-day festivals: Pesach (Passover), Sukkot (Tabernacles)

- Jewish Weddings – Marriages celebrated for one full week.

- Death – Families sit *shivah* for seven days of mourning.

The Shmittah Year is the Seventh Year of the Seven-Year Cycle

The Shmittah year begins on Rosh HaShanah, the 1st of the month of Tisrei, and ends the next year at that time.

The next 3 Shmittah years (from Rosh HaShanah to Rosh HaShanah) are as follows:

Hebrew	Gregorian
5775	(Sept 24, 25, 2014 to Sept 13, 2015)
5782	(Sept 7, 2021 to Sept 25, 2022)
5789	(Sept 21, 2028 to Sept 9, 2029)

The Yovel (Jubilee) – The Fiftieth Year

Though Jews count the *shmittah* cycles, they do not count the *yovels.*

The yovel count ceased when The Second Temple was destroyed in 70 by Titus the Roman.

Brim note: I believe that the count will not be taken up again until the King Messiah sets up His earthly visible kingdom. Then and only then can the Jubilee be fully fulfilled.

Perhaps the shmittah year of the seven-year cycle of The Book of Revelation's judgments is the 49th year before the Year of Jubilee.

The *teruah*: A distinctive blowing of the shofar.
Hebrew sages, Rashi and Ibn Ezra say that the word *yovel* means ram. And that it alludes to the blowing of the shofar (ram's horn) that consecrates that day.
Interestingly, *Rosh HaShanah* is also known as *Yom Teruah*, The Day of Sounding the *Teruah*. Hence we know it as "Feast of Trumpets."

Some of the things, among others, Jews think upon when they hear the Teruah are:
Declaring God as King of the Universe
The shofar will be heard at the coming of the Mashiach (Messiah).

Appendix

Daniel's Seventieth Week

The young man, Daniel, as one of the king's seed was carried off captive to Babylon before the rest of the nation and the destruction of The First Temple. (Daniel 1:3-6.)

The Times of the Gentiles

With the carrying away of the nation of Israel by Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians, what Jesus called "The Times of the Gentiles" began.

> Luke 21:24 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led captive into all the nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. (ASV)

Jesus here prophesied what would happen 40 years later. The Romans would destroy the Second Temple and carry off the Jews into a worldwide diaspora. Jerusalem would be trodden down of the Gentiles **"until..."** Until is a time word. Here the Lord skips 2000 years and declares that the times of Gentile rule in Jerusalem would come to an end. "The Times of the Gentiles would be fulfilled."

> Hilton Sutton, *Revelation Revealed*, p.159
> Daniel was the only prophet who had all-inclusive insight into the times of the Gentiles as related to Israel's captivity. The Gentile Age began with the captivity of Israel (721-608 BC) and will reach its conclusion with Israel's restoration (1948 AD until the Millennium). From its beginning, the times of the Gentiles produce the great empires: Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Greek, and Roman."

> David Baron *Israel in the Plan of God*, p. 111
> ...The Babylonian captivity ...commences "the times of the Gentiles," which only close with the end of this age, when the Kingdom shall once again be restored to Israel.

At the outset of "the times of the Gentiles," God gave Nebuchadnezzar a dream covering the entire period. The Babylonian king saw a metallic colossus. Daniel interpreted its meaning showing the empires in the chronological order they would rise to power.
(See all of Daniel Chapter Two.)

Dan. 2:36 ¶ This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king.
Dan. 2:37 Thou, O king, art king of kings, unto whom the God of heaven hath given the kingdom, the power, and the strength, and the glory;
Dan. 2:38 ...thou art the head of gold.
Dan. 2:39 And after thee shall arise another kingdom [silver] inferior to thee; and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.
Dan. 2:40 And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron, forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things; and as iron that crusheth all these, shall it break in pieces and crush.
Dan. 2:41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, it shall be a divided kingdom; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.
Dan. 2:42 And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.
Dan. 2:43 And whereas thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men; but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron doth not mingle with clay.
Dan. 2:44 And in the days of those kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed, nor shall the sovereignty thereof be left to another people; but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. (ASV)

Prophecy and Prayer

Daniel saw prophecy come to pass when the two-armed silver empire (the Medo-Persian) toppled the golden head of Babylon. So he went to the written word of the Lord. He searched the scrolls of the prophesies of Jeremiah concerning the number of years of the Babylonian exile (Jeremiah 25:11; 29:4-10). As a young man of the seed royal in Jerusalem, Daniel would have heard Jeremiah himself. For the prophets spoke primarily in the areas of the king's palace and the Temple.

Upon study of the Word of the Lord through Jeremiah, Daniel sought prayer, (how to pray), and afterwards, he prayed. (Daniel 9:1-4.)

The ArtScrolls translation reads, "I set my face toward my Lord, God, **to request prayer** and supplication, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. **I prayed** to HASHEM, my God, and I confessed...(Daniel 9:3, 4.)"

Daniel sought the prayer itself—the utterance. The God-given utterance of his prayer was for: *Judah, Jerusalem, all Israel, Thy city Jerusalem, Thy holy mountain, Thy sanctuary, the city which is called by Thy Name.*

This chapter and its revelation apply *only* to those specifically named. This does not apply to the Nations (the Gentiles). And it does not apply to the Church.

Gabriel, the archangel, came with the answer. And it is an answer that reaches far past the seventy years of the then present exile. It reaches right down to the long-anticipated setting up of the Messiah's visible kingdom upon the earth.

Daniel is told that seventy weeks of years have been cut out, measured out, of time for God's dealings with Israel.
Daniel would have understood that this meant ten seven-year shmittah cycles.

> **Dan. 9:24** ¶ Seventy weeks are decreed upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most holy.
> **Dan. 9:25** Know therefore and discern, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the anointed one [Messiah], the prince, shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: it shall be built again, with street and moat, even in troublous times.
> **Dan. 9:26** And after the threescore and two weeks shall the anointed one [Messiah] be cut off, and shall have nothing: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and even unto the end shall be war; desolations are determined.
> **Dan. 9:27** And he shall make a firm covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease; and upon the wing of abominations *shall come* one that maketh desolate; and even unto the full end, and that determined, shall *wrath* be poured out upon the desolate.

Seventy weeks of years totals 490 years. The Jews say that the First Temple was destroyed in 423 BCE. This differs with the Western reckoning date of 590 BC. By either calculation it has been more than 2400 years since Daniel Chapter 9—how could this be?

The answer is simple. I'm a basketball fan. A professional NBA game is four 12-minute quarters. That's 48 minutes playing time. But with time outs, the games take at least two hours and thirty minutes.

These seventy weeks of years are interrupted at given points marked out in verse 25. These are the time-outs.

But first, let's look at verse 24 and what is to be brought to completion in those 490 years. And remember these are in answer to Daniel's prayer for his people, Jerusalem, and Israel.

1. To finish transgression (only that of Israel.)
2. To make an end of sins.
3. To make reconciliation for iniquity (Zechariah 12:9-13:1; Isaiah 66:8.)
4. To bring in everlasting righteousness – Millennial Kingdom (Isaiah 26:1, 2, 7, 8; Jeremiah 31:33, 34; Ezekiel 37:21-28.)
5. To seal up vision and prophecy. (To complete the fulfillment.)
6. To anoint the most holy (place.) The Millennial Temple (Ezekiel 40-47.)

Now, notice that God makes division points in the seventy weeks of years. For our purposes, we begin at verse 26. Of course, the Anointed One is the Messiah. He was cut off....

> **Is. 53:8** By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who *among them* considered that he was **cut off** out of the land of the living for the transgression of my people to whom the stroke *was due*?

When Messiah is cut off, sixty-nine of the seventy weeks of years have passed.
One week of seven years is left.
Sixty-nine of the seventy shmittah cycles have passed.
One shmittah cycle is left.
Of the 490 years, 483 have passed.
Seven years are left.
This seven-year cycle is the period of God's dealing with Israel in the Book of Revelation.

The "prince that shall come" is the antichrist. "The people of the prince that shall come" are the Romans. They destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 AD. The antichrist will be a Roman prince. A judgment will come upon them like a flood, even in a war. This refers to the antichrist and his forces operating out of the old Roman Empire revived. (Zechariah 14; Revelation 16:16; 19:19.)

Daniel's Seventieth Week
A Shmittah Cycle

Daniel's Seventieth Week is a seven-year Shmittah Cycle.
(See the Appendix "Time: Shmittah Cycles.)

Perhaps it is the last one before the true Jubilee when the One the Jews call, "The King Messiah," will set up the earthly kingdom. This title was first uttered in Hannah's prophetic prayer of praise.

> **1Sam. 2:10**
> They that strive with Jehovah shall be broken to pieces;
> Against them will he thunder in heaven:
> Jehovah will judge the ends of the earth;
> And He will give strength unto **His king**,
> And exalt the horn of **His anointed (Mashiach)**. (ASV)

The seventieth week sees an evil one arise who is most often called, the antichrist.
Christ is the Greek translation of the Hebrew *Mashiach*.
The English translation is The Anointed One.
Therefore the antichrist is anti, or against, The Anointed One, The Mashiach.

At a time of extreme trouble in Israel, I was at an Orthodox yeshiva near Hebron. Our group was allowed to come in and be addressed by a very revered rabbi. I had just been to Brussels and so I wanted Israel to know not to trust the evil one forthcoming.

So I asked him, "Do you know there is an evil person coming upon the scene?"

"Yes," he answered, "Do you know who he is?"

Later I learned that their Talmud warned of him:
"...The Holy One, Blessed is He, will cause to rise a king who will make decrees as difficult as Haman's were and Israel will repent and return to the right path." (*Sanhedrin 97b*)

Though he comes in as "the answer man" a solver of problems, the evil one will remove his mask of deception in the midst of the week — 3 ½ years into the week of years.

The Time of Jacob's Trouble

In his wonderful book, Zechariah, A Commentary on His Visions and Prophecies, David Baron makes this observation concerning the last chapters of that prophetic book:

> The overthrow of world-power, and the establishment of Messiah's Kingdom, may be given as the epitome of the last chapters of Zechariah...
> [T]wo oracles...make up the whole of the second half of the book (chaps. 9-11 and 12-14)...Both sections treat of war between the heathen world and Israel, though in different ways.
>
> In the first (chaps. 9-11), the *judgment through which Gentile world-power over Israel is finally destroyed...*
>
> In the second (chaps. 12-14), *the judgment through which Israel itself is sifted and purged* in the final great conflict with the nations, and transformed into the holy nation of Jehovah....

Chapters 30 and 31 of Jeremiah are a book within a book that the LORD told the prophet to write (30:1,2). These enlightening chapters succinctly put forth God's plans and purposes in the restoration of Israel. The book within a book begins:

> **Jer. 30:3** For, lo, the days come, saith Jehovah, that I will turn again the captivity of my people Israel [the northern kingdom] and Judah [the southern kingdom] saith Jehovah; and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it. (ASV)

The LORD closes this book within a book with His amazing declaration that as long as the sun, the moon, and the stars exist, there will be a nation of Israel upon the earth before Him forever. This completely obliterates "replacement theology."

> **Jer. 31:35** ¶ Thus saith Jehovah, who giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, who stirreth up the sea, so that the waves thereof roar; Jehovah of hosts is his name:
> **Jer. 31:36** If these ordinances depart from before me, saith Jehovah, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever.
> **Jer. 31:37** Thus saith Jehovah: If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, then will I also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith Jehovah. (ASV)

Yet it is in these promising chapters that we hear of "the time of Jacob's" trouble.

[And I would interject a word here about His calling the nation Jacob.
He does not call it Abraham. Abraham had other sons: Ishmael, and Keturah's six sons.
He does not call it Isaac. Isaac had another son, Esau.
All of Jacob's sons head up the twelve tribes of Israel.
Therefore, when speaking of the natural seed of Israel, He often calls them Jacob.]

Jer. 30:4 ¶ And these are the words that Jehovah spake concerning Israel and concerning Judah.
Jer. 30:5 For thus saith Jehovah: We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace.
Jer. 30:6 Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child: wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness?
Jer. 30:7 Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.
Jer. 30:8 And it shall come to pass in that day, saith Jehovah of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds; and strangers shall no more make him their bondman;
Jer. 30:9 but they shall serve Jehovah their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them.
Jer. 30:10 Therefore fear thou not, O Jacob my servant, saith Jehovah; neither be dismayed, O Israel: for, lo, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be quiet and at ease, and none shall make him afraid.
Jer. 30:11 For I am with thee, saith Jehovah, to save thee: for I will make a full end of all the nations whither I have scattered thee, but I will not make a full end of thee; but I will correct thee in measure, and will in no wise leave thee unpunished.

Dan. 12:1 ¶ And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince who standeth for the children of thy people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

Matt. 24:15 ¶ When therefore ye see the abomination of desolation, which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let him that readeth understand),
Matt. 24:16 then let them that are in Judaea flee unto the mountains:
Matt. 24:17 let him that is on the housetop not go down to take out the things that are in his house:
Matt. 24:18 and let him that is in the field not return back to take his cloak.
Matt. 24:19 But woe unto them that are with child and to them that give suck in those days!
Matt. 24:20 And pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on a sabbath:
Matt. 24:21 for then shall be great tribulation, such as hath not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, nor ever shall be.
Matt. 24:22 And except those days had been shortened, no flesh would have been saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

All these scriptural references refer to Daniel's Seventieth Week.
The Shmittah Cycle of the Book of Revelation.

The Hebrew word *tsar* is translated variously as, *tribulation, trouble, affliction,* and *travail.*
It means literally "a narrow place...created by outside pressure."

The references to travail and the birth of a child illustrate it well.
The child passes through the narrow place of the birth canal.
Pain is associated with the passage.
But at the end, a baby is born!

During one of the Intifadas (uprisings) in Israel, I took a group to the new community next to ancient Shiloh. Constant attacks were happening on the roads to and from Shiloh. A young mother named Rachel had just been murdered in an attack upon her car.

In those days there were no facilities for tourists, so my friend, Batia, kindly let our whole busload of about 40 use her bathroom. I noticed she had a fragment of cloth pinned to the shoulder of her dress. The cloth was torn in the middle as a sign of mourning.

She pointed to it and said, "We know there is to be travail in the fulfilling of prophecy, but at least in the end, we will get a baby!"

And they will. The nation will be born in a day.

> **Is. 66:8** Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall a land be born in one day? shall a nation be brought forth at once? for as soon as Zion **travailed**, she brought forth her children.

Brim Note: Though the church is a hidden mystery in the Old Testament. And though the church is not a part of the answer to Daniel's prayer, a time space is left for the church in the "time out" between the 69th and 70th week of Daniel's Seventy Weeks of Years.

Some have called this space of now about 2000 years, a parenthesis.
A parenthesis which covers the church age upon the earth.
A parenthesis which includes the day of salvation by grace (Acts 20:24).
A parenthesis which begins with the birth of the church and ends with her catching up.

Appendix:

Comparison Matthew 24 and Luke 21

> **Matt. 24:1** ¶ Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him.
> **Matt. 24:2** And He said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down."
> **Matt. 24:3** ¶ As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what *will be* the sign of Your coming [*parousia*], and of the end of the age?" (NAS95S)

The Wow Factor!
Jesus' disciples were astonished at Herod's amazing reconstruction of the Temple.
The seminar tour groups we take there are still amazed at the size of the stones.

> Wikipedia.org
> Herod's Temple was one of the larger construction projects of the 1st century BCE. Herod was interested in perpetuating his name for all eternity through building projects, and his construction program was extensive. He had built magnificent palaces in Masada, Caesarea and Tiberias. ... But his masterpiece was the Temple of Jerusalem. The old temple built by Zerubbabel was replaced by a magnificent edifice.

His disciples probably were even more astonished at the Master's words.
I think this because they had walked some distance from the Temple Mount to the Mount of Olives. While they were on the way they seemed to have discussed what He said, and to have carefully worded what I see as three questions (v. 3).
These disciples were Jews. Their thinking is Jewish. Their questions were Jewish.

Remember, we must rightly divide the Word.
Therefore we must rightly divide His answers to their questions.

1. When will these things happen?
2. What is the sign of your coming? (Parousia)
3. ....and of the end of the age?

The First Question
When Will the Second Temple Be Destroyed?

Jesus had said that the Temple stones would come down.
When would the Second Temple be destroyed?

We now know it was destroyed in 70AD by the Romans under Titus.
Forty years (number of testing) after Jesus prophesied it.

Luke 21:20-24 is the answer to this question:

> **Luke 21:20** ¶ But when ye see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that her desolation is at hand.
> **Luke 21:21** Then let them that are in Judaea flee unto the mountains; and let them that are in the midst of her depart out; and let not them that are in the country enter therein.
> **Luke 21:22** For these are days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.
> **Luke 21:23** Woe unto them that are with child and to them that give suck in those days! for there shall be great distress upon the land, and wrath unto this people.
> **Luke 21:24** And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led captive into all the nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. (ASV)

Josephus, the Jewish historian witnessed this destruction and records details of the horror. Especially poignant is the account of a nursing mother that exactly fit what Jesus said in Luke 21:23. (See Wars of the Jews, Book VI, Chapter III) She did exactly opposite of Jesus' instructions. She left her village home and fled to the Temple area. The results are too terrible to describe here. Josephus' description exactly verifies that Jesus' warnings of the destruction of the Second Temple were exact.

One thing that I would share here; Josephus records that many supernatural signs of the impending destruction were given by God. Some were in the heavens. Here's what Josephus said considering our sign-giving God:

> Josephus, *Wars of the Jews*, Book VI, Chapter III
> Now, if any one consider these things, he will find that God takes care of mankind, and by all ways possible foreshews to our race what is for their preservation; but that men perish by those miseries which they madly and voluntarily bring upon themselves...

Josephus claims that 1,100,000 people were killed during the siege, of which a majority were Jewish, and that 97,000 were captured and enslaved.

In Luke 21:24 Jesus said that the captives would be led away into all nations.
That happened. The Jewish survivors and their seed were scattered to the four corners of the world. From this scattering there will be an ingathering (Deuteronomy 30:1-9).

Jesus focused on Jerusalem. It is only here that the words "trodden down" are used.

In verse 24, Jesus moves forward in time from 70AD to the end of days when the times of the Gentile nations treading Jerusalem would be fulfilled.

The Second Question
What is the Sign of Your Coming [Parousia}?

Though the disciples would have spoken Aramaic or Hebrew, the oldest manuscripts we have of The New Testament are in Greek.

In Matthew 24:3, The Greek word translated coming is *parousia.*

> *The Companion Bible,* (page 1364)
> The Papyri [ancient papyrus documents] show that "from the Ptolemaic period down to the 2nd Century AD the word is traced in the East as a technical expression for the arrival or the visit of the king or the Emperor...(See Deissmann's Light, &c., pp. 372-8, 441-5)

The Jews were expecting the King Messiah, according to Scripture, to set up an earthly visible kingdom. His Jewish disciples were asking Him what would be the sign of that.

I believe that they thought the setting up of the kingdom would soon follow the destruction of the Temple. They had no idea a 2000-year church age would separate the two events.

In the Four Gospels, Jesus was speaking to Israel and offering them the promised kingdom. This is the kingdom message He preached to Israel.

> **Matt. 15:24** But he answered and said, I was not sent but unto the lost sheep **of** the **house of Israel**.

Israel's leaders rejected the kingdom.
That kingdom is now in abeyance and it is the one they will be prepared to administer in the Lord's dealing with them now and in the future.

Jesus gives the signs of His Coming to set up the earthly kingdom in Matthew 24.
He describes what will be happening on earth in that seven-year shmittah cycle just before He comes on His white horse to judge and make war, and to set up His earthly kingdom.

Matthew 24 and its signs correspond with the Six Seals of Revelation and what is happening on earth during what is often called the tribulation.
You will want to read all of Matthew 24 in context.
I have chosen a few verses for commentary.

> **Matt. 24:3** ¶ As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"
> **Matt. 24:4** ¶ And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you.
> **Matt. 24:5** "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ [Messiah],' and will mislead many.
> **Matt. 24:6** "You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for *those things* must take place, but *that* is not yet the end.

> **Matt. 24:7** "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes.
> **Matt. 24:8** "But all these things are the beginning of birth pangs. (NAS95S)

Verses 3 and 4
A warning of the deception of the antichrist. In those trying times many will rightfully yearn for the Messiah. Deceivers will point to false Messiahs.

Verses 6 and 7
War! Famine! Earthquakes!

> **Matt. 24:8** But all these things are the beginning of travail [*birth pangs*]. (ASV)

Verse 8
A reference to The Time of Jacob's Trouble (Jeremiah 30:6,7.)
(See Appendix: Daniel's Seventieth Week.)

> **Matt. 24:9** Then shall they deliver you up unto tribulation, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all the nations for my name's sake.
> **Matt. 24:10** And then shall many stumble, and shall deliver up one another, and shall hate one another.
> **Matt. 24:11** And many false prophets shall arise, and shall lead many astray.
> **Matt. 24:12** And because iniquity shall be multiplied, the love of the many shall wax cold.
> **Matt. 24:13** But he that endureth to the end, the same shall be saved. (ASV)

Verse 13
This verse proves that this is not a church age scripture.
In the church age, we are saved, "by grace through faith...Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8, 9).
Enduring to the end to be saved, is a salvation of works. Something one must do to be saved.
The people of the time of the tribulation are encouraged to "endure to the end" to be saved.
The end of what? The end of that seven-year cycle?
For at the end of those seven years, the Messiah will indeed come, defeat the antichrist, and set up His visible kingdom on earth. At that time that will be the ultimate Good News!!!

> **Matt. 24:14** And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a testimony unto all the nations; and then shall the end come.

Gospel means "good news."
During the seven years, the good news that the Messiah is soon coming to set up His kingdom will be preached.
The 144,000 will preach it. Angels will preach it. The two witnesses will preach it.
The good news during the tribulation will be that it will soon be over.
That one can endure to the end and be saved.

> **Matt. 24:15** ¶ When therefore ye see the abomination of desolation, which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let him that readeth understand),
> **Matt. 24:16** then let them that are in Judaea flee unto the mountains:

> **Matt. 24:17** let him that is on the housetop not go down to take out the things that are in his house:
> **Matt. 24:18** and let him that is in the field not return back to take his cloak.
> **Matt. 24:19** But woe unto them that are with child and to them that give suck in those days!
> **Matt. 24:20** And pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on a sabbath:
> **Matt. 24:21** for then shall be great tribulation, such as hath not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, nor ever shall be.
> **Matt. 24:22** And except those days had been shortened, no flesh would have been saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. (ASV)

Remember that to rightly divide scripture, one must read verses in context.
We are reading these verses exactly as they come.

Verse 15
Jesus takes them right to what Daniel spoke about the antichrist.
The Lord verifies Daniel's prophecies. And He ties all this to the seven years immediately preceding His Second Coming—to what is called the tribulation.
Jesus, Daniel, and Paul (2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4) all prophesy that the antichrist will set up his throne in the newly built Temple where he will declare that he is God.
I think it is so interesting that the scripture says, "Let him that readeth understand."
Our Bibles will not go up in the rapture.
People will be reading them.
And Jesus pronounces a blessing that those who read will "understand" and follow the instructions He gives.

Verse 20
This too proves that he is not talking to the Body of Christ.
For it would not matter to Christians if they would need to take flight on a Sabbath.
But, it would certainly matter to many religious Jews.
They would even risk their lives rather than to break the travel restrictions of Sabbath.
I also find it so wonderful, that even in the tribulation time, prayer can prevail.
Evidently prayer can affect the time of the flight from danger.

Verse 21
Here Jesus calls it "the great tribulation."

Verse 22
The elect are the Jewish remnant.
From this we see that there will be a shortening of the days....

> **Matt. 24:23** Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is the Christ [Messiah], or, Here; believe *it* not.
> **Matt. 24:24** For there shall arise false Christs [messiahs], and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.
> **Matt. 24:25** Behold, I have told you beforehand.
> **Matt. 24:26** If therefore they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the wilderness; go not forth: Behold, he is in the inner chambers; believe *it* not.
> **Matt. 24:27** For as the lightning cometh forth from the east, and is seen even unto the west; so shall be the coming of the Son of man. (ASV)

Verses 23-26
Again the admonition not to be led astray by false messiahs (the antichrist included), and false prophets (including the false prophet of Revelation 16:13).

Verse 27
This Coming of the Son of Man will be visible to all.
When He comes as lightning splitting the eastern skies it is the coming of Revelation 19 and Zechariah 14. Every eye will see Him.

This is not the invisible coming for the church to meet Him in the air and to proceed to the Throne. (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17.)
The purpose of the invisible coming for the church is for the love of His bride and marriage.
The purpose of His visible coming is to judge and make war (Revelation 19:16-16).
When He comes as lightning splitting the skies, it is with fire in His eyes.

> **Matt. 24:28** Wheresoever the carcase is, there will
> the eagles be gathered together.

Verse 28
Again, we do not take a verse out of context and give it some strange and isolated meaning. The very next verses in Revelation 19 explain it, "And I saw an angel...he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God: That ye may eat the flesh of kings...captains...mighty men...." (Revelation 19:17, 18).

Also, God spoke to Job regarding the eagle, "Her young ones also suck up blood: and where the slain are, there is she" (Job 39:30).

> **Matt. 24:29** ¶ But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers [*exousia*, authorities] of the heavens shall be shaken:
> **Matt. 24:30** and then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.
> **Matt. 24:31** And he shall send forth his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Verse 29
Again, it is called "the tribulation"
Signs in the sun and moon and stars.
The usurping authorities of the "prince of the powers (authorities) of the air" shall be shaken. The mid-heavens will shake out the evil princes.

Verse 31
The elect are the Jewish remnant.

> **Matt. 24:32** ¶ Now from the fig tree learn her parable: when her branch is now become tender, and putteth forth its leaves, ye know that the summer is nigh;
> **Matt. 24:33** even so ye also, when ye see all these things, know ye that He is nigh, *even* at the doors.

Verse 32
Summer is the time of the harvest, and therefore of the judging of the harvest.
Note "summer" is the time of the judgment of the empires in Nebuchadnezzar's dream.
The end of the times of the gentiles:

> **Dan. 2:34** Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon its feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them in pieces.
> **Dan. 2:35** Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken in pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing-floors; and the wind carried them away, so that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

The signs of the coming (parousia) of the King Messiah are given in answer to the disciples' questions.

Concerning the days of Noah, it is written, "The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually (Genesis 6:5). Love brought the flood and removed the evil.
Love will again judge evil and remove it out of the earth.

> **Matt. 24:40** Then shall two men be in the field; one is taken, and one is left:
> **Matt. 24:41** two women *shall be* grinding at the mill; one is taken, and one is left.

Don't lift these verses out of context and try to make them apply to the catching away of the church.
The catching away of the church is in the Letters to the church, and not in the Four Gospels.
Verses 40 and 41 relate to the cleansing of the earth.
These are sinners taken out of the earth at its cleansing in the day of the LORD.

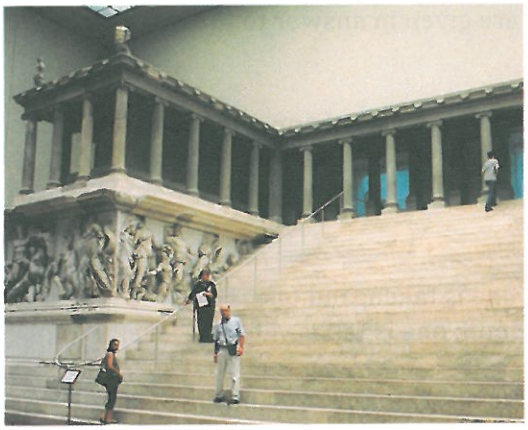
> **Is. 13:9** Behold, the day of Jehovah cometh, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger; to make the land a desolation, and to destroy the sinners thereof out of it.

Third Question
What Will Be the Sign of the End of the Age?

Jewish disciples asked the question.
It is the end of the Jewish age they are asking about.
And the Lord describes the last seven years (shmittah cycle) of God's dealing with the Jews as pointed out by Gabriel to Daniel (Daniel Chapter 9).



Model of the Pergamon Acropolis

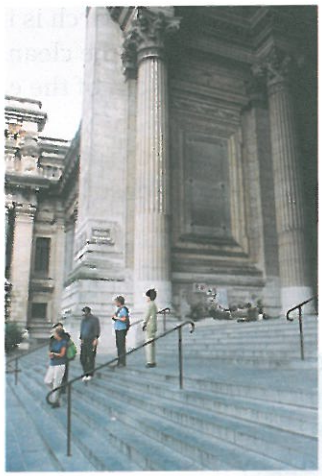




The Pergamon Altar of Zeus - Berlin, Germany
Billye Brim and pastors on the steps



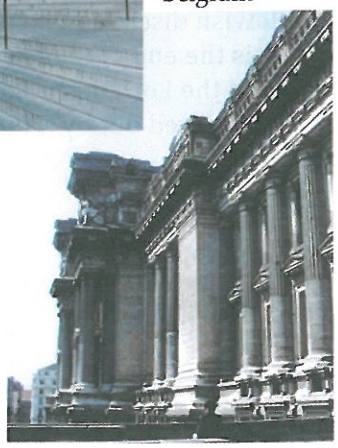
The Zeppelin Grandstand - Nuremberg, Germany (1938)
Architect Albert Speer used the Pergamon Altar as a model.

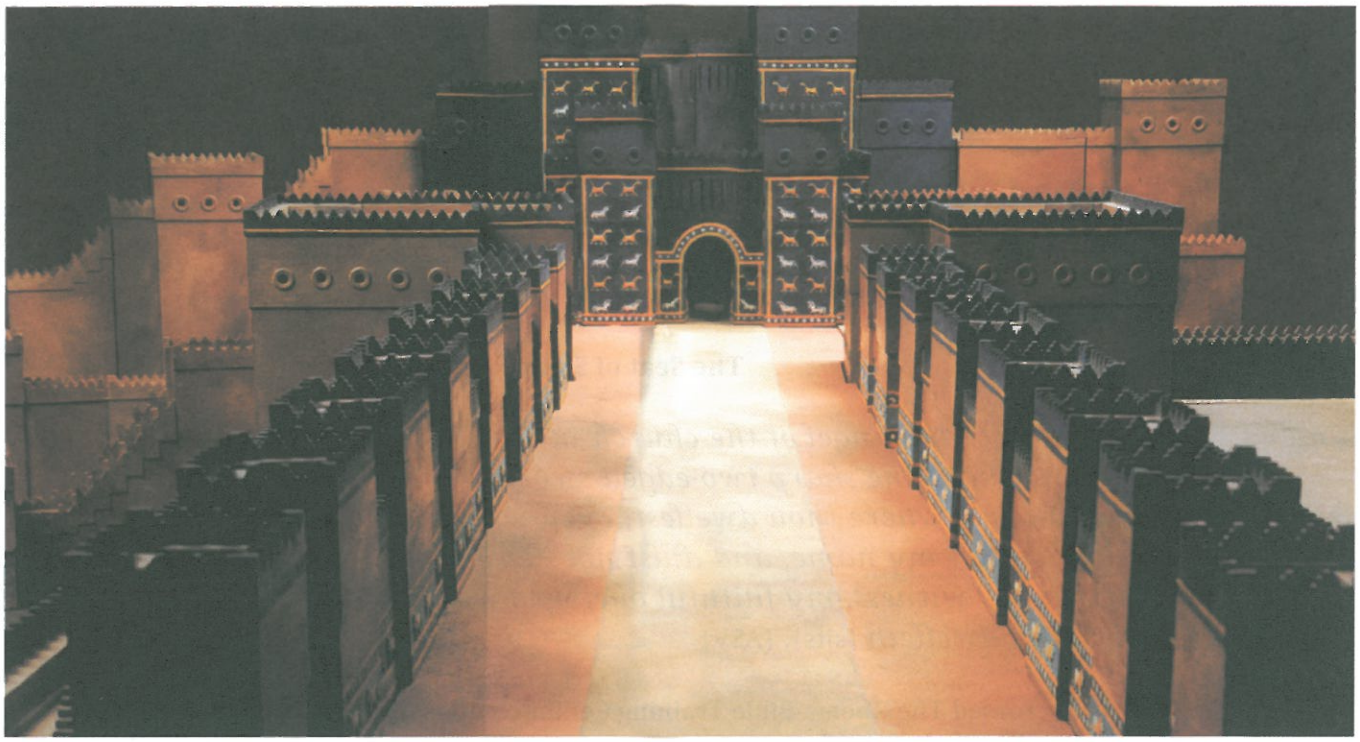


Palais de Justice Brussels, Belgium



The Lenin Mausoleum with the Kremlin buildings behind it *Red Square. Moscow*





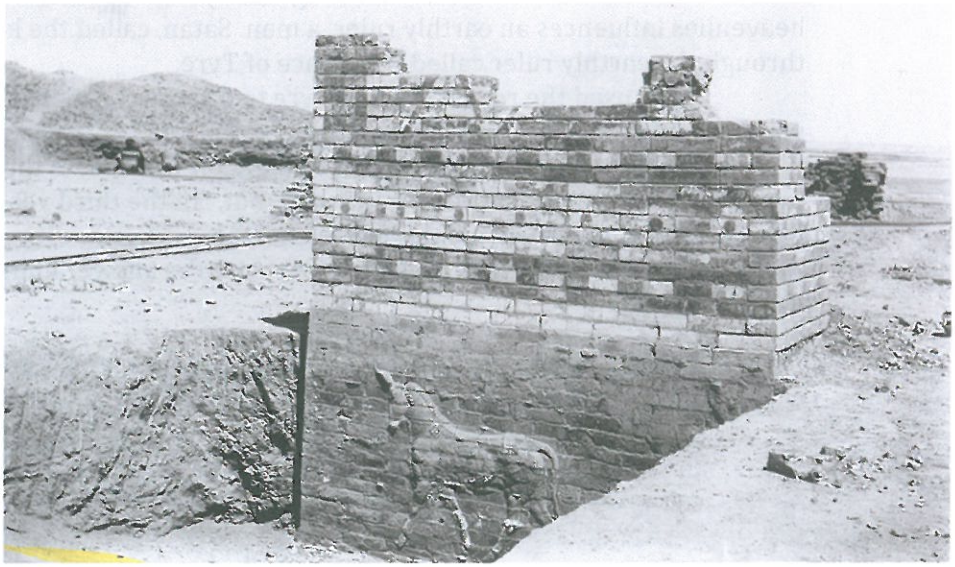
Model of The Ishtar Gates and the Processional Way



Reconstructed part of the Processional Way of Babylon



Lion friezes of the Processional Way



Remains of one of the gate towers during Excavation, 1902

Appendix

The Seat of Satan

Rev. 2:12 and to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These things saith he that hath the sharp two-edged sword:
Rev. 2:13 I know where thou dwellest, even where Satan's throne is; and thou holdest fast my name, and didst not deny my faith, even in the days of Antipas my witness, my faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwelleth (sits). (ASV)

One day as I crossed The Rhema Bible Training Center campus in Tulsa, Patsy Behrman (now Camaneti) called me to the prayer room to pray with a young couple who felt called to Brussels. As we prayed, we were overcome—in a wonderful way—by the power of God. Soon after I received an invitation to accompany them to Brussels for a prayer conference they were calling "Breakthrough for Brussels."

On March 25, 1991, I walked down to the water's edge from my home on a bluff overlooking a lake near Pryor, Oklahoma. Seated on a rock in a secluded place, I began to pray about whether I should go.

Immediately the Lord spoke to me. He unveiled strategies of Satan and his seats (thrones) of rule from what I will call the mid-heavens, or the double kingdom system set up after Adam allowed the adversary a place in this world.

The Double Kingdom System

In Ezekiel 28, the Lord directs His message to a human earthly ruler, *the prince of Tyre*. He says, "Thou art a man" (v. 2).

But then, starting in verse 11, He addresses one as *the King of Tyre*. This one is identified as having been in Eden, an anointed cherub who had been upon the holy mountain of God—a created being (Ez. 28:13-15).

This reveals how the double-kingdom system operates; an evil spirit in the heavenlies influences an earthly ruler, a man. Satan, called the king of Tyre, ruled down through the earthly ruler called the prince of Tyre.

Satan used the royal family of Tyre to oppose the plan of God for the Jews. Jezebel was of that family. She married the king of Israel and brought with her prophets of Baal.

Daniel, who'd been carried off to Babylon just before the fall of the Temple, saw prophesy coming to pass. The Bible states that, "In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia..." Daniel fasted and prayed for three weeks" (Dan. 10:1-3).

What the angel said when he came with the answer enlightens us about the double kingdom system:

> Dan. 10:12 Then he said to me, "Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding *this* and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words.

> Dan. 10:13 "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia.

After delivering the message, the angel refers again to the evil spirits in the heavenlies:

> Dan. 10:20 Then he said, "Do you understand why I came to you? But I shall now return to fight against the prince of Persia; so I am going forth, and behold, the prince of Greece is about to come.

Persia (present day Iran) then ruled over the captive children of Israel. It was through the Persian kingdom the evil Haman attempted to wipe out the Jews. God destroyed Haman through Esther and Mordechai. When Daniel prayed God's prophecy concerning Cyrus' helping the Jews return home would come to pass. Satan, who had set up a throne over Persia, attempted to thwart God's plans for Israel.

Lucifer Lusts After the Throne of God

Lucifer was created an anointed angel. He made a devil out of himself. We are told how it happened.

Satan's throne is not now in hell. The Bible calls him, *the prince of the powers of the air* (Eph. 2:2). He has set up his headquarters in the mid heavens. This place of rule was intended for Adam. The first man, legally, but not morally, delivered the operations from the heavenlies to Satan.

> John A. MacMillan writes in *The Authority of the Believer* (page 10):
>
> [It] is commonly understood by those who carefully study the Word, that the kingdoms of this world are under the control and leadership of satanic principalities. The great head of these is...acknowledged as the "prince of this world" by our Lord Himself (John 12:31). His [Satan's] asserted claim to the suzerainty of the world kingdoms, made in the presence of the Lord Jesus (Luke 4:6) was not denied by Christ. Although a rebel against the Most High and now under judgment, of dispossession, he is still at large, and as the masses of mankind are also rebels, he maintains over them an unquestioned, because unsuspected rule, their eyes being blinded to his dominance (2 Cor. 4:4).

When Satan does at last descend into hell, the kings of the earth who followed him during their reigns will ask him, "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground which didst weaken the nations!" (Is. 14:12).

Then comes God's answer, "For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation in the sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shall be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit" (Is. 14:13-15).

Lucifer had a throne. It was in a place that required ascending to approach heaven. It was in a place that had clouds. It was on earth in the pre-Adamic civilization. (See my book, *The Blood and the Glory*.) Lucifer led an attack on Heaven with the goal of setting up his throne on God's Holy Mountain in Heaven.

Jesus told us how it turned out, "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from Heaven" (Luke 10:18).

The Seat of Satan at Pergamon

As I sat on that rock beside Lake Hudson in Oklahoma, the Lord reminded me of what Jesus said to the angel of the church at Pergamon. (See Scripture above.)

The Lord showed me that Satan moves his throne from place to place and that history reflects it.

Bullinger's note in *The Companion Bible* reads: "Pergamos. A city in Mysia famous for the worship of Aesculapius, to whom the title soter (saviour) was given and whose emblem was the serpent...Some trace the Babylonian pagan priesthood as removing to Pergamos."

The Lord made known to me that at the time of Jesus' appearing to John on the Isle of Patmos, Satan had set up his throne over Pergamon. Pagan cults and emperor worship were centered there. The huge Altar of Zeus dominated the acropolis over the ancient Greek city in what is now Turkey.

The Lord made known to my spirit that Satan had since set up his throne over Berlin in World Wars I and II. And that his throne was over Moscow during the Cold War.

I heard in my spirit, *The adversary will set up his throne over Brussels before he attempts the move to Jerusalem where he plans to set himself up in the rebuilt Temple* (Dan 9:27; Matt. 24:15; 2 Thess. 2:3, 4). *I want you in Brussels as my witness.*

So for years I have been going to Brussels in my ministry as a witness (Acts 26:16).

The Lord has since made me to know that earthly Jerusalem is not Satan's final goal. He plans another attempt to ascend to the heavenly Jerusalem and the throne of God. How wonderful to read the Book of Revelation and the utter frustration of the plans of the enemy in the judgments of God.

Tracing the Moves

Eerily there has been a physical counterpart—*an earthly reflection of the seat of Satan in the heavenlies*—in each of the cities the Lord pointed out to me. That counterpart is a huge structure. Yet in modern times it has moved from ancient Pergamon to Berlin. From Berlin to Moscow. And then back to Berlin where it now sits.

Here is the story of the seemingly impossible travels of such a gargantuan structure, the great Pergamon Altar of Zeus.

The New German Empire began in 1871. Associations were made with the Ottoman Empire of Turkey. A German road builder who was also an archeologist, discovered the ruins of Pergamon and the Altar of Zeus. Kaiser Wilhelm became passionately involved with transporting the huge altar to Berlin. And there it stood in a specially constructed museum during World War I.

Hitler was enamored with the altar and some say, worshiped at it. In 1934 he ordered the building of a sports field in Nuremberg patterned after the altar. Here huge Nazi rallies with swastika-emblazoned-flags were staged in cultish array. Hitler spoke from the altar-like edifice. All during the Nazi reign of horror the altar stood in their capital.

U.S. General George Patton led the allied armies in the final land thrust resulting in the taking of Berlin. Under orders, the U.S. led forces stepped back to allow Russia to actually take the city because of the Nazi siege of Leningrad. This step, however, led to the dividing of Berlin during the Cold War and the building of the Berlin Wall. Guess on which

side of the wall the Pergamon Museum stood! It stood in Communist East Berlin. However, the altar itself was dismantled and taken to Moscow.

> The massive Pergamon Altar, originally removed from the Greek city of Pergamon to Germany, was dismembered, carefully packed and sent to Moscow in 1945...the Russians discovered it hidden [imagine hiding something that large] by the Germans in the Zoo tower in Berlin which was supposed to be bomb proof. The Zoo tower contained crates of art treasures stolen by the Germans from victims during the Allied bombings.
> ("THE TRAIL OF PAINT
> The Nazi Art Obsession" by Phyllis Farber, April 1998).

Some years before the actual transportation of the altar to Moscow, however, the Soviet architect Alexey Schusev designed Lenin's tomb using the altar of Zeus as his pattern. During the height of Communism the Soviet leaders stood atop the tomb as the power of the Russian Communist army and artillery paraded before them in a fashion memorable of the Nazi parades in Hitler's Nuremberg arena.

In 1957 the altar itself returned to Berlin—the capital of one of the two powerful states (Germany and France) which drive the European Union.

The entrance to the strange building, The *Palais de Justice* in Brussels, built by Leopold II and the architect Pouilart, bears a remarkable resemblance to the altar of Zeus. It was the largest building in the Western Hemisphere when it was built between 1866-1883. Conglomerations of architectural design from the Four Empires of the Times of the Gentiles from the Book of Daniel are used in the huge structure. Stairways and passages, which go nowhere, add to the eeriness of the building. The architect was declared mad.

We Saw the Seat of Satan

In the summer of 2003, four of us traveled to Berlin to see the Pergamon Museum. The size of the Altar of Zeus is as staggering as its history. Then too, it is housed alongside another ancient artifact the Kaiser also transported into his kingdom—the Ishtar Gates of Babylon. The Ishtar Gates and their passageway, through which the children of Israel entered captive into Babylon, stand like a tribute to those who captured the Chosen People.

Appendix: Babylonian System

Rightly Dividing the Word

To correctly understand any of the Bible, and especially the Book of Revelation, one must rightly divide the Scriptures. All error is the result of wrong division of the Word.

> **2Tim. 2:15** Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly** dividing the word of truth.

Prophecy cannot be given an isolated interpretation (2 Peter 1:19-21).
Scriptures must also be interpreted by these important guides:
Who is doing the talking? And to whom, or about whom is the Scripture speaking?
Scriptures can be concerning a single person. Or they can be to or about a group of people.
The three groups of peoples a Scripture can be to or about are:

> **1Cor. 10:32** Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: (KJV)

Many translations read, the Jews, *the Greeks*, and the Church.
The King James translators got the meaning across when they used "Gentiles" to translate Greeks. For all the nations of the Gentile world are meant here, and not just the Greeks.
The Gentile world had been Hellenized (Greekalized) after Alexander the Great.

The Hebrew word translated Gentiles, is *goyim*.
Goyim is variously translated in the O.T. as: nations, heathen, etc.
Goyim means nations.

And so, the three people groups to or about whom a Scripture speaks are:

> The Jews
> The Nations
> The Church

Following is the order in which the Bible introduces the first two groups.

The Nations

The Nations are the first of the three people groups introduced to us.
They were formed as nations after the flood.
In Genesis 10, we meet them as the 70 foundational nations in the offspring of the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.
(To arrive at 70, do not count Noah's three sons, nor the Philistines of verse 14.)

> **Gen. 10:32** These *are* the families of the sons of Noah, after their generations, in their nations: and by these were the nations divided in the earth after the flood.

The Lord had commanded what they were to do after the waters receded.
Can you imagine being the only people on earth and hearing God's instruction:

> **Gen. 9:1** ¶ And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth. (KJV)

> **Gen 9:1** ¶ And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. (NAS95S)

In the year 1996 from Creation, 340 years after the flood, the survivors had made no move to obey God and fill the earth. They were all concentrated together in present-day Iraq. And they decided to build a city and a tower, "lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the earth" (Genesis 11:1-4).

> **Gen. 11:1** ¶ Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words.
> **Gen. 11:2** It came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there.
> **Gen. 11:3** They said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and burn *them* thoroughly." And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar.
> **Gen. 11:4** They said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top *will reach* into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."
> **Gen. 11:5** The LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.
> **Gen. 11:6** The LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them.
> **Gen. 11:7** "Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another's speech."
> **Gen. 11:8** So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city.
> **Gen. 11:9** Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth. (NAS95S)

Babel means confusion.
Satan means adversary. He is the ancient adversary of God, and the author of confusion.
Satan, was certainly behind the rebellion of the nations.
The human instrument he used was Nimrod.

> **Gen. 10:8** And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth.
> **Gen. 10:9** He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD.
> **Gen. 10:10** And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.
> **Gen. 10:11** Out of that land went forth Asshur, and builded Nineveh, and the city Rehoboth, and Calah,
> **Gen. 10:12** And Resen between Nineveh and Calah: the same *is* a great city. (KJV)

> *The Stone Edition of the Chumash*, page 47
> Before Nimrod there were neither wars nor reigning monarchs. He subjugated the Babylonians until they crowned him (v. 10), after which he went to Assyria and built great cities (*Radak*; *Ramban*). The Torah calls him a mighty hunter, which Rashi and most commentators interpret figuratively: Nimrod ensnared men with his words and incited them to rebel against God. (*R' Hirsch.*) His first conquest, which laid the basis for his subsequent empire building, was Babel, which became the center of Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian Empire. It was one of the greatest cities of the ancient world.

With this rebellion began the Babylonian System. And all things Babylon.

Kenneth Copeland, in teaching about the Babylonian System called it, "Man's attempt to meet his own needs without God."

The Separated Nation

Not willing that the nations perish, He separated a nation to Himself.
A Holy nation. With a Holy Call.

> **Gen. 12:1** ¶ Now Jehovah said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto the land that I will show thee:
> **Gen. 12:2** and I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and be thou a blessing:
> **Gen. 12:3** and I will bless them that bless thee, and him that curseth thee will I curse: and in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed. (ASV)

God called a man who would live by faith to be the Patriarch of a "great nation" separated, holy unto God. He rewarded Abraham and his natural seed by promising them a Land.
He also proclaimed a blessing upon them. He promised to personally bless those who bless them, and to personally curse those who cursed them. And, in many ways, the families of the earth are blessed in Abraham and his seed. Foremost in the Seed of the Messiah. But also, in the Millennium and the ages to follow, earth and the sheep nations blessings are tied up in the blessings of Israel.

The call that Israel as a nation has upon it, is to reveal God to the nations.
In Romans 9, 10, and 11, a revelation of "the mystery of Israel," to the church, the Lord declares He has not withdrawn that call.

> **Rom. 11:25** ¶ For I would not, brethren, have you ignorant of this mystery, lest ye be wise in your own conceits, that a hardening in part hath befallen Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in;
> **Rom. 11:26** and so all Israel shall be saved: even as it is written,
> There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer;
> He shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:
> **Rom. 11:27** And this is my covenant unto them,
> When I shall take away their sins.
> **Rom. 11:28** ¶ As touching the gospel, they are enemies for your sake: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sake.
> **Rom. 11:29** For the gifts and the calling of God are not repented of.

Plan "A" was for Israel to reveal God to the nations by living in the Promised Land and demonstrating God and His blessings. (Deuteronomy 28:1-14, Especially note verse 10.)

Plan "B" if they did hearken to the Word of God in obedience, he would scatter them from one end of earth to the other. And then in the end of days He would bring them back to their Promised Land. By the evident keeping of God's Word to bring them home, the nations were to have a revelation of God.

We are living in that great miracle revelation of God taking place before the eyes of the nations of the world.

Babylon and the Times of the Gentiles

Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, was the first to carry off the Hebrews out of their Promised Land. Before the destruction of the Temple, he carried off to Babylon bright young men of the royal family. Daniel was among them. To Daniel God revealed the end.

With the carrying off of Israel into the Babylonian captivity began, "the Times of the Gentiles." That title was coined by the Master when he prophesied that the times of the Gentiles trodding down Jerusalem would come to an end (Luke 21:24).

The Father gave King Nebuchadnezzar a dream which prophesied that end.
A "Stone Kingdom," would destroy the Four Gentile Empires seen in that dream.

The Stone would strike the metal image of the kingdoms that evolved since Nimrod and Babel. And at the time of the striking of the toes there would still be something left of Babylon in it.

Babylon is Fallen

When I read *Babylon is fallen*, I think back to Nebuchadnezzar's image. I think back before that to Babel. Every vestige of all that began with at Babel will fall and disappear like the chaff from the summer thrashing floor (Daniel 2:34, 35; 44, 45).

Guesses, and speculation have named cities:
Rome, New York City, the City of Babylon itself restored,
[There was a restoration of the nation of Babylon, of sorts, when the Middle East was brought back (as the Prophets declared it would be) with WWI and the discovery of oil.
I'd seen that from Zechariah's vision that the price of a barrel of crude oil in Iraq replaced the price of an ephah as the basis of world commerce (Zechariah 5:5-11).
We could also say there have been judgments in that physical land.
No one really knows what will happen there. But certainly not the establishment of democracy.]

I see the whole thing as one, the Babylonian system, the Beast... All inspired by the ancient adversary. *All of it is falling.* The future is as bright as God can make it.
No wonder the enemy did not want us to read The Book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

The Image of Europe exhibit in Brussels, Beglium, 2004



Golden image of a man credited with the original idea to create an ecomomic union.





NEW DAWN
2004 to Infinity



Euro as
Global Currency



"Say Yes to Everything"



Europe
at 50

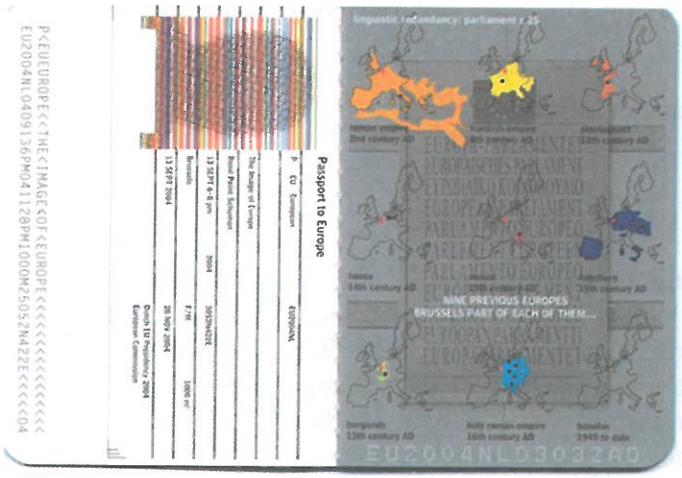


EU as
Model

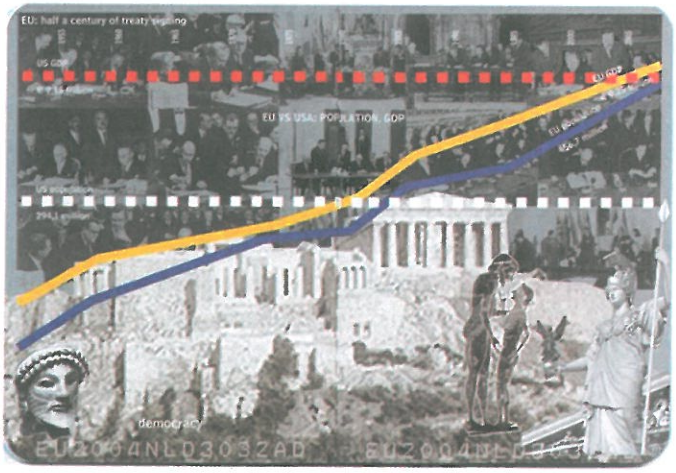


Vending Machine for
Passport to Europe





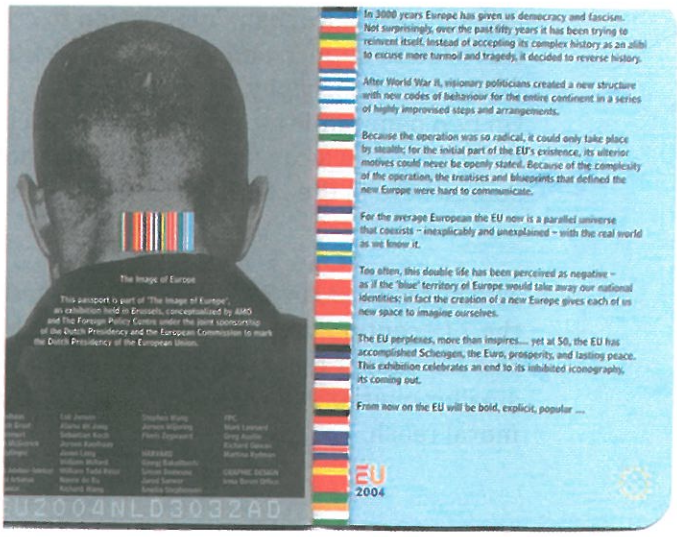
Nine Previous Europes
Brussels Part of Each of Them



EU: half a century of treaty signing



2004: After 52 Years of Stealth,
Europe Has A Constitution



This passport is part of 'The Image of Europe'

Appendix: The Image of Europe

Please refer to the Appendix: Seat of Satan.

As shared in the Appendix: Seat of Satan, for years I have travelled to Brussels, seat of the European Union Commission and Parliament. In 2004, the pastor there phoned me and said, "You have to get over here. All the things we've been saying and trying to prove about the European Union, they are saying about themselves."

And so, I quickly arranged to go see the exposition they had put up in a large colorful tent in Brussels. Inside the tent was a large golden image of a man credited with the original idea to create an economic union.

In concentric circles around the tent, a history of Europe evolved into a futuristic view of what they hoped to accomplish. The pictures included here we took ourselves.

Here are some of the statements unabashedly made on the large panels.
Here is what they said about themselves. Only the emphasis and bracketed comments are mine.

The Image of Europe,
Belgium, Brussels, 2004

Image of Europe, Belgium, Brussels
Internet
The creation of the European Union will ultimately be recorded as one of history's quietest revolutions. Europe's reticence has clearly had its benefits: the European Union has already – without fan fair or retribution - become the largest economy on earth, its population nearing 500 million – almost twice that of the world's last remaining 'super power.' But increasingly, as the EU grows in size and importance, the ineffectiveness of its communication is proving to be a serious political liability that weakens its external manifestations and has unnecessarily eroded its internal support.
To mark the occasion of the Netherland's 2004 Presidency of the European Union, ___ was asked by the European Commission to create an exhibition in Brussels (which then travelled to Munich and Vienna), "The Image of Europe" celebrating an end to the EU's inhibited iconography, its coming out...
On two panoramic murals – concentric circles of 60 and 80 meters in length – the evolution of "Europe", as a concept, identity, and political reality, is sketched...The story closes somewhere in the 2020s, in a speculative conclusion on Europe's possible future.

***

The bureaucrats in Brussels have created a new political space that has the power to make the 21st century the European Century.
The EU's geographical expansion to 25 countries, which will grow to include a dozen smaller ones and maybe even Russia, is nothing compared with its increasing legal and moral reach.

The 80,000 pages of laws the EU has developed since the common market was formed in 1957 – the acquis – influencing everything from genetic labeling to human rights – have made Europe the world's first viral political space.
Even though it legislates up to half of its member states, it was part of their trade, and many policy decisions – from agriculture to economics – the EU is practically invisible.

•••

By creating common standards that are implemented through national institutions, Europe can take over the world without becoming a target for hostility.
While every US company, embassy, and military base is a potential terrorist target, Europe's invisibility allows it to spread its influence without provocation.
Europe "syndicates" its legislation and values, often by threatening others with economic isolation. Many governments outside the continent have adopted Europe's regulations to get access to its market. Even US companies have been forced to follow European regulations in at least three spheres: M&A, GM foods, and data privacy.
The overblown rhetoric directed at the "American Empire" misses the fact that the US reach is shallow and narrow. The lonely superpower can bribe, bully, or impose its will almost anywhere in the world – but when its back is turned, its potency wanes.
The strength of the EU, conversely, is broad and deep: Once sucked into its sphere of influence, countries are changed forever.
Europe is a state of mind that cannot be contained by traditional boundaries.

NEW DAWN
2004 - To Infinity

Direct democracy
From instituting a Europe-wide flat tax to imposing a ban on Coca Cola, a petition with more than one million signatures allows Europe's citizens to make any subject of their choice or whim part of the European agenda.
Plans for a directly elected EU President are already underway.

EURO as Global Currency

Europe at 50
Once the current EU reaches stability, the next expansion needs to be plotted.
Just as all of mankind's ancestors had to pass through the narrow Rift Valley in Kenya, the EU could expand through a narrow passage between Saudi Arabia and Russia to produce an Eastward probe that borders Russia, Mongolia, China, India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.
The EU will be at the frontline of every pressing political issue—present and future.

2015 SOUTHWARD
The southern half of the former Roman Empire returns: Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Jordan, Israel and Palestine (finally having achieved a lasting settlement thanks to the EU roadmap to peace) join.
From now on the European Union will be known as The UNION.

EUROPE AS MODEL
In 3000 years Europe has given us democracy and fascism.

In the past 50 years Europe has reinvented itself.
Today Europe has achieved democracy, prosperity, and lasting peace.
The EU's success creates a positive contamination beyond Europe's borders.
Through syndicated – i.e. borrowed – legislation, the EU infiltrates the legal systems of other nations, silently remaking the world – an end to the crusades.

Vending Machine – Passport to Europe

Passport to Europe

The Image of Europe
Nine Previous Europes,
Brussels Part of each of them.

EU" half a century of treaty signing.

[Brim Note:
At the time of this display in 2004, the EU had been entirely a product of treaties.
(The founding treaty was The Treaty of Rome signed in 1957. It is amazing to research some of the founding statements and the references to the Roman Empire.)
The push was on to ratify an 80,000 page constitution.
That failed due to France's voting no.
This due to French intercessors.]

2004: After 52 Years of Stealth,
Europe Has A Constitution
[They did not get the constitution. But this seems to be the proposed preamble]

Conscious that Europe is a continent that has brought forth civilization; that its inhabitants, arriving in successive waves from earliest times, have gradually developed the values underlying humanism, equality of persons, freedom, respect for reason, Drawing inspiration from the cultural, religious and humanist inheritance of Europe, the values of which, still represent in its heritage, have embedded within the life of society the central role of the human person and his or her inviolable and inalienable rights and respect for law, Believing that reunited Europe intends to continue along the path of civilization, progress and prosperity, for the good of all its inhabitants, including the weakest and most deprived; that it wishes to remain a continent open to culture, learning and social progress; and that it wishes to deepen the democratic and transparent nature of its public life, and to strive for peace, justice, and solidarity throughout the world, Convinced that, while remaining proud of their own national identities and history, the peoples of Europe are determined to transcend their ancient divisions, and united ever more closely, to forge a common destiny, Convinced that, thus united in its diversity, Europe offers them the best chance of pursuing, with due regard for the rights of each individual and in awareness of their responsibilities towards future generations and the Earth, the great venture which makes of it a special area of human hope, Grateful to the members of the European Convention for having prepared this Constitution on behalf of the citizens and States of Europe, Who, having exchanged their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed as follows:...

Passport,
Left Page:
Under back neck

The Image of Europe
This passport is part of 'The Image of Europe',

Right Page:

In 3000 years Europe has given us democracy and fascism.
Not surprisingly, over the past fifty years it has been trying to reinvent itself.
Instead of accepting its complex history as an alibi to excuse more turmoil and tragedy, it decided to reverse history.

After WWII, visionary politicians created a new structure with new codes of behavior for the entire continent in a series of highly improvised steps and arrangements.

Because the operation was so radical, it could only take place by stealth; for the initial part of the EU's existence, its ulterior motives could never be openly stated. Because of the complexity of the operation, the treatises and blueprints that defined the new Europe were hard to communicate.

For the average European the EU now is a parallel universe that coexists – inexplicably and unexplained – with the real world, as we know it.

Too often, this double life has been perceived as negative – as if the 'blue' territory of Europe would take away our national identities; in fact the creation of a new Europe gives each of us new space to imagine ourselves.

The EU perplexes, more than it inspires...yet at 50, the EU has accomplished Schengen, the Euro, prosperity, and lasting peace. This exhibition celebrates an end to its inhibited iconography, its coming out.

From now on the EU will be bold, explicit, popular...

The Automium
Symbol of Brussels

Quite apart from the temporary exhibition just quoted, a gigantic permanent symbol of Brussels has stood since the World's Fair of 1958 in that city.
Interestingly enough, the gargantuan structure is **an IRON crystal**, magnified 165 billion times. [Hmmm! Considering iron legs, and iron teeth!]

Strict copyright laws (they sued the pastor for posting a picture) claim "worldwide intellectual property rights to all reproductions of the image"—even pictures you take yourself! Talk about control!

So, we will not show you a picture. However, you can find one on the Internet. Look it up.

Appendix: The Antichrist in Scripture

Only John refers to him as the antichrist—a title which seems to have stuck.
And in its literal meaning, anti the Anointed One, we can see why it did.

For the forty or more years I have been looking at these things, people have been trying to figure out his exact identity.
Early on, I heard Dr. Hilton say, that we will not be able to do that.
Here is the scriptural proof of that fact.
Note his titles given through the Apostle Paul:

The Man of Sin, The Son of Perdition
The Lawless One

2Th. 2:1 ¶ Now we beseech you, brethren, touching the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together unto him;
2Th. 2:2 to the end that ye be not quickly shaken from your mind, nor yet be troubled, either by spirit, or by word, or by epistle as from us, as that the day of the Lord is just at hand;
2Th. 2:3 let no man beguile you in any wise: for *it will not be,* except the falling away come first, and the man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition,
2Th. 2:4 he that opposeth and exalteth himself against all that is called God or that is worshipped; so that he sitteth in the temple of God, setting himself forth as God.
2Th. 2:5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?
2Th. 2:6 And now ye know that which restraineth, to the end that he may be revealed in his own season.
2Th. 2:7 For the mystery of lawlessness doth already work: only *there is* one that restraineth now, until he be taken out of the way.
2Th. 2:8 And then shall be revealed the lawless one, whom the Lord Jesus shall slay with the breath of his mouth, and bring to nought by the manifestation of his coming;
2Th. 2:9 *even he,* whose coming is according to the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,
2Th. 2:10 and with all deceit of unrighteousness for them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. (ASV)

In one of the first Letters to the Church, false doctrine is already spreading concerning the personage of the man of sin. The Spirit, through Paul, corrects it.
He will not be revealed until "that which restrains" is "taken out of the way."
That which restrains, or hinders, is the Spirit-filled Body of Christ.
His identity cannot be known until the Church is caught up.
(The Holy Spirit is Omnipresent. He is in Heaven with the Church.
But He is still active on earth.)

How does the church restrain the antichrist? One way is prayer in the Spirit.
Here in verse 7 the system is called, *"the mystery of lawlessness."*
The King James translation calls it *"the mystery of iniquity."*

Various subjects in the New Testament are called *mysteries*, such as, the mystery of the church, the mystery of Israel, etc.

Praying in tongues, is the Bible way, to pray about things our heads cannot fathom:

1Cor. 14:2 For he that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth *him*; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. (KJV)

1Cor. 14:14 For if I pray in an *unknown* tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. (KJV)

I watched prayer groups in France hold back the voting in of a constitution for the EU that would have come down hard on independent churches.
See the "Appendix: Image of Europe."

The Assyrian

Is. 30:27 ¶ Behold, the name of Jehovah cometh from far, burning with his anger, and in thick rising smoke: his lips are full of indignation, and his tongue is as a devouring fire;
Is. 30:28 and his breath is as an overflowing stream, that reacheth even unto the neck, to sift the nations with the sieve of destruction: and a bridle that causeth to err *shall be* in the jaws of the peoples.
Is. 30:29 Ye shall have a song as in the night when a holy feast is kept; and gladness of heart, as when one goeth with a pipe to come unto the mountain of Jehovah, to the Rock of Israel.
Is. 30:30 And Jehovah will cause his glorious voice to be heard, and will show the lighting down of his arm, with the indignation of *his* anger, and the flame of a devouring fire, with a blast, and tempest, and hailstones.
Is. 30:31 For through the voice of Jehovah shall the Assyrian be dismayed; with his rod will he smite *him*.
Is. 30:32 And every stroke of the appointed staff, which Jehovah shall lay upon him, shall be with *the sound of* tabrets and harps; and in battles with the brandishing *of his arm* will he fight with them.
Is. 30:33 For a Topheth is prepared of old; yea, for the king it is made ready; he hath made it deep and large; the pile thereof is fire and much wood; the breath of Jehovah, like a stream of brimstone, doth kindle it.

The Little Horn of
Daniel's Fourth Wild Beast

Dan. 7:7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it *was* diverse from all the beasts that *were* before it; and it had ten horns.
Dan. 7:8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn *were* eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.
Dan. 7:9 ¶ I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment *was* white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne *was like* the fiery flame, *and* his wheels *as* burning fire.

Dan. 7:10 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.
Dan. 7:11 I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld *even* till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame. (ASV)

He is a great orator. A deceiver with his words.

In 1958, we became friends with the couple who lived across the hall from our apartment. She was a German who had married an American soldier. She told us of hearing Hitler speak. She was only a little girl, but her mother took her to hear him. Even as a child, she realized the power he held over the people. She said it was indescribable.

Dr. Lester Sumrall said, "The devil has had his candidate for the antichrist in every generation."

Dan. 7:19 Then I desired to know the truth concerning the fourth beast, which was diverse from all of them, exceeding terrible, whose teeth were of iron, and its nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with its feet;
Dan. 7:20 and concerning the ten horns that were on its head, and the other *horn* which came up, and before which three fell, even that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake great things, whose look was more stout than its fellows.
Dan. 7:21 I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;
Dan. 7:22 until the ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the Most High, and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.
Dan. 7:23 ¶ Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all the kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.
Dan. 7:24 And as for the ten horns, out of this kingdom shall ten kings arise: and another shall arise after them; and he shall be diverse from the former, and he shall put down three kings.
Dan. 7:25 And he shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High; and he shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and half a time.
Dan. 7:26 But the judgment shall be set, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end.
Dan. 7:27 And the kingdom and the dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High: his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

He makes war with the saints of the remnant of Israel.

A Hebrew commentary on verse 25 suggests he will think to change the moeds and the torah. (See Appendix: Times: Moeds.)

And notice something else that was brought to my attention by the Lord's dealing with me:

It was 1975 that I heard the Voice of the Lord in my spirit saying, "I want you to preach that Jesus is coming soon."
I said, "Lord I don't hear that being said in my circles."
He said, "I don't want you to say it because others are saying it. I want you to say it because I say it."

Not long after that I heard someone say, "Look for the Christ. Don't look for the antichrist."
So, I avoided the subject of the antichrist.
The Lord corrected me again.
"Don't be afraid to speak of the antichrist. Every where he is mentioned, it says that he 'gets it!'"

The Little Horn
of the He-Goat

Dan. 8:18 Now as he was speaking with me, I fell into a deep sleep with my face toward the ground; but he touched me, and set me upright.
Dan. 8:19 And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the latter time of the indignation; for it belongeth to the appointed time [moed] of the end.
Dan. 8:20 The ram which thou sawest, that had the two horns, they are the kings of Media and Persia.
Dan. 8:21 And the rough he-goat is the king of Greece: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king.
Dan. 8:22 And as for that which was broken, in the place whereof four stood up, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not with his power.
Dan. 8:23 And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up.
Dan. 8:24 And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper and do *his pleasure*; and he shall destroy the mighty ones and the holy people.
Dan. 8:25 And through his policy he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and in *their* security shall he destroy many: he shall also stand up against the prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.
Dan. 8:26 And the vision of the evenings and mornings which hath been told is true: but shut thou up the vision; for it belongeth to many days *to come*.
Dan. 8:27 And I, Daniel, fainted, and was sick certain days; then I rose up, and did the king's business: and I wondered at the vision, but none understood it. (ASV)

As to his arising at the latter time of the Grecians, see my comments on Chapter 13, page 55.

The Prince That Shall Come

Dan. 9:26 And after the threescore and two weeks shall the anointed one be cut off, and shall have nothing: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy

the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and even unto the end shall be war; desolations are determined, (ASV)

The Willful King

Dan. 11:36 ¶ And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods; and he shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished; for that which is determined shall be done.
Dan. 11:37 Neither shall he regard the gods of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall magnify himself above all.
Dan. 11:38 But in his place shall he honor the god of fortresses; and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honor with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things.
Dan. 11:39 And he shall deal with the strongest fortresses by the help of a foreign god: whosoever acknowledgeth *him* he will increase with glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for a price.
Dan. 11:40 ¶ And at the time of the end shall the king of the south contend with him; and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass through.
Dan. 11:41 He shall enter also into the glorious land [Israel], and many *countries* shall be overthrown; but these shall be delivered out of his hand: Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.
Dan. 11:42 He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries; and the land of Egypt shall not escape.
Dan. 11:43 But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps.
Dan. 11:44 But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him; and he shall go forth with great fury to destroy and utterly to sweep away many.
Dan. 11:45 And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the sea and the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him. (ASV)

The Antichrist

1John 2:18 ¶ Little children, it is the last hour: and as ye heard that **antichrist** cometh, even now have there arisen many **antichrists**; whereby we know that it is the last hour. (KJV)

The Beast

Revelation: 13 See Chapter 13 of this Syllabus where we went into detail.

Rev. 19:19 ¶ And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat upon the horse, and against his army.
Rev. 19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought the signs in his sight, wherewith he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast and them that worshipped his image: they two were cast alive into the lake of fire that burneth with brimstone: (ASV)