

Prophecy Study Guide

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Dedication

To the many ministers and friends who have been an enormous help to me in the study of Bible Prophecy I express my sincere gratitude. My understanding of the scripture is in no small part due to the instruction I received at the Apostolic Faith Bible College. The books and materials of Charles Parham, Gale Schulz, Robert Girard, Jacob Regier, Jerome Crowhurst, and others within the Apostolic Movement, as well as the works of many ministers outside the movement has helped provide direction and clarity as I endeavor to come to a fuller understanding of God's Word.

Preface

This is a prophecy self-study guide work book containing nine chapters. It is written in a question/answer format. Each question is answered from a Bible verse which is provided. The author has added notes and comments throughout the book in an attempt to clarify the instruction.

Table of Contents

Introduction to Bible Prophecy 5

Prophets of God 7

Characteristics of this Age 12

The First Characteristic of this Age – False Christs, False Prophets and False Teachings 12

The Second Characteristic of this Age – Lawlessness 13

The Third Characteristic of this Age – Apostasy 14

The Fourth Characteristic of this Age – Wars and Natural Calamities 14

The Fifth Characteristic of this Age – Persecution 15

The Sixth Characteristic of this Age – The Spreading of the Gospel 15

Characteristics of the Last Days before Christ Returns 16

The Times of the gentiles 19

Gentile Domination of Israel 19

Daniel Chapter Two 20

Daniel Chapter Eight 22

Daniel Chapter Seven 25

Seventy Weeks of Daniel 26

Gentile Church Age 28

Informational Supplement – Seven Churches of Asia 30

Gentile Times Chart 32

Twentieth Century Israel 34

Israel – Historical Background 34

Israel – During 20th Century 35

Israel's Government 38

Arabs Nations 39

Europe after World War 11 42

The Middle East and the Future 43

Anti-Christ Reign 46

The Spirit of Anti-Christ 46

The Political Kingdom of Anti-Christ 47

Informational Supplement – One World Government 52

Mystery Babylon the Great – The Tower of Babel 54

Informational Supplement – The World Council of Churches 55

Matthew Twenty-Four 60

Informational Supplement – The Jewish Temple 60

Redemption	71
Levels of Christian Commitment	77
<hr/>	
Millennium	81
The Return of the Lord	82
The Battle of Armageddon	85
The Millennial Reign	87
<hr/>	
Judgment	93
What is Man	93
Life only through Christ	96
The State of the Dead	97
The Resurrection	98
The Destruction of the Wicked	102
Informational Supplement – General Terms	102
Informational supplement – Rich Man and Lazarus	105
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Prophecy - Introduction to Bible Prophecy

The word "prophecy" means "to speak forth" but normally when one thinks of prophecy it is in context with predictions of future events. A more appropriate term might be "Bible eschatology" which means "the doctrine of the last things, or what the Bible has to say about the future, particularly those things dealing with the second coming of Christ".¹

It is a natural thing for man to want to know something about the future. Man cannot help but wonder what the future holds for himself, his family, his nation, for this chaotic world. To ask about the future is not wrong, even the prophets and apostles were continually asking; "How long, oh Lord?", or "when shall these things be?" The fault comes when we look to the wrong place for answers and directions for our lives.

1. What were some of the ways pagan nations sought to find out about the future? Deut 18:9-11 *When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations.*

10 There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, 11 Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.

Pass through the fire – Child sacrificing

Divination – Predicting the future by using objects

Observer of times – Horoscope (use of planetary system to predict ones future)

Enchanter – Predicting the future by using or observing animals

Witch – Female fortune teller often with drugs

Charmer – One who cast spells

Consulter with familiar spirits – Communication with the spirits of the dead

Wizard – Male fortune teller often with drugs

Necromancer – Communication with the dead

It is important to notice that these things were considered abominable or (detestable) to the Lord.

Lev 20:27 A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death: they shall stone them with stones: their blood shall be upon them.

Lev 19:31 Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the Lord your God.

2. Men have thought since Babel that they could reach God by witchcraft or other spiritual mediums. What did Jesus say was the only way to come to God? John 14:6 *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

3. Even after centuries of the Holy Spirit's witness of this truth men still refuse to accept it. In Revelation 9:21 the scripture describes the situation that will exist at the end of this age. What are the four characteristics of this age? Rev 9:21 *Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.*

¹ Smith, Wilbur M., You Can Know the Future, Glendale, California, G/L Publications, 1971, P.1

Sorceries is taken from the Greek word "Pharmakeia" (far-mak-i-ah) from which we get such words as: pharmacy, druggist, medication, etc. This indicates witchcraft with the use of drugs.²

After all that God has done to prove His authority men are still as violent, idolatrous, immoral and crooked as ever.

4. What is the only source of divine revelation? 1 Peter 1:25 *But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.*

5. How does the Word of God help us face the future? Ps 119:105 *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*

God not only knows the future but He also determines the future.

Isa. 14:24 *The Lord of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand:*

Isa. 46:8-11 *Remember this, and shew yourselves men: bring it again to mind, O ye transgressors.*

9 Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,

10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

11 Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.

Omniscience: All knowing

6. In Galatians 3:8 Paul speaks of bible prophecy; underline the phrase that illustrates God's omniscience. Gal 3:8 *And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.*

Omnipotent: All powerful

7. When speaking to the Athenian philosophers, Paul makes a great statement relating to prophecy and the omnipotence of God. What was that statement? Acts 17:26 *And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;*

It is not man nor angels nor Satan that determines the future, but it is God that is in control.

8. Jesus implied that God wants us to know something about the future. Who did He say would teach us of the things to come? John 16:12-13 *I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.*

13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

² Strong, James, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, Nashville Tenn., Crusade Bible Publishers Inc.

Prophets of God

9. How has God chosen to speak to humanity? 2 Peter 1:20-21 *Knowing this first that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.*

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.

Careful attention should be given to verse 20. One should never attempt to interpret a verse of scripture privately or by itself, but rather in light of all other scriptures.

A prophet has a two fold character: firstly, as a forth-teller which requires insight and secondly, as a fore-teller which requires foresight.³ Too often we are tempted to only think of prophets as men who give predictions of the future, but actually the bulk of their ministry was not predicting the future but dealing with the problems and issues of their day. When we try to make everything a prophet says predictive, we severely misrepresent the scriptures.

10. Who was the first Old Testament person referred to as a prophet? Jude 14 *And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,*

11. Are there prophets in the New Testament church? Eph 4:11 *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*

12. One who prophesies does so for what purpose? 1 Cor. 14:3 *But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.*

13. What is the spirit or essence of all prophecy? Rev 19:10 *And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.*

Prophecy that is genuine and authentic must not only center around the testimony of Jesus but it must be absolutely accurate. It is not just coincidence when prophecy is fulfilled.

14. The Bible warns of false prophets that would come and deceive many. In light of this, what did John exhort us to do? 1 John 4:1 *Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*

15. Does Satan ever try to imitate the things of God? 2 Cor. 11:13-15 *For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.*

14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

One might say, "This person has to be of God because he tells me things of my past that he could not otherwise know"; but that is not necessarily true. Just because something or someone seems to be spiritual, or can do things that are unnatural, does not prove that they are of God. The Bible has a lot to say about those having familiar spirits which are of the Devil. The word familiar comes from the root word family. A person having a familiar spirit can give information concerning the past because Satan has knowledge of

³ Boyd, Frank M., Introduction to Prophecy, Springfield, Mo., Gospel Publishing House, 1948, P.18-19.

the past. Demons have been inflicting and tormenting people from generation to generation. Just as God sends forth ministering spirits to aid the child of God (**Heb.1:13-14; Ps. 91:11-12; Heb. 13:2**), Satan sends forth his demons to buffet and injure the unprotected. All the knowledge that Satan possesses of the past and the present is used to deceive, even the elect if possible.

16. King Saul was deceived by the witch of Endor; a woman possessed of a familiar spirit. To whom did she convince Saul he was talking? 1 Sam 28:14 *And he said unto her, What form is he of? And she said, An old man cometh up; and he is covered with a mantle. And Saul perceived that it was Samuel, and he stooped with his face to the ground, and bowed himself.*

Saul only thought he was talking to Samuel; Satan has no authority over one of God's servants while alive, much less after he is dead. The best he can do is imitate for the purpose of deception.

17. Saul was tormented by evil spirits and often went into rages. What happened to Saul before the spirit of torment came upon him? 1 Sam 16:14 *But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him.*

The spirit of the Lord departed from Saul because Saul would not obey the Lord (**1 Sam. 15**). We too can grieve the Holy Spirit out of our lives if we refuse to do the will of God (**Eph. 4:30**). When the Spirit of God departs man becomes prey to every evil spirits.

18. It is not unusual for Satan to deceive people by attempting to associate his work with God. This is illustrated in Acts 16:16-18. What was the evil spirit that the damsel possessed? Acts 16:16-18 *And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: 17 The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. 18 And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.*

19. Winding up His Sermon on the Mount, Christ digresses a moment to warn of false prophets that would come; how were they depicted? Matt 7:15 *Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.*

The fact that false prophets are not easily discerned is what constitutes the greatest danger.

20. Do false prophets have the power to work miracles? Mark 13:22 *For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.*

In this age of "new theology" and "new morality" and "new feeling", there are gross misconceptions as well as deception that plagues the Christian world.

21. One might wonder "How can I know who is truly of God and who isn't?" Christ was very clear concerning this. What is the perfect formula that Christ gave for discerning who is of God and who is of Satan? Matt 7:20 *Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.*

Many people are misled by the spectacular. Men have always been impressed with miracles and miracle workers; history is filled with cases where men were deceived by the spectacular.

22. How does Jesus characterize those who seek after signs? Matt 12:39 *But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:*

The author is not trying to diminish the miracles of God nor the gifts of the Spirit; God uses these in His own sovereign will to bring about His ultimate purpose, however, there is something more meaningful than miracles, and that is the fruit of the Spirit.

23. What are the nine gifts of the Spirit? 1 Cor. 12:8-10 *For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;
9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;
10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:*

"Never does the Bible say we are to gauge a man's spirituality by these gifts. Miracles can be mimicked and gifts can be imitated; the fruit of the Spirit cannot be imitated because it is produced from within. It is what a person is, not what a person does that counts."⁴

24. What are the nine fruits of the Spirit? Gal 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

"One should notice that gifts are external while fruits are internal. Jesus was saying, look beyond the facade or surface; look at what a person is inside and you will know whether he is of God or not. Men have for so long tried to appear righteous on the outside that he has forgotten that Christ is the Lord of the heart."⁵

25. Did Jesus ever reprove men for following Him for the wrong reasons? John 6:26-27 *Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.
27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.*

"Christ was not interested in stunning men with His power; He was seeking to save them by His blood, and teach them truth."⁶

26. Christ warned us of the danger of deception, why then are so many people still deceived? 2 Thess. 2:9-11 *Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,
10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.
11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:*

27. What causes people to lose a love for the truth? Matt 24:12 *And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.*

⁴ Hembree, Ron, *Fruits of the Spirit*, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Baker Book House, 1969, P. 13.

⁵ *Fruits of the Spirit*, P. 14.

⁶ *Fruits of the Spirit*, P. 14.

28. What is the purpose in the ministry of the true prophet of God? Eph 4:11-12 *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

In contrast to this notice **Titus 1:10-11** *For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision:*

11 Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.

Review Questions - Introduction to Bible Prophecy

Write these verses and memorize them: John 14:6; Psalms 119:105; I Cor. 14:3

Define the following terms:

- a. prophecy
- b. eschatology
- c. divination
- d. observer of times
- e. enchanter
- f. witch
- g. charmer
- h. wizard
- i. necromancer
- j. sorceries
- k. omniscience
- l. omnipotent

1. What are the four basic characteristics found in the nature of rebellious man?
2. What is the only source of divine revelation?
3. Explain what is meant by this statement; *“and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;”*
4. Who did Jesus say would teach us of the things to come?
5. What is meant by the phrase ‘no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation?’
6. What is the two-fold character of a prophet?
7. Who was the first Old Testament prophet?
8. Name a man in the New Testament that was said to have been a prophet. (Give scriptural reference)
9. One who prophesies does so for what purpose?
10. What is the spirit of all prophecy?
11. Locate two prophecies in the Old Testament that have been fulfilled concerning Israel.
12. Locate two prophecies in the Old Testament that have been fulfilled concerning nations other than Israel.
13. Locate two Messianic prophecies in the Old Testament and give the New Testament reference where they were filled.
14. Why are we told to try the spirits to see whether they are of God?
15. How does Satan try to imitate the things of God?
16. What must happen to an individual before an evil spirit can enter into him?
17. What is the perfect formula for discerning who is of God, and who is of Satan?
18. How does Jesus characterize those who seek after signs?
19. What are the nine fruits of the Spirit?
20. Why are people so easily deceived?
21. What causes people to lose a love for the truth?
22. What is the purpose in the ministry of the true prophet of God?

Prophecy - Characteristics of This Age

By "This Age" we are referring to the Church age; that period from the Lord's first advent until his return. There are many prophecies in the Old and New Testament regarding the end of the age and the Lord's return, but this study is about what Jesus said would happen from the beginning of the church age until the end.

The First Characteristic of This Age – False Prophets and False Christs

1. How common is the existence of false prophets? Matt 24:11 *And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.*

2. Are false christs and false prophets very effective? Matt 24:24 *For there shall arise false christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*

False christs are not as common as false prophets but occasionally a false christ will arise and declare himself savior of the world. We are always shocked when we hear of the number of people that are deceived by them.

3. What false prophets are considered the most dangerous? Matt 7:15 *Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.*

If a man came into your church and denied the deity of Christ you would say that he was a heretic; but Jesus suggests that false teachers are not that easily discerned. A false prophet may speak the truth in part; the problem is that he doesn't go far enough. The falseness is in what he does not say rather than in what he does say. In the message of a false prophet there is no "strait gate", there is no "narrow way."

General characteristic of a false prophet:

A. The false prophet is always a very comforting preacher. He always gives the impression that there is not very much wrong and those who speak otherwise are narrow-minded preachers of doom. He never makes you feel uncomfortable. Come as you are, don't worry about the strait gate would be his motto.

B. His message is almost entirely absent of doctrine. He rarely tells you about holiness, justice, or the wrath of God. He always preaches about the love of God. He doesn't say he disbelieves the others; he just doesn't bring them up. To conceal the truth is as reprehensible as to proclaim an utter heresy.

C. A false prophet does not emphasize the "exceeding sinfulness of sin". He talks about Jesus and the cross, but he makes it a rather beautiful thing, a wonderful philosophy of love and fails to impress the fact that it is the only way to make expiation for our sins. Merely to talk about Christ is not enough.

In short a false prophet offers an easy salvation. Holiness just becomes a question of not doing two or three things. It is not thought of in terms of "love not the world, neither the things that are

in the world" **1 John 2:15-16**. Many people do not like this kind of teaching concerning false prophets. They say if he professes Christ, accept him, but Jesus said, "beware of false prophets." It is easy to be misled by appearance so we must not only watch what a man does but also what he doesn't do and what he says but what he doesn't say. The true nature of things will eventually express themselves.

(The general content of this warning comes from "Studies In the Sermon on the Mount" by D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones.)

4. Deception and the perverting of God's word has been a problem facing the church from the very beginning. In Matt. 13 Jesus illustrates this problem in the parable of the tares. What condition exists that allows the enemy to sow tares? Matt 13:25 *But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.*

False prophets and perverted teachings will be especially effective at the end of the age because it will be a time of great convulsions on the earth; physically, politically and morally. Men's hearts will be so corrupt that they will be very vulnerable to deception.

5. How did Paul depict false prophets? Acts 20:29 *For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.*

6. What causes men to reject the word of God and conceive a human explanation for the things of God? Col 2:18 *Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,*

The Second Characteristic of This age – Lawlessness

7. What did Jesus say concerning iniquity increasing? Matt 24:12 *And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.*

"Iniquity" comes from the Greek word "anomia" meaning lawless.⁷ Crime is at an all time high and increasing every day. Wickedness and violence even among the youth no longer shock us. Drugs and drunkenness in increasing by leaps and bounds and moral standards are sinking lower and lower.

8. What causes man to loose his love for the things of God and truth in general? Matt. 24:12 *And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.*

It appears that as wickedness increases in the world, the church becomes more tolerant to sin. Christian standards are compromised and the desire to please God becomes less important.

9. What happens when men loose their love for the truth? 11 Thess. 2:10-12 *And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*

11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

⁷ Strong, James, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, Nashville, Tenn., Crusade Bible Publishers Inc.

The Third Characteristic of This Age – Apostasy

Apostasy – falling away

10. Jesus taught the importance of perseverance. In reference to this who shall be saved?

Matt. 24:13 *But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*

11. Notice the parable Jesus gave in Luke 18:1-8. When speaking of His return Jesus asked a very important question; what was it? Luke 18:8 *I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?*

12. What did Paul say would happen before Christ returned? 11 Thess. 2:3 *Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;*

This does not mean there will be no churches or people attending church. There will be a great deal of religion but it will lack a sound faith in truth. The true and faithful will be few in number just as in the days of Noah or as in the days of Lot.

13. In the last days men will have a form of Godliness but they will deny what? 11 Tim. 3:5

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

The Fourth Characteristic of This Age – War and Natural Calamities

14. What is the condition of nations today? Luke 21:25 *And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;*

It is no wonder the nations are in distress. There is turmoil, revolution, famine, starvation, disease, earthquakes, storms and on top of this the threat of atomic destruction.

15. What causes man to war with one another? James 4:1-3 *From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?*

2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

As long as man is driven by his lusts and greed there will be war.

In "A Study of War" written by Quincy Wright, he listed by country the number of wars there were between the years 1480 and 1941: Great Britain 78,--France 71,-- Spain 64,-- Russia 61,-- Austria 52,-- Germany 23,-- China 11,-- Japan 9,-- and the U.S. 13 with 110 wars with Indians."

16. Should Christians allow the threat or talk of war to trouble them? Matt 24:6 *And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.*

The Christian should not be overly perplexed over war, in deed we should be surprised when not in war mans nature being as it is. We need not worry about this world being destroyed by a nuclear holocaust; for God has not forsaken us, in due time Christ is going to return and make an end of war and set up his kingdom on this earth.

The Fifth Characteristic of This Age – Persecution

Persecution should not be confused with punishment. Punishment is the result of doing something bad and persecution is the result of doing something good.

17. Is persecution to be expected by the Christian? 11 Tim. 3:12 *Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*

If your convictions or standards are not high enough to offend the world or at least make them feel uncomfortable; they are not high enough.

18. In light of this, what did Jesus say to His disciples? Luke 6:26 *Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.*

Persecution is simply the clash of two irreconcilable value systems, godliness vs. worldliness.

19. What attitude should we have when we are persecuted? Matt. 5:12 *Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.*

Persecution identifies us with the family of God "for so persecuted they the prophets ... "

20. Using these references: Matt. 5:11; Matt. 24:9; Luke 6:22; list some of the ways we are persecuted.

Matt 5:11 *Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.*

Matt. 24:9 *Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.*

Luke 6:22 *Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake.*

The Sixth Characteristic of This Age – The Spreading of the Gospel

21. What must happen before this dispensation comes to an end? Matt 24:14 *And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*

This does not imply that the whole world will be saved, just that the whole world will be hearing the gospel.

22. What was the great commission that Jesus gave His disciples just before He ascended up into heaven? Matt 28:19 *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:*

General Characteristics of the Last Days before Christ Returns

Dr. M. R. De Haan; in his book, "The Days of Noah", relates some of the conditions that existed in the days before the flood; as given in the Bible, and compares them to our day. The following questions relate to Jesus' statement; "as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the days of the coming of the Son of man." **Matt. 24**

23. What was God's reaction to Cain's offering? Gen 4:5 *But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.*

Cain's offering illustrates the spirit of compromise so common today. Cain was not an atheist. He believed in God and he was no doubt religious for his offering represented hard work because of the curse that was upon the ground. His sin was in thinking he could ignore God's plan of salvation and present his own works. He lacked faith in God's word.⁸ (Notice the comparison between Abel's offering and Cain's in **Heb. 11:4** By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.)

24. What did Cain become as a result of his punishment? Gen 4:12 *When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth.*

"Vagabond" means wondering, traveling from place to place.⁹

The land of Nod means land of wondering and suggests a restless uneasiness and a desire to explore and investigate.

25. What did God tell Daniel would be a sign of the time of the end? Dan. 12:4 *But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.*

It is obvious that we are a very mobile society and deeply involved in research and exploration with knowledge increasing as never before in the history of man.

26. Who built the first city recorded in history? Gen 4:17 *And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch: and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch.*

Cities have become the symbol of wickedness and corruption. Less than 100 years ago, almost 85 percent of the population of the world lived on farms. Now 85 percent live in the city.¹⁰ With the increase of city living came an increase in crime and wickedness.

⁸ De Haan, M.R., The Days of Noah, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Zondervan Publishing House, 1963, P. 22.

⁹ Strongs

¹⁰ The Days of Noah, P. 42.

27. Who was the first man known to have had two wives? Gen. 4:19 *And Lamech took unto him two wives: the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah.*

Jesus said, "as in the days of Noah, there would be marrying and giving in marriage." He was not condemning marriage but the abuse of marriage. Where divorce was once looked upon with great shame it is now an accepted recourse.

28. What act of violence did Lamech commit? Gen. 4:23 *And Lamech said unto his wives, Adah and Zillah, Hear my voice; ye wives of Lamech, hearken unto my speech: for I have slain a man to my wounding, and a young man to my hurt.*

It appears that Lamech's act of violence was provoked for little or no reason. There has never been an age in history that has seen more unprovoked atrocities than our age. We live in a sadistic age where men are continuously killing one another for little or no reason.

29. What other historical incident did Jesus use to illustrate the immorality of the last days? Luke 17:28-30 *Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;*
29 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.
30 Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

In the days before the flood it was an age of great development in: Agriculture and animal culture (**Gen. 4:20**); Music (**Gen. 4:21**); Metallurgy (**Gen. 4:22**); All of which are extremely important to our society today.

Never in history has there been such development in the areas of agriculture and animal culture as there is today; from hybridization of grains and fruits and vegetables to modern methods of breeding of stock.

In the area of music it seems that nothing can be done today with out it. Squeaks and squawks and empty groans cause people to go crazy. Even gospel music is too often no more then empty phrases repeated over and over to a swinging tune.

The steel industries today rank at the very top of all industries. New alloys with amazing strength are being developed everyday. These then are the characteristics to which Jesus must have been referring in **Mat. 24** when he said, "as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the days of the coming of the Son of man."

Review Questions - Characteristics of This Age

Write these verses and Memorize them: II Tim. 3:12; Matthew 7:15; Matthew 28:19

1. List the six characteristics of the Church Age?
2. Describe the type of a false prophet that would be most dangerous to the church.
3. List three common characteristics of a false prophet described as a wolf in sheep clothing.
4. What characteristic often exists within the church that allows the enemy to sow false teachings?
5. What attitude causes men to reject God?
6. As the world becomes increasingly wicked; to what does it become more tolerant?
7. What causes men to be more susceptible to deception?
8. What does the word 'apostasy' mean?
9. What is meant by having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof?
10. What is the basic cause of war and conflict?
11. Persecution is the clash of two irreconcilable value systems; what are they?
12. What is the Great Commission?
13. What two historical periods were used to illustrate the conditions that would exist in the days of the coming of the Lord?
14. What were the conditions that existed in these two historical periods?

Prophecy - The Times of the Gentiles

Gentile Domination of Israel

In this lesson we will deal with that period of time in which the Gentile nations exercise control over Israel or more specifically Jerusalem, the capitol of Israel. It is this period of time that is commonly known as the times (or years) of the Gentiles.

1. What condition exists in Israel during the times of the Gentiles? Luke 21:24 *And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.*

It was God's purpose from the very beginning to establish His Kingdom on the earth in an outward form through the fulfillment of His promises to Abraham and David and in the exaltation of the Nation Israel. Israel was to be the head of nations, not the tail. **Deut. 28:12-13** *The Lord shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.*

13 And the Lord shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the Lord thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them:

It was through this nation that God was to be revealed to the rest of the world, but this chosen nation miserably failed God; so in keeping with God's promise it was necessary to permit the nations about them to oppress and dominate them until they had fulfilled the time God had previously determined.¹¹

2. How long was Israel to be punished for their disobedience? Lev. 26:18 *And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.*

"Seven times" means seven years as in **Daniel 4:16** *Let his heart be changed from man's, and let a beast's heart be given unto him; and let seven times pass over him.*

It takes the earth 365 days, 5 hours, 48 min. and 46 sec. to complete its orbit around the sun, from one point to the same point again.¹² This is one year or one time. It is obvious that the length of the Gentile times is greater than seven years, so we must look farther into the scripture if we are to get a more accurate answer for the question, "How long was Israel to be punished for their disobedience?"

3. How long did the children of Israel bear their iniquity in the wilderness? Num. 14: 33-34 *And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness.*

34 After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise.

4. When Ezekiel received his vision concerning Judah bearing their iniquity; how long did each day represent? Ezek. 4:6 *And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee each day for a year.*

¹¹ Boyd, Frank M., Introduction to Prophecy, Springfield, Missouri, Gospel Publishing House, 1948, P. 88.

¹² Encyclopedia American, Vol. 29, P. 620, American Corporation, 1949.

We are now getting closer to the length of time the Gentile times would cover, for if this principle of a year for a day is applied, all one has to do is decide how many days are in a year and multiply it by seven and you have the length of the Gentile times.

The Jewish year is based on the lunar calendar having twelve months with each month having thirty days, thus a normal year would contain 360 days. One might observe this from Genesis chapter seven and eight.

5. In reference to Noah, what was the exact date the flood came? Gen. 7:11 *In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.*

6. What was the exact date the Ark came to rest on Mount Ararat? Gen. 8:4 *And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat.*

Notice that from the time the flood came until the Ark rested on Mount Ararat was exactly five months.

7. How many days were accounted for in this period of five months? Gen. 8:3 *And the waters returned from off the earth continually: and after the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters were abated.*

150 days divided by 5 months equals 30 days per month.

Since God said Israel would be punished seven times (or years) for their iniquity and each day represented a year, the equation would be $360 \times 7 = 2,520$. The length of the Gentile times then would be 2,520 years.

The first Gentile power to over-throw Jerusalem was Babylon, led by Nebuchadnezzar during the years of B.C. 606-603. This would mark the beginning of the Gentiles times; add the number of years it was to last; 2520, and you come to the years 1914-1917 AD. (Notice the chart at the end of this lesson).

The years 1914-1917 A.D. fall during World War I. It was on December 9, 1917 that the English General Allenby marched into Jerusalem, liberating it without firing a shot. A month before on November 2, 1917 the British Government had declared that when Palestine fell into their hands that it would be given to the Jews for a national homeland. This would mark the end of Gentile domination of Jerusalem.¹³ The Gentile nations that were to exercise dominion in the world during this time were foreseen by the prophet Daniel. Study Daniel 2 and answer the following questions.

Daniel Chapter Two

8. To whom did Nebuchadnezzar turn for help about his dream? Dan 2:2 *Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king.*

9. What did the Magicians ask the king to do? Dan. 2:4 *"tell thy servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation".*

10. What punishment awaited the men of Babylon if they were unable to interpret the dream? Dan 2:5 *"if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill."*

¹³ Comay, Joan, Ben-Gurion and the Birth of Israel, New York, Random House, 1967, P. 44.

11. How did Daniel get involved in the king's dream? Dan 2:12 *For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon.*

12. How did Daniel handle the situation? Dan 2:17-18 *Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions:*

18 That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

13. Give some of the things for which Daniel praised God. Dan 2:20-23 *Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:*

21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:

22 He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.

23 I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter.

14. What had King Nebuchadnezzar seen in his dream? Dan 2:31 *Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible.*

15. Describe the different parts of the image. Dan 2:32-33 *his image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass,*

33 His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.

16. Who or what is the "stone" that was cut out without hands? Dan. 2:44-45 *And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.*

45 Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made it known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

17. What did the stone do? Dan 2:34-35 *Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.*

35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

18. What did the head of gold represent? Dan 2:37-38 *Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory.*

38 And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold.

As we have just seen, Daniel prophesied that there would be four political powers that would exercise world authority from the time of Nebuchadnezzar until Christ sets up His kingdom on the earth. The first kingdom was obviously Babylon for Daniel said to Nebuchadnezzar, "Thou art this head of gold" **Dan. 2:38**. The second and third kingdoms are not revealed until Daniel chapter eight.

Daniel Chapter Eight

19. How did Daniel describe the kingdom that was to follow Babylon in Dan. 8:3? Then I lifted up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there stood before the river a ram which had two horns: and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher came up last.

20. What did this represent? Dan. 8:20 *The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia.*

The king of Media was Astyages and the king of Persia was Cyrus.

21. How did Daniel describe the third empire that was to exercise world dominion? Dan. 8:5 *And as I was considering, behold, an he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground: and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes.*

22. What kingdom did the he-goat represent? Dan. 8:21 *And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king.*

23. What did the notable horn between his eyes represent? Dan. 8:21 *"the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king."*

24. What happened when this notable horn was broken off? Dan. 8:8 *Therefore the he goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven.*

Alexander the great was succeeded by his four generals who divided the empire into four divisions,
Greece - the western division, Armenia - the northern division
Syria - the eastern division, Egypt - the southern division.

25. What came forth out of one of the four horns? Dan. 8:9 *And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land.*

26. What did the little horn represent? 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.*

Antiochus Epiphanies was that king of fierce countenance, who took away the daily sacrifices and persecuted the Jews.

27. How long did Daniel say the sanctuary would be trodden under foot? Dan. 8:13-14. *Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How*

long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?

14 And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.

In the original Hebrew, **Dan. 8:14** reads: "*Unto two thousand and three hundred evenings and mornings*". Notice also **Dan. 8:26** *And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true: wherefore shut thou up the vision; for it shall be for many days.*

Daniel was prophesying concerning the number of daily sacrifices that would be prevented during Antiochus' reign of terror. A daily sacrifice consisted of a morning sacrifice and an evening sacrifice; so if there were to be 2,300 sacrifices prevented, the sanctuary would be trodden under foot for only half that many days. Using a Jewish calendar consisting of 30 days in a month and 360 days in a year, the length of time the sanctuary would be trodden under foot would be three years, two months and ten days.

While it is difficult to establish historically the exact date that Antiochus desecrated the temple, it is commonly recognized that the desecration covered a period of a little over three years. (168 - 165 B.C.)

The reign of Antiochus Epiphanies reveals the spirit of anti-Christ which is in the world. These periods of history as well as others serve as types, showing us the evil that will one day be unleashed upon the earth. The tribulation of the Anti-Christ reign will be more severe than the world has ever known. **Matt. 24:21**

Babylon

The first Gentile power to overthrow Jerusalem was Babylon, under king Nebuchadnezzar. Nebuchadnezzar rose to power thru a series of military campaigns. He was enormously successful, building the most magnificent capital of his day. The city of Babylon was 14 miles square with walls 87 feet thick and 311 feet high. The beauty of the city was unsurpassed with hanging gardens and tile covered walls.¹⁴

Nebuchadnezzar ruled with unrestrained authority giving account to no one. He thought that his kingdom would endure forever, but after his death his kingdom began to dissolve from within. He was succeeded by his son Evil-merodach ; one of the most evil men in history, who only reigned two years before he was assassinated by his own brother-in-law, Neriglissar. Neriglissar sought to unify the Babylonian kingdom but was killed in battle after only four years. His infant son inherited the throne only to be tortured to death by a Usurper named Nabonidus. Nabonidus seeking to strengthen his political position adopted the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar. It was during the reign of Belshazzar that the Capitol city fell to the Medio-Persians. (**Daniel 5**) Jeremiah prophesied that the Babylonian empire would come to an end in the reign of Nebechadnezzar's grand son. **Jer. 27:7**

Persia

Cyrus was the political leader that consolidated the Medes and the Persians. This was all prophesied by Isaiah 160 years before Cyrus' birth (**Isa. 44:28**). *That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.*

¹⁴ Hester, H. I., *The Heart of Hebrew History*, Nashville, Tennessee, Broadman Press, 1963, P. 251

Although the Medes came into existence first, Persia proved to be the more powerful, under Cyrus' leadership. He became King of Anshan in 558 B.C. Within a few years he had united the various Persian states, and in 553 B.C. he led in a revolt against their Median Suzerian and established the independence of Persia. In B.C. 549, the Median army surrendered their King; Astyages, to Cyrus and acknowledged the supremacy of the Persian power.

Cyrus was a polytheist who desired the favor of all gods. To gain this favor he chose to show honor to the various gods by allowing his subjects to restore their gods to their sanctuaries. Among those allowed to rebuild their temples were the Jews. Cyrus declared that the God of Heaven had directed him to build him a house in Jerusalem, so all the Jews who wanted to return to Jerusalem were encouraged to do so and those Jews who did not wish to return were directed to help their countrymen with silver and gold. The number of Israelites willing to make the journey was somewhat less than fifty thousand. These were led by Zerubbabel; a grandson of King Jehoiachin, and Joshua a grandson of Sheraiah; the High Priest whom Nebuchadnezzar had put to death.

After the death of Cyrus the Medio-Persian power passed through several other rulers before being over-thrown by the Greek Empire.

Greece

The Greek Empire came into world dominance under the leadership of Alexander the Great. He was probably the most amazing military leader of all times. He and his army began conquering cities and in eight years he controls the known world. It is said that after having finished his conquest he wept because there were no more worlds to conquer. Though Alexander was a brilliant military leader he was yet guilty of drunken rages with unscrupulous behavior. At the age of 33 Alexander died at the very zenith of his power. There was no one strong enough to hold his kingdom together, so the empire was divided into four divisions, with each division ruled by one of Alexander's four generals. The Greek division was ruled by Cassander, the Armenian division by Lysimachus, the Syrian division by Seleucus and the Egyptian division by Ptolemy. These four divisions remained independent of each other politically but were united by Greek philosophy. Out of the eastern division; Syria, arose a Seleucid notorious for cruelty, Antiochus Epiphanies. He persecuted the Jews and desecrated the temple by sacrificing a sow on the altar of burnt offering. It was during this time that the Maccabean dynasty arose in resistance to the oppression and ultimately succeeded in their revolt.

The temple was cleaned and rededicated for worship on Dec. 25, 165 B.C.

The fall of the Greek empire came gradually as the Roman Empire began to develop and expand eastward.

Rome

Augustus Caesar was the first political leader of Rome given the title Emperor in 27 B.C. He had established himself as the undisputed authority and led Rome into her most glorious era. This period became known as the Augustan Age. It was during Augustus Caesar's reign that Christ was born (**Luke 2:18**). The influence of Augustus was felt for nearly two hundred years. As the

empire continued to grow, the size of the Empire became a major problem in the area of defense, so it was decided by Diocletian in 293 A.D. to divide the empire into two parts.

The Capital of the western division remains in Rome and the capital of the eastern division were eventually established in Constantinople, now Istanbul. The western part of the Roman Empire grew gradually weaker until Rome was finally destroyed in 476 A.D. by invading barbarians from the North. The Eastern part of the Roman Empire lasted until 1453 A.D., when Constantinople was captured by the Turks. This marks the end of the political power of Rome but not of Roman influence.

During the first three hundred years after Christ, Christianity successfully won over the Roman world and became the Roman religion. With that title came many privileges but also the potential for great corruption. Many of the church leaders became highly influential in political affairs; so much so that the Roman Catholic Church was synonymous with the Roman Empire. The bishop of Rome; otherwise known as the Pope, became a political authority as well as the religious authority. This aspect of the Roman Empire still exists today and will eventually be influential in establishing the revival of the political power of Rome; known as the Anti-Christ kingdom, which will be a confederation of ten nations with the Anti-Christ as supreme ruler.

Before we leave this section let us consider the vision Daniel describes in **Dan. 7**. This vision covers the same political powers as described in **Dan. 2** with Nebuchadnezzar's image, only here we are given additional details.

Daniel Chapter Seven

Where as Nebuchadnezzar saw these four political powers from the standpoint of a king, in pomp and glory, Daniel saw them as ravenous beasts of prey, filled with violence and cruelty.¹⁵

28. What do the four beasts in Dan. 7 represent? Dan 7:17 *These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth.*

29. What was the climate at the time these kingdoms arose out of the earth? Dan 7:2 *Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.*

"Winds" speak of adversity. New political powers arise during times of political and social unrest.

30. Describe the first beast. 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 stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.*

This beast corresponds with the head of gold in Nebuchadnezzar's vision, for just as gold is the most precious of all metals, so the lion is the king of beast and the eagle king of all birds. The power and glory of this kingdom was soon to be taken away. Nebuchadnezzar's pride and arrogance was replaced with fear and madness.

¹⁵ Gortner, J. Narver, Studies in Daniel, Springfield, Missouri, Gospel Publishing House, 1948, P. 93.

31. Describe the second beast. Dan. 7:5 *And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.*

This bear corresponds to the arms and breast of silver in Nebuchadnezzar's vision. The bear is seen rising up on one side illustrating Persia's superiority over Media. There had been three gentile powers that had exercised world authority before the Medio-Persian empire; Chaldean, Assyrian, and Babylonian. Persia is seen consuming the territory once held by these empires for the bear has three ribs in his mouth.

32. Describe the third beast. Dan. 7:6 *After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.*

The leopard corresponds with the belly and thighs of brass in Nebuchadnezzar's vision. The leopard with four wings represents the swiftness in which Alexander the great conquered the world. The four heads represents the four generals who ruled over the four divisions of the Greek empire after the death of Alexander.

33. Describe the fourth 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.*

This beast corresponds with the legs and feet of iron in Nebuchadnezzar's vision. This kingdom was different from all the others not only in its republican form of government; but also in the extent of dominion, and length of duration.¹⁶

34. What is seen coming up among the 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.*

35. What do the horns represent? Dan. 7:24 *And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.*

The ten horns correspond to the ten toes of Nebuchadnezzar's image and represent the ten nations that will bring about the revival of the Roman Empire.

36. What does the little horn do? Dan. 7:24 *"he shall subdue three kings"*

Read carefully **Dan. 7:9-14**; Notice that the Kingdom of God will follow this kingdom. The little horn represents the Anti-Christ who will become the supreme leader of this ten nation confederacy. His political base will begin with three of the ten political powers but will soon engulf all ten.

¹⁶ Clarke, Adam, *Clarks Commentary*, Vol. IV, New York, N.Y., Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, P. 592

Seventy Weeks of Daniel

Inserted within the Gentile times was a period of time in which Israel was allowed to inhabit Jerusalem and re-establish a Jewish state within Palestine.

The following questions are on the prophecy concerning that time, located in **Daniel 9:24-27**.

37. The prophecy is concerning what people and what city? Dan. 9:24 *Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.*

38. How much time was determined for this people to accomplish the given purpose? Dan.9:24 *Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.*

Just as in the prophecy concerning Israel bearing the curse of her iniquity, each day representing a year, so it is in this prophecy concerning that period of time set apart within the curse; each day represents a year.

The seventy weeks are divided into three lesser periods; first a period of seven weeks, then a period of threescore and two weeks; and finally, a period of one week. **Dan. 9:25-27** *Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.*

26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

39. What were the six things to be accomplished during this time? Dan. 9:24 *Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.*

40. What marked the beginning of the seventy weeks? Dan. 9:25 *Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.*

It is important to note that it is not the decree to rebuild the temple but the decree to rebuild the city of Jerusalem and establish the law and order of the Jewish society that is here referred to. This decree came in the seventh year of King Artaxerxes; king of Persia, 457 B.C. (See **Ezra 7**) Approximately 12 years later; Nehemiah was given; under the same decree, permission to return to Jerusalem to oversee the rebuilding of the walls (**Neh.2**).

41. What would mark the end of the first 69 weeks of this period? Dan. 9:25 *Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem*

unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

It has already been noted that this period is divided into seven weeks and then threescore and two weeks. The first seven weeks or 49 years consisted of the literal building of the city; the next threescore and two weeks or 434 years, was that period in which the society of Israel developed in preparation of the Messiah, so that Christ could fulfill all the prophecies relating to Him. **Gal. 4:4** *But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,*

If the decree to rebuild Jerusalem was in 457 B.C., and there were to be 483 years from that time until the Messiah; the Messiah was presented to the world in 26 A.D. It can be established historically and biblically that Jesus was recognized by His forerunner John the Baptist as the "Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world" **John 1:29** in the fall of 26 AD.¹⁷

42. What was to happen to the Messiah after the threescore and two weeks? Dan. 9:26 *And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.*

During the reign of the Roman Emperor Vespasian (AD. 69-79), Titus Vespasian' son, destroyed Jerusalem and the temple in AD. 70.¹⁸

The prince that shall come refers to the Anti-Christ who will arise out of the revived Roman Empire. You should notice it is not the Anti-Christ that destroys the city and the sanctuary, but the people of the prince that shall come; or in other words the Romans.

43. Which of the seventy weeks is dealt with in Daniel 9:27? *And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: (70th week) and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.*

There is a lapse of time between the first sixty-nine weeks and the seventieth week; this period is called the Gentile Church Age. The reason that Daniel does not mention this church age period in this prophecy is because the prophecy is only dealing with the Israelites. "Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people (Daniel's people) ... " **Daniel 9:24.**

The seventieth week; which we refer to as the tribulation period will be dealt with in detail in a later lesson.

Gentile Church Age

The last issue to be considered in this chapter is the Christian Church and its expansion through the preaching of the Gospel. The beginning of the Gentile Church Age is generally regarded as the day of Pentecost. At the present time the church; (the Ecclesia), the "called out" body of believers from every tongue, tribe, people and nation, is being formed. The call or summons of the Gospel is sounding forth and those who have responded and are responding, make up the body of Christ.¹⁹

¹⁷ Boyer, James L., New Testament Chronological Chart, Winona Lake, Indiana, Grace Theological Seminary, 1968.

¹⁸ Hester, H. I., The Heart of the New Testament, Nashville, Tennessee, Broadman Press, 1963, P. 46.

¹⁹ Boyd, Frank M., Introduction to Prophecy, Springfield, Missouri, Gospel Publishing House, 1948, P. 88.

44. Who adds to the church such as should be saved? Acts 2:47 *Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.*

45. Who leads men out of darkness into the light of truth in Jesus Christ? Jn. 16:13 *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*

46. Why is this church age period called the “Gentile Church Age”? Rom. 11:25 *For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.*

This is not to say that there are no Jews saved during this time, only that the nation as a whole will reject Christ.

47. What gave the early church great influence in their witness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Acts 1:8 *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

48. When was the Holy Spirit poured out upon the first Disciples of Christ? Acts 2:1 *And when the day of Pentecost was fully come; they were all with one accord in one place.*

Pentecost was the feast of the first fruits, which came fifty days after the Passover, about the latter part of May. This was the time of Grain Harvest.²⁰

49. What prophet foretold of this event? Acts 2:16 *But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;*

50. How did Jesus depict the spreading of the Gospel and the Kingdom of Heaven? Matt. 13:24 *Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:*

In order for seed to take root and begin to grow it needs good soil and rain.

51. What did Joel prophesy that God would provide? Joel 2:23 *Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.*

The rainfall in Israel is a most interesting phenomenon. In other lands of similar latitude, sunshine and rain alternate throughout the year, but not in Palestine. There is a season when there is rain, and another season when there is none.²¹ The rainy season is from mid-March until mid-October and it begins with an out-pouring, referred to as the early rains or former rains, and ends with an out-pouring referred to as the latter rains. The latter rains mature the crops in preparation for the harvest. When Jesus sent out His disciples to sow the seed of the Word of God, He nourished the seed with the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit. The

²⁰ Byrum, Russell R., *Shadow of Good Things*, Anderson, Ind., 1922, P. 110.

²¹ Hester, H. I., *The Heart of the New Testament*, Nashville, Tennessee, Broadman Press, 1963, P. 21.

second out-pouring, or latter rain, took place at the turn of the 20th century. The latter rain indicated that the harvest is not far away. Study carefully all of the parables in **Matt. 13**.

52. After having read and studied the parables in Matt. 13, give some of man's responses to the Word of God. Matt 13:18-23 *Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.*

19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;

21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

The Church Age period can be divided into seven periods or stages; and there seems to be an amazing correspondence between the events of church history and the details mentioned concerning the seven churches of Asia as recorded in **Rev. 2-3**. It seems almost inconceivable that such a progression should be accidental.²²

53. List in order the seven churches referred to in Revelation. Rev. 1:11 *Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, what thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.*

54. Why did Jesus give John the revelation? Rev. 1:1 *The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:*

Informational Supplement - Seven Churches of Asia

It is not our desire at this time, to go into a lengthy study of these seven letters or the seven stages of church history; however a brief summary of each is given.

Ephesus Church Age - This is the church age from about 30 AD. The Ephesus Church represented an age sound in doctrine strict in discipline, steadfast in duty but slothful in devotion. They had not lost their fundamentalism; they just lapsed into formalism.

Smyrna Church Age - This church age covers that period from about 170 AD. To approximately 312 A.D. Smyrna characterizes the period of the great persecution. Among the emperors who ruled over Rome, ten of them made it their business to persecute the Christians:

²² Strauss, Lehman, *Prophetic Mysteries Revealed*, Neptune, New Jersey, Loizeaux Brothers, 1980, P. 133.

Nero, Domitian, Trojan, Antonius, Severus, Maximum, Decius, Valerian, Aurelian, and Diocletian.

Pergamos Church Age - This church age covers that period from about 312 AD. To approximately 590 A.D. Pergamos represents a period when Satan changes his tactics against the church. No longer do we see wide spread persecution but rather a marriage of church and state. With the conversion of Constantine, Christianity became the popular religion of the Roman Empire, and this popularity produced compromise and great abuse; the church and the world became one.

Thyatira Church Age - This church age covers that period from 590 A.D. to approximately 1517 A.D. The Thyatira church age was the most corrupt period in church history. This period known as the Middle Ages was noted for its corrupt leadership, pagan doctrines, and immoral behavior. It marked the beginning of the exaltation of Mary and the establishment of idols and images as a part of worship.

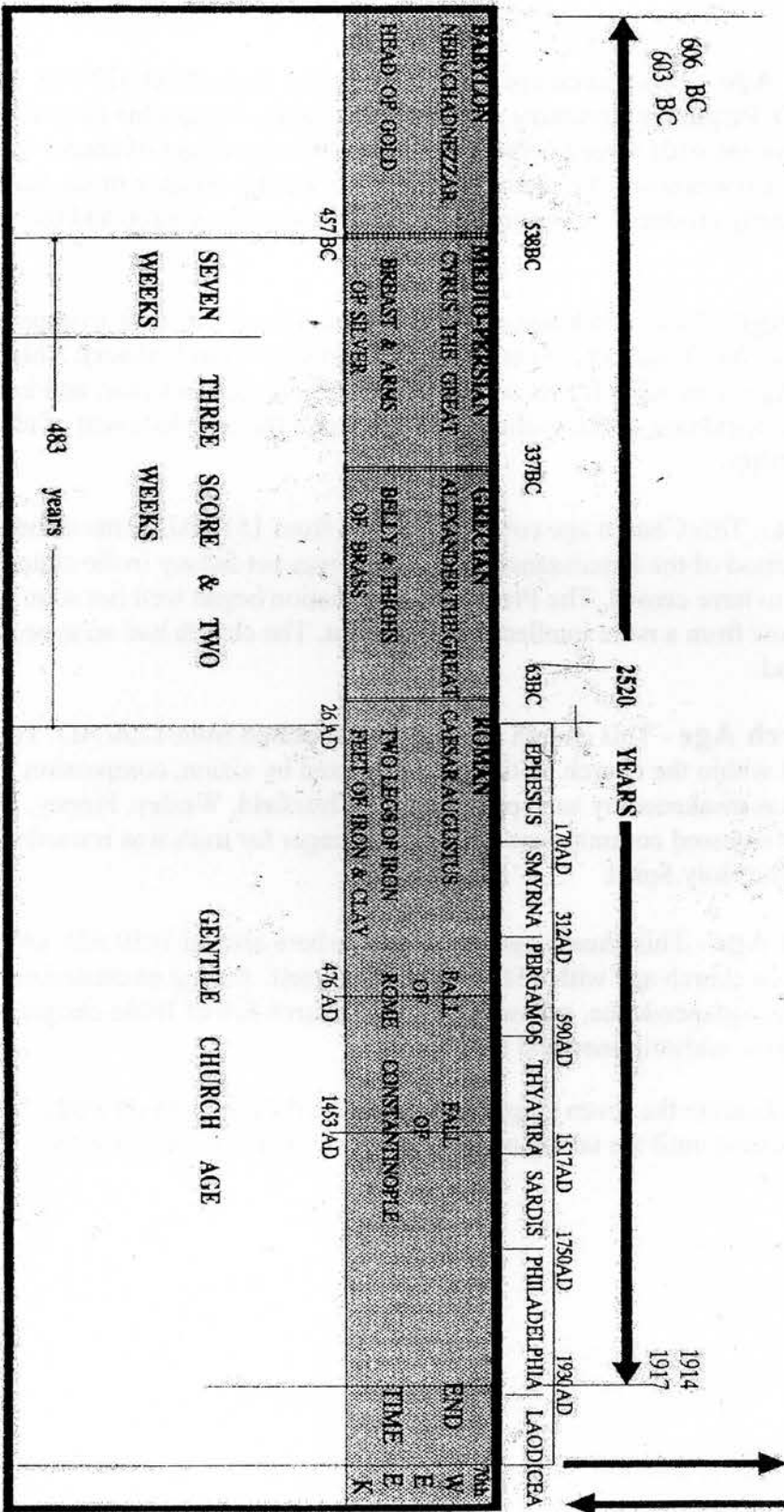
Sardis Church Age - This Church age cover that period from 1517 AD. This is the reformation era, The period of the Renaissance; while there was yet fallacy in the church, the progress of evil seems to have ceased. The Protestant reformation began well but soon Christianity became view from a mere intellectual standpoint. The church had an appearance of being alive but was dead.

Philadelphia Church Age - This church age covers that period from 1750 AD. This was a period of great Revival within the church. A time characterized by vision, compassion, zeal, and holiness. The church was awakened by such preachers as Whitefield, Wesley, Finney, Parham, and many others. Their renewed commitment to God and hunger for truth was rewarded with a second out-pouring of the Holy Spirit.

Laodicean Church Age - This church age began somewhere around 1930 AD. and continues today. This is a church age with a false opinion of itself. An age characterized by complacency, smugness, independence, self-satisfaction; a church full of Bible-carrying members who are shallow, undisciplined and worldly.

These seven churches illustrate the seven stages in the history of the church on earth, commencing form Pentecost until the taking away of the Holy Spirit in the last days.

GENTILE TIMES



Review Questions - The Times of the Gentiles

Write these verses and memorize them: Luke 21:24; John 16:13; Rom. 11:25

1. What is meant by the times of the gentiles?
2. According to Jewish law, how long would Israel be punished for disobedience?
3. According to Ezekiel, how long would Israel bare their iniquity?
4. According to the Jewish lunar calendar, how many days are in a year?
5. If God punished Israel seven times (years) for their iniquity, and each day represented a year; how many years would Israel fall under this punishment?
6. What event began the times of the gentiles?
7. Who was Arioch?
8. Describe the image that Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream, and define each part.
9. What did the stone represent that crushed the feet of Nebuchadnezzar's image?
10. What did the ram with two horns represent?
11. Describe the goat in Daniel chapter 8, and define what each part represented.
12. Who was responsible for desecrating the temple during the Greek Empire?
13. How long did the temple remain desolate during the Greek Empire?
14. Who prophesied that Cyrus would rebuild the temple?
15. How long did it take Alexander the Great to conquer the world?
16. What was the name of the Jewish dynasty that arose in resistance to the oppression of Antiochus Epiphanies?
17. Who was Caesar of Rome at the time of Christ's birth?
18. How did the Roman Empire fulfill the prophecy expressed by the two legs of Nebuchadnezzar's image?
19. What year did Rome fall?
20. What year was Constantinople captured by the Turks?
21. Describe the four beasts in Daniel chapter 7, and relate what each represented.
22. What do horns represent?
23. Why was Israel given 70 weeks during the times of the gentiles?
24. How many years does 70 weeks actually represent?
25. The 70 weeks began in what year?
26. To what does the 70th week refer?
27. There are two different princes mentioned in Daniel 9:24-27; What are they?
28. How is the Anti-Christ depicted in this prophecy concerning the 70th week?
29. What takes place during the lapse of time between the first 69 weeks and the 70th week?
30. Why is the church age period called the gentile church age period?
31. What is the church's purpose in the world?
32. What enables and empowers the church to fulfill this purpose?
33. What does the former and latter rain represent?
34. How do the letters that Jesus wrote to the seven churches of Asia relate to the church age period?

Prophecy - 20th Century Israel

As the title suggests, this lesson deals with prophecies concerning Israel as they relate to this pass century.

Prophecies concerning Israel make up one of the most comprehensive and inexhaustible themes in the bible, with numerous prophecies found in the old and new testaments, many of which are already fulfilled.

This generation has seen the most remarkable fulfillment of these prophecies of any generation.

Israel - Historical Background

The word "Israel" is used to designate a land, a nation, and a nationality of people. The word literally means, "prince of God or contender with God." The name was given to Jacob after having spent a night in prayer, struggling with an angel. Thus the descendents of Jacob were known as, "Israelites" and the land they inhabited, "Israel".

There is a very strong relation between the land of "Israel" and the "Israelites". Notice how the Lord described this relationship in **Isaiah 62:4-5**. *"Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate: but thou shalt be called Hephzibah, and thy land Beulah: for the Lord delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married. For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee:..."* It is obvious that the Lord has made the "land" and the "people" obligated one to the other. No other people have ever been able to make the land of Israel productive. Each time Israel has been taken from the land it has become a veritable waste land, but with the Israelites return it again becomes a very productive land.

To this very unique land and this very unique people were given the responsibility of revealing God to humanity. There very existence is for this purpose.

The origin of this nation goes back to the call of Abraham. Abraham was from ancient Babylon, a very advanced civilization, deeply involved in idolatry. God made a covenant with him which included a promise involving four things: (Gen. 12:1-2)

1. A great land
2. A great nation
3. A great name
4. A great blessing

Abraham left Ur of the Chaldees and followed the leading of the Lord to the land we now call Israel. Listed below are the different stages of development in Jewish history.

Period	Approx. dates
1. Patriarchs-----	1800 - 1400 B.C.
2. Egyptian Slavery-----	1400 - 1200 B.C.
3. Conquest and Settlement----- (Joshua and the Judges)	1200 - 1000 B.C.

4. United Kingdom-----1000 - 922 B.C.
(Saul, David, Solomon)
5. Division of the Kingdom-----922 - 587 B.C.
(Fall of Israel - 722 B.C.) (Fall of Judah - 587 B.C.)
6. Babylonian Captivity-----587 - 538 B.C.
7. Restoration of Israel under Persia-----538 - 332 B.C.
8. Greek Domination of Palestine-----332 - 167 B.C.
9. Hasmonean Dynasty-----167 - 63 B.C.
(The Maccabees)
10. Roman Domination of Palestine-----63 B.C. - 395 A.D.
(Birth of Christ - 5 B.C.)
(Jerusalem Destroyed - 70 A.D.)
(Final Destruction of Jerusalem - 135 A.D.)
11. Byzantine Rule in Palestine-----395 - 636 A.D.
12. Arab Rule in Palestine-----636- 1099 A.D.
13. Crusader Kingdoms-----1099 - 1291 A.D.
14. Mameluke Moslem Rule of Palestine-----1291 - 1516 A.D.
15. Turkish Rule of Palestine-----1516 - 1917 A.D.

Israel – During 20th Century

The re-gathering of Israel back into their homeland was begun with the work of the World Zionist Organization, founded by Theodore Herzl. Herzl was an Austrian lawyer and journalist who published a book in 1896 called "Der Judenstaat" meaning The Jewish State. He organized the first Zionist congress at Basle, Switzerland in 1897. It was at this congress that the general aims of the World Zionist were outlined. Securing a national home land for the Jews was of top priority. At this time the Jews had been dispersed in the nations of the world for almost two thousand years.

Herzl made appeals to various governments; on behalf of the World Zionist, for help in finding a suitable place in which to establish a Jewish homeland. Of course the Zionist wanted Palestine, but Palestine was under the control of Turkey, and the sultan of Turkey was unsympathetic to the Zionist cause even though he had little use or desire for Palestine. When he was asked to give

Palestine to the Zionist he replied, "If a time comes when the water from the Nile flows northward into Jerusalem, then shall we return the country to the Jews."²³

The sudden death of Herzl in 1904; coupled with the outbreak of World War I, cause the Jews to lose all hopes of regaining Palestine. There were just too many more important world problems.

World War I broke out in 1914. It was started when someone shot and killed the Archduke Ferdinand; the nephew and heir of the Austrian emperor, at Sarajevo in Serbia, a small country in the eastern part of Yugoslavia. Austria declared war on Serbia, Russia came in on the Serbian side, Britain, France, and Italy were dragged in as Russia's allies. Turkey joined Germany and Austria. The United States entered the war in April of 1917 as ally to Serbia after attempting to remain neutral. The world food shortage along with the sinking of the Lusitania by a German U-boat on May 7, 1915, in which 128 Americans died, force U.S. involvement in World War I.

During World War I there were two men who were especially significant in the Zionist cause; David Green and Dr. Chaim Weizmann.

David Green's Jewish name was David Ben-Gurion, and although only 18 at the time of Herzl's death, he became a leader in the World Zionist Organization.

Dr. Chaim Weizmann was a Jewish professor of chemistry at the University of Manchester in England. He was able to do more for the Zionist Movement than anyone. There was a critical shortage of acetone (t.n.t. gas), a chemical used in explosives in Britain. Dr. Weizmann developed a way of producing acetone by fermenting maize. This was an extremely important contribution to the war effort. Weizmann was given special recognition by the British government and when asked what he wanted in return for the discovery; Weizmann replied, "Just liberate Palestine, and secure it for Jewish occupation." In acknowledgment of this request, on **Nov. 2, 1917**, the British government issued the Balfour Declaration, sent by Lord Arthur James Balfour, secretary of the English government, to Lord Rothschild, the head of a wealthy Jewish family of the Zionist movement. In essence the document assured the Zionist Organization that if Palestine ever fell under British authority it would be given to the Jews as a national homeland.

Almost immediately, General Allenby prepared to march from Alexandria of Egypt toward Jerusalem. As he marched he constructed a pipe-line to convey water from the Nile for his troops. The name Allenby caused fear among the Arabs who controlled Jerusalem and when they heard he was marching toward them they fled leaving Jerusalem vacant. On **December 9 1917**, only one month after the signing of the Balfour Declaration, Allenby marched into the city of Jerusalem and took possession of it without firing a shot.

World War I ended in 1919 and the League of Nations was established. The only legal action the League of Nations took in their brief existence was to ratify the Balfour Declaration and turn it into a world agreement declaring Britain the mandate authority over Palestine on July 24, 1922.

²³ Abraham, T.S., *The Jew and Palestine*, Kumbanad, India, Hebron Publishing House, 1956, P. 4 - 9.

The World Zionist Organization immediately began working on establishing Palestine as the Jewish home-land. Even before the ratifying of the Balfour Declaration, many Jews had migrated to Palestine.

Two important organizations had already been established in 1920, the **Histadrut** which was a general federation of Palestine Jewish workers and the **Haganah** which was a civil defense force within Palestine. These two organizations were necessary because the Arab's did not want to see the Jews immigrate back into Palestine, so there were constant Arab riots and disturbances. The great majority of the Jews throughout the world were unwilling to suffer the hardships involved in relocating to Palestine.

By the end of World War I much of the wealth of Europe had shifted to the Jewish population. This was especially annoying to such people as the Germans, Italians, French and others whose economy had been devastated during the war. Anti-Jewish sentiment was common and even encouraged by many political leaders.

Adolph Hitler came into power in Germany in 1933 during this time of severe economic depression. He along with Mussolini of Italy not only discriminated against the Jews in their own countries but also supported Arab disturbances in Palestine. By 1934 the Arab riots in Palestine had become so severe that the Haganah was enlarged into a military force called the **Aliyah Bet**.

In 1936 Britain tried to assist in quieting the Arab disturbances but found her involvement was creating conflict with Germany. Britain was in no condition to enter into new conflict with anyone, so in an attempt to appease Germany she issued the White Paper Document which was a pro-Arab policy in Palestine. It declared that the Jewish population in could not exceed the Arab population in number.

Jewish life throughout Europe was becoming unbearable. In an act of rebellion on Nov. 9, 1938, a Jewish boy shot a German diplomat. In a single night Hitler drug 40,000 Jews from their homes. Some were murdered others arrested. This was the beginning of what would be called the Jewish Holocaust.

World War II began in 1939 when Germany invaded Poland. It was during this war that Jewish treatment throughout Europe became so severe the Jews were pleading for the privilege to immigrate to Palestine but were refused the right. Stripped of their possessions and treated as animals, the Jews felt they had nothing to lose in fleeing to Israel even though it was illegal.

The Nazi persecution of the Jews in which 6,000,000 people were massacred was what Hitler called, "the final solution of the Jewish question."

The United States entered the war on Dec. 7, 1941 when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor. Four years later Germany was defeated in may of 1945. This did not stop the conflict in Israel however because the Arabs were still opposed of the migration of the Jews into Palestine. Terrorist activities and riots were common place.

On May 14, 1948 David Ben-Gurion declared Israel a state, which immediately thrust them into a war for their independence against the Arabs. The United Nations which was established after World War II agreed to recognize Israel's existence but insisted they had to be self supporting. The United States was the first to recognize Israel's right to establish a state in Palestine.

Israel's war of independence lasted only one year. Against unbelievable odds Israel defeated the Arab forces in every battle. The total strength of the Haganah was only about 60,000 men and only one fourth of them had weapons. Their heavy armament was almost non-existent, but the Arab's strength totaled 10,000 gorilla fighters and 100,000 full time army with large quantities of aircraft, artillery, tanks, and armored cars.

As soon as Israel signed the armistice agreement with the Arabs in 1949 she was accepted as a member of the United Nations. Since then there have been many renewed conflicts with the Arabs. In each case Israel has been the victor. The three most significant battles were in 1953, the six day war in 1967, and the Yom Kippur war in 1973.

Israel has continued to develop as a nation and today is recognized by most other nations as a powerful influence in the world. Its population is approximately seven and a half million, of which approximately five and a half million are Jews. The size of Israel geographically is about the size of the panhandle of Oklahoma. While a large part of Israel is mountain range; its agricultural export value is quite large. Israel continues to reach high levels in science, physics, medicine, geology and agriculture.

Israel's Government

The President

The first president of Israel was Dr. Chaim Weizman. The president is not the head of the Executive as in the United States; he is more of a foreign ambassador. He signs laws, executes the power of pardon and officiates as a judge.

The Prime Minister

The prime minister is the head of the Executive, the equivalent our President. The first prime minister of Israel was David Ben-Gurion.

The Knesset

The Knesset is Israel's parliament which is a single house of government consisting of 120 members. It is elected by a secret ballot. Every Israeli citizen from 18 up has the right to vote. Each political party puts up a list of candidates for the country as a whole, with any number of names on it up to 120. It will get a number of Knesset seats proportionate to its percentage of the total national vote that it receives, without having to get a majority in any one district.

The Legal System

Israel has no written constitution in the ordinary sense. There are certain laws that apply to everyone, such as the civil code, and land laws. In matters of personal status, including marriage, divorce and inheritance, each religious community lives by its own set of laws, administered by its own religious courts.

The Armed Services

The bulk of the army is not professional, but is composed of the men and women who are its citizens. The youths are drafted at the age of 18 for 26 months, and 20 months for girls. After completing their service, they go into reserve units: men until 49 and women until they are 34 or have children. These units have an annual training period of over a month.

The Police

The main duty of the police is guarding and patrolling the frontiers against infiltrators and marauders.

The Jewish Agency

This agency's main function is controlling Israel's immigration and land settlement.

Israel's population as of 2009 consists of approximately:

74.4 % **Jews** - (5,660,700)

20.3% **Arabs** - (1,523,900)

5.3% of the population is made up of Bedouins, Druzes and Circassians.

Bedouins - (170,000) of which 110,000 live in the Negev, 10,000 live in central Israel and 50,000 live in Northern Israel. They consist of 8 distinct tribes and sub-tribes.

Druzes - (approx. 120,000) Arab speaking sect whose religion contains of Christianity and Judaism grafted onto an Islamic stem.

Circassians - (approx. 3,000) Moslems which came to Palestine from the Caucasus mountains.

Arab Nations

It is impossible to clearly understand the development of Israel in this century without also considering the Arab nations.

The Arabs are descendants of Abraham through Ishmael.

Genesis 16:11-12 *And the angel of the Lord said unto her, Behold, thou art with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the Lord hath heard thy affliction.*

12 And he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.

The Arabs were the primary inhabitants of Palestine at the turn of the 20th century with approximately 200,000 Arabs living within its borders. When the World Zionist Organization began to develop the land after World War I, great numbers of Arabs began to migrate to Palestine with the Jews because of the economic benefits. The average income per family for an Israeli Arab was five times that of an Egyptian Arab. An official document of the British mandate authority dated 1926, stated that of the 800,000 Arabs in Palestine at that time, 60 per cent were immigrants.

The vast majority of the Arabs in the Arab nations live in poverty. There is no middle class; the wealth of these countries is held in the hands of a very few.

There are 19 independent Arab countries. They control immense areas of land and much of the world's potential wealth in oil.

They are viewed by many as unpredictable. The Arab society demands a high degree of conformity. Conformity brings honor and social prestige, while failure to conform brings shame which can only be eliminated by revenge. A society such as this works on a system of domination. Those out of power are seeking to overthrow those in power and those in power are seeking to maintain their control by domination. Revenge becomes the key to survival and social prestige. Revenge is found within the heart of the Arab's religious culture.

The Arabs feel they have been shamed by the Israelis due to their defeat in the different military campaigns. A constant attempt to eliminate that shame is sought through revenge. This is seen by the different organizations that have arisen among the Arabs such as "Vengeance Partisans" after the war in 1953, "Youth for Revenge" which came into existence after the 1967 war, and the slogan for the Arab's nationalists movement "Unity, Liberation and Vengeance". In light of this it may be that the Arabs are not as interested in seeking a peaceful solution to the Middle East problem as they are at getting revenge.

The Palestinian Problem

Palestinians (PLO-Palestinian Liberation Organization) are the Arab people of Palestine.

After World War II the United Nations Special Commission on Palestine recommended that Palestine be divided into an Arab state and a Jewish state. The UN General Assembly adopted this plan on Nov. 29, 1947. The Jews accepted the decision, but the Arabs rejected it. Fighting broke out immediately. When the fighting was ended, Israel held territory beyond the boundaries provided by the U.N. During the conflict a large part of Palestine's Arab population fled into neighboring Arab countries. They were told by leaders outside of Palestine that they would soon come back behind the victorious armies of the Arab States; however the Arabs were unable to defeat the Israelis so these Arabs that fled became refugees in the Arab occupied territories.²⁴ They have since been trying to regain the territory once offered to them.

²⁴ World Book, Vol. 15, Chicago, Field Enterprises Edu. Corporation, P.87.

The two most radical elements of the PLO are:
Hezbollah – primarily in northern Palestine
 Hamas – primarily in southern Palestine

The world influence that the Arabs have is largely due to their oil wealth. They are the largest oil producing nations in the world. Geologists from the United States discovered oil in Saudi Arabia in 1935. The oil company that operates the oil industry in Arabia is the Arabian American Oil Company (ARAMCO). While four U.S. oil companies own 75 per cent of ARAMCO, the Arabs own the oil.²⁵ Oil is the only commodity the Arabs have on the world market.

Islam

Islam means submission to god. Moslem means one who submits to god.

Mohammed, the founder of Islam, was born A.D. 570 near Mecca and died 632. He was raised by his grandfather a pagan priest. He received his call in 612 at the age of 42. He married several women and had many children. His youngest wife was only 9 years old.

The Quran was written after his death by his young wife and her father almost all from oral tradition.

Islam is a blend of paganism, Judaism and Christianity and has always been a militaristic religion.

Mohammed said he was commissioned by God to prepare the world for the establishment of the kingdom of God. His ministry was a series of military campaigns referred to as a “Holy Jihad” meaning, Holy war.

Caliph and the Quran

Islam leaders are called Caliphs.

Two major denominations within Islam;

Shiites – Caliphs should be from direct descents of Mohammed.

Shunni – Caliphs should come from those most knowledgeable of the Quran.

80% of the Islam people are Shunni and only 15 % are Shiites.

Mohammed prophesied that the Arab nations would be united under one caliph and then the kingdom of God would be established in the world. This prophecy is influencing Arab leaders today. Many Arab leaders have seen themselves as that caliph.

²⁵ World Book, Vol. 17, Chicago, Field Enterprises Edu. Corporation, P.132.

Europe after World War 11

After World War 11 Europe was divided; the east was controlled by the Soviet Union and communism and the west by the United States and democracy. The world entered into what was known as a cold war. There was an enormous proliferation of nuclear weapons. A universal fear of a nuclear holocaust settled upon the world.

The Soviet Union dominated the political atmosphere of Europe all during the cold war. No major political change took place without the Soviet Union's approval. The political and military power of the Soviet Union had to be destroyed in order for the ten nation confederation which we call the antichrist kingdom to come-into existence.

The Demise of the Soviet Union

The Soviet Union industrial machine simply could not compete with western countries because the socialist form of government gave workers no incentive for productivity. The immediate cause for its fall was due to the reform program introduced by Mikheal Gorbachev.

Gorbachev came into power calling for reform in the form of openness and truthfulness; (glasnost). He was sure that if the country faced its problems openly that they could solve them by restructuring; (perestroika). He failed to realize how deep and far reaching the discontentment was.

With the spirit of openness the Baltic Republics felt free to request independence from the Union. The Soviet leaders thought Gorbachev was losing control, so they called for his resignation.

When Boris Yeltsen; the president of the Russian Republic, declared that Russia was leaving the union, the communist system collapsed and the Soviet Union fell apart.

Post Soviet Europe

Yugoslavia a country thrown together after World War 1 consisted of 7 major and 17 smaller ethnic and cultural groups. The country was held together by communist dictators, personified by the war hero Marshal Tito, until the end of the Soviet Union. When the communist system collapsed the individual republics proclaimed their independence. Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, Macedonia, and Serbia emerge. Minorities within those states objected and the result was catastrophe. Ethnic cleansing began to take place. European powers seemed helpless but to standby as more than 250,000 people were killed and a million more injured. The United States as well as other countries responded with a peace keeping force.

Maneuvering for position

Eastern Europe became increasingly unstable as European nations began maneuvering for position. It became clear, that in order to maintain peace in Europe and compete economically in a world market greater cooperation among the European nations was necessary. The Economic

European Community began to take on more significance; the Euro was adopted as the new European currency; and travel became much easier between the European nations.

European Economic Community

The European Economic Community began in 1951 as the European Coal and Steel Community. The first six members were; France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands, and Luxemburg. Six other nations joined in 1957; Denmark, Ireland, United Kingdom, Greece, Spain, and Portugal.

Since the fall of the Soviet Union fifteen other countries in Europe joined the union. There have been many treaties signed by these countries over the last fifty years but with so many other European nations joining the union in the last few years its power and influence has increased significantly. The ruling power of the EEC is the Commission of European Communities (CEC) which has the power to create laws governing the union. This commission will ultimately consist of the ten strongest nations out of which will emerge a leader that will control the union.

The Middle East and the Future

Terrorist Activity after the fall of the Soviet Union

Throughout the Cold War the Arab countries had received military aid from the Soviet Union. Arab foreign debt had reached over six times its export value of oil, so the Soviet Union had considerable influence on the Arab countries. Terrorism was an accepted policy but it was carefully targeted. Since the fall of the Soviet Union terrorism has become much more wide spread. Many European nations have for several years seen the need to unite for economic reasons but now terrorism serves as a catalyst for European nations uniting militarily.

Iran; a country with strong ties with Russia, is of special interest today because of her desire to acquire atomic weapons. The leader of Iran Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has vowed to wipe Israel off the map. The Prime Minister of Israel Binyamin Netanyahu declares that Israel will not allow Iran to become a nuclear power.

As we consider the prophecy in **Ezekiel 38-39**; there appears to be a possible connect between this prophecy and the events occurring in the Middle East today, especially in Iran.

Ezekiel 38: 14-16 *Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, thus saith the Lord God; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it? And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army: And thou shalt **come up against my people Israel, ...***

Russia is identified as Magog. In Genesis 10:2 we find the names of Gomer, Magog, Tubal, and Meshech, all sons of Japheth the son of Noah. Students of ethnology (science of the origin of nations) say that the descendants of the Japhetic people were the ancient Scythians, who

occupied the region around the Black and Caspian seas and were the forefathers of the present Russian people.

Persia occupied the area now known as Iran, Iraq, Syria and Eastern Turkey. Ethiopia still exists as Ethiopia and Libya still exists as Libya. Gomer represents Eastern Europe. Most of these areas are in the news daily as they are experiencing political unrest with protesters marching in the streets demanding political change. The leaders of these countries are described as corrupt dictators and for the most part it is in their interest to maintain a non-confrontational position with Israel. If a more radical Moslem element comes into power, even if it is more democratic, it may dramatically change the status quo.

Notice Israel's allies that rise in opposition to Gog as referred to in Ezekiel 38:13 and 38:21. Sheba, Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish seem to refer to the British Empire including Spain which has commonly been known as "The British Lion". The young lions thereof would represent those colonies that grew out of the British Empire, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States.²⁶

This invasion upon Israel as described in Ezekiel 38 may take place in the near future if Israel makes a pre-emptive attack on Iran to destroy her nuclear facilities. In light of the situation that exists in the Middle East; and the fact that Israel cannot allow Iran to acquire nuclear weapons, it seems that this scenario is likely.

General information concerning Russia

Russia in area is the largest country on earth, stretching across two continents from the North Pacific to the Baltic Sea. It occupies the northern part of Asia and the eastern half of Europe. This territory is one sixth of the earth's land surface. In land area, it covers 8,647,173 square miles. The USSR is extremely rich in natural resources. It claims to possess 57% of the world's coal deposits, 58% of its oil, 41% of its iron ore, 88% of the manganese, 54% of its potassium salts, 30% of its phosphates and 25% of all timberland. Gold production is estimated at more than 50% of the production of the rest of the world. It produces about 25% of the world iron ore output and 19% of the steel. Illiteracy has been reduced to 1.5% due to the universal compulsory free education. The Russian economy in regard to the over-all living standard of the people is much lower than that of the United States.²⁷

Acknowledgement

The bulk of the information given in the Historical supplement was taken from the following two books:

1. Comay, Joan, Ben-Gurion and the Birth of Israel, New York, Random House, 1967.
2. Comay, Joan, Everyone's Guide to Israel, New York, Doubleday and Company, Inc., 1966.

²⁶ Boyd Frank M., Ezekiel, Springfield, Mo., Gospel Publishing House, 1951, P.186.

²⁷ Tan, Paul Lee, Signs of the Times, (Encyclopedia of illustrations) Assurance Publisher, Rockville, Maryland, P. 1173 - 1174.

Review Questions - 20th Century Israel

1. What is the World Zionist Organization?
2. Who was its founder?
3. When was it founded?
4. When did World War I begin?
5. Who was the Jewish scientist that developed Acetone from fermented maize?
6. What is the Balfour Declaration?
7. When was it issued?
8. What is the Histadrut?
9. What is the Haganah?
10. When did World War I end?
11. Of what country was Adolf Hitler the leader.
12. Of what country was Mussolini the leader?
13. What is the Aliyah Bet?
14. What was the white paper document?
15. When did World War II begin?
16. What happened on December 7, 1941?
17. What happened to the Jews during World War II?
18. When did Germany surrender?
19. When did Israel proclaim itself a state?
20. Who was the first Prime Minister of Israel?
21. Who was the first president of Israel?
22. What is the position held by the Prime Minister?
23. What is the Knesset?
24. How many members does it contain?
25. How many Jews live in Palestine today?
26. How many Arabs live in Palestine today?
27. How does the prophecy; in Hosea 3:4, relate to Israel today?
28. What is Israel's present spiritual condition? 11 Cor. 3:13-16; Ro. 11:7-10
29. How is Jerusalem regarded in terms of world affairs? Zech. 12:3
30. Relate some of the characteristics of the Arab people.
31. How many Arab countries are there?
32. What gives the Arabs so much influence in the world today?
33. Who are the Palestinian refugees?
34. What area does the land of Magog represent?
35. List Russia's allies, according to Ezekiel 38, in terms of modern nations?
36. What does Sheba, Dedan, and the Merchants of Tarshish represent?
37. What is represented by the young lions?

Prophecy - Anti-Christ Reign

The word "anti" means to be against, the opposite of, or to be instead of. In this case it can also be termed a replacement of, because he (Anti-Christ) comes in to usurp Christ. All signs now point to the coming of this false one. The world is mad for deliverance, but their choice is of their own and not as the Lord would give.²⁸

The Spirit of Anti-Christ

1. Have there been, and is there now anti-Christ in the world? I John 2:18 *Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.*

The spirit that empowers the Anti-Christ has been in the world from the beginning, for it is the spirit of the Devil. Many characters through out history have been driven by demonic spirits working all manner of evil. The Anti-Christ that is to come will be a personification of this satanic spirit.

2. What does the spirit of Anti-Christ deny? I John 2:22 *Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.*

Christ means Messiah or anointed one.

3. What else does the spirit of Anti-Christ deny? I John 4:3 *And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.*

In essence the spirit of Anti-Christ seeks to destroy or sever Christ from God and men from Christ.²⁹ First this spirit attempts to convince men that Jesus was not conceived of the Holy Spirit and therefore is not the son of God; If this is accomplished, then it is easy for men to assume that Jesus was just a normal man and that the Son of God has not come in the flesh.

4. In light of this the Anti-Christ must be recognized as what? II John 7 *For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.*

5. The fact that the spirit of Anti-Christ is so prevalent is a sign of what? I John 2:18 *Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.*

More and more our society has become so educated that it thinks itself too smart to believe in the virgin birth, the resurrection, or that Jesus was the son of God. **Rom. 1:21-22** *Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

An attitude such as this makes for fertile ground in which to sow the seed for the Anti-Christ's kingdom.

²⁸ Crowhurst, Jerome, Apostolic Faith Prophecy Notebook, 1977.

²⁹ Apostolic Faith Prophecy Notebook.

6. What one thing prevents the Anti-Christ's kingdom from becoming a literal reality? II

Thess. 2:6-8 *And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.*

7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

The term "letteth" means to hold back or restrain.³⁰ It is the Holy Spirit that restrains the evil that would otherwise fill this earth. When the Holy Spirit is lifted there will no longer be conviction and evil will run rampant. The Anti-Christ will then be revealed.

The Political Kingdom of Anti-Christ

In our study of the "times of the Gentiles", we found that the last Gentle power to hold world dominance before Christ sets up His literal kingdom on the earth, will be a revival of the Roman Empire, assuming the form of a ten- kingdom confederacy as symbolized by the ten toes of the image in Daniel chapter two, and by the ten horns which arise from the fourth beast in Daniel chapter seven. It is this kingdom that is commonly designated as the Anti-Christ Kingdom.

7. How is the Roman Empire depicted in Daniel 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.*

One must keep in mind that this describes not only the Roman Empire but the revived Roman Empire referred to as the Anti-Christ kingdom. This is seen in that it has ten horns, (ten kings or kingdoms) and in that the kingdom of the Lord immediately follows this political power. Notice **Dan. 7:9-14**

8. In the midst of these ten kings or kingdoms there raises another political personality; how is he described and how does he gain ascendancy over the ten-kingdom confederacy? **Daniel 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.*

The "little horn" clearly represents the Anti-Christ; a man of political vision and a diplomat having "a mouth speaking great things".

It appears that the political base for the Anti-Christ kingdom will begin by gaining the support and control of three of the ten nations that will make up the revived Roman Empire. Within a very short length of time he will have the support and control of all ten nations which will give him world dominance. It is the author's opinion that the "little horn" in **Dan. 8** is not the same as the "little horn" in this reference. In chapter 8 the political personality represented by the little horn is seen rising out of the third kingdom prophesied by Daniel; the Greek Empire, and clearly identifies Antiochus Epiphanes. In chapter 7 the little horn represents a political personality rising out of the fourth kingdom prophesied

9. How does Daniel identify the Anti-Christ in chapter nine? Daniel 9:26 *And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the*

³⁰ Strong, James, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, Nashville, Tenn., Crusade Bible Publisher Inc

prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

It is the people of the prince; the Romans, that destroys the city and sanctuary, not the prince himself.

10. The Anti-Christ will begin His reign as diplomat making covenants with many, which were to last seven years. Among those entering into agreements with him will be the Jews who gain religious freedom until he breaks the covenant in the middle of the seven years. At that time what does he cause to cease? Daniel 9:27 *And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.*

An oblation is an inanimate offering such as land or money.

11. How does Paul identify the Anti-Christ? II Thess. 2:3 *Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;*

Perdition means destruction, entire loss, or ruin. Study carefully **11 Thess. 2:1-12.**

12. What is the most detestable thing the Anti-Christ does during his reign? II Thess. 2:4 *Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.*

In Daniel's prophecy he refers to this act as the Abomination of Desolation. Abomination means a detestable thing. Desolation means waste or ruin.

Daniel 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 shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.*

13. What did Jesus instruct His disciples to do when they see the abomination of desolation? Matt. 24:15-16 *When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) 16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:*

It is important that we keep these verses in context with the over all prophecy to which Jesus is referring.

There will be Christians that will flee to Judea; or at least to a place where they can benefit by being under the Judean covenant with the anti-christ, so that can have religious freedom at the beginning of the tribulation. In the midst of the week a second flight will be necessary to escape the fury of the Anti-Christ when he breaks his covenant with Israel and religious freedom is lost. These two flights can be studied in greater detail in **Rev. 12.**

14. What sign did Christ mention by which His disciples might know when the desolation was near? Luke 21:20 *And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.*

There are many who believe that the Abomination of Desolation spoke of by Daniel and then by Jesus was fulfilled when Titus destroyed Jerusalem in 70 A.D., However; Jesus said, "Immediately after the tribulation of those days...they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of Heaven with power and great glory." **Matt. 24:29-30**, obviously the Lord did not return after the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D., so he could not have been referring to that event. The Christians in Israel will know their flight into the wilderness is near when they see the political and military power of the Anti-Christ moving in to take control of Jerusalem.

15. When the Abomination takes place; how suddenly are those in Judea to flee? Matt. 24:17-18 *Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: 18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.*

At that time any delay, for any reason would be disastrous. Anyone who refuses to forsake all and go as the Lord bids will find themselves left behind to face the Anti-Christ persecution. It is sad but true that many Christians place too much importance on worldly possessions. In Jeremiah's day a similar threat faced Jerusalem. Jeremiah warned the people of what was going to happen but only a few believed and moved quickly enough to escape the horrors that were to follow.

16. What did Jesus promise concerning forsaking all to follow Him? Matt. 19:29 *And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.*

17. This flight will be difficult and require a total dedication and trust in God. What are some of the things that would add to the difficulty of the fight? Matt. 24:19-20 *And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! 20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:*

Remember these are in Judea where there are strict Sabbath laws. According to the Mosaic Law, Israelites must restrict their travels to 3/4 of a mile on the Sabbath, and no unnecessary work is to be done.

18. How severe will this tribulation be? Matt. 24:21 *For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.*

19. By what other term is the Anti-Christ reign called? Jeremiah 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.*

The reason that the Anti-Christ reign is referred to in this manner is because the Anti-Christ activities will evolve out of Israel. The reason for this is not only due to the geographical location, but also because Israel represents the heart of the three largest religious systems in the world; Judaism, Christianity and Islam. It is the religious systems of the world that moves the masses. Control these and you control the world.

20. What does God do for the sake of the elect? Matt. 24:22 *And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.*

The elect are the chosen of God, those set apart, sanctified by the blood of the lamb, made worthy to be glorified with the Lord; they are the bride of Christ.

It is the writer's opinion that the first-fruits of Gods' elect will be raptured or caught up unto God and His throne at the beginning of this great tribulation period. (**Rev. 12:5; 14:4**)

21. How is the Anti-Christ kingdom depicted in Revelation? Rev. 13:1 *And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.*

The seven heads referred to in **Rev. 13:1** are the seven Gentile powers upon which the Anti-Christ Kingdom is built. There have been six Gentile powers that significantly impacted Israel while exercising great dominion in the world. The first was the Chaldean or Summerite power under their most notable King Hammurabi. It was in this kingdom that Abraham was born. The second was the Assyrian power, under Tiglath-Pileser III. It was during this period that the ten northern tribes of Israel were carried into captivity. The third was Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar, during which time the southern kingdom of Judah was carried into captivity. The fourth was the Medio- Persian power under Cyrus. The fifth was the Greek Empire under Alexander the Great. The Sixth was the Roman Empire which was consolidated by Octavius who took the name of Caesar Augustus. Each of these kingdoms came into power under the influence of a dynamic political leader. The Seventh Gentile power will be a revival of the old Roman Empire, the Anti-Christ kingdom.

22. What do the ten horns represent? Rev. 17:12 *And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.*

23. What relationship do these ten kings have with the Anti- Christ? Rev. 17:13 *These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.*

It is the writer's opinion that the European Common Market is the forerunner of these ten kings. The common market, officially known as the "European Economic Community" was established upon the premise of a 10 nation entity although it is more than ten nations today. The ruling power of the EEC is the Commission of European Communities (CEC) which has the power to create laws governing the union. This commission will ultimately consist of the ten strongest nations out of which will emerge a leader that will control the union.

The Common Market is actually three Organizations:

1. The European Economic Community
2. The European Coal and Steel Community
3. The European Atomic Energy Community³¹

24. Who gives the Anti-Christ his power and 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 seat, and great authority.*

25. What does the dragon represent? Rev. 12:9 *And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*

26. What happens to the Anti-Christ in the middle of his reign? Rev. 13:3 *And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.*

³¹ World Book Encyclopedia, vol. 6, P. 332, Field Enterprises Educational Corporation, 1977.

27. How long will the Anti-Christ continue to reign after this incident? Rev. 13:5 *And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.*

Forty-two months amounts to 3 1/2 years. His incident would coincide with several other events occurring in the midst of the tribulation week; such as the Abomination of Desolation. (Refer to the chart at the end of this lesson for a list of the events that will occur at that time.)

Dan. 7:25 *And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.*

28. We are given more information concerning the assassination attempt on the Anti-Christ in Rev. 17:8-11. Study these verses carefully. As we have already noted, the Anti-Christ Kingdom is built upon seven political mountains or powers, each of these established by a notable King. Which one of these seven Kings became the Anti-Christ? **Rev. 17: 10-11** *And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.*

11 *And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.*

The political personality that organizes the ten nation confederacy and dominates the rest of the world is apparently assassinated, but, the spirit of Satan enters into his dead body and raises it up. That is why he is said to be the eighth and is of the seventh; he is not the same man only the same body. Satan has not the power to create life only to imitate life. It is at this time that the Anti-Christ begins to do the abominable things.

The five Kings or Kingdoms that had fallen before John's day were: Chaldean, Assyrian, Babylonian, Persian, and Greece.

The King or Kingdom that ruled in John's day was the Roman Empire.

29. What reaction does the world take concerning the resurrection of this political leader? Rev. 13:3-4 *And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.*

4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

30. There is a second beast that rises up in connection with the Anti-Christ; how is he pictured? Rev. 13:11 *And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.*

The second beast is seen as a prophet or spokesman for the first beast. He is identified in **Rev. 16:13** and also **Rev. 20:10** as the False Prophet. He seems to be a religious personality for most of his influence is seen from a religious standpoint. The Pope is the most influential religious personality of today. He has according to the membership role of the Catholic Church, more than 695 Million subjects, as well as influence in the World Council of Churches.

31. What influence did this second beast have on the earth? Rev. 13:12 *And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.*

32. Using Revelation 13:13-15 list some of the miraculous things the False Prophet was able to do. *13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,
14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power 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, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.
15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.*

33. How are people to be identified as followers and supporters of the Anti-Christ Kingdom? Rev. 13:16 *And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:*

34. In what way are you discriminated against if you do not support the Anti-Christ? Rev. 13:17 *And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.*

35. What number is associated with the Anti-Christ? Rev. 13:18 *Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.*

INFORMATIONAL SUPPLEMENT – One World Government

Technology has brought us to the point where satellite-coordinated computer centers and memory banks have changed the way banking and commercial transactions of the whole world are done. Transactions from any place in the world to any other place can be processed in mere seconds!

It is already a common practice of identifying people by numbers. In every area of life our identification numbers are more important than our name. In order for the whole world's population to be identified by one system, it would simply require each person receiving three six digit numbers. This would be similar to your social security number, only instead of having a three-digit, two-digit, four-digit number; you would have a six-digit, six-digit, six-digit number.

It is easy to see that the world is getting conditioned for this World Governing System; here are a few examples:

1. The United Nations Conference on International Organization. Its primary objective is the maintenance of International peace and security, however, there are many different agencies within it's' system. For instance: - the international court of justice; consisting of fifteen judges, - the international law, - and the international monetary exchange.

2. World Commerce is already very much a part of our lives. The price of every major commodity is on a World Market rather than a local market.

3. The Metric System has become the International measuring system.

Given the right situations the world would gladly acknowledge and accept a One-World Governing System. The world is already crying give us Peace and Prosperity.

Several years ago, Belgium's premier, P.H. Spock made a statement in the newspaper: "The truth is that the method of inter-national committees has failed. What we need is a person, someone of highest order of great energy. Let him come and let him come quickly. Either a civilian or a military man, no matter what his nationality; who will cut all the red tape, shove out of the way all the committees, wake up all the people and galvanize all governments into action. Let him come quickly. This man we need and for whom we wait will take charge of the defense of the West. Once more I say, it is not too late, but it is high time."³²

Some may feel that the United States would never allow a dictatorship to rule, but there is a law that was signed by John F. Kennedy during the Cuban Crisis that still stands. It became a part of the vast executive orders when they were signed on Feb. 16 and Feb. 27, 1962. Those emergency documents provide that the President and any succeeding President shall have complete and final dictatorial control.

The Executive Orders are to be carried out through the Office of Emergency Planning, and they may be put into effect in any "time of increased international tension or economic crisis."

THE EXECUTIVE ORDERS ARE:

Order 10997.....Takeover all Electric Power, Petroleum, and Gas fuels and minerals.

Order 10998.....Take over all food resources and farms (including farming machinery).

Order 10999.....Take over all methods of transportation, highways, seaport, etc.

Order 11000.....Mobilization of civilians into work forces under governmental supervision.

Order 11001.....Take over all health, welfare and educational functions.

Order 11002.....Postmaster General (member of President's Cabinet) will operate nationwide registration of all persons.

Order 11003.....Take over all airports and aircraft.

Order 11004.....Take over housing and finance authorities to relocate communities, to build new housing with public funds, designate areas to be abandoned as unsafe, and establish new vocations for populations.

Order 11005.....Take over all railroads, Inland waterways and public storage facilities.

Order 11051.....Designate responsibilities of office of emergency planning, give authorization to put all other executive orders into effect in times of increased international tension or economic or financial crisis."³³

³² Signs of the Times, P. 380.

³³ Signs of the Times, P. 327.

At first it seems that the Beast Dictator will be a benevolent leader. This is indicated by the fact that he will give the Jews religious freedom. But after he receives his deadly wound, his character will be changed. He will be an oppressor and a persecutor of anyone who worships God or defies him. **Dan. 7:25; Rev. 13:7** He will claim to be God, and will demand human worship. **II Thess. 2:3-9; Rev. 13:11-15**³⁴

Mystery Babylon the Great - The Tower of Babel

The scripture strongly indicates that the various societies of the world will unite into one world social and religious system which will have a decisive voice in the organizing and introducing of the revived Roman Empire which we refer to as the Anti-Christ kingdom. Study carefully once again **Rev. 17**; there we are shown the judgment of the Great Whore identified as "Mystery Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots..." **Rev. 17:5**

Rev. Alexander Hislop made a study of Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Babylonian, and other ancient Mythologies. He found that all Mythologies though having different symbols, names, forms, etc; are all related because of their many similarities. After further study he found that most all Mythologies trace their origin back to the same era, which was between the flood and the confounding of the languages. This is the time of the building of the Tower of Babel, by Nimrod.

Nimrod is the son of Cush who is the son of Ham, who is the son of Noah. He is referred to as being a "Mighty one in the Earth, " (**Gen. 10:8**) and " A Mighty Hunter before the Lord" (**Gen. 10:9**). "The beginning of His Kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the Land of Shinar." **Gen. 10:10** Out of this land went forth other great cities. **Gen. 10:11**

Nimrod was married to a woman by the name Semiramis who was said to of been the Queen of Babylon; worshipped as Rhea the Great Mother of the Gods. She was also identified with Venus, the Mother of all Impurity. She along with Nimrod raised the very city where she had reigned, as the grand seat of Idolatry and Consecrated Prostitution.

One of the names of the primitive Hercules in Egypt was "Sem." He was said to of overcame the Giants or "Mighty One." This relates to the death of Nimrod who was killed by (Shem) the son of Noah who was fighting the Apostasy that was being infiltrated into that society.

After Nimrod's death, Semiramis came to be with child. She said Nimrod was going to be reincarnated as a child. Many people believed this, therefore great honor was extolled upon Semiramis and the child. It seems that Semiramis received most all her glory and deification from her son, who also was referred to as (Husband of the Mother).

In most all ancient Mythology their deities are represented with Mother and Child. In each case the Mothers received their glory from their sons. For example:

Egypt - Isis and Osiris

India - Isi and Iswara

Asia - Cybele and Deoiuss

³⁴ Girouard, Robert, Selected Bible Studies, Pampa, Texas, 1969, P. 64.

Rome - Fortuna and Jupiter-puer
Greece - Great Mother with babe at her breast
China and Japan - Mother and her child

Semiramis's son is referred to in **Ezek. 8:14** as Tammus, but is more commonly known as Bacchus; that is, "The Lamented One". The Lamented one relates directly back to Ninus or Nimrod, the husband of Sermirus. Ninus is the name referred to by the Assyrians, while Nimrod is the name referred to by the Babylonians. Both refer to the same man. Belus or Bel is the Father of Nimrod (Cush). Cush is the son of Ham, the ringleader of great Apostasy. Cush was referred to as Her-mes or Mercury by the Egyptians. Her-mes is just an Egyptian synonym for the "Son of Ham." Cush was known as the "divider of the speeches of man." He used a mystery beverage; an intoxicating drink used to stun one's senses, in his divination. Jeremiah said, "Babylon hath been a golden cup in the Lord's hand, that made all the earth drunk, the nations have drunk of her wine, therefore, the nations are mad," **Jer. 51:7**". **Rev. 17:1-5** refers to "Mystery Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth, with whom the Kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication". Cush is the first to be referred to as Merodack, "Great Rebel". **Jer. 1:2**

All Mythology interrelates and actually refers to the same historical events and persons. (Cush, Nimrod and Semiramis)³⁵ Mystery Babylon then, refers to the false religious systems and societies of this world, originating at the tower of Babel.

36. With whom is this corrupt social and religious system involved? Rev. 17:2 *With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.*

Because of this ungodly uniting between the political systems of the earth and the false religious system, the inhabitants of the earth have been driven by an insatiable stream of violence. War after war is fought in the name of some religious ideology, but in reality for lust of power and control. (Wine in the Bible represents blood as in the case when Jesus represented His own blood by the wine.)

37. Upon what is this false religious system sitting? Rev. 17:3 *So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.*

The beast having seven heads and ten horns has already been identified as the Anti-Christ Kingdom. This false religious system under the leadership of the false prophet is seen as having considerable influence in this kingdom. Notice again **Rev. 14:11-18**.

³⁵ Hislop, Alexander, Two Babylons, Neptune, New Jersey, Loizeaux Brothers Publisher Inc., 1916.

Informational Supplement - The World Council of Churches

There is in the process an unprecedented merger of various religions into a super world church, starting with the merger of the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches.

An Anglican bishop expressed the general feeling of the Christian world when he said, "Divided Christendom is a source of weakness in the West; if the non-Christian world is to be won for Christ our message must be one. If our message is to be one, we must be one."

Protestants are now divided into over 200 denominations, and most of these denominations are further divided into many factions. For instance, there are some 20 kinds of Baptists.

The World Council of Churches (WCC) was formally constituted on Aug. 23, 1948 at Amsterdam by an assembly representing 147 churches from 44 countries, mostly Protestant liberals. In 1973, member churches numbered 263 from 90 countries--from the Protestant, Anglican, Orthodox and Old Catholic Confessions. The WCC now has a constituent membership of over 400 million members - almost one-half the total Protestant and Roman Catholic people of the world. The motto, "ONE WORLD --ONE CHURCH" was adopted at its first Ecumenical Assembly held in Amsterdam in 1948.

In 1969, the director of Ecumenical Affairs for the National Council of Churches wrote that the Roman Catholic Church and the major Protestant Churches - as a start- should recognize the existence of a general church membership. This would hasten the unification of all churches into one super body. This would mean that, if you become a Christian, other churches will acknowledge that you are fully a Christian; anyone who belongs to one church belongs to all. Thus, if you should become a member of the Methodist Church, you would become simultaneously a full member of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion church, The Roman Catholic Church, the United Church of Christ, and the Episcopal Church.

At a meeting in the early 1970's the central committee of the WCC which is the principal policy-making body of that organization made this statement, "Because Christians cannot claim to have a monopoly of truth, we need to meet men of other faiths and ideologies as part of our trust in and obedience to the promise of Christ." Ecumenicists believe that divine truth is so rich and many sided that only fragments are found in any one faith. To encourage dialogue the WCC has suggested that chairs of Buddhists, Hindu, and Muslim scholars be appointed in Christian Universities.

We are told that the Ecumenical church is producing a new Bible; know as the Universal Church Bible. The purpose is to take the place of both the Douay and King James Bibles. Already we see both the clergy and laity turning away from the King James and turning to various new versions and paraphrases which omit portions of God's Word. One Ecumenical version is already on the market and that is the "Revised Standard Version Common Bible." It contains the Apocryphal Duetocanonical books.

The WCC involvement in politics becomes greater with each passing year. It isn't unusual at all for the WCC to boycott banks and shift holding in companies to supply pressure to political leaders. The WCC has also been known to financially support terrorist groups. In October and

November of 1971, the Reader's Digest published two articles by Clarence Hall on the activities of the World Council of Churches. In the first article, Dr. Hall made this statement: "Preaching is the gospel of racial justice; the World Council of Churches is using church power and church funds to back the insurrection in the United States and Africa. In the early 1970's, hundreds of thousands of dollars were given by the council to terrorist groups, some of them evidently Communists who were engaged in guerilla activity. While supporting such radical activities, it is a well known fact that the council did everything in its power to hinder the American government in its involvement in the Vietnam War."

In light of the influence the Roman Catholic Pope has in the WCC and in religion as a whole, combined with his political clout; he or his successor would be the most logical leader of this false religious system which will have such great significance in the establishment of the Anti-Christ kingdom.

The world is not going to become less religious as we approach the end of this dispensation, its just going to become more organized and more corrupt.

38. When the anti-Christ kingdom comes into full power and control of the earth and he no longer needs the support of this religious system, what happens to it? Rev. 17:16 *And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.*

There is at least one other comment that needs to be made in regard to religion in politics and that is concerning the Internationalizing of the city Jerusalem.

William R. Frye in his syndicated column made this observation in an editorial entitled "An International Jerusalem." "Behind-the-scenes here at Geneva, the Mid-east peace conference is touching more and more frequently on a 26 year old idea: The internationalization of Jerusalem. Israel has sought to have the city recognized as her eternal capital. King Faisal of Saudi Arabia was equally determined for it to be Arab. The Vatican wants special provision for the holy places...and the only visible basis for compromise is some form of shared authority".³⁶

Nations have tried for years to solve the religious and political problems connected with Jerusalem, but all their efforts have been in vain, Jerusalem is still one of the most troubled spots in the world.

39. How is Jerusalem regarded among men? Zechariah 12:3 *And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.*

Jerusalem just does not fit in the political structure of this world; it is truly a burdensome stone. The anti-christ will take control of Jerusalem and turn it into an international city during the tribulation period.

³⁶ Signs of the Times, P. 628.

Review Questions - Anti-Christ Reign

Write these verses and memorize them: I John 2:18; II Thess. 2:3; II Thess. 2:7

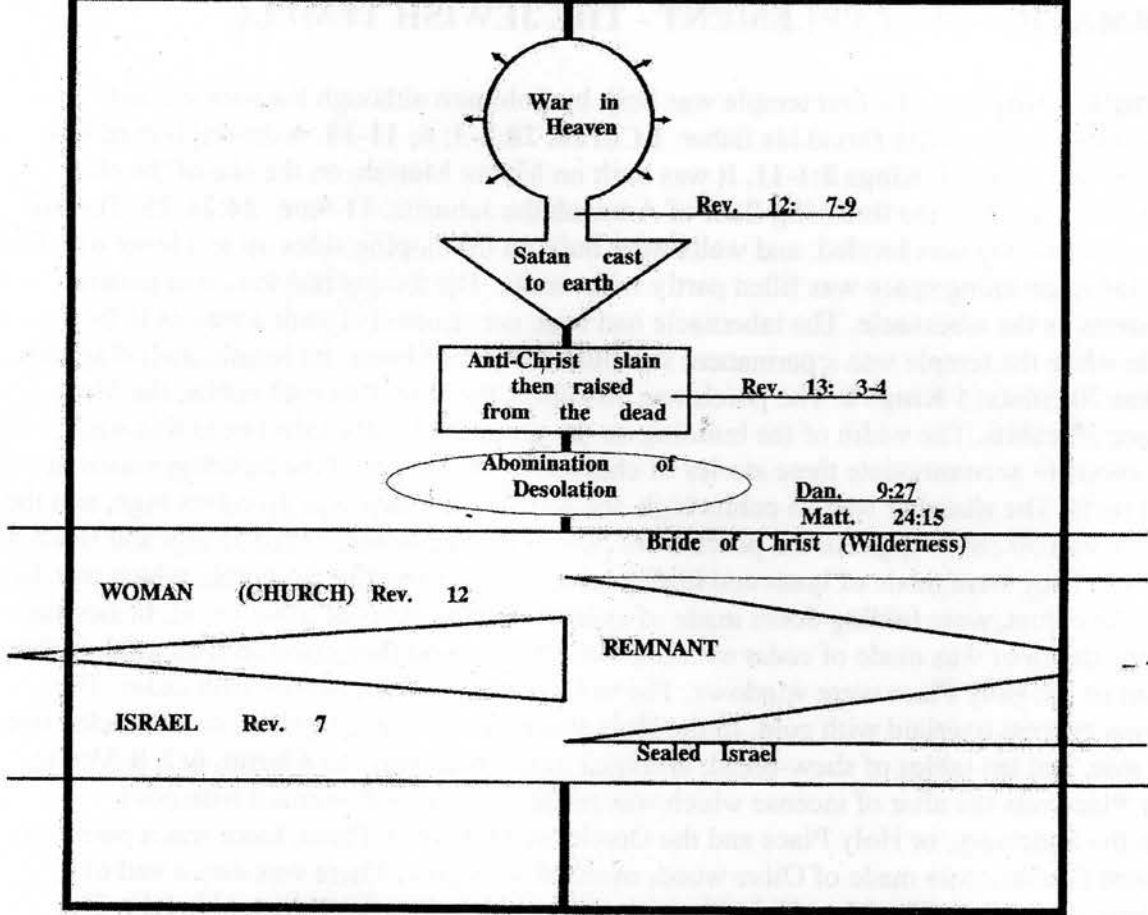
1. Describe the spirit of the Anti-Christ.
2. What prevents the Anti-Christ's kingdom from becoming a literal reality?
3. The Anti-Christ's kingdom will be a revival of what political power?
4. The Anti-Christ's kingdom is a consolidation of how many political powers?
5. How did the Anti-Christ gain dominance in this political system?
6. What kind of covenant does the Anti-Christ make with Israel?
7. How does Paul identify the Anti-Christ?
8. What is the abominable act that brings about the desolation?
9. What sign did Christ mention by which his disciples might know when the desolation was near?
10. What were the believers to do when they see the abomination of desolation?
11. By what other term is the Anti-Christ reign called?
12. How is the Anti-Christ kingdom depicted in Revelation?
13. Who gives the Anti-Christ his power and authority?
14. What does the dragon represent?
15. What happens to the Anti-Christ in the middle of his reign?
16. Explain Rev. 17:11.
17. What do the 10 horns in Rev. 17:12 represent?
18. What does the beast in Rev 13:11 represent?
19. What relationship exists between the False Prophet and the Anti-Christ?
20. What number is associated with the Anti-Christ?
21. Who was the founder of the Tower of Babel?
22. What does Mystery Babylon the Great represent?
23. When was the World Council of Churches established?
24. What is the motto of the World Council of Churches?
25. What happens to Mystery Babylon the Great at the end of the tribulation?
26. Give the lineage of Nimrod from Noah.
27. How is Jerusalem regarded among men?

The Anti-Christ Reign

7 years of Tribulation

3 1/2yrs/ 42 months/ 1260 days

3 1/2yrs/ 42 months/ 1260 days



Prophecy - Matthew 24

The lesson in **Matt. 24** was given by Jesus and covers a period of time from about 30 A.D. until His return. This was one of the last lessons Jesus taught his disciples before his crucifixion.

This lesson will serve as a review of the information that we have covered in previous chapters.

INFORMATIONAL SUPPLEMENT - THE JEWISH TEMPLE

Solomon's Temple - The first temple was built by Solomon although the idea did not originate with him, but with David his father. **1 Chron. 28:2-3; 6; 11-19**. A description of this temple can be found in **1 Kings 8:1-11**. It was built on Mount Moriah, on the site of the altar which David erected on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. **11 Sam. 24:21-25**. The hill being uneven, the top was leveled, and walls were built on the sloping sides up to a level with the summit, the intervening space was filled partly with vaults. The temple had the same general arrangements as the tabernacle. The tabernacle had been constructed in such a way as to be moveable while the temple was a permanent structure. Both faced east. Its length, including the porch, was 70 cubits; **1 Kings 6**. The porch was 10 cubits, the Holy Place 40 cubits, the Most Holy Place 20 cubits. The width of the building on the ground was 20 cubits but to this was added 5 cubits to accommodate three stories of chambers. The height of the building varied in different parts. The chamber was 15 cubits high, the Most Holy Place was 20 cubits high, and the Holy Place was 30 cubits high. In the porch were two celebrated pillars called Jachin and Boaz. **1 Kings 7:21**. They were made of brass and highly ornamented. Crossing the porch, which was 10 cubits by 20 cubits, were folding doors made of cypress, having posts of olive wood. In side the Holy Place the floor was made of cedar overlaid with cypress and then covered with gold. In the upper part of the Holy Place were windows. The walls were of stone covered with cedar. The ceiling was cypress overlaid with gold. In the Holy Place there were ten golden candlesticks, five on each side, and ten tables of shew-bread, arranged in a similar way. **11 Chron. 6:7, 8** Also in the Holy Place was the altar of incense which was made of cedar and overlaid with gold. Between the Sanctuary, or Holy Place and the Oracle, or Most Holy Place, there was a partition, which were double doors made of Olive wood, overlaid with gold. There was also a veil of embroidery at this door. The Most Holy Place was 20 cubits in length, width and height. The floor, sides and ceiling were made of wood and overlaid with gold. There were no windows. There were two gigantic cherubim, 10 cubits high, made of olive wood and overlaid with gold which cross the entire width of the room.

No definite account is given of the court or courts surrounding the temple. In **1 Kings 6:36** the "inner court" is spoken of. This was the space immediately around the sacred edifice. It is also called the "higher court" in **Jeremiah 36:10** and the "court of the priest" in **11 Chron. 4:9**. The inner court contained the brazen altar which was 20 cubits in breath and length and 10 cubits high. There was also the molten sea which was 10 cubits in diameter and 5 cubits high; it stood on 12 brazen oxen, 3 facing each direction. On each side of the altar there were 5 brazen lavers. **11 Chron. 4:1-6**. Around the inner court was a larger one, called the "great court", in **11 Chron. 4:9**; the "outer court" in **Ezek. 6:21**, and the "court of the Lord's House" in **Jer. 19:14**. This outer court was surrounded by strong walls with gates of brass. **11 Chron. 4:9**.

This Temple was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in B.C. 587. Approximately 70 years later the Temple was rebuilt by Zerubbabel.

Zerubbabel's Temple - Very little information is available concerning this temple. It was built on the same site as Solomon's temple, larger but not as elaborate, and according to Jewish authority, the Sanctuary or Most Holy Place was empty except for a stone set three fingers high where the priest burned incense and sprinkled the blood of atonement.

Herod's Temple - Herod the Great attempted to gain the favor of the Jews by the renovation of Zerubbabel's temple. In essence he rebuilt the temple, tearing down a piece at a time and rebuilding it larger and more elaborate. According to the Talmud, the entire temple was 500 cubits square, with walls surrounding it. Against these massive stone walls were built cedar roofs being supported by rows of Corinthian columns of solid marble, 25 cubits high. The colonnade on the east was called Solomon's porch. The one on the south was called the King's porch which was much wider, consisting of a nave and two aisles. The space surrounding this enclosure was the court of the gentiles. It was paved with stones of various colors. This court was also called the "Outer Court", the "Lower Court", and by the Rabbins the "Mountain of the Lord's House". The enclosure of the temple proper was on a terrace about 6 cubits higher than the court of the gentiles. It was approached by steps and was surrounded by a wall 3 cubits high. At the top of the terrace, and entirely around it, was a platform 10 cubits wide extending to another wall. In the east side of the latter wall was a gate 40 cubits wide known as "Beautiful." There were gates on the north and south to the court of women. West of the court of women, separated from it by a wall and a terrace higher still, was the court of the Israelites. This was a narrow hill completely surrounding the court of the priest. The session room of the Sanhedrin was in the south east corner of this court. On the terrace 15 steps higher was the court of the priest. In the eastern part of this was the great altar of burn-offering, directly west of which arose the Great Temple itself. The building was of white marble.³⁷

The destruction of this temple came in 70 A.D. by Titus son of Vespasian.

1. What three questions did the disciples ask Jesus? Matt. 24:3 *And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?*

You will notice as we continue through this lesson that Jesus' answer dealt with three periods of time; before, during and after the tribulation.

2. Before Jesus would begin His comments about the future He gave them a warning. What was it? Matt. 24:4 *And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.*

3. Do deceivers always deny that Jesus was the Christ? Matt. 24:5 *For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.*

Matt. 7:15; 22 *15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.*

³⁷ Unger, Merrill F., *Unger's Bible Dictionary*, Chicago, Moody Press, 1976, P. 1076 - 1082.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

4. Why are people deceived? 11 Thess. 2:10 2 *And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*

See also **Rom. 1:18-32** Corrupt depraved thinking cause men to become incapable of making rational judgments.

5. What is it that causes trouble and fear in the minds of the masses of humanity? Matt. 24:6 *And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.*

"Rumor" means that which is heard and talked about. Today we have war confronting us on every news media.³⁸

6. What other calamities are of common occurrence in this dispensation? Matt. 24:7-8 *For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.*

War has a way of breeding starvation and disease. There are more than 1,000,000 trimmers each year, an average of one every 30 seconds. 3000 earthquakes every year move the surface of the earth noticeably and more than 20 each year cause severe disasters.³⁹

The United Nations has estimated that about 460 million people in the world suffer from malnutrition.⁴⁰

7. What happens to Christians when nations disregard God? Matt. 24:9 *Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.*

8. Is persecution always the result of godless men? John 16:2 *They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.*

9. Will unity prevail among the brotherhood or the so-called Christian world? Matt. 24:10 *And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.*

10. How common are false prophets? Matt. 24:11 *And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.*

11. What makes false prophets so deceptive? Matt. 7:15 *Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.*

³⁸ Strong, James, Strongs Exhaustive Concordance, Nashville, Tenn., Crusade Bible Publishers Inc.

³⁹ Walker, Bryce, Planet Earth, Alexandria, Virginia, Time Life Books, 1982, P. 43.

⁴⁰ Marx, Herbert L. Jr., The World Food Crisis, New York, H.W. Wilson Company, 1975, P. 24.

It is not always what a prophet says that makes him a false prophet, but what He doesn't say. To conceal the truth is a reprehensible as to proclaim an utter heresy.⁴¹

12. What is it that makes us lose our love for the things of God? Matt. 24:12 *And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.*

"Iniquity" means lawlessness or sin "wax cold" means to cool down.⁴²

Notice the condition of the Laodicean church. **Rev. 3:14-18** *And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;*

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

With the abounding of iniquity the church world becomes more and more tolerant with sin.

13. When the church compares itself with the world it looks pretty good, but what are we supposed to compare ourselves to? I Jn. 2:6 *He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.*

Jn. 13:15 *For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.*

14. What promise is given to those who are faithful to the end? Matt. 24:13 *But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*

In the letters to the seven churches of Asia (Rev. 2-3) Jesus gave some other promises to the overcomers.

15. What must be done before the end of the grace dispensation? Matt. 24:14 *And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*

This does not imply that the whole world will be saved, only that the gospel is preached for a witness unto all nations. Think of the hundreds of thousands of hours a year that are devoted to the proclamation of the gospel on the radio and television. When the door of grace closes the gospel will no longer be preached.

16. Where does the "abomination of desolation" take place? Matt. 24:15 *When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)*

"Abomination" means a detestable thing "Desolation" means waste or ruin.

⁴¹ Lloyd - Jones, D. Martyn, Studies in the Sermon on the Mount Vol. 2, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1960, P. 244 - 250.

⁴² Strong's.

17. How does Paul describe the "Abomination of desolation"? II Thess. 2:4 *Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.*

18. When does the "Abomination of Desolation" take place? Dan. 9:27 *And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.*

It is important that we keep these verses in context with the over all prophecy to which Jesus is referring.

There will be a class of Christians that will flee to a place prepared by God in the midst of the week. This flight will be necessary to escape the fury of the Anti-Christ when he breaks his covenant with Israel and religious freedom is lost. This flight can be studied in greater detail in **Rev. 12**.

19. What sign did Christ mention by which His disciple might know when the desolation was near? Luke. 21:20 *And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.*

20. When the Abomination takes place, how suddenly are those in Judea to flee? Matt. 24:17-18 *Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.*

At that time any delay, for any reason would be disastrous. Anyone who refuses to forsake all and go as the Lord bids will find themselves left behind to face the Anti-Christ' persecution. Christians must be very careful not to place too much importance on worldly possessions.

21. What did Jesus promise concerning forsaking all to follow Him? Matt. 19:29 *And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.*

22. This flight will be difficult and require a total dedication and trust in God. What are some of the things that would add to the difficulty of the flight? Matt. 24:19-20 *And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:*

Remember these are in Judea where there are strict Sabbath laws. According to the Mosaic Law, Israelites must restrict their travels to 3/4 of a mile on the Sabbath, and no unnecessary work is to be done.⁴³

23. How severe will this tribulation be? Matt. 24:21 *For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.*

24. By what other term is the Anti-Christ reign called? Jeremiah 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.*

The reason that the Anti-Christ reign is referred to in this manner is because the Anti-Christ activities will evolve out of Israel. The reason for this is not only due to the geographical location, but also because Israel

⁴³ Ungers, P. 721 & 940.

represent the heart of the three largest religious systems in the world; Judaism, Christianity and Islam. It is the religious systems of the world that most influence the masses. Control those and you control the world.

25. What does God do for the sake of the elect? Matt. 24:22 *And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.*

The elect are the chosen of God, those set apart, sanctified by the blood of the Lamb, made worthy to be glorified with the Lord, the bride of Christ.

There's no question that time seems to fly by. Even with all the modern equipment that speeds up everyday chores there just doesn't seem to be time to do all we would like. However it is the writer's opinion that the last part of the tribulation period will be literally shortened for the elects' sake. **Rev. 8:12** *And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.*

Rom. 9:28 *For he will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth.*

26. Of what deceptions did Christ warn us? Matt. 24:23-24 *Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.*

24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

27. Why are we warned not to believe it when we are informed that Jesus has come "here" or "there"? Matt. 24:25-28 *Behold, I have told you before.*

26 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.

27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

28 For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

Luke 17:37 *And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together.*

Matt. 24:28 is some what difficult for the writer to explain. Some suggest that it has reference to the Battle of Armageddon; However the context seems to place the emphasis on the actual return of Christ rather than an event that would occur after his return.

It would be inappropriate to refer to Christ as a carcass or corpse but in **Luke 17:37** where the same statement is made Luke uses the word body. The word eagles is translated by some as vultures but again in the Strong's Concordance the Greek word translated eagles comes from (Ahetos) root word meaning "air" indicating its' wing 'like flight. The word "vulture" translated from the Hebrew word daw-aw means to dart or fly rapidly. It is therefore the writers conclusion that Jesus is illustrating the fact that when He returns; not just in spirit but in bodily form, gravitation will loose its' hold on the saints or bride of Christ and they will be caught up to meet Him in the air.

28. To what point on this earth does Christ return? Zach. 14:3-4 *Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.*

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.

29. Who will be with the Lord when He returns? Jude 14 *And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,*

The raptured or first-fruit class will have been caught up to God and the throne at the beginning of the tribulation period. The remaining saints will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air as He returns at the end of the tribulation period. *The dead in Christ will rise first and then those who are alive and remain. I Thess. 4:16-17*

30. After the Tribulation period what happens to the present day solar system? Matt. 24:29 *Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:*

31. What is the purpose for our solar system? Gen.. 1:14 *And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:*

32. How will the shaking of the Heavens affect the earth? Zach. 14:6-7 *And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark:
7 But it shall be one day which shall be known to the Lord, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light.*

It is clear that this heaven and earth is going to go through dramatic physical changes when Christ returns. These verses may express how the Millennial period will ultimately have moderate climate conditions. It will not be too hot or too cold. This will be a day of rest, when the earth will exist in a state of harmony and tranquility.

33. What will be the reaction of the 12 tribes of Israel when the Lord returns? 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 in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

"Tribes of the earth" would indicate the tribes of Israel which had been dispersed through out the earth and then brought back into their home land. **Zech. 12:10-14** *And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.*

11 In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon.

12 And the land shall mourn, every family apart; the family of the house of David apart, and their wives apart; the family of the house of Nathan apart, and their wives apart;

13 The family of the house of Levi apart, and their wives apart; the family of Shimei apart, and their wives apart;

14 All the families that remain, every family apart, and their wives apart.

34. Why will the Israelites mourn? Zech. 12:10 *And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look*

upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

35. What are the angels commissioned to do at the Lords' return? Matt. 24:31 *And he shall send 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.*

The "four winds" would indicate from every direction. The gathering of His elect speaks of the first resurrection which will take place as the Lord returns. **Rev. 20:1-6** *And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.*

2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

36. To what do we look in order to know the season in which we live? Matt. 24:32 *Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh:*

37. Is the fig tree the only tree that reveals the season in which we live? Luke 21:29 *And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees;*

In **Daniel 4:4-27** the tree represented Nebuchadnezzar and the kingdom of Babylon.

While there is no place that states the fig tree represents Israel in exact terms, it is commonly accepted to be that which is referred to. The other trees would represent the other nations.

In Matt. 24:33 Jesus said "when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors." The "it" refers to the return of the Lord.

The word translated "doors" from the Greek word "thoo' rah" means portal or entrance.⁴⁴

The doors or portals that are referred to here is referring to the door of Grace that will be shut and the door of tribulation that will be opened. The Holy Spirit will be lifted and the rapture will take place. This is at the beginning of the tribulation period thus closing the door of Grace. When that happens the "man of sin" shall be revealed, the Anti-Christ, who will cause great tribulation. Immediately after this tribulation the Lord will return.

38. This generation that sees these things shall not pass, until what happens? Matt. 24:34 *Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.*

⁴⁴ Strong's.

It's difficult to determine what is meant by "generation". We may be able to find some idea from **Matt. 1:17**. By calculating the number of years involved in the 42 generations listed, one might have an approximation of the length of one generation. We also know that a generation died in the wilderness over a period of 40 years. **Heb. 3:8-10**. However Jesus may simply be saying that, the generation that sees these things come to pass, would still be alive when all prophecy has been fulfilled.

39. What declaration did Jesus make in Matt. 24:35? *Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*

40. How will the Heaven and Earth be destroyed? **II Pet. 3:10** *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*

41. Is it given to anyone to know the exact day or hour of Jesus' return? **Matt. 24:36** *But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.*

42. The attitude of the people in the days before the coming of the Lord will be the same as it was before what other Historical event? **Matt. 24:37-39** *But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,

39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

43. When it comes time for the redemption of the body, will all be caught up unto the Lord? **Matt. 24:40-41** *Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.*
41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

44. Since we do not know the day or hour in which Christ shall return, what are we exhorted to do? **Matt. 24:42-43** *Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.*

43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

"Goodman" means head of the family or master of the house. The word "watch" in the phrase "...had known in what watch the thief would come...", means a period of time. The night was divided into four watches; evening watch 6-9 p.m., midnight watch 9-12 p.m., cock-crowing watch 12-3 a.m., and morning watch 3-6 a.m. Since we know the season or watch in which we live; (That is the morning watch, for the sun of righteousness is soon to appear), it is vitally important that we stay alert.⁴⁵

45. Will the world in general be expecting the Lords' return at the time of His coming? **Matt. 24:44** *Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.*

⁴⁵ Ungers, P. 420 & 1163.

46. What is the promise Jesus made to the faithful and wise servant; who at the Lords' return is found doing Gods' will? Matt. 24:45-47 *Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?*

46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

47 Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.

47. What will happen to the evil servant who becomes disobedient? Matt. 24:48-51 *But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming;*

49 And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken;

50 The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of,

51 And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

The servant represents that Christian which had at one time served the Lord, but as the Lord tarried He became slothful and disobedient.

In view of all that Jesus said in the last part of this sermon, including the statement "as the days of Noah", it would appear that when He speaks of His coming He is not only speaking of His actual appearance but also of the end of the grace dispensation which marks the beginning of the tribulation period. This is especially noted in the example, "...as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days of the Flood..., until the day that Noah interred into the Ark, and knew not until the flood came,..." Seven days before the flood Noah entered the Ark and God shut the door. That door was never to be opened again. In a like manner seven years before Jesus comes, the door of Grace will close never to be opened again. A faithful and wise servant will work diligently while He has the opportunity. An unfaithful servant will find himself in the same lot as the unbelievers (**Luke 12:46**) suffering the anguish of the tribulation.

Review Questions - Matthew 24

Write these verses and memorize them: Matt. 24:35; Matt. 24:44; Jude 14

1. Which of the Jewish Temples in Jerusalem was the largest?
2. Who built the temple that was in existence during the life of Christ?
3. What was the warning Jesus gave before he commented about the future?
4. What did Jesus say would be some of the common troubles of the Church Age dispensation?
5. The church will meet with challenges from within according to Matt. 24:9-11; what are the challenges?
6. What is the standard by which believers ought to judge themselves?
7. What must be done before the end of the grace dispensation?
8. Where does the abomination of desolation take place?
9. When did the abomination of desolation take place?
10. What did God do for the elect sake in regard to the tribulation period?
11. How evident will Christ's return be?
12. Explain Matt. 24:28.
13. To what point on the earth does Christ return?
14. Who will be with the Lord when he returns?
15. What are some of the things that will occur on the earth when Christ returns?
16. Why will the Israelites mourn when the Lord returns?
17. Who gathers the saints unto the Lord at his return?
18. Prophetically; what do trees represent?
19. Ultimately, how will the earth be destroyed?
20. When it comes time for the redemption of the body, will we all be caught up to meet the Lord at the same time? Explain.

Prophecy - Redemption

Redemption is a term used to refer to the saving or redeeming of those trusting in the Lord. It is used in two different aspects although they are related. First it refers to the saving of our souls from sin through the blood of Jesus Christ, and secondly it refers to the saving of our natural body from death. It is in this aspect for which our study is concerned.

There are two other words used in connection with this aspect of redemption: "Rapture"; which is a non-biblical term, and "translate". Rapture means to seize suddenly, to move from; to remove. Translate means to bear or change from one place to another.

1. Read Luke 21:7-28 and list some of the things that were to happen before the return of the Lord. Luke 21:9-12 *ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by.*

10 Then said he unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom:

11 And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.

12 But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake.

(See also **Matt. 24:3-42**)

2. When these things begin to come to pass, what did Jesus say to do? Luke 21:28 *And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.*

(Study carefully **Romans 8:1-25**)

3. Of what are you assured, if the Spirit of God dwells in you? Rom. 8:11 *But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.*

Quicken: To make alive, to revive or resuscitate, as from death.

4. In receiving the Holy Spirit, what have we received? Rom. 8:15 *For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.*

5. Have we received the adoption yet? Rom. 8:23 *And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.*

6. As joint-heirs with Christ, to what are we looking forward? Rom. 8:17 *And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

It is uncertain what our glorified body is going to be like but one thing we know, we shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption. **Rom. 8:21** *Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the*

bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. Our present bodies are corruptible in that we age and die and decompose and return to the dust from whence we came.

7. So then what has Christ brought to light through the Gospel? II Tim. 1:10 *But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:*

8. To who is eternal life promised? Rom. 2:7 *To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:*

One does not need to seek for a thing which he already possesses. Immortality deals with the future body - which is incorruptible. The Redemption of our body (that is the changing from corruptible to incorruptible) is then the inheritance we will receive for our continual obedience to God's will.

9. Who only has immortality? I Tim. 6:14-16 *That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:*

15 Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;

16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

10. What is the seal unto the day of Redemption? Eph. 4:30 *And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*

A seal is a sign or mark, brand, or proof of anything.

11. In light of this, what does Paul exhort us to do? Eph. 4:30 *And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*

We are also warned not to quench the Spirit; **I Thess. 5:19** *Quench not the Spirit.*

One grieves the Spirit when he does things that he should not do, and one quenches the Spirit when he fails to do what he should.

12. The Holy Spirit of promise is regarded as what, in reference to our inheritance?

Eph. 1:13-14 *In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,*

14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

"Earnest" might be regarded as a security deposit, as in putting down earnest money on a house. The sending of the Holy Spirit of promise was God's way of pledging to us the coming day of redemption. He is a guarantee of our coming inheritance.

13. How was our inheritance purchased? Eph. 2:12-13 *That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:*

13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

14. Why did God send His only begotten Son to this world? John 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

15. What does Jesus say He gives to those who follow Him? John 10:27-28 *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:
28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*

16. In whom is eternal life? I John 5:11 *And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.*

17. When will the change from corruptible to incorruptible take place? I Cor. 15:51-52 *Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,
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.*

The trumpet was used as a summons, or announcement. The blowing of a trumpet was a call to war or a call to worship. Whenever the trumpet was sounded something important was about to happen. In the book of Revelation the events that were to occur in the tribulation period were announced by seven angels blowing seven trumpets. The seventh was the return of the Lord. (Rev. 8:9; 11:15)

18. What will happen to the saints of God that are alive at that time? I Thess. 4:16-17 *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:
17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

19. When will those events take place in relation to the Anti-Christ reign? Matt. 24:29-31 *Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:
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 in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.
31 And he shall send 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.*

20. How is this event pictured in Revelation? Revelation 14:14-16 *And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.
15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.
16 And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.*

21. There is a group spoken of in Revelation 14:1-5, standing with the Lamb of God. From where did they come? Rev. 14:3 *And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.*

22. How were they numbered? Rev. 14:1 *And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.*

This group should not be confused with that group in **Rev. 7**, having the same number. The group; in **Rev. 7**, were from the 12 tribes of Israel who received a literal seal that protects them on the earth during the tribulation period.

23. What place do these hold in relation to the rest of God's elect? Rev. 14:4 *These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.*

First fruits indicate the first and best of any harvest. Under Jewish Law, when it came time to harvest their fields, the first-fruit of that harvest is given to the Lord.

24. What are the qualifications for being a part of this group? Rev. 14:4-5 *These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.*
5 And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

The description "Virgins" not defiled with women" would indicate that they are undefiled by the things of this world and its idolatrous practices. "Women" would refer to the whore in **Rev. 17** the "Mother of Harlots" that is to say the false religious and social systems that seduce mankind.

25. By what name was this group referred to in Rev. 12:5? And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

A man child was simply a male child; greatly desired in every Jewish family. There was great significance in the first born male child, for he would be the leader of the family.

26. How does Jesus illustrate this rapture? Matt. 24:40-41 *Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.*
41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

27. What is the man child destined to do? Rev. 12:5 *And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.*

28. What promise was given to all over-comers? Rev. 2:26-27 *And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:*

27 *And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.*

Rev. 5:9-10 *And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;*

10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

All of the redeemed class will have part in the future rule of this world when Christ establishes His kingdom on the earth for 1,000 years; the man child represents the first of those redeemed from the earth.

29. Who is said to have part in the first resurrection at the coming of the Lord? Rev. 20:6 *Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*

30. When will the rest be raised from the dead? Rev. 20:5 *But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.*

31. Where will Satan be during the 1,000 years? Rev. 20:2-3 *And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, 3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.*

There is no doubt in this writers mind that every Christian desires to take part in the first resurrection, but Jesus taught that because of foolishness and carelessness, many would fail to be ready when the time comes. Consider the parable of the Ten Virgins. Matt. 25:1-13

32. How are the Ten Virgins divided? Matt. 25:2 *And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.*

It is important to note that all ten were virgins, indicating they were undefiled by the world and desiring to go in unto the marriage supper.

33. When the bridegroom came what were the foolish virgins lacking? Matt. 25:8 *And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.*

Oil throughout the scriptures was used to represent the Holy Spirit.

34. Was it possible for the foolish virgins to rely on others for their oil? Matt. 25:9 *But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.*

35. What did the foolish virgins miss by not being prepared? Matt. 25:10 *And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.*

Marriage is the coming together of a bride and groom. The marriage supper or festival was the first formal appearing of the bride and groom together; similar to our present day marriage ceremony. It is the

beginning of a new life together. Read carefully **Rev.19** and you will see that the marriage supper of the Lamb takes place just prior to the battle of Armageddon.

I Thess. 4:17 *Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

36. What did Jesus urge us to do? Luke 21:34-36 *And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.*

35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

(See also **Matt. 22:1-14**)

37. When will the door of Grace (opportunity) close? II Thess. 2:6-8 *And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.*

7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

The term "letter" means to hold back or restrain.⁴⁶ It is the Holy Spirit that restrains the evil that would otherwise fill this earth. When the Holy Spirit is lifted there will no longer be conviction and evil will run rampant. The Anti-Christ will then be revealed.

38. No man comes to the Lord unless what? John 6:44 *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.*

Only those saved prior to the lifting of the Holy Spirit will be saved. One might use as an example the judgment of God in the days of Noah. Seven days before the flood came, God shut the door and it is conceivable that seven years before Christ returns the door of grace will be shut.

39. It is natural to be inquisitive about where we are in relation to God's great time table, but what did Jesus say concerning this? Matt. 24:36 *But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.*

40. Is it possible for us to know at least the season in which we live? Luke 21:30-31 *When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand.*

31 So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.

41. God divided His works of creation into six days or ages and on the seventh day He rested. How long is one of God's days? II Pet. 3:8 *But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*

⁴⁶ Strong, James, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, Nashville, Tenn., Crusade Bible Publishers Inc.

From the fall to the flood is approximately 2,000 years or two days: from the flood to Christ is approximately 2,000 years or two days: from the time of Christ until our present day is approximately 2000 years. This would account for 6,000 years or 6 days. We are living in the eve of the 6th day and the Millennium Sabbath is just ahead. This is spoken of as the day of the Lord or the 1,000 year reign.⁴⁷ The promise of redemption is the most glorious hope in the mind of man. It is with great joy that we look up knowing our redemption draweth nigh. There are a lot of things that we do not understand, but "we know that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him." **I John 3:2**

Levels of Christian Commitment

Before we leave this subject, let us identify the different classes of Christians spoken of in the Bible. For example, notice the "Parable of the Sower". **Matt. 13:1-23**

42. What does the seed represent? Matt. 13:19 *When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.*

The seed has life in it. The books men write are dead, no matter how helpful or interesting.

43. What does the soil represent? Matt. 13:19 *When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.*

The emphasis of the parable is on the condition of the soil.

44. How are we to know whether a person is truly a child of God? Matt. 7:16 *Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?*

The first three examples that Jesus gave did not represent Christians because they bear no fruit.

45. What kind of soil represents the Christian heart? Matt. 13:23 *But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.*

46. What degrees of fruitfulness is the seed able to produce in this soil? Matt. 13:23 *But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.*

47. What Christian experience brings peace with God? Rom. 5:1 *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:*

48. By faith, what else do we have access to? Rom. 5:2 *By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

"Standing" indicates a sure footing, established in control.

⁴⁷ Crowhurst, Jerome, Apostolic Faith Prophecy Notebook, 1977.

49. What is another term for "standing grace"? I Thess. 4:4 *That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;*

50. What third blessing is given unto us? Rom. 5:5 *And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*

51. What is the great wonder John saw in heaven? Rev. 12:1 *And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:*

52. How is Jesus identified in Malachi? Mal. 4:2 *But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.*

This woman is clothed with the righteousness of Christ. **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. 1:13-16 *And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.*

14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; 15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

Acts 26:13 *At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me.*

Matt. 17:2 *And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.*

53. If we are clothed in our own righteousness, what are we wearing? Isa. 64:6 *But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*

There are many who say this woman in **Rev. 12** represents Israel rather than the church, but there are several reasons why this would seem unlikely. First, in **Rev. 1:1**, it is declared that the book of Revelation reveals "things which must shortly come to pass" not things that have already happened. If **Rev. 12** speaks of Israel giving birth to Jesus, it is relating history not prophecy for John received this revelation almost 100 years after the birth of Christ.

54. The church gives birth to a special child. Identify this child. Rev. 12:5 *And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.*

55. What is the third class of Christian identified in Rev. 12:17? And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

The last trump brings about the first resurrection. The first-fruit class, 144,000 have before this time been caught away to God and the throne, (**Rev. 14:1-5, Rev. 12:5**). But we who remain; the Bride, and the dead

in Christ are caught up to meet the Lord as He returns. The remnant or 30 fold class are not resurrected until the thousand years be passed. Of course any of the remnant that make a greater commitment and give their life in martyrdom will be numbered among the Blessed and Holy and thus come up in the first resurrection. (Rev, 20:4-6)

56. Where will the bride be gathered during the first 3 1/2 years of Tribulation? Rev. 12:6
And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

"Wilderness" indicates a place of natural state or solitary place. It may be that the church will make a connection with Israel during the first 3 1/2 years because of the religious freedom there. Notice the word "they" in this verse.

"A thousand two hundred and threescore days" amounts to 3 1/2 years, at 360 days to a year according to the Jewish lunar calendar.

57. What takes place in the midst of the tribulation week? Daniel 9:27 *And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.*

"Abomination" means a detestable thing. "Desolation" means waste or ruin.

58. What did Jesus say the bride should do at this point in the tribulation period?
Matt. 24:15-16 *When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)*
16 *Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:*

This is the second flight which the bride must take. **Rev. 12:14** *And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.*

A "time" is a year, that is to say the time it takes the earth to make one complete orbit around the sun, from one point to the same point again. "Times" indicates two years and a "half time", 1/2 year.

59. How long will the bride remain in this wilderness? Isa. 26:20 *Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.*

Strength will be given to the weak and fearful as they flee. All sickness and body ailments will be taken away so that happiness will reign. Their home will have a highway of holiness, and all wild beasts will be kept away. From this home the bride will meet the Lord in the clouds and return to Zion in great gladness. Read **Isa. 35**.⁴⁸

⁴⁸ Crowhurst, Prophecy Notebook.

Review Questions - Redemption

Write these verses and memorize them: I Thess. 4:17; Luke 21:36; Jn. 6:44

1. What does the word 'quicken' mean?
2. To what is the spirit of adoption referred?
3. It is uncertain what our glorified body is to be like; one thing we know, we shall be delivered from the bondage of what? (Rom 8:21)
4. What has Christ brought to light through the Gospel?
5. According to Rom. 2:7; eternal life promised to whom?
6. Who is the only one that has immortality at the present time?
7. What is the sealing unto the day of redemption?
8. Explain Ephesians 1:14.
9. How was our inheritance purchased?
10. In whom is eternal life?
11. When will we be changed from corruptible to incorruptible?
12. How was the resurrection pictured in Revelation 14?
13. In Rev. 14:3, where are the 144 thousand which were redeemed from the earth located?
14. What are the qualifications for being a part of the first fruits unto God and the Lamb?
15. How is the first fruit class identified in Revelation 12?
16. How are those that take part in the first resurrection described in Revelation 20?
17. If you do not come up in the first resurrection, when would you be resurrected?
18. Where is Satan during the 1000 year reign of the Lord?
19. In the parable of the 10 virgins, what were the five foolish virgins lacking?
20. What did the foolish virgins miss by not being prepared?
21. When will the door of grace close?
22. How long is one of God's days?
23. In the parable of the sower; (Matt 13) what do the following represent?
 - a. seed
 - b. soil
24. How are we to know if a person is truly a child of God? (Matt 7:16)
25. Of the 4 examples that Jesus gave in the parable of the sower; how many represented a true believer?
26. What degrees of fruitfulness is the seed able to produce in good soil?
27. List how these degrees of fruitfulness are expressed in Rom. 5:1-5 and Revelation 12.
28. How does Isaiah describe self righteousness?
29. Where will the bride be gathered during the last 3 1/2 years of Tribulation?

Prophecy - Millennium

The word "Millennium" is of Latin origin; "Mille" meaning thousand and "annus" meaning year.⁴⁹ While this word does not actually appear in the Bible, there are scriptures that refer to the reign of Christ on this earth for a thousand years. There are three things that will be considered in this lesson:

1. The return of the Lord
2. The Battle of Armageddon
3. The Millennial Reign.

Man may think that the earth is moving along at random on an undetermined path, but to the Bible prophecy student, it's quite clear that the history of this world is following the pattern foretold by the prophets of God centuries ago. There seems to be a divine time schedule in which the events of history take place. "Scientists claim that they have so mastered the task of space measurement, and that universal laws are so rigid that they can now predict within seconds celestial happenings millions of miles away. They say a universal Law dictates certain celestial happenings which always occur on schedule. What is true in the universe is certainly true concerning the coming of the Messiah. No event in history has been more carefully planned or more exactly executed than the first coming of Jesus. God has just as carefully planned His second coming and the subsequent events.⁵⁰ The Millennial reign will occur right on schedule. It will be a time of peace and harmony; a welcomed Sabbath for the earth. In Exodus God commanded men to work six days and rest the seventh, even as He had done in the Creation. It would be reasonable to assume that this earth will follow a similar order.

1. What might be considered as one of God's days? II Peter 3:8 *But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*

If a day of the Lord is a thousand years then according to Biblical history it has been approximately 6000 years, or six days since God formed Adam from the dust of the earth. The human race is entering the seventh thousand year period or the Sabbath period in which Christ shall reign as King of Kings.

2. At the present, one must deal with the cares of life, spiritual battles, persecution and the like: when will we enter into rest? II Thess. 1:7 *And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels*

3. Read carefully Hosea 6:1-2. The Lord promised that He would heal and restore that which was broken. How did the Lord have to suffer to accomplish this? Isaiah 53:5 *But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

4. How long did Hosea prophesy it would be from the time Christ died until we would live in His sight? Hosea 6:1-2 *Come, and let us return unto the Lord: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.
2 After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.*

⁴⁹ Unger, Merrill F., Unger's Bible Dictionary, Chicago, Moody Press 1976.

⁵⁰ Hembree, Charles R., Spiritual Stirrings, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Baker Book House, 1973, P. 106.

It has been almost two thousand years or two days since Jesus died on the cross. This may be referred to as the Church Age period. We are rapidly approaching the millennial reign of our Lord or third day.

Daniel prophesied that there were to be four Gentile powers to exercise authority on the earth from his day until the time Christ would establish this literal kingdom. The four Gentile powers referred to are: first Babylon, the second Medio-Persia, the third Greece, and the fourth Rome. The Anti-Christ Kingdom will be a revival of the old Roman Empire with the consolidation of ten European nations. This will be the last kingdom before Jesus returns. **Daniel 2:44-45**

5. How is the kingdom of the Lord pictured in Daniel 2:45? *Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.*

A stone cut out of the mountain without hands would indicate Christ's kingdom will not be the design of man, nor given to him by man.

The Return of the Lord

There are many verses in the Bible that promise the Lord's return. At this time we will discuss only a few.

6. Of what did James encourage the brethren? James 5:7-8 *Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.
8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.*

This word "patient" suggests endurance as well as forbearance.

7. Of what is the child of God confident? Heb. 10:37 *For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.*

8. When Jesus returns to this earth will He be coming alone? Mat. 25:31 *When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:*

9. Will there be anyone else with the Lord when He returns? Jude 14 *And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,*

The number ten thousands are probably not intended to mean an exact number but rather a large number of saints.

10. Who will gather these saints unto the Lord? Matt. 24:31 *And he shall send 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.*

11. Who will be the first to be caught up to meet the Lord in the air? I Thess. 4:16-17 *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:
17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

It should not be overlooked that there will be a raptured class caught up to God and His throne before the tribulation period. These are known as the man child or the first fruit of the redeemed.

12. How must you be ranked to make this first resurrection? Rev. 20:6 *Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*

13. Who are caught up together to meet the Lord in the air after the dead in Christ? I Thess. 4:17 *Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

14. The gathering of the saints is seen as what in Rev. 14:13-16? *And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.
14 And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.
15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.
16 And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.*

See also **Matt. 13:24-43** - The Parable of the Tares

15. In what form will Jesus return? Acts 1:11 *Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? 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.*

The return of the Lord will be a literal, physical appearing, not just in spirit, for He will reign on this earth over a literal kingdom for a thousand years.

16. Will Christ's return be a publicly acknowledged event? Rev. 1:7 *Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.*

17. Why is it important that we abide in Him? I John 2:28 *And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.*

Abiding in Him would indicate a continual trust and faithful service unto the Lord.

18. What will be the unsaved man's reaction to the Lord's appearing? Rev. 6:15-16 *And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty*

men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

19. When Christ appears, what will the child of God be like? I John 3:2 *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

Paul declares that, "as we have borne the image of the earthly, (first Adam) we shall also bear the image of the heavenly." (Second Adam) **1 Cor. 15:49**

20. How will we appear with Christ? Col. 3:4 *When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*

The glory of the Lord is His righteousness, for Paul states that, "we've all sinned and come short of the glory of God." **Rom. 3:23**

21. What is laid up in store for all these who love His appearing? II Tim. 4:8 *Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*

Read and study carefully the following verses. They give very important exhortations.

Titus 2:11-14 *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;*

13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

1 Pet. 1:6-7 *Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:*

7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

1 Tim. 6:12-14 *Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.*

13 I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession;

14 That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:

11 Tim. 4:1-2 *I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;*

2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

22. Using the following references, list some of the natural phenomenon's that will occur as Christ returns.

Matt. 24:29-31 *Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:*

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 in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

31 And he shall send 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.

Rev. 6:12-14 *And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;*

13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

Rev. 16:15-21 *Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.*

16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

17 And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.

18 And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.

19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.

20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

21 And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

The Battle of Armageddon

23. To what specific place will Christ return; and what will happen at that place? 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.*

24. When the earthquake causes a great valley that expands eastward and westward; what apparently happens to the Dead Sea? Ezek. 47:8 *Then said he unto me, These waters issue out*

toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed.

The Dead Sea lies along the line of a great fault from the head of the Red Sea to Mt. Hermon. Its surface which is lower than that of any water known is 1,292 feet below the level of the Mediterranean. Its water contains 23% solid matter. The Dead Sea is fed by the Jordan from the north and by many other streams, but has no apparent outlet. It is estimated that 6,000,000 tons of water flow into it daily, about all of it being carried off by evaporation.⁵¹

The nations that had previously cooperated with the Anti-Christ now revolt and seek to overthrow him. It is in the midst of this revolt that Christ returns. **Zech. 14:1-2**

25. Which Kings seem to lead in this revolt? Rev. 16:12 *And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.*

Seducing spirits cause the Kings of the east, probably China, to covet the power or control exhibited by the Anti-Christ and draught them against Jerusalem.

26. What will be the reaction of these Kings when Jesus appears? Zech. 14:5 *And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.*

In utter confusion the Kings of the earth flee to the valley of Esdraelon, also known as the valley of Jehoshaphat, to reorganize and to prepare for battle.

Joel 3:9-17 *Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up:*

10 Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruning hooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong.

11 Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O Lord.

12 Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about.

13 Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great.

14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision.

15 The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.

16 The Lord also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the Lord will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.

17 So shall ye know that I am the Lord your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more.

27. What will happen to these armies? Zech. 14:12 *And this shall be the plague wherewith the Lord will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth.*

28. How shall they be consumed? II Thess. 2:8 *And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:*

⁵¹ World Book Encyclopedia, Volume 5, p.49, Field Enterprises Educational Corporation, 1977.

Isa. 11:4 *But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.*

Rev. 19:15 *And out of his mouth goeth 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 and wrath of Almighty God.*

29. How is the Battle of Armageddon typified in Revelation 14:19? *And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.*

30. How deep does the blood run? Rev. 14:20 *And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.*

The horse's bridle is approximately 4 feet. A furlong is approximately 606 feet, so a thousand and six hundred furlongs would be approximately 200 miles.⁵² It would seem, likely that this measurement should be thought of as square miles since the wine press was usually a round or square vat.

The Millennial Reign

31. How is the earth cleansed of these carcasses of the dead? Rev. 19:17 *And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and 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;*

32. What happens to the Anti-Christ and the false prophet? Rev. 19:20 *And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.*

33. Where is Satan during the thousand year reign of the Lord? Rev. 20:1-3 *And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.*

2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

34. What position will Christ now hold throughout the entire world? Rev. 19:16 *And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.*

35. What will the battle of Armageddon bring to an end? Micah 4:3 *And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into*

⁵² Demaray, Donald E., Handbook of the Bible, Los Angeles California, Cowman Publishing Company, 1964, p. 294.

plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

36. The Lord will establish His throne on this earth in what city? Joel 3:16 *The Lord also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the Lord will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.*

37. In Zech. 6:12-15, Christ is seen not only as a King ruling over the earth, but He is also seen in another position. What position is that? Zech. 6:13 *Even he shall build the temple of the Lord; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.*

Both of these positions are recognized by the church, but in that day the whole world will see Christ as their King and Priest.

38. In the day of the Lord, what shall fill the earth? Isa. 11:9 *They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.*

39. Why will there be no need of preaching or teaching? Jer. 31:34 *And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.*

Heb. 8:10-13 *For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:*

11 And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

13 In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.

40. Using the scriptural references given; list those that will assist in the administration of Christ's Kingdom:

(a.) Ezekiel 34:24 *And I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them; I the Lord have spoken it.*

Jer. 30:9 *But they shall serve the Lord their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them.*

Ezek. 37:24-25 *And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them.*

25 And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever.

Hosea 3:5 *Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the Lord their God, and David their king; and shall fear the Lord and his goodness in the latter days.*

(b.) Matt. 19:28 *And Jesus said unto them, (the 12 Apostles) Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*

(c.) Rev. 5:10 *And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.*

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

41. Ezekiel 48:1-35 sets forth the apportionment of territory the twelve tribes of Israel are to occupy in Christ's Kingdom. What is the territory between Judah and Benjamin called; and what will be in the midst of it? Ezek. 48:10 *And for them, even for the priests, shall be this holy oblation; toward the north five and twenty thousand in length, and toward the west ten thousand in breadth, and toward the east ten thousand in breadth, and toward the south five and twenty thousand in length: and the sanctuary of the Lord shall be in the midst thereof.*

This might be regarded as the Millennial City. It is approximately 60 miles square.

42. What will be the spirit or attitude of Israel when Jesus returns? Zech. 12:10 *And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.*

When Jesus first came to this earth the Jews were filled with arrogant pride, unwilling to accept Christ as Lord, but this will not be the case when He returns.

43. How will the literal nation of Israel rank among the nations at this time? Micah 4:8 *And thou, O tower of the flock, the strong hold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion; the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem.*

44. Will Christ rule over other literal nations as well as Israel? Zech. 2:10-11 *Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion: for, lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the Lord. 11 And many nations shall be joined to the Lord in that day, and shall be my people: and I will dwell in the midst of thee, and thou shalt know that the Lord of hosts hath sent me unto thee.*

Ps. 2:8 *Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.*

To an Israelite, anyone who was not of the nation of Israel was a heathen. This did not necessarily mean they were wicked, though normally that was the case. "Heathen", in general refers to Gentiles.

45. All nations will come to see the glory of the Lord (Isa. 6.18-24), just as the queen of Sheba came to see the glory of Solomon's kingdom. The Lord's name shall be declared among the Gentiles, and all the people must come and worship the Lord at the appointed time. What feast will be celebrated annually? Zech. 14:16 *And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.*

The feast of Tabernacles is a thanksgiving festival in commemorative of the years in which the Israelites wandered in the wilderness. It was a reminder of how God provided for them and brought them into the Promised Land. A similar celebration will be kept by the nations during the millennial reign.

46. What will happen to those areas that fail to commemorate this holiday? Zech. 14:17
And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.

47. In Matt. 25:31-46, Jesus gave a parable that illustrates how nations qualify to enter into the millennial age. How was the separation of nations illustrated? Matt. 25:32 *And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:*

48. Jesus gave a list of things that the sheep nations did for Him that qualified them to be worthy to enter into His kingdom on earth. How did they do these things for Him? Matt. 25:40 *And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.*

It would seem that those nations or areas that gave assistance to the people of God; rather than discriminating against or persecuting them, would be allowed to have part in the kingdom of the Lord that is to be on this earth. One must keep in mind that there will be two classes of people on the earth at this time. A literal class consisting of a remnant of Israel and a spiritual class made up of the blessed and holy who were caught up to meet the Lord in the air. This class will rule and reign with the Lord.

49. How will the nature of animals be during this time? Isa. 11:6-8 *The wolf also 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.*

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.

8 And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.

All animals will be vegetarian and fear of one another will be gone; even the serpent will be harmless.

50. Read carefully Isa. 65:17-25. Will there be any death during the Millennial Age?

Isa. 65:20 *There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.*

Isa. 65:19-20 might be interpreted in the following way. Because untimely deaths shall no more be heard in thee; for the natural death shall not happen until men be full of days; as it is written, verse 20: "There shall be no more thence an infant of days," the people shall live to three or five hundred years, it is because of his sin; and even at that age he shall be reputed an infant; and they shall say of Him, and infant is dead. These things shall happen in the days of the Lord. --Kimchi⁵³ Since the tempter will be bound, the only sin that will exist will be the sin of neglect. Men may fail to worship the Lord and give Him praise for the provisions of life. If this happens the blessings of the Lord will be withheld. **Zech.14:17** *And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.*

⁵³ Clarke, Adam, Clarke's Commentary, Vol. IV, New York, N.Y., Abingdon-Cokesbury Press.

51. There will not be violence nor even sickness to afflict the earth, for the Lord will cleanse the blood of His people. Joel 3:21 *For I will cleanse their blood that I have not cleansed: for the Lord dwelleth in Zion.*

52. Will there be extreme weather conditions during the Millennial? Zech. 14:6-7 *And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark:
7 But it shall be one day which shall be known to the Lord, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light.*

53. What happens toward the end of this thousand years? Rev. 20:7 *And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,*

54. What does Satan do at this time? Rev. 20:8 *And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.*

Since there will be births, the earth will be re-populated during this thousand years.

Satan is loosed from his prison so he can tempt those who have not been tempted before. The Lord will give all men the opportunity to choose whether they want to follow him or not. The Saints of God will not be tempted for they have already proven their loyalty.

55. What happens to those who follow Satan? Rev. 20:9 *And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.*

Review Questions - Millennium

Write these verses and memorize them: Hebrews 10:37; Rev. 20:6; I John 2:28

1. Explain Hosea 6:1-2.
2. Who prophesied, "Behold the Lord cometh with ten thousand of his saints"?
3. Who will be the first to be caught up to meet the Lord in the air?
4. In what form will Jesus return?
5. What does 'abiding in the Lord' suggest?
6. What is the unsaved man's reaction to the coming of the Lord?
7. To what specific place will Christ return?
8. What happens to the Dead Sea at Christ's return?
9. What happens to the armies that fight against the Lord?
10. How is the Battle of Armageddon described in Revelation 14:19?
11. Where does the Battle of Armageddon take place?
12. How was the earth cleansed after the Battle of Armageddon?
13. What position will Christ hold through out the whole world when he returns?
14. In what city will Christ's throne be established?
15. Describe the thousand year reign of the Lord.
16. List those that will assist in the administration of Christ's kingdom.
17. What is the holy oblation?
18. What is the spirit or attitude of Israel when Jesus returns?
19. How will Israel rank among the nations at this time?
20. What feast will be celebrated annually during the Lord's reign?
21. Explain what qualifies a literal nation to enter into the Millennial Age.
22. Will there be any death during the Millennial Age?
23. Where is Satan during the Millennial Age?
24. What happens to Satan and his followers after the Millennial Age?

Prophecy - Judgment

The question of the hereafter is of utmost importance to all men. Perhaps the most solemn sense latent in the consciousness of man is that of the coming Day of Judgment or accounting to a sovereign holy God. Scripture affirms that such a day awaits every son of Adam.⁵⁴

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

Man may have theories and various interpretations, but let the scriptures speak for themselves.

What is Man?

This lesson deals with the nature of man and the difference between spiritual and natural. God is the Creator of all things; including all living beings, but all living beings were not created on the same level or of the same nature.

1. In what condition was man created in relationship to the Angels? Psalms 8:5 *For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.*

Paul indicated there was a difference between the first Adam, (formed in the garden of Eden) and the second Adam, (Christ).

2. What is the difference between the two Adams? I Cor. 15:45 *And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.*

Paul states that there are celestial (heavenly) bodies, and body's terrestrial (earthly). Angels possess the celestial bodies.

3. What are angels called? Heb. 1:7 *And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.*

Read carefully I Cor. 15:35-54

4. Are our present bodies natural or spiritual? I Cor. 15:46 *Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.*

5. When will the righteous have spiritual bodies? I Cor. 15:44 *It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.*

6. To what does the sowing here spoken of refer? I Cor. 15:36 *Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die:*

7. What will be the final condition of the righteous? Luke 20:35-36 *But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage:*

36 Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.

⁵⁴ Crowhurst, Jerome, Apostolic Faith Prophecy Notebook, 1977.

Man does not now possess the undying, spiritual nature of the Angels, except as he holds it by faith in Christ, nor will he until the resurrection. Then, if righteous, he will be made immortal, and he will not die any more, because he will be equal unto the Angels.⁵⁵

8. How is man's nature defined? Job 4:17 *Shall mortal man be more just than God? shall a man be more pure than his maker?*

"Mortal": Subject to death; destined to die.

9. What is God's nature? I Tim. 1:17 *Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

10. Of what was man formed in the beginning? Gen. 2:7 *And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*

11. What act made him a living soul? Gen. 2:7 *And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*

You should notice the living soul was not put into the man; man was made from the earth and God put his breath into him and man became a living soul. The original Hebrew for "living soul" in this text is "Nephesh Chaiyah". This is the same expression used in **Gen.1:24**, translated "Living Creature". Thus this is a general term to express all life.⁵⁶

12. Are other creatures besides man called "Living souls"? Rev. 16:3 *And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea.*

13. Do other creatures besides man have the "breath of Life"? Gen. 7:21-22 *And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man:
22 All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died.*

Man, as well as all other animal creation, is dependent upon breath when this is gone they, the same as beasts die.

14. What does Job call that which God breathed into mans' nostrils? Job 27:3 *All the while my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils;*

Science has revealed that our bodies require oxygen to live. We breathe in oxygen which is carried throughout our bodies through the blood stream. If we lose circulation in any part of our body, that part of the body dies; that life is in the blood (**Lev. 17:11**) because it is the blood that carries the oxygen. The word spirit comes from the Hebrew word "Ruwach" meaning breath; breeze; wind; exhalation; (fig-life)⁵⁷ It speaks to us of that force which produces the life process. Many things are involved in this life process which is not understood, but the one thing of which this writer is convinced of is that God sets the life process in motion.

⁵⁵ Bible Readings for the Home Circle, subjects contributed by a large number of Bible students, Mountain View, Cal., Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1914, P. 506.

⁵⁶ Bible Reading for the Home Circle, P. 506.

⁵⁷ Strong, James, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, Nashville, Tenn., Crusade Bible Publishers Inc.

15. When man gives up this spirit, what becomes of it? Eccl. 12:7 *Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.*

When the spirit goes back to God and the body goes back to the dust, the individual no longer exists as a living conscious, thinking being.

16. Who only have hold of eternal life: I John 5:12 *He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*

The sinner has temporal life; but when he yields up his life, he has neither prospect nor promise of eternal life.

17. Why was Adam driven from the Garden of Eden and excluded from the tree of Life? Gen. 3:22 *And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:*

18. What was done to keep man away from the tree of Life? Gen. 3:24 *So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.*

19. How are all men in the natural state regarded? Eph.2:3 *Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

20. If the wrath of God abides on a person, of what does it deprive him? John 3:36 *He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*

21. Through whom is the sinner saved from wrath? Rom. 5:9 *Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.*

22. With whom is the Christian's life hid? Col. 3:3 *For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.*

23. Who only possesses immortality? I Tim. 6:15-16 *Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; 16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.*

John 5:25-26 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.*

26 *For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;*

24. Through whom has immortality been brought to light? 2 Tim. 1:10 *But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:*

25. To who is eternal life promised? Rom.2:7 *To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:*

One does not need to seek for a thing which he already possesses.

26. When will the faithful be changed from mortal to immortality? 1 Cor. 15:51-52 *Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 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.*

The trumpet was used as a summons, or announcement. The blowing of a trumpet was a call to war or a call to worship. Whenever the trumpet was sounded something important was about to happen. In the book of Revelation the events that were to occur in the tribulation period were announced by seven angels blowing seven trumpets. The seventh was the return of the Lord. (See Rev. 8-9-11:15)

27. What is then to be swallowed up? I Cor. 15:54-57 *So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.*

55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Life only through Christ

This lesson answers the question, where does the Christian get eternal life.

28. What is the wages of sin? Rom. 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

29. Through whom only is there salvation from sin? Acts 4:12 *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

30. Why did God send His only begotten Son to this world? Jn. 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

31. What does Jesus say He gives to those who follow Him? Jn. 10:27-28 *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:*

28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

32. In whom is eternal life? I John 5:11 *And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.*

33. Who only have this life? I John 5:12 *He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*

John 5:24 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*

34. What is Christ therefore fittingly called? Col. 3:4 *When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*

If eternal life comes only through Christ, sinners cannot live for ever, even if it's in Hell. Eternal life is eternal life whether in a state of joy and peace or torment and agony.

The State of the Dead

This lesson deals with the present state of the dead, that is to say where they are and in what condition.

35. By what figure does the Bible represent death? I Thess. 4:13 *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.*

Notice also **I Cor. 15:18-20** and **John 11:11-14**. In sound sleep one is wholly lost to consciousness, time goes by unmeasured. "The first death which we suffer for Adam's sin is spoken of as a sleep because from it there will be an awakening, but the second death (**Rev.20:6**), is never spoken of as a sleep, for from it there will be no awakening."⁵⁸

36. Where do the dead sleep? Dan. 12:2 *And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*

Eccl. 3:20 *All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.*

Eccl. 9:10 *Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.*

37. How long will they sleep there? Job 14:12 *So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.*

38. For what did Job say he would wait after death? Job 14:14 *If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.*

39. Where did he say he would wait? Job 17:13 *If I wait, the grave is mine house: I have made my bed in the darkness.*

40. While in this condition, how much does one know about those he has left behind? Job 14:21 *His sons come to honour, and he knoweth it not; and they are brought low, but he perceiveth it not of them.*

41. What becomes of mans thought at death? Ps. 146:4 *His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.*

⁵⁸ Parham, Robert L., Selected Sermons of Charles F. Parham, Baxter Springs, Kans., Apostolic Faith Bible College, 1941, P. 100.

42. Do the dead know anything? Eccl. 9:5 *For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.*

43. Do they take part in any earthly things? Eccl. 9:6 *Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun.*

44. Are the righteous dead in Heaven? Acts 2:34 *For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,*

If the righteous dead went in a conscious condition to their eternal destinies, what need would there be in the resurrection or a Judgment day?

45. How much does one know of God when dead? Ps. 6:5 *For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?*

46. Are the dead capable of praising God? Ps. 115:17 *The dead praise not the Lord, neither any that go down into silence.*

47. What must take place before the dead can praise God? Isa. 26:19 *Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.*

48. When did David say he would be satisfied? Ps. 17:15 *As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.*

49. Were there to be no resurrection of the dead, what would be the condition of those fallen asleep in Christ? I Cor. 15:16-18 *For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: 17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. 18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.*

50. When is the resurrection of the righteous to take place? I Thess. 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:*

If, as stated in **Eccl. 9:5**, the dead know not anything, then they have no knowledge of the lapse of time. Six thousand years in the grave to a dead man is no more than a wink of the eye. To those who sleep in Jesus; their sleep, whether long or short, will be but a moment unto the glorious appearing of Jesus and the resurrection.⁵⁹

The Resurrection

There are two resurrections. The first is the resurrection of the Blessed and Holy, and the second takes place a thousand years later, after the millennial reign. As you study, you will note that the righteous have many rewards and crowns and inheritances granted them, but the wicked have no reward, only judgment.

⁵⁹ Bible Readings for the Home Circle, P. 513.

51. What comes to all men as the result of the fall? I Cor. 15:22 *For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

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

52. Where do all go at death? Eccl. 3:20 *All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.*

53. In what condition is man while in the grave? Eccl. 9:10 *Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.*

54. What is God's promise to man? Hosea 13:14 *I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes.*

55. Through who will come this redemption from the grave? I Cor. 15:21-22 *For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.
22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

56. Why did God give His only begotten Son to the world? John 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

57. What did the Sadducees deny? Luke 20:27 *Then came to him certain of the Sadducees, which deny that there is any resurrection; and they asked him,*

Jesus taught the resurrection using the Old Testament. Notice **Luke 20:37-38** *Now that the dead are raised, even Moses shewed at the bush, when he calleth the Lord the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.*

38 *For he is not a God of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto him.* Jesus was not saying that the dead are already raised, but that in view of the resurrection, all live unto God.

In God's purpose, all are alive. It is in this sense that Paul speaks of God as the one "who quickeneth the dead, and called those things which be not as though they were." **Rom. 4:17**⁶⁰

58. Where are the dead when they hear the voice of Christ calling them to life? John 5:28-29 *Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,*

29 *And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*

59. When will the dead in Christ be resurrected? I Thess. 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:*

Notice also **I Cor. 15:23** and **Rev. 20:4-6**

⁶⁰ Bible Readings for the Home Circle, P. 515.

60. In what condition did David expect to rise? Ps. 17:15 *As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.*

61. What great contrast will be seen between the present body and the one to be put on in the resurrection? I Cor. 15:42-44 *So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:*

43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

62. After whose body will these resurrected ones be fashioned? Phil. 3:20-21 *For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 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.*

63. When will those not numbered in the "Blessed and Holy" be resurrected? Rev. 20:4-6 *And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*

5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

64. Will everyone that is resurrected be resurrected unto life? John 5:28-29 *Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*

65. What is the promise to the righteous? Prov. 11:18 *The wicked worketh a deceitful work: but to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward.*

66. Every man will receive his own reward according to what? I Cor. 3:8 *Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.*

Rev. 20:12-13 *And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

67. List the crowns mentioned in each of the following verses:

I Corinthians 9:25 *And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.*

II Timothy 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

I Peter 5:2-4 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;
3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.
4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Revelation 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

I Thessalonians 2:19-20 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?
20 For ye are our glory and joy.

68. What is the inheritance of the righteous? Matt. 19:29 And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

69. What is the earnest of the inheritance? Eph. 1:13-14 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,
14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

70. What shall be the reward of the wicked? Pro. 24:20 For there shall be no reward to the evil man; the candle of the wicked shall be put out.

The wicked will be judge at the white throne judgment which will take place after the millennial reign.
Read Revelation chapter 20.

71. Using the scriptural references given, list all those who will be judged at this time.
Rev. 20:12-13 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.
13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

II Peter 2:4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

Ecclesiastes 12:14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

The second resurrection and the white throne judgment is what Paul was referring to when speaking of the resurrection of the just and the unjust. **Acts 24:15**. The only ones to escape this final judgment will be those who are worthy to escape through redemption into immortality at the return of the Lord. These redeemed; having reigned with Christ throughout the Millennium, will ascend the judicial throne as His jury and with Him judge the nations. Into this judgment will come the dead of all the ages who have not obtained a new birth into spiritual life through Jesus Christ. Judgment will then be rendered according as their works have been. Those found worthy of life will receive everlasting human life, as Adam had in the Garden of Eden, and will be the meek who inherit the new earth in eternity while those unworthy of life will be cast into the lake of fire.⁶¹

72. What part will the bride of Christ; those that came up in the first resurrection, have in the judgment? I Cor. 6:2-3 *Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?*

3 Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?

Ps. 149:5-9 *Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds.*

6 Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a twoedged sword in their hand;

7 To execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people;

8 To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron;

9 To execute upon them the judgment written: this honour have all his saints. Praise ye the Lord.

73. Who will be the ultimate righteous Judge? John 5:22 *For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:*

74. What is the last enemy to be destroyed? I Cor. 15:26 *The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.*

Revelation 20:13-14 *And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.*

14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

The Destruction of the Wicked

The words: perish, death, second death, consume, and destroy are words that refer to the final end of the wicked. But to the Christian, there is life, eternal life, through Jesus Christ. In Deut. 30:15-20 God said, "I have set before you life and death;..." Two-thirds of the doctrine held by the Roman Catholic Church is from pagan philosophy. Two-thirds of Protestant doctrine is from Roman Catholicism. We are known as "No-Hellites" but it is not true. Destruction would satisfy all that justice demands, and God, if He be a God of love, justice, and mercy, He could ask no more than the wages of sin which is death. Could you justify torturing even an animal for one day?⁶²

Informational Supplement-General Terms

A. Apollumi is Greek, (an adjective) translated perish or lost. Ex. **John 3:16; Luke 15-** lost coin, lost sheep. Paul used it in **Matt. 10:28**. The noun form of this word is translated

⁶¹ Parham, Charles F., The Everlasting Gospel, Baxter Springs, Kans., Apostolic Faith Bible College, 1911, P. 98.

⁶² The Everlasting Gospel, P. 116.

"Destruction" or "Perdition". Judas is called the Son of Perdition in **John 17:12**. Notice also **Matt. 7:13, Phil.3:19, 2 Thess. 2:10**

B. Sheol is Hebrew appearing 65 times in the Old Testament. Translated into grave 31 times, hell 31 times, the pit 3 times. It refers to the place or abode of the dead.

C. Hades is Greek and appears 11 times in the New Testament. It also means the abode of the dead.

D. Gehenna is Aramaic and is derived from the Hebrew word, Gehinnon, which is the valley of Hinnom, a place south of Jerusalem where fires were continually burning garbage or refuse. Prior to Josiah's reign the Jews had been guilty of child sacrificing to Moloch here. To prevent this from taking place, Josiah defiled, or desecrated the place by filling it with human bones, **2 Kings 23:10-14**. It was the custom afterwards to throw the carcasses of animals there and it gradually became a community garbage pit.⁶³ When first Isaiah (**Isaiah 66:24**) and then Christ, (**Mark 9:44**) made reference to this pit, they were not typifying the sinner, by the fire nor the worm, but by the garbage, that was either consumed by the fire or the worm, illustrating the total destruction of the wicked. The fact that the fire was not quenched indicates the fire could not be put out, not that it would not go out when it had consumed all of the rubbish. This word is translated hell 12 times in the New Testament.

E. Tartarus is Greek and is translated hell. It appears once in **II Peter 2:4** and refers to the place of fallen angels.

F. "The Abyss" is Greek and is translated "bottomless pit" in **Rev. 9:1, 11; 11:7; 17:8**.⁶⁴

G. Lake of Fire and Brimstone

All of these refer to the final state of the wicked which is one of punishment and destruction (The wrath of God). I believe in eternal punishment not eternal torture. **Matt. 25:46**, Eternal comes from the Greek word Aioonios.

75. What question does Peter ask regarding the wicked? I Peter 4:17 *For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?*

76. What does the Bible say is the wages of sin? Rom. 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Ezek. 18:4 *Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.*

Destroy: To ruin, demolish, bring to naught by putting out of existence; to kill, to nullify.

⁶³ Clarke, Adam, Clarkes Commentary, Vol. iv, New York, N.Y., Abingdon-Cokesbury Press.

⁶⁴ Strongs.

77. How is this death characterized? 2 Thess. 1:9 *Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;*

78. How complete will be the destruction of the wicked? Matt. 10:28 *And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

79. What does Christ say will befall those who do not repent? Luke 13:3 *I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.*

Perish: To be destroyed or ruined.

80. How does the Apostle Peter say they shall perish? 2 Peter 2:12 *But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;*

81. To what are the wicked in their punishment compared? Ps. 37:20 *But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the Lord shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away.*

Consume: To destroy, as by fire

82. How does John the Baptist describe the destruction of the wicked? Matt. 3:11-12 *I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: 12 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.*

83. For whom does Christ say the fire which will finally destroy the wicked was originally prepared? Matt. 25:41 *Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:*

This fire is called "everlasting" because of the character of the work it does; just as it is called "unquenchable" because it cannot be put out, and not because it will not go out when it has done its work. There is a vast difference between "everlasting punishment" and "punishment everlasting".⁶⁵

84. What will be the result of this punishment? Prov. 10:25 *As the whirlwind passeth, so is the wicked no more: but the righteous is an everlasting foundation.*

85. Will any part of the wicked be left? Mal. 4:1 *For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.*

⁶⁵ Bible Readings for the Home Circle, P. 520.

86. What will then be their condition? Obadiah 16 *For as ye have drunk upon my holy mountain, so shall all the heathen drink continually, yea, they shall drink, and they shall swallow down, and they shall be as though they had not been.*

87. Where will the place of the wicked then be? Ps. 37:10 *For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.*

88. Do the wicked go directly to their punishment at death, or wait until the Day of Judgment? 2 Pet.2:9 *The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:*

89. To what are the present heavens and earth reserved? 2 Peter 3:7 *But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*

2 Pet. 3:10-12 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

90. By what means does Christ say His kingdom is to be cleansed from sin and sinners? Matt. 13:41-42 *The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; 42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.*

91. When are the wicked dead to be raised to receive their final punishment? Rev. 20:5 *But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.*

92. To what will this fire reduce the wicked? Mal.4:3 *And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts.*

93. What is this final destruction of the wicked called? Rev. 20:14 *And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

Informational Supplement

In conclusion let us consider those scriptures most often used to teach "eternal torment".

THE PARABLE OF THE "RICH MAN AND LAZARUS" LUKE 16:19-31

The following is a copy of a track that was written by Sarah Parham. The date of the publication is uncertain.

The Rich Man and Lazarus - **Luke 16:19-31** Read carefully the parable of the rich man and Lazarus.

A parable is a fictitious narrative; an allegory from which a moral is drawn. The true meaning of a parable is not on the surface, but has a hidden meaning. Therefore it can not be taken literally. A doctrine can not be established simply on a parable, but the interpretation of a parable must correspond with the other teachings of the Bible.

Orthodoxy has told us that the rich man represented all wicked persons who at death go to eternal torment, and the beggar represented all good persons, who at death go to heaven. Let us, however, endeavor to forget the teachings and "traditions of men" and go back to our open Bibles and prayerfully seek to learn the lesson that Christ taught in this parable. The parable does not say that they rich man was wicked. He was "rich," but it is not a sin to be rich. He "fared sumptuously" and was dressed "in purple and fine linen." Purple was worn by persons of wealth and high official position, (**Esther 8:15**) and especially by kings (**Judges 8:26**). It was a sign of royalty, and was put on Christ by the Jews in mockery off his claim. (**Mark 15:17**). "Purple and fine linen," were especially used by the Jews in the hanging of the tabernacle (**Ex. 25:4, 26:1, 31, 36**), and were also used in the garments of the Jewish high priest. **Ex. 28:5, 6, 15, 33; 39:29**. We see then, even the very clothing of the rich man, represented the Jewish people.

Neither does the parable say that Lazarus the beggar, was a good man, but that he "laid at the rich man's gate,... "full of sores,"... "desiring to be fed with the crumbs" ...and "the dogs came and licked his sores." Would it be possible to picture a more pitiful, wretched condition? Do you believe that Christ would represent His glorious Church, by this sick beggar in this God-forsaken, poverty-stricken state? Surely not; if a beggar of this terrible description lay at your gate; would you at once recognize him as one of God's elect, a child of the King? I am sure that David would not, for he said, "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." The beggar then can not represent God's chosen people but must represent the Gentile people, who up to this time had not been given the promises and blessings of Abraham. **Eph. 2:11-13**.

The beggar died and was carried, not to heaven, but "into Abraham's bosom." Now we know this was not a literal bosom, as Abraham had been dead many hundreds of years and long since returned to dust, but Lazarus (the Gentiles) were "carried into Abraham's bosom" spiritually, being made heirs to all God had promised to Abraham. **Rom. 3:29. Gal.3:7, 8, 9,14,28,29 Col. 3:11** "The rich man also died and was buried." An end came like death, and he ceased to exist in his former state. "And in hell, he lifted up his eyes being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom" (In the folds of his mantle, Emphatic Diaglott).

In the 24th verse the rich man calls for help, not to God, but to "Father Abraham" which makes it very plain then that he (the rich man) was a descendant, son of Abraham, representing the Jewish people, who were at that very time, looking to Abraham, saying, "Abraham is our father" (**John 8:39**) and rejecting the promised Messiah, thus casting themselves into the "torments" that they are still in. In the 25th verse, Abraham acknowledges the relationship "Son, remember that thou IN THY LIFETIME (the Jewish dispensation was now ended) received good things" (How wonderfully God had blessed the Jews; His chosen people); "and likewise Lazarus evil things."

Up to this time, the Gentiles had been counted as dogs, (**Matt. 15:26, 27 Mark 7, 26-28**). "Now he (Lazarus the Gentiles) is comforted". While Jesus was giving them this parable the Jews "derided Him" (Verse 14) while the Gentiles, "publicans and sinners," drew near unto Him to hear Him" (**Luke 15:1**). The law and the prophets were until John, since that time the Kingdom of God is preached and every man (Jew and Gentile) presseth unto it. Verse 16 Read also **Rom. 11th Chapter**

Is there not still "a great gulf fixed" (verse 26) between the Jews and other nations, for though scattered "among all nations, like as corn is sifted in a sieve" (**Amos 9:9**) yet the Jews are still a separate People. The "five brethren" also had "Moses and the prophets" and Abraham said, "Let them hear them." Had they done so, they would not have crucified the Christ, and they did not believe though Christ "rose from the dead."

Now read the **15th Chapter of Luke**; in the description Christ gave of the "elder brother" in the parable of the prodigal son, you will see a very true picture of how the Jews felt toward Christ, and the "Publicans and sinners" to whom He was giving the Gospel. We understand that the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, has no reference to the future state of the dead whatever, and is to me, not a blood-curdling picture of eternal torment as some have painted it, but a most marvelous and prophetic description of the closing of the Jewish dispensation and the budding in of the Gentiles, and what would happen to the Jews, who truly have been in "outer darkness," despised, hated and persecuted ever since the time when they said, "His blood be on us and on our children."

Christ marveled at the faith of the centurion and said, "*I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel--and I say unto you, that many shall come from the east and west (Gentiles) and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom (Jews) shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*" (**Matt. 8:10-12**). This Scripture is literally being fulfilled in the "Wailing Place" at Jerusalem.

Souls under the Alter - Rev. 6:9-11 *And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:*

10. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

11. And white robes were given to everyone of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

Here John is reminded of those martyred for the testimony of Jesus. This is not a literal reference anymore than Abel's blood crying from the ground was a literal reference in

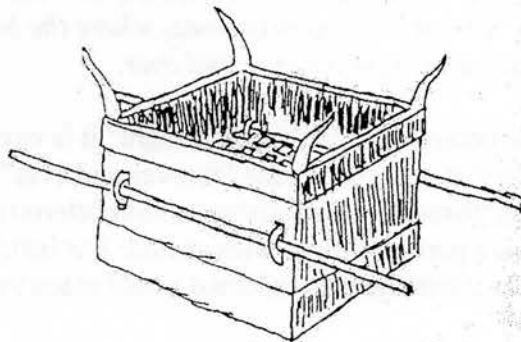


Figure 1 - Brazen Altar

Genesis 4:10. Just as God was aware of the crime against Abel; He is aware of the crimes committed against His people today. The reason the martyred are seen as under the altar, is because they were sacrificed for the testimony of Christ. Just as the ashes of any animal sacrificed would fall through the grate of the altar (see Figure 1) and lie beneath as a testimony of the sacrifice; even so the martyrs of all the ages are not forgotten of the Lord but will be avenged by the Lord in the last days.

While there are many that believe the soul of man; upon death goes somewhere to await the resurrection, it is obvious from our study of the scripture that this is not so. The soul is not an entity in itself but refers to the conscious intellect or awareness of man.

One of the definitions of the Hebrew word "Olam"; translated "ever" in the Old Testament, is vanishing point;⁶⁶ Indicating as far as one can see, or as far as our mind can comprehend. With this in mind, let us consider **Rev. 14:11 and Rev. 20:10.**

Smoke of their Torment - Rev. 14:9-11 *And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,*

10. The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of his holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

11. And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

This scripture is not dealing with the eternal punishment of all the wicked, but of a specific group, namely those who take the mark of the beast. If one were to continue reading the book of Revelation it would be quite clear that those worshipping the Anti-Christ will be tormented by a series of plagues ending with the Battle of Armageddon. Truly they shall have no rest day nor night until this period be finished.

The term day and night is an expression of time, for our life consists of a series of days and nights. We are very time oriented because we are aware that time is limited on this earth. In eternity there will be no expression of time, for time is meaningless. Therefore eternity is expressed as endless day, for there is no night there **Rev. 21:25, 22:5.**

Tormented day and night for ever and ever - Rev. 20:10 *And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

Anytime the Bible refers to "day and night" it is expressing duration; it is not referring to endless eternity even if it uses the phrase "forever and ever". The common mistake made by many is thinking that "forever" is synonymous with "eternity". "Forever and ever, in the scriptures, is used to mean a period of time with an end; For instance, if a person became indebted to another; that person to whom he was indebted could place the lobe of his ear against a post, and bore a

⁶⁶ Strong's.

hole through it, and he became his servant "forever". (**Exod. 21:6**) This forever could mean only until the man died, or until the year of Jubilee, when all slaves went free. God said to David that if he would serve in righteousness he might be a King forever (**I Chron. 28:4**). His rule lasted for forty years. Poor Jonah bewailed the fact that he was in the whale's belly forever. (**Jonah 4:6**) It might have seemed so to him, but it only lasted three days."⁶⁷ There are several other examples that could be sighted to illustrate this point, but these are sufficient to cause us to conclude that "forever" refers to a period of time necessary to fulfill or complete a given purpose.

The word torment or tormenter comes from the Greek word, "basanizo". A form of the word is used in **Matt. 18:34-35**; where Jesus; in a parable, tells of a man who is unable to pay his debt to another, he is then turned over to the tormentor (executioner) until he has paid his debt in full. Are we to suppose that Jesus was sanctioning torture as an acceptable punishment for failure of paying a debt? It seems clear that the word is used to express punishment but not torture in the sense that we use the word. Satan will be brought unto judgment. He will be delivered to the tormentor until he has paid his debt in full. I don't know how long Satan may burn, but it is not eternally, for time is suggested by the term day and night. One thing is sure his punishment will be complete.

⁶⁷ The Everlasting Gospel, P. 116.

Review Questions - Judgment

Write these verses and memorizes them: Rom. 6:23; Ecc. 9:5; Ecc. 12:14

1. What is the difference between the two Adams?
2. When will the righteous have spiritual bodies?
3. How is man's state defined?
4. What is God's nature?
5. To what is the 'breath of life' referring?
6. How are all men in the natural state regarded?
7. If the wrath of God abides on a person, of what does it deprive him?
8. To whom is the sinner saved from wrath?
9. To whom is eternal life promised?
10. When will the faithful be changed from mortal to immortal?
11. In whom is eternal life?
12. By what figure does the Bible represent death?
13. What happens to man's awareness and thoughts upon death?
14. Were there to be no resurrection of the dead, what would be the condition of those fallen asleep in Christ? (I Corinthians 15:16-18)
15. When will the resurrection of the righteous take place?
16. In what condition is man while in the grave? (Ecc. 9:10)
17. What is the difference between the present body and the one to be put on in the resurrection?
18. What is the 'earnest of our inheritance'?
19. What is the reward of the wicked?
20. Who is going to judge us?
21. Who will be judged during the "White Throne Judgment" at the second resurrection?
22. What is the last enemy to be destroyed?
23. Define the following terms:
 - a. apollumi
 - b. sheol
 - c. hades
 - d. gehenna
 - e. Tartarus
 - f. the abyss
 - g. lake of fire
23. What is the wages of sin?
24. When are the wicked dead raised?
25. What is the final destruction of the wicked called?
26. What does the 'rich man and Lazarus' represent?