

Prophecy Study Guide

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Baxter Springs, Kansas

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Written 1982

Revised 2010

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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.

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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 is 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 Strong's

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 Americana, 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, *Clarke's 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 degree to rebuild the temple but the degree 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's 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.

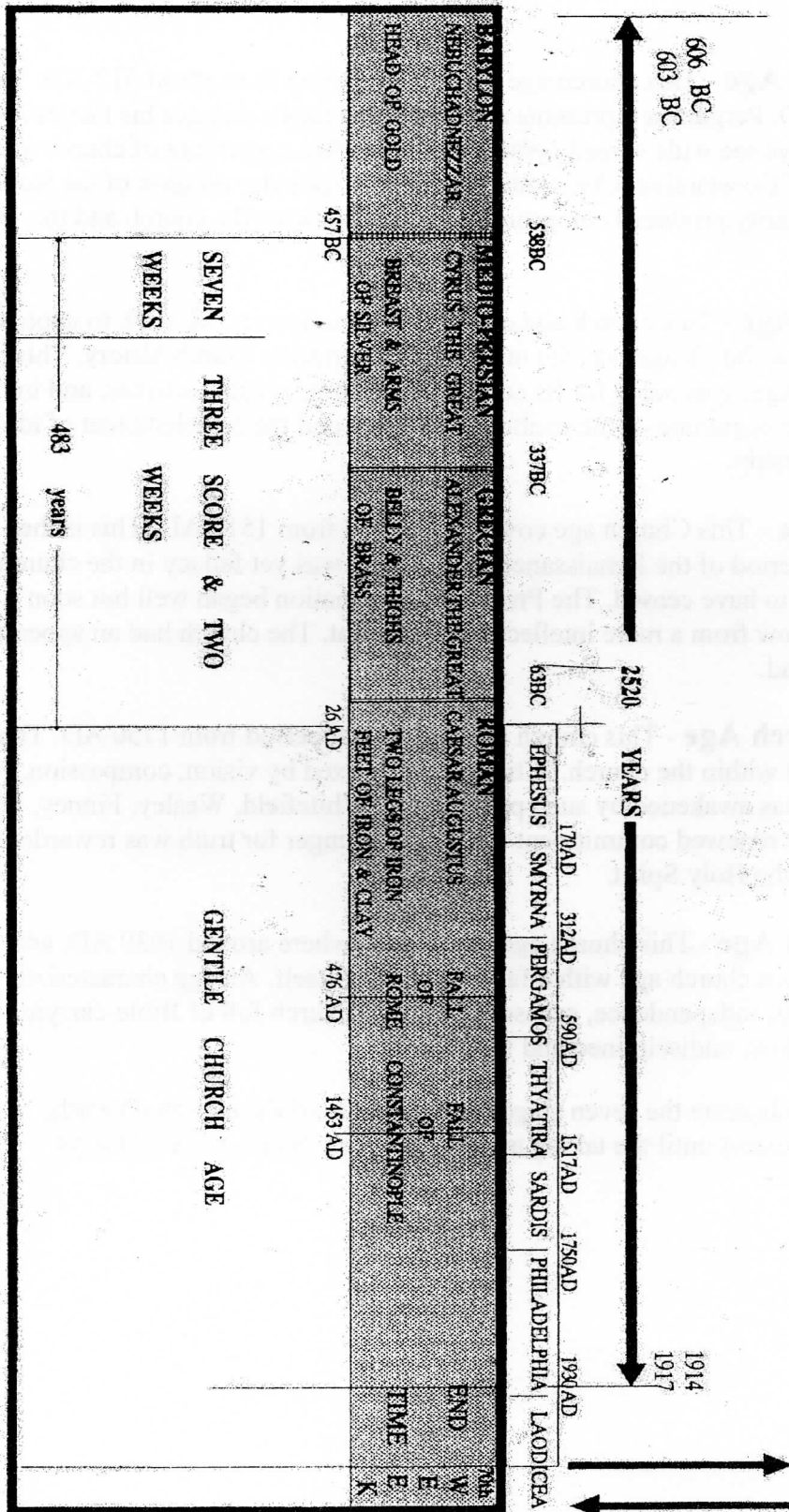
Sardis Church Age - This Church age cover that period from 1517 AD. This is the reformation era, The period of the Renaissance; while there was yet fallacy in the church, the progress of evil seems to have ceased. The Protestant reformation began well but soon Christianity became view from a mere intellectual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

