**WORLD IN BIBLE PROPHECY**

**Sequence of End-Time Events**

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*[Unless otherwise stated, the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible has been for reference, but common modern words such as you for ‘thou’, ‘thee’ and ‘ye’ have been used, so that readers not familiar with the KJV Bible may find it easier to read. Mostly the New King James Version (NKJV) translation has been used as an alternate]*

This booklet details the sequence of end time prophetic events with detailed Bible references. You will see all these events unfold before your very eyes in the few years ahead.

Understanding the sequence of end time prophetic events has been made easy for us because the book of Revelation puts all of them in proper time sequence.

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**INTRODUCTION**

**WHY GOD REVEALS MANKIND’S FUTURE THROUGH PROPHECY**

God’s purpose in revealing mankind’s future through prophecy is to encourage the righteous to persevere in their righteousness in order to receive their awesome reward, and to warn those who persist in doing evil. But above all, prophecy delivers a MESSAGE OF HOPE, a message that the WORLD WILL NOT END, but a REAL UTOPIAN WORLD IS AROUND THE CORNER.

The reward of the righteous is explained in Revelation 5:9-11 (NKJV): “8 Now when He [Jesus Christ] had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song, saying: "You [Jesus Christ] are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, 10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."

The reward of the righteous thus is to become kings and priests on the earth and reign forever and ever with Jesus Christ as KING of these kings, LORD of these lords, and HIGH PRIEST over these priests. Jesus Christ is soon returning to earth to stop mankind from annihilating all life on earth just when it is on the brink of doing so. All life on earth as we know it will not end. That is the message of hope that prophecy conveys to mankind. Jesus Christ will then set up God’s kingdom which will usher in a world overflowing with peace, harmony, cooperation, abundance, happiness and joy.

The punishment of the evil occurs in 2 stages. In the soon coming terrible events described in this booklet, vast majority of people in the world will be on the side of the evil, and join forces with the leaders called the Beast and the False Prophet. All such people are promised physical death by Jesus Christ. Their fate is described in Revelation 14:9-11: “9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, 10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: 11 And the smoke of their torment ascends up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receives the mark of his name.”

This means physical death for all those who follow the two evil leaders. But that is not the end of their lives. God has a plan to resurrect all those who died not knowing God’s way of life, and give them a chance to repent and begin to obey His laws. Most of humanity will finally choose to follow God’s way of life. But some will not, and others will not totally commit to it. For them the punishment will be eternal death which is described in Revelation 21:7-8 (NKJV): “7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. 8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Peter the apostle explained how prophecies came to be written in 2 Peter 1:19-21: “19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto you do well that you take heed, as unto a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 20 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 spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost [Spirit].

Peter explained that holy men of God, the prophets and apostles, wrote down prophecies as they were moved by God’s holy spirit. Their words are sure to be fulfilled. Therefore we ought to pay heed to them.

**CHAPTER 1**

**WHERE ARE WE NOW IN BIBLE PROPHECY**

The world has now reached the stage when there is to be 'delay no longer' in fulfillment of end of the end time events.  This was prophesied in Revelation 10.

Revelation 10:1-4(NKJV): "And I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven… And he had a little book open in his hand...and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars.  And when he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices.  I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them."

The message that the seven thunders uttered was sealed till the time of the end.  The message that was revealed to John and described in the book of Revelation was about the Great Tribulation for physical nations of Israel. The sealed message could pertain only to spiritual Israel, which is God’s Church. This is the message that John was told not to write.

But this message about getting God's Church back on track has already been revealed to Mr. Gerald R. Flurry, Pastor General of the Philadelphia Church of God, which he has detailed in his booklet “Malachi’s Message” and has been delivering it for the past 23 years.  After this would be accomplished, the angel indicated to the apostle John that there was to be delay no longer.  This is recorded in Revelation 10:5-6(NKJV): "And the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land lifted up his hand to heaven and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer."

After the world entered the period of no longer any delay in fulfillment of end of the end time prophecies, the next event to follow in sequence was recorded in Revelation 10:11(NKJV): "And he said to me, "you must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues [meaning in many languages], and kings."

In the end of the end times, the message of God’s Church is to be focused on explaining in all languages of the world about peoples, nations and kings [rulers] who are going to play the leading roles in fulfilling prophecies.

Most dramatic fulfillment of this prophecy has already taken place, and takes place every week in a way that nobody ever imagined.

Around March-May 2001 Satan and the demons started broadcasting the author’s thoughts at the request of the Germans because they wanted to have access to his thoughts on business and economic development. Then in September 2006 he was led to start preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God on his own. The only way he could think of doing that without any money was by starting a blog. He made the first post to his blog, thetruereligionreport.com/ blog1 on September 26, 2006. Then an idea struck him. Since Satan and the demons were broadcasting his thoughts, why should he not prepare weekly sermon messages and read them out aloud. Since Satan and the demons were broadcasting his thoughts, they would have to broadcast his messages also.

He prepared his first message and delivered it on December 2, 2006. He was pleasantly surprised to learn that his message was broadcast. And it was broadcast to every human being in his or her own language. Anyone who wanted access to the message of good news about the soon coming Kingdom of God now had access to it. Since then he has continued to broadcast his messages, and does it every week at 9.00 am, USA Eastern Standard Time. Any human being can tune his or her ear and will receive that message every week in his or her own language.

With his message of July 14, 2007 the author had completed all his messages on prophecy. Till that time Satan and the demons had been broadcasting his messages to suit their own purposes. But then God’s angels have taken on the task of broadcasting his messages every week and continue to do so. So the prophecy in Revelation 10:11 has already been dramatically fulfilled. Every human being has been explained Bible prophecies in his or her own language about peoples, nations and kings who are to play leading roles in fulfilling Bible prophecies. God has fulfilled this prophecy. Whether a human being chooses to listen to the messages or not is his or her own responsibility. God makes the message available every week.

God’s messages on prophecies will now continue right through the great tribulation, till the return of Jesus Christ.  In the great tribulation, the two witnesses of Revelation 11 will continue to deliver this message. Then when Jesus Christ returns, three of God’s angels will deliver the same message as described in Revelation 14:6-12.

But the author would like to caution the world, particularly Israelite nations, about another prophecy in Amos 8:11-12. Amos writes (NKJV): “11 "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord God, "That I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord. 12 They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the Lord, but shall not find it.”

According to this prophecy when the Great Tribulation is near, it’s possible that God’s messages, and publications of God’s Church that explain prophecies and God’s way of life may be made unavailable on the internet or in print by force. Such a time is coming. When people in the world see catastrophic events staring them in the face, they may seek understanding of prophecies related to these events, but may not be able to find that knowledge. That’s another reason the author is making his understanding of prophecy available on the internet for everyone to print and keep a copy for future reference when this knowledge may not be available.

MANY HAVE STARTED MAKING INTERPRETATIONS OF PROPHECY, TAKING A PIECE HERE AND A SCRIPTURE THERE AND PATCHING UP A FRAMEWORK OF THEIR OWN MAKING. BUT GOD HAS GIVEN US A FRAMEWORK IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION IN PROPER TIME SEQUENCE. EVEN THEN DETAILS CAN ONLY BE FILLED BY GOD’S PROPHETS (Amos 3:7: “7 Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.”) So people are cautioned not to be misled by such false interpreters of prophecy who have styled themselves as prophets but are not God’s prophets.

Bible prophecies were sealed till the time of the end (Daniel 12:8-10: “8 And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things? 9 And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. 10 Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.”)

However, understanding of prophecies in our days was first revealed to Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, through whom God founded the modern era of His Church. The late Jerry Falwell, founder of the Moral Majority and Liberty University admitted to a senior leader of the United Church of God that it was Mr. Armstrong who had contributed greatly to their understanding of prophecy. Most Christian denominations have received their initial understanding of prophecy from Mr. Armstrong. But each must not appear to their followers to have received their understanding of prophecy from Mr. Armstrong and the Church of God. So they must add their own interpretations to make their understanding of prophecy appear different from what Mr. Armstrong explained. In doing so, they introduce error in their interpretations of prophecy. The reader should beware of such falsehood.

**CHAPTER 2**

**NEXT PROPHESIED EVENTS**

We see that end time events have already started taking place.  After we entered the time of no delay any longer, the very first prophecy has already been fulfilled and continues to be fulfilled every week through the author’s weekly messages broadcast by God’s angels to every human being on earth in his or her own language.  The prophesied events to follow can now start any time.

The message of the book of Revelation was given by God the Father, the Supreme Ruler of the universe, to Jesus Christ who then sent it to the apostle John through His angel, as indicated in Revelation 1:1: "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants - things which must shortly take place.  And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John."

The message was contained in a scroll, sealed with seven seals.  Revelation 5:1-5, 7 (NKJV): "And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.  Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?"  And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth [meaning those that are dead and buried] was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.  So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.  But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep.  Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah [Jesus Christ], the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."  Then Verse 7: "Then He [Jesus Christ] came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne."

Only Jesus Christ is worthy to open each of the seven seals and reveal their messages.  Opening of each of the seals reveals events that will take place sequentially.  Remember only Jesus Christ is worthy to reveal the messages as each of the seven seals is opened.  In fact, even before His death, Jesus Christ had given the keys to understanding the seals.  These keys are recorded in Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21.  Jesus' disciples asked Him what would be the sign of His second coming and the end of the age.

Matthew 24:3-8 [NKJV): "Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be?  And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"  And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you.  For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ, and will deceive many.  And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars.  See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.  For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.  And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.  All these are the beginning of sorrows."

Jesus here gave four conditions that will occur sequentially: 1) Many usurping His name and calling themselves Christians in order to deceive many; 2) Wars and rumors of wars on a global scale; 3) Then follow the consequences of globalwarfare - famines on a mass scale; and finally 4) Mass famines resulting in disease and death on a huge scale.  But He said these are just the beginning of sorrows.  It is going to get much worse from then on.  As we shall see, these four conditions in sequence correspond to the first four seals of Revelation 6.

Now let us see what is revealed by the seven seals.

**The First Seal - Religious Deception**

Revelation 6:1-2 (NKJV): "Now I saw when the Lamb [another name for Jesus Christ] opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see."  And I looked, and behold, a white horse.  And he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer."

Here is pictured the first event to take place.  Revelation 19:11-16 (NKJV) pictures another rider on a white horse: "And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse.  And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True and in righteousness He judges and makes war.  His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns...and His name is called the Word of God [another name for Jesus Christ]...Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations.  And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron...And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: King of Kings and Lord of Lords" [another name for Jesus Christ].

The rider on the white horse here is Jesus Christ at His return to earth to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.  The rider in Revelation 6 bears some similarity to Christ at His return.  He is riding a white horse and has a crown.  But there are significant differences in the details.  Christ is wearing many crowns whereas this rider has only one crown.  Jesus has a sword as a weapon whereas this rider has a bow.  So does this rider symbolize the real Christ or a false 'savior'?

The word used for crown in Revelation 6:2 is the Greek word *stephanos*, which refers to a crown worn by a victor such as in games. So the rider on the white horse wears his crown gained by victory in war. In contrast the word used for crowns in Revelation 19:12 is the Greek word *Diadema*, the plural of *diadem,* which means a royal crown, as a royal son, a prince, gains by inheritance from his father..

Remember only Jesus Christ is worthy to reveal the messages as each of the seven seals is opened.  So what did Jesus reveal to His disciples about the first condition that would occur before His return?  Many will come in His name (i.e. usurping His name), calling themselves Christian and deceive many.  It’s the many that are deceived.

In fact deception in Jesus' name started soon after the Church was founded in 31 A.D.  The many have been deceived.  The true Christians have always been a 'small flock' (Luke 12:32).  Then what is so significant about this deception?

The significance of this religious deception is the total global scope of it.  It takes place at every level.  When discussing this issue, Jesus warned His disciples: "Take heed that no one deceives you.  For many will come in My name, saying I am the Christ, and will deceive many." (Matthew 24:4-5).  The 'you' in the message signifies that it is addressed mainly to Jesus' disciples (or God's true Church), and the descendants of Israel to a lesser extent (as the disciples were all Israelites) that there will be all out attempts to deceive the Church of God.  Jesus warned the members of His true Church to take heed so that they are not deceived.

Satan's agents have infiltrated the true Church of God and caused many divisions. The Church is now divided into more than a hundred different organizations.  Many of these congregations differ in their beliefs to one degree or another.  Only a few are adhering to the faith 'restored' by God through the end time Elijah - Herbert W. Armstrong (HWA).  [God had prophesied in Malachi 4:5-6 that before the end of man’s age He would send a prophet in the spirit of the ancient Elijah the prophet: “5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD [meaning the Lord’s Day as described later]: 6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.” Jesus also prophesied in Matthew 17:11: “11 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias [Elijah] truly shall first come, and restore all things.” God sent Mr. Armstrong in the spirit and power of Elijah the prophet who restored all the true doctrines to God’s Church in fulfillment of these prophecies.]

Tens of thousands of former members, in fulfillment of the message of the first seal, no longer attend Church.  The message of the first seal says: 'The rider on the white horse "went out conquering and to conquer." He has conquered much in God's Church already, but is not finished yet.  He will continue to conquer in God's Church (the 'and to conquer' part of the message of the first seal) right till the return of Jesus Christ as we shall see later.

The rider on the white horse has already conquered 'the many' with false religion.  In fact, virtually all of humanity has been deceived.  All religions (including all denominations of Christianity except the 'small flock' consisting of God's true Church) are false religions.  This, however, is nothing new.  What will be astounding will be the 'and to conquer' part of the fulfillment in this area.  Jesus explained this in Matthew 24:24 (NKJV): "For false christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders so as to deceive, if possible, even the elect."

This shows that many false christs (or 'saviors') and false prophets will arise in the future working great miracles.  The deception will be so great that even some members of God's Church could be carried away if they are not paying heed to Jesus' warning.  The culmination of this deception will be the work of the false prophet, described in Revelation 13:11, 13-14 (NKJV): "Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon."

Horns in prophecy signify rulership.  Lamb is another name for Jesus Christ and dragon is another name for Satan.  So this beast has two horns, signifying religious and civil authority like a lamb (meaning he is appropriating the name of Christ) but speaks like a dragon, or Satan.  Is there a religious authority in the world that calls itself Christian that is at the same time a civil authority?  In fact, there is one, the only one in the world.  It is the Church of Rome - the Roman Catholic Church.  The Vatican is a state that sends out ambassadors to many nations of the world and receives their ambassadors.  The pope sits on a throne and wears a crown.  It is also the largest Christian denomination.  So this beast has two horns, acts like a representative of Jesus Christ, but speaks like Satan. Thus the false prophet will be a pope working great signs and miracles in the future, and deceiving many on earth (verse 14).

Revelation 13:13-14 describes how this beast will deceive the world: "He [the beast] performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.  And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do..."

At present, though most of the world is deceived by false religions, many are not deeply involved in religion.  In fact, many are irreligious.  But this miracle working false prophet will garner worldwide attention and actively deceive most on earth into following his religion.  He gets his power from Satan [the dragon] to work these miracles.  Most in Israelite countries are not deceived by this false prophet at present.  But when he starts working miracles in the near future, the whole world will be carried away by his deception.  The conquest of the symbolic rider of the white horse will then be nearly total.

The rider of the white horse has already fulfilled another aspect of the message. Satan masquerades as a 'savior' like Jesus Christ.  He also has a way of life or 'religion'.  God's way of life can be contrasted with Satan's way of life in Herbert W. Armstrong's words as the way of 'give' versus the way of 'get'.  God's way is the way of loving, forgiving, caring, sharing and giving; the way of 'do unto others as you would have them do unto you'; the way of 'it's better to give than to receive'.  In contrast, Satan's way is the way of hating your enemy, never forgetting and forgiving, getting, competition, greed, taking by lying or deception; the way of 'do unto others before they do it unto you'; and getting ahead by any and all means, or any which way you can.

Until recently most of humanity believed that Satan was a myth.  Only perhaps the Germans knew of his existence for sure because he dealt with them closely.  Satan has a counterfeit to God's way of dealing with humanity.  God tries to work first through Israelites to mold them into a model nation so that the world can learn from their example and follow God's way.  Likewise, Satan deals with the Germans as his model nation so that the world can learn from them and follow their example in Satan's way.

Only recently has the world become sure of Satan's existence.  That is when Satan 'went out conquering,' like the rider of the white horse.  Nations and people within nations allied with the Germans have inquired about Satan and his philosophy from them.  The Germans have revealed Satan's way to them.  Many of these nations and peoples have quickly bought into Satan's philosophy and way of life, *because it matches their human nature*, and by following it have gained much material wealth by stealing from Israelite nations.  So Satan 'went out conquering,' and he has conquered many nations with his false religion (or way of life).  He will also fulfill the other part of the message: 'and to conquer,' particularly when the false prophet begins performing miracles. He will continue doing this till the return of Jesus Christ until he is bound in chains and sent to the abyss (or 'bottomless pit').

The rider of the white horse, symbolizing false religion and way of life has thus already been riding furiously.  He has already fulfilled the prophecy in the message of the first seal.

**The Second Seal - Global Warfare**

Revelation 6:3-4 (NKJV): "When He [Jesus Christ] opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see."  And another horse, fiery red, went out.  And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword."

This horse, blood red in color corresponds to Christ's second warning: "And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars...Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom" (Matthew 24:6-7 NKJV).

We have had two bloody wars in the first half of the 20th century.  Approximately 15-20 million people died in the First World War and close to 60 million died in the Second World War.  But these two wars will pale in comparison to what is going to be unleashed on the world by the rider of the red horse.  The furious ride of the red horse is the next event prophesied in the message of the second seal.  The Church of God does not set specific dates for specific events because Jesus said in Mark 13:22 (NKJV): "But of that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son [Jesus Himself], but only the Father."  But as shown earlier, prophecy indicates that there is to be delay no longer.  Therefore, this world war is very near to fulfillment.

From now on Israel (USA, Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa) and the state of Israel are the primary targets of this warfare.  The reason is that nations want to eliminate competition from Israel for capturing world markets and resources, and want to become the dominant economies of the world themselves.  They also covet Israel's land, agricultural, water and mineral resources.

Three military alliances are soon going to form in the world in addition to the Israelite alliance (consisting of the USA, Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South African whites and the state of Israel).  But since the Israelite Alliance is the only target, most of the nations will be allied in the cause to bring it down in military defeat.  This does not mean that all countries that are ultimately going to form into three alliances will be united in this war.  But many will be.  The three military alliances will be discussed as the sequence of prophesied events is explained.

Jesus indicated that in this war, 'nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom'.  This may mean that when Israelite countries are engaged in warfare, many countries feel free to settle their differences or old scores with other nations through war.  So this could truly be a worldwide war.

**The Third Seal - Famines**

Revelation 6:5-6 (*New International Version-NIV):* "When the Lamb opened the third seal...I looked, and there before me was a black horse!  Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand.  Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, 'A quart of wheat for a day's wages, and three quarts of barley for a day's wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine."

This seal corresponds to Jesus' third warning: "And there will be famines..." (Matthew 24:7).  This seal portrays extreme scarcity of food and basic necessities of life.  These are the natural result of widespread war.  Remember the second seal mentions "that people should kill one another."  The intent of people is to kill one another by any and all means.  So they will be engaged in destruction of enemy property, agricultural lands and means of production.  In addition, modern weapons will contribute to the destruction of land so that it is unfit for cultivation.

**The Fourth Seal - Death from Sickness and Disease**

Revelation 6:7-8 (*NIV*): "When the Lamb opened the fourth seal...I looked, and there before me was a pale [sickly looking] horse!  Its rider was named Death, and Hades [the grave] was following close behind him.  They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth."

This seal describes the natural consequences of famines.  Because of scarcity of food, there will be a general breakdown of order in society.  There will be a massive number of deaths due to starvation, the resulting sickness and disease epidemics and violence that results from breakdown in law and order due to scarcity of necessities of life.  *When there is scarcity of food, wild animals and vicious domestic animals let loose to survive on their own will form packs to attack and kill humans.* This seal corresponds to Jesus' warning about the fourth condition - 'pestilence', or deadly epidemics of diseases (Matthew 24:7).

The end result of the furious ride of the first (religious deception – we see murders of Christians, Jews and Muslims at the hands of Islamists as another fulfillment), second (sword or war), third (famine) and fourth (plague) horses is that a fourth of the earth's population will be killed. Currently the world's population is estimated to be slightly above 7 billion people.  This prophecy thus indicates that more than 1.75 billion people will die in these events.  Wild beasts will also contribute to these deaths.  Truly the First and Second World Wars will appear to be small battles in comparison to this global war.  But remember, Jesus said "All these are [just] the beginning of sorrows" (Matthew 24:8).  Much worse is yet to follow. Then from Matthew 24:9 and onwards Jesus described what would take place in the Great Tribulation. In Revelation, that is what the fifth seal mentions. But no details about the Great Tribulation are provided in the message of the fifth seal. Jesus and the prophets before Him and the apostles after Him filled in those details.

**CHAPTER 3**

**THE GREAT TRIBULATION**

The massive loss of life due to warfare and the resulting famines and disease epidemics is followed by the great tribulation.

**The Fifth Seal – The Great Tribulation**

Revelation 6:9-11 (NIV): "When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained.  They called out in a loud voice, 'How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood? Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow-servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed."

Here symbolically pictured at the altar in God's temple are the saints of God who had been martyred in His service throughout history and had stuck to God's ways and had not denied Him when persecuted.  They are waiting for God's judgment in the Day of the Lord on those who hate Him and His servants.  But they are told to wait a little longer because another martyrdom of God's faithful servants is just about to take place.

The details about this martyrdom during the great tribulation were provided by Jesus Christ in His discussion with His disciples about His second coming.  In Matthew 24 also it follows in time sequence after deception through false religion, war, famines and pestilences, just like the first four seals.

Matthew 24:9-12 (NKJV): "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake.  And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.  Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.  And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold."

Further in Matthew 24:15-16, 21 (NKJV) Jesus echoed Daniel's prophecy: "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (whoever reads, let him understand), then let those that be in Judea flee to the mountains...For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be."

Clearly this martyrdom of the members of God's Church takes place during the Great Tribulation.  The sixth seal leaves no doubt about the time sequence of the Great Tribulation.  The events of the sixth seal come immediately after the events of the fifth seal.  Revelation 6:12-17 (NKJV): "I watched as he opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake....For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

The 'great day of His wrath' is also identified in many prophecies as 'the Day of the Lord' or the Lord's Day.  It is the last one year of the three-and-a-half year long Great Tribulation.  So the fifth seal is definitely talking about the Great Tribulation that follows the world war of the first four seals.

**Prophecies about the Great Tribulation**

The book of Revelation puts the Great Tribulation in time sequence as just explained.  It does not provide any further details about the Great Tribulation except for the last one year known as the Day of the Lord.  Revelation 1:10 ("I was in the spirit on the Lord's Day...") shows that the book of Revelation is mainly about the Day of the Lord.  So we would expect details about the first two-and-a-half years of the great tribulation to be sketchy in Revelation. However, the prophets in the Old Testament and the apostles in the New Testament have provided us ample details so that we can get a clear picture of the events leading up the Great Tribulation and during it.

First of all, the Great Tribulation is of three-and-a-half years' duration.  This is revealed in Daniel 12:1, 6-7,11 (NKJV): "At that time Michael [the archangel] shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time.  And at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book...Verses 6-7: "And one said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, "How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders be?"  Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished...Verse 11: "And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days."  The extra thirty days here include the 30 days of final war in which Israel is defeated and enslaved.

In prophecy, 'time' represents one year, 'times' represents two years and 'half-a-time' represents half-year.  So time, times and half-a-time represents a three-and-half year duration.  The three-and-a-half year duration is also confirmed by Revelation 11:1-2(NKJV): "Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod.  And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God...But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles.  And they shall tread the holy city [Jerusalem] underfoot for forty-two months."

Forty-two months here represent the three-and-a-half years of the great tribulation when Jerusalem is taken over completely by non-Jewish people. Since the 42 months equal 1260 days, it means that each month is taken to be of 30 days duration in God’s calendar.

The fact that the Day of the Lord is of one year duration is derived from the 'day-for-a-year' principle in Numbers 14:34 (KJV): "After the number of the days in which you searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall you bear your iniquities, even forty years."  It is also given in Ezekiel 4:6 (KJV): "...lie again on your right side, and you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days:  I have appointed you each day for a year."  When the 'day-for-a-year' principle is applied, the 'Day' of the Lord means it will be of one year duration.

Before giving a detailed description of the events that lead to the Great Tribulation, and during the three and a half years of the Great Tribulation itself, let’s take a summary look at all the prophetic events that will be fulfilled.

1) The three and a half year long Great Tribulation is a time of trouble for Physical Israel – USA, British Commonwealth nations and the Jewish state of Israel; and spiritual Israel, which is God’s Church. Daniel 12:1 calls it a time of trouble for his [Daniel’s] people, meaning Israel: “1 "At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book.”

Jeremiah 30:5-7 calls it a “time of Jacob’s [patriarch Israel’s original name] trouble.” Daniel 12:7 states: “…and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished.” This means that all the prophecies will be fulfilled when the power of the holy people, meaning God’s Church, is completely shattered. And that can take place only when at least a part of God’s Church suffers through the Great Tribulation, and its work of preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God is completely stopped when the two witnesses of Revelation 11 are killed.

It is a time of trouble when both physical and spiritual Israel are hated by all nations in the world (Matthew 24:9) and persecuted.

2) The Great Tribulation is inflicted on physical and spiritual Israel at the hands of a leader in Europe variously called the Beast (in Revelation 13, 17, 19:20), King of the North in Daniel 11, in league with a great religious leader called the False Prophet in Revelation 19:20 and a Beast in Revelation 13:11-18 whose number is 666. The false prophet heads the Church based in Rome, also called the ‘Whore of Babylon’ in Revelation 17. The combined system headed by the Beast and the False Prophet is known as the Babylonian military, civil, political and religious system in Revelation 18, and will be the seventh resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire. The religious beast causes people to receive the “mark of the beast.”

3) The political and military leader called the beast [which other prophecies indicate will be a German] rises “up out of the sea” in Revelation13:1-9 and power is given to him “to continue forty and two months,” that is, three and a half years of the Great Tribulation. Waters are a symbol for many nations and a sea is a symbol of troubled areas. An important key to understanding prophecy is that the Bible interprets its own symbols. The interpretation of waters is given in Revelation 17:15; “15 Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.”

The German political and or military leader will have the full support of ten rulers. He may actually appoint these rulers himself. This is prophesied in Revelation 17:12-13: “12 And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. 13 These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.” Receiving authority for one hour refers to a short time.

4) Sometime before the forces of the Beast, in alliance with Islamists (Psalm 83), attack the USA, British Commonwealth nations and the State of Israel, Jews in Jerusalem will institute animal sacrifices. Matthew 24:15 (NKJV) states: “15 "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand)…” Daniel 9:27 (NKJV) states: “27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. [Till here the prophecy is discussing Jesus Christ. But then it changes to one who makes desolate who will stop the sacrifices]. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate." And 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 (NKJV) describes this being who will make desolate. It says: “3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and *the man of sin* is revealed, *the son of perdition*, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.”

This man of sin, also known as the False Prophet, will start claiming that he is ‘God.’ The Jews have only to start animal sacrifices on the Temple Mount. They don’t have to build a temple to fulfill this prophecy. The beast and the false prophet could set up the image of the beast and also quickly build a temple in months to fulfill this prophecy.

After the great World War but before the final attack of the combined forces of the Beast and the Islamists on the Americans, the British and the Israelis, certain prophecies will be fulfilled. These are as follows.

a) The pope of the Roman Church will start working miracles with the power of Satan at some stage and the Roman Catholic world will be energized and bewitched and would be more willing to obey all his commands.

b) The pope will explain his plans to the world that he plans to set up an idol or image in Jerusalem [to honor the Beast, or as a symbol of the “Holy Roman Empire” perhaps like Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar’s image (Denial 2)] which must be worshipped, and that the world worship on Sunday and not on the Sabbath day. This is a demand to set the stage for persecution of God’s true Church that does not worship idols and worships on the Sabbath day and not on Sunday in complete obedience to all of God’s Ten Commandments, and also to enforce the Roman Church’s religion on the world. He will label God’s true Church a cult and ask the world to persecute and eliminate the Church.

c) An alliance of Islamic nations, mainly Arabs and Turks, will also be forming. At this point a military dictator might have emerged in the Islamic world but not necessarily. This Islamic dictator in prophecy is called the 'King of the South.' The nations in this Islamic alliance are mentioned in Psalm 83:1-8 (their modern identity is discussed later). These nations will be allied with Assyria, or modern Germany. Occupation of Jerusalem along with the Roman Church will be one of their goals because of the Christian and Islamic 'holy places.

Remember don’t expect all this to be taking place right now though the groundwork for it is being laid. It will take place after the Third World War has begun and famine and disease conditions have already wiped out one fourth of mankind. These events can take place in a matter of months to administer the deathblow to the American, British and Jewish alliance.

d) To force the Jews in Jerusalem to comply with the pope's demands to let him set up the image in Jerusalem [most probably on the Temple Mount], the forces of the European military dictator along with his Muslim and Catholic alliance partners will most likely lay an economic siege to the state of Israel, America and British Commonwealth nations. This economic siege may last for 390 plus 40 days as indicated in Ezekiel 4:1-17. This will cause famine conditions in these countries to worsen, which the world war may have already started. These famine and disease conditions will kill one third of the Jewish population in Israel. The Jews may then begin negotiations with the pope, the beast and the Islamic leader to allow the pope to set up the idol in Jerusalem, and allow the Islamic leader to set up his religious regional headquarters in Jerusalem. But the plans of the Beast, the pope and their alliance partners are to launch a final attack on the USA/Britain/Israel alliance, defeat them militarily and make them captive slaves.

e) At this time, ten rulers in Europe make a decision to give all their power and authority to the Beast. These may not actually be ten existing rulers, but may be appointed as rulers by the European Community over ten regions in Europe carved out of member nations. These rulers could even be appointed immediately after the military victory over the American, British and Jewish alliance. They give their total allegiance to the beast and put all their power at his disposal.

5) To force the Jews in Israel to submit to the pope’s and Islamic demands, they send armies to surround Israel. End of the end time events kick into the highest gear when Jerusalem [or Israel] is surrounded by armies as stated in Luke 21:20-21 (NKJV): “20 "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. 21 Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. 22 for these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.”

6) A few months earlier, most likely after the pope has started working miracles, the two witnesses will have begun their prophesying as described in Revelation 11:3-4: “3 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth." 4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth.” They are also mentioned in Zechariah 4:3, 11-14.

7) Soon after the two witnesses start their prophecy, and the false prophet has asked the world to persecute God’s Church, the two witnesses will give the signal to the Church to gather in one place, most likely Jerusalem. The Church will have approximately 45 days to gather from around the world. Actually this gathering may not be dependent on human efforts. The prophecy in Matthew 24:40-42 leads us to believe that the gathering together in one place will be done by God Himself. The verses state: “40 Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. 42 Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.” It seems that one person will be taken to the place of safety by God [and not by human effort] while the other is left.

In addition Revelation 12:14 (“14 But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.”) indicates that God will help His Church to flee as He helped ancient Israel at the time of the exodus from Egypt. Deuteronomy 32:11-12 describes how God bore ancient Israel as an eagle bears her young on her wings.

8) While God’s Church is being gathered in one place, the False Prophet will be working to take control of Jerusalem. And the European (German) Beast’s forces along with their Islamic allies have now surrounded Israel to take over full control. Because of the devastating famine conditions, the Jews have agreed to allow the False Prophet to set up his idol in the holy place in the Temple Mount. At the end of 45 days, the False Prophet or his representatives and forces cause the Jewish daily sacrifices to cease and may install a temporary (or may have been already making preparations to install a large permanent idol or image) idol and begin sacrificing on the altar. This is the “abomination of desolation” spoken of by Daniel the prophet as Jesus mentioned in Matthew 24:15.

9) Once the idol or image is set up, events kick up in the highest gear and there is no time to lose for God’s Church gathered at Jerusalem. They have only 30 days to flee to the place of safety. The Church begins fleeing to the place of safety prepared by God for her. This is when Matthew 24:15-16 will be fulfilled: “15 "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), 16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.” Clearly the place of safety will be a mountainous area.

10) When God’s Church has completed its flight to the place of safety, the German Beast and his Muslim (Psalm 83 shows who all will be allied in this cause) and other allies worldwide attack the USA and British Commonwealth nations and the Jewish state of Israel. They do not use nuclear weapons on the state of Israel because the False Prophet or his representatives are already in Jerusalem and are in the process of establishing their world headquarters there. And the Islamists are also seeking control of their holy places in Jerusalem.

11) Within 30 days, the American, British and Jewish alliance has been militarily defeated (Hosea 5:7). The Philadelphian members of God’s Church have fled/been taken to the place of safety, but the Laodicean, lukewarm, members have been left in the world to prove their loyalty to God and His way of life by facing Satan’s wrath during the 1,260 days of the Great Tribulation. These 1,260 days begin after the 30 days it took to defeat the American, British and Jewish alliance.

12) The False Prophet, called “man of sin” and “son of perdition” in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 exalts himself and sets himself up (probably his throne) in the temple in Jerusalem and claims that he is God. 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 states: “3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.”

13) When Satan sees that his forces have won control of the world, and now he has only a very short time left [the 3 ½ years of the Great Tribulation], he and his army of demons mount up to God’s throne in heaven to attack and try to dethrone God. This is when Revelation 12:7-17 is fulfilled: “7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. 9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” Satan and his forces are defeated and cast back to the earth.

14) Satan now is enraged with God’s Church because its members are the only ones on earth who remain loyal to God and His way of life. But he is also set on taking vengeance on the entire earth and God’s creation on it. He moves to fulfill remainder of Revelation 12:12-16 which state: “Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time." 13 Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. 14 But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. 15 So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. 16 But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.”

The entire earth will now face Satan’s wrath because he has only a very short time left as ruler of the earth. His first target, of course, is God’s Church. He first sends out a Flood (Remember waters are a symbol for people. So this flood represents armies of many nationalities allied with the beast and the false prophet) to destroy God’s Church that has already fled to the place of safety. But the earth helps God’s Church by opening up and swallowing these armies alive.

15) Since Satan could not destroy members of God’s Church who have fled, his next highest priority target is the Laodicean [lukewarm] members of God’s Church who are left in the world to go through the Great Tribulation. That is the meaning of Revelation 12:17 (NKJV): “17 And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring [KJV renders this phrase “the remnant of her seed” implying that their number will be smaller than those who will be in the place of safety], who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” This persecution will continue throughout the Great Tribulation, resulting in martyrdom of many, perhaps all Church members in the world who remain loyal to God.

Following scriptures indicate this martyrdom. Matthew 24:9 (NKJV) states: “9 Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake.” Revelation 6:9-11 states; “9 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. 10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" 11 Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.”

16) Satan is permitted to scatter [or shatter as translated in the NKJV] the power of God’s Church for 3 ½ years as stated in Daniel 12:7 when Daniel asked the angel for the duration of these events: “…it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.”

17) Because of holding on to God’s truth, persecution of Laodicean members of God’s Church who are in the world is intense and the Church is hated in all nations. Matthew 24:9 (NKJV) states: “9 Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake.” As mentioned earlier, this hatred by all nations is also directed at the American, British and Jewish slaves, because when Jesus used the pronoun ‘you’, He meant the disciples who would soon become members of God’s Church and were physical Israelites as well.

18) Because of the intense persecution, abuse, mistreatment and martyrdom, borne of deep hatred, many in God’s Church (the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25 indicates this number to be about 50%) will become offended against God and compromise with the beast and false prophet. They then begin to hate their fellow brethren who choose to remain loyal to God and begin to betray them to the authorities. Their love for the brethren begins to grow cold. Those that have infiltrated the Church will also begin to betray members. This is prophesied in Matthew 24:10-13: “10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. 11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. 12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. 13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.”

Some loyal Laodicean members will be betrayed even by parents, brothers, family and friends as prophesied in Luke 21:16 (NKJV): “16 You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death.”

19) The turning away of 50% of Laodiceans from the Church is referred to as falling away from the truth. This is prophesied in 2 Thessalonians 2:3: “2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 (NKJV) states: “3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first…” and in 1 Timothy 4:1 (NKJV): “1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons…”

20) American, British and Jewish captives are sold as slaves around the world. Ultimately only 1/10th of them will come out alive through the Great Tribulation. In contrast, probably most if not all of Laodicean members of God’s Church will be martyred during the Great Tribulation.

Now let’s look at these prophecies in greater detail.

**CHAPTER 4**

**ALLIANCES IN THE GREAT TRIBULATION**

The Bible prophesies about five alliances that will fulfill end of the end time prophecies.

**1) The American, British and Jewish Alliance**

The alliance that will suffer defeat and slavery consists of Israelite nations:  USA, Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, whites of South Africa, and the Jewish state of Israel.  The patriarch Jacob named his name on his two grandsons Ephraim (whose descendants live in Britain, Canada, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand) and Manasseh (whose descendants live in the USA).  This is stated in Genesis 48:16: “The Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.” So prophecies concerning Jacob or Israel (Jacob's other name given to him by God) apply to the USA, Britain, Canada, white South Africa, Australia and New Zealand.  The Jews in prophecy are referred to as Judah.  The word Jew is derived from their tribal name Judah.  It is just a short form for 'Judah' or ‘Jude.’

Prophecy concerning Israel and Judah was given by the prophet Jeremiah 30:2-7 (NKJV): "Thus speaks the Lord God of Israel, saying: 'Write in a book for yourself all the words I have spoken to you.  For behold the days are coming, says the Lord, 'that I will bring back from captivity My people Israel and Judah,' says the Lord.  'And I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it."

These verses specifically mention that both Israel (USA, Britain, Canada, Australia, white South Africa and New Zealand) and Judah (the modern state of Israel) will be brought back from captivity.  When Jeremiah was given this prophecy, Israel had already gone into captivity more than 100 years before.  They never came back from captivity to the land of Israel.  So this prophecy is yet to be fulfilled in the future.  Now continue in verses 4-7

Jeremiah 30:4-7: "Now these are the words that the Lord spoke concerning Israel and Judah.  For thus says the Lord: 'We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace.  Ask now, and see, whether a man is ever in labor with child?  So why do I see every man with his hands on his loins like a woman in labor, and all faces turned pale?  Alas!  For that day is great, so that none is like it; and it is the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it."

What are the causes for which Israel and Judah will suffer these calamities? The main reason is that their ancestors had made a covenant (or agreement) with God to be His people and He to be their God when He had delivered them from slavery in Egypt. Exodus 19:3-8 (NKJV) states: “3 And Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: 4 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. 5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. 6 And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel." 7 So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the Lord commanded him. 8 Then all the people answered together and said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do."

Then further Exodus 24:3-8 (NKJV) explains how the old covenant was sealed with blood: “3 So Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words which the Lord has said we will do." 4 And Moses wrote all the words of the Lord. And he rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel. 5 Then he sent young men of the children of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the Lord. 6 And Moses took half the blood and put it in basins, and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar. 7 Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the Lord has said we will do, and be obedient." 8 And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, "This is the blood of the covenant which the Lord has made with you according to all these words."

God’s covenant with ancient Israel and their descendants prescribed blessings for obedience to God's commandments, statutes and judgments, but curses for disobedience.  These blessings and curses are stated in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28.

The blessings are stated this way in Leviticus 26:3-8: “3 If you walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them; 4 Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. 5 And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and you shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely. 6 And I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid: and I will rid evil beasts out of the land, neither shall the sword go through your land. 7 And you shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword. 8 And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight: and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword.”

Then the curses are stated in verses 14-20 onwards: “14 But if you will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments; 15 And if you shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that you will not do all my commandments, but that you break my covenant: 16 I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning ague [fever], that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart: and you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. 17 And I will set my face against you, and you shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and you shall flee when none pursues you. 18 And if you will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. 19 And I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass: 20 And your strength shall be spent in vain: for your land shall not yield her increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits.”

God has blessed America and British Commonwealth nations tremendously over the past 200 years according to His promises.  But they have violated most of His laws.  Now according to the terms of the covenant, God is going to punish them in order to correct them for disobedience to His laws.  God also gave His reasons to Jeremiah and the other prophets for punishing Israel.  Jeremiah 30:14-15 (NKJV): "All your lovers have forgotten you; they do not seek you; for I have wounded you with the wound of an enemy, with the chastisement of a cruel one [and which nation is more cruel than the Germans], for the multitude of your iniquities, because your sins have increased. Why do you cry about your affliction?  Your sorrow is incurable. Because of the multitude of your iniquities, because your sins have increased, I have done these things to you." Thus the cause for punishment of Israel at the hands of the cruel Germans will be Israelites sins.

**2) The European Alliance/Holy Roman Empire**

The military alliance that defeats the Israelite alliance will be headed by Germany, as Isaiah 10 makes clear.  Isaiah 10:5-8: "O Assyrian, the rod of mine anger; and the staff in their hand is mine indignation.  I will send him against a hypocritical nation, and against the people of My wrath I will give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.  Howbeit he means not so, neither does his heart think so; but it is in his heart to destroy and cut off nations not a few.  For he says, are not my princes altogether kings?"

Just as God used the Assyrians (whose modern day descendants are the Germans) to punish ancient Israel by defeating them militarily and carrying them away as captives from their lands, He will use them again to punish and correct modern Israel (USA and British Commonwealth nations.)  The Germans will defeat them militarily, carry them away and sell them as slaves to nations around the world.

Here Germany will not be acting alone.  It will have formed alliances with many other nations.  By this time the 'Holy Roman Empire' will have been resurrected in Europe.  This will be the 10th and final resurrection of the Roman Empire. After the original Roman Empire was destroyed in 476 A.D., it has already been resurrected 9 times.  These resurrections included those of the Vandals, the Heruli, the Ostrogoths, under Justinian (554 A.D.); Charlemagne (crowned 'Holy Roman Emperor' in 800 A.D.); Otto the Great (crowned in 962 A.D.); Hapsburg Dynasty (Charles V crowned in 1530 A.D.); Napoleon's Empire (1804-1814 A.D.); Italy and Germany, ending in the Hitler-Mussolini Axis (1870-1945 A.D.)  In the last six of these resurrections the popes of the Church of Rome (that calls itself the Roman Catholic Church) either crowned the emperors as 'Holy Roman Emperors' or gave them recognition as such.  The last and final revival is yet to take place.  This seventh resurrection of the 'Holy Roman Empire' which will most likely be headed by Germany will defeat the Israelite countries in war and sell their people around the world as slaves.

The original Roman Empire and its revivals were prophesied by Daniel, and in the book of Revelation.  Daniel 7:7-8 NKJV) describes the Roman Empire as the fourth beast: "After this I [Daniel] saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and exceedingly strong.  It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet.  It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.  I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots.  And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words."

In Daniel 7:23-25 the angel explains the fourth beast: "Thus he said: 'The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth...The ten horns are ten kings who shall arise from this kingdom.  And another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the first ones, and shall subdue three kings.  He shall speak pompous words against the Most High [God], shall persecute the saints of the Most High [God's true Church], and shall intend to change times and law."

The ten horns are ten resurrections of the Roman Empire after its collapse in 476 A.D.  But the first three resurrections did not have approval of the pope of the Church of Rome (he is the little horn on the beast's head), because they did not belong to the Catholic Church.  So he engineered their uprooting.  These three resurrections were the kingdoms of the Vandals, the Heruli (under Odoacer) and the kingdom of the Ostrogoths.  Thus the popes fulfilled the prophecy about the first three kings being plucked by their roots.  (The little horn will be discussed in greater detail later.)  After these first three resurrections of the Roman Empire, seven more were to come.  But now all of these came with the approval of the Church of Rome and its popes.  Most of the emperors were in fact crowned by the popes as 'Holy Roman Emperors'.  That is why these last seven resurrections were called the 'Holy Roman Empire', which was neither holy nor Roman.  It has largely been German in its ethnic and political base.

More details, specifically about the last seven resurrections, are provided in the book of Revelation.  The 'Holy Roman Empire’ is described as a beast in Revelation 13:1(NKJV) "Then I stood on the sand of the sea.  And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name."  These seven heads and ten horns are explained in Revelation 17:9-10, 12: "...The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman [in Bible prophecy woman is a symbol for a church] sits.  There are also seven kings...And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast."

So the seven heads of this beast represent the seven resurrections of the Roman Empire on which the woman [the Church of Rome] sits (This woman, described as a 'great whore' will be discussed in greater detail later.)  But the ten horns on the seventh head of this beast [differs in slight detail from the fourth beast of Daniel 7] represent ten kings or rulers who will be allied with the beast in the last resurrection of the 'Holy Roman Empire'.  This agrees with other prophecies in Daniel, such as the ten toes of the great image of king Nebuchadnezzar's dream.  This is the alliance that will finally defeat the Israelite alliance militarily and take its people captives as slaves.

For detailed explanations about the prophetic beasts in the books of Daniel and Revelation I would recommend reading *"The Beast of Revelation: Myth, Metaphor or Soon-Coming Reality?"* by John H. Ogwyn, available free from the Living Church of God, or can be read online or downloaded at www.lcg.org; and "Germany and the Holy Roman Empire", available free from the Philadelphia Church of God, which can be read online or downloaded at www.pcog.org.

The other alliance partners of the Germans are described in Psalm 83:1-8 (NKJV): "Do not keep silent, O God!  Do not hold your peace, and do not be still, O God!  For behold, Your enemies make a tumult; and those who hate You have lifted up their head.  They have taken a crafty counsel against Your people [Israel], and against your sheltered ones [God's Church, part of which will already have fled to a place of safety].  They have said, "Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, that the name of Israel may be remembered no more."  For they have consulted together with one consent; they form a confederacy against You; the tents of Edom [whose descendants are the Palestinians and most Turks] and the Ishmaelites [the Arabs]; Moab [southern parts of Jordan] and the Hagarites [Syrians and north Arabians], Gebal [Lebanon], Ammon [northern parts of Jordan] and Amalek [a branch of Edomite Palestinians], Philistia [the Gaza strip] with the inhabitants of Tyre [southern Lebanon, Hezbollah].  Assyria [Germany] also has joined with them; they have helped the children of Lot [Moab and Ammon in Jordan]."

We must be cautious here because the exact location of the descendants of these ancient peoples is uncertain.  In addition to the above indicated countries, these peoples may be spread over many other countries, but still generally in the region indicated.

This alliance includes practically the entire Arab world.  The psalm also mentions 'the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites'.  This means that the Turks and the Arabs will invite other Muslim countries and their citizens who would be willing to fight in their armies in the fight ['Jihad'] against the Israelites [USA, Britain, Canada, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and the state of Israel]. Occupation of Jerusalem will be one of their goals because of the Islamic 'holy places' as will be described later.

This does not preclude other nations from being allied with the Germans.  In fact, almost all nations of the world will be willing to buy Israelites as slaves from the Germans and their alliance partners.  As a result Israelites will be scattered in all directions as indicated by Isaiah 43:1,5-6 (NKJV): "But now, thus says the Lord who created you, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you;...Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, and gather you from the west; I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the South, 'Do not keep them back!"  Bring My sons from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth..."

There are also other indications that the nations of the world will be so cowed down by this final resurrection of the beast that they will acknowledge his authority over them.  Revelation 13:3-4, 7 (NKJV) states: "...And all the world marveled and followed the beast.  So they worshipped the dragon [Satan] who gave authority to the beast; and they worshipped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast?  Who is able to make war with him?"...Verse 7: "And it was granted to him to make war with the saints [members of the true Church of God] and to overcome them.  And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue and nation."

The German led alliance is also called the 'King of the North' in the end-time (Daniel 11:40).  This will be discussed later in proper time sequence.

**3) The Islamic/African Alliance**

The third alliance is basically an Islamic and African alliance, and its leader is called the 'King of the South' in Daniel 11:40.  It is quite possible that members of this alliance will initially be allied with the German led European alliance and will help bring down the American, British and Jewish alliance. Some members of this alliance are the same people mentioned in Psalm 83:2-8 discussed earlier minus the Assyrians (Germans).  These are the Edomites, Ishmaelites, Moab and the Hagarites; Gebal, Ammon and Amalek, Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre.

If not just before the defeat of the American, British and Jewish alliance, but certainly after the defeat this alliance will grow bigger and will include much of the Islamic world and black African nations. In prophecy Black Africa is mentioned under the names Cush and Ethiopia. Arab Africa in prophecy is mentioned under Egypt and sometimes including Libya. The indication that black Africa will be allied with the Islamic leader is provided in Daniel 11:42-43 which mentions the attack of the King of the North on the King of the South and the countries that the King of the North loots. Ethiopia is mentioned among them. The verses state: “42 He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape. 43 But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps.”

Further details about the defeat of the King of the South, Egypt and black Africa are provided in Ezekiel 30:1-5: “The word of the Lord came to me again, saying, son of man, prophesy and say, Thus says the Lord God; Wail, woe to the day! For the day is near, even the day of the Lord is near; it will be a day of clouds, the time of the Gentiles. The sword shall come upon Egypt, and great anguish shall be in Ethiopia, when the slain fall in Egypt, and they take away her wealth, and her foundations are broken down. Ethiopia, Libya, Lydia, all the mingled people, Chub, and the men of the lands who are allied, shall fall with them by the sword.”

This prophecy mentions the day of the Lord which we have identified as the last one year of the Great Tribulation. Hence this prophecy is about the defeat of the Islamic Alliance by the King of the North and includes Ethiopia, meaning black Africa.

Downfall of the Islamic/African alliance at the hands of the King of the North provides relief to the Israelite captives. This is indicated in Isaiah 43:1-6: “But now, thus says the Lord, who created you O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel…I gave Egypt for your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in your place. Since you were precious in My sight, you have been honored, and I have loved you; therefore I will give men for you, and people for your life. Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the East, and gather you from the west; I will say to the north, “give them up!”, and to the South, ‘Do not keep them back.” Bring My sons from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth.” These verses also show that black Africans will be part of the Islamic alliance.

Whether an actual military-religious Islamic leader will emerge to join with the European beast (the King of the North) before they attack the Israelite countries and defeat them is not clear.  But as the tribulation gets under way, a leader will certainly emerge to fulfill the role of the King of the South.  This will be discussed later in proper time sequence.

**4) The Eastern Alliance/Kings of the East**

At this time it is not necessary for the fourth alliance (Russia and its allies in the east) to be in place.  Certainly nations in the east will maintain political and diplomatic relations with one another.  When the time comes, they won't need much time to come together.  In fact, the Bible mentions that in about 13 months (Revelation 9:15-16: "So the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.  And the number of the army of horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand [or 200 million]...) this alliance will be ready to wage all-out war with the beast.  But more on this in proper time sequence.

A Note on Satan's and German Methods

Satan's most effective method for trying to destroy God's Church (also called spiritual Israel) and physical Israel is to get them to sin.  Israel is supposed to be God's model nation because God revealed His laws to them, and they made a covenant with Him to obey Him.  Satan knows the covenant prescribes punishment for Israel for disobeying God's laws.  For members of God's Church it means loss of salvation or eternal life if they disobey God's laws and do not sincerely repent.

Satan uses every method in his arsenal to get both spiritual and physical Israel to sin.  He uses deception, seduction, inducement and even threats for this purpose.  One of his most effective ways to use these methods is to infiltrate God's Church as well as Israelite countries with his agents.  Then his agents use any and all methods to get them to disobey God's laws and sin.  These sins can include sexual sins such as adultery, fornication and homosexuality; violation of any of the Ten Commandments; idolatry; widespread cheating, theft, dishonesty, lying, oppression, miscarriage of justice and the like.  Sin brings God's wrath and punishment.

When sin becomes widespread and ingrained in the national character and culture, and there is not much hope that the situation will turn around on its own, God brings punishment and correction on Israel.  In the extreme case this punishment takes the form of defeat in war and slavery.  It happened to ancient Israel and Judah.  It is prophesied to happen to both of them again in our time.

When the situation cannot be turned around, that is, Israel has reached the point of no return, God simply departs from His people (both physical and spiritual Israel). They no longer have protection from Him through His angels.  That gives Satan and his human agents an opportunity for easy victory.  That is why Satan works so assiduously to cause Israel and members of God's Church to sin.

There are many examples in the Bible that illustrate this.  The prime example is that of Balaam.  When ancient Israelites came out of Egyptian slavery and had begun to possess the land God had promised them, Balak the king of Moab was afraid of them.  So he called Balaam to come and curse Israel for him in return for a great reward and riches.  But God would not allow Balaam to curse Israel.  Instead Balaam ended up pronouncing blessings on Israel and went home.  But Balaam still highly coveted the riches Balak could give him.  So he hatched a scheme to bring God's wrath on Israel.  He advised the Moabites to offer sacrifices to their pagan gods and idols and invite the Israelites to the sacrifices.  They did so and the women of Moab and Midianites seduced the men of Israel to commit whoredom with them.  These were clearly violations of God's laws.  As a result God's anger was aroused against Israel.  God told the Israelites to kill everyone who had joined in those sacrifices.  As a result 24,000 died.  Moreover when an Israelite brought a Midianite woman in the camp, one of the priests went to their tent and thrust them both through with a javelin.  That is what finally turned God's anger away from Israel. This incident is described in Numbers 25:1-6.

Then there is the famous example of Samson.  Samson had been a Nazarite from his birth.  God had told his parents that he should never cut his hair [which is what a Nazarite vow is].  Samson obeyed.  He had incredible strength and easily defeated many of his enemies on several occasions.  But Delilah the Philistine seduced him to tell her where his great strength lay.  When she vexed him day by day to tell her the truth, he finally told her. When Samson was asleep on her knees, she cut off his hair.  The enemies of Israel, the Philistines were lying in wait.  When Samson awoke, Delilah said to him "The Philistines are upon you Samson!"  So he awoke from his sleep, and said, "I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!"  But he did not know that the Lord had departed from him.  Then the Philistines took him and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza.  They bound him with bronze fetters, and he became a grinder in the prison." (Judges 16:20-21 NKJV).  Thus when Samson sinned by disobeying God and allowing his hair to be cut, God departed from him and he became easy prey for the Philistines.

That is why Satan and his agents the Germans (through infiltrators) work relentlessly to cause physical and spiritual Israelites to sin.  Satan knows that God and His angels will depart from them, and they will become easy prey for his agents and their allies.

**5) The Catholic Church**

As we had read, the fifth seal was about religious persecution and martyrdom of the true saints of God during the great tribulation.  The martyrdom is conducted at the behest of the great false church.  Prophecies concerning this church are recorded in the books of Daniel and Revelation.  We had also discussed this religious player during our discussion of the first seal - religious deception.  This Church is described as a little horn in Daniel 7.  It is described as a beast in Revelation 13.  Revelation 17 also describes this church as a 'great whore'.  A woman is a symbol for Church in Bible prophecy.  Let us look at these prophecies.

Daniel 7:7-8 (NJKJV): "After this I saw in the night visions, and beheld, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong.  It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet.  It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.  I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots.  And there, in this horn, were eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words."

The angel gives the interpretation [the Bible interprets its own symbols, and the prophecies are not for any private interpretation] in Daniel 7:23-25: "...the fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all other kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces. The ten horns are ten kings who shall arise from this kingdom.  And another [the little horn or pope, who actually sits on a throne as king] shall arise after them; he shall be different from the first ones, and shall subdue three kings.  He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law[s].  Then the saints shall be given into his hand, for a time [one year], times [two years] and half-a-time [half a year]."

The fourth beast in this prophecy is the Roman Empire.  The ten horns are ten resurrections of the empire after it collapsed in 476 A.D.  The little horn is identified as the Church of Rome that calls itself the Roman Catholic [or Universal] Church.   The prophecy about the three horns that were uprooted by the little horn was fulfilled when the first three resurrections of the Roman Empire by the barbarian followers of Arianism - the kingdoms of the Vandals, the Heruli and the Ostrogoths - were destroyed at the urging of the pope.

The little horn was prophesied to speak pompous words and think to change times and laws.  This great church has taken to itself a pompous name: Catholic meaning 'Universal' Church.  The popes claim they are the Vicars of Christ, meaning in the place of Christ.  What pompous words!  They claim they have the authority to bind and loose (i.e. change) any laws on earth.  The truth is that this church or any human has no such authority to change God’s Law.  It is based on twisting of scriptures.  The popes sit on a throne like kings.

Here are some of the times and laws the Church of Rome has intended to change.  God's days begin and end at sunset, but this church has given the world days that begin and end at midnight; God's months begin with new moons, whereas the world's months begin and end according to a man-made calendar; God's calendar works on the basis of a 19-year time cycle whereas the calendar approved by Pope Gregory (hence called the Gregorian calendar which the whole world currently uses) works on a four-year cycle.  God's calendar begins the year in spring in the holy land.  But the calendar given to the world by the Catholic Church begins the New Year in the dead of winter.  This church has changed the Ten Commandments. It has changed the Sabbath day (from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset) to 'The Lord's Day', i.e. Sunday.  They have done away with God's holy days and foisted pagan days on Christianity such as Good Friday, Easter and Christmas.  The Bible does not even mention any of these days.  In one place (Acts 12:4) Easter is mentioned in the KJV which all scholars agree is a deliberate mistranslation of the word for 'Passover'.  This church has shed much blood of the true saints over the centuries. The Roman Catholic Church has certainly fulfilled all the prophecies in Daniel 7 concerning the little horn.

Revelation 13 calls this religious power a two-horned beast.  Revelation 13:11 (NKJV): "Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb [another name for Jesus Christ] and spoke like a dragon [another name for Satan - Revelation 12:9]."  This beast outwardly masquerades as Christian, seeking to be identified with Christ, but speaks like the devil.

In prophecy horns represent rulership or authority.  But why is this beast pictured with two horns?  The reason is that the Roman Catholic Church is both an ecclesiastical (religious) as well as a civilian government.  The pope is both a religious head as well as a civil head of state of the Vatican state.  He sits on a throne like a king.

Revelation 13:12 continues: "And he [the beast] exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast."  As explained earlier, this is a prophecy about the popes of the Church of Rome crowning the emperors of the Roman Empire as 'Holy Roman Emperors'.  The emperors were then worshipped as such by their subjects.  In turn the popes exercised the authority of the emperors to bring their subjects under the religious authority of the Church of Rome, often with much violence and bloodshed.

The Church of Rome is also described as a 'great whore' in Revelation 17:1-6, 15: "And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will show unto you the judgment of the great whore that sits upon many waters: 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.  So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.  And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: and upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.  And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration....Verse 15: "And he said unto me, the waters which you saw, where the whore sits, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations and tongues."

A woman is the symbol for a church.  This woman is called a whore in prophecy because it is s false Church.  The scarlet beast with the seven heads and ten horns which the woman rides is similar to the fourth beast of Daniel 7 and the beast  in Revelation 13, except that the seventh head of this beast has the ten horns, meaning that the seventh head will be made up of ten rulers or kings.  It is the last of the seven resurrections of the 'Holy Roman Empire'.  The source of the Church's religion is also identified as the ancient Babylonian Mystery Religion, masquerading around as the Christian religion.  It has brought all the pagan festivals of the Babylonian Mystery religion into Christianity by giving them Christian names and Christian 'significance'.  For example, Christmas is supposed to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ.  But Jesus was born nowhere near December 25th.  Nobody knows the exact birth date of Jesus Christ.  But all biblical evidence points to an autumn birth rather than a winter birth.  And Jesus never instructed His disciples to celebrate His birthday.  This Church has also abundantly shed the blood of the true saints of Jesus Christ through the centuries.

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong (HWA) had this to say about the origins of this false church in his book, "*The United States and Britain in Prophecy*" on page 174-175: "And where, today, are the ancient BABYLONIANS - the Chaldeans?  They migrated west and settled in ITALY.  Their religion was the Assyrian-Babylonian MYSTERY religion.  It is going to come as a breathtaking, awesome, shocking surprise when the world learns that one Simon [Magus, or magician mentioned in Acts 8], the sorcerer of Samaria in the time of the original apostles, leader of the BABYLONIAN MYSTERY religion having the title of PATER or PETER, meaning PAPA, actually appropriated the NAME of Christ and the Christian principle of GRACE, which he turned into LICENSE, doing away with God's LAW (Jude 4) and started what is today called "Christianity."  How astonished the world will be to discover that it is NOT, and never was the outgrowth of the CHURCH OF GOD, founded by Jesus Christ and His apostles!"

Remember, all these prophecies in the book of Revelation were given around 94 A.D. when this Church was not fully in existence, but was just beginning to form.  There is one and only one Church in history that fulfills all these prophecies perfectly - the Roman Catholic Church.  Like it has always done, it is prophesied to do much evil in the near future.

**The Other Religious Player during the Great Tribulation**

In contrast to the 'great whore', there is another Church on the world scene, also called a woman, a virgin.  It is a 'small flock'.  It will probably never number a million in our age.  It will be doing God's work of preaching the gospel to all the world, as a witness (or warning) to all nations, and prophesying about many peoples, nations, tongues and kings.

This true Church of God is promised protection during the Great Tribulation. Revelation 3:10 (NKJV): "Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth."  But this protection is promised only to those who are persevering in diligently doing God's work, and endure in the faith to the end, even if their lives are threatened with the worst possible tortures and death.

But some members will not have their full hearts in doing God's work and obeying His commandments.  They will go through the Great Tribulation and will be persecuted by the false Church and the beast as pointed out in Daniel 7:25 (NKJV) ("...Then the saints shall be given into his [the little horn or the pope] hand for a time and times and half a time [three-and-a-half years]."  Also Daniel 12:7: "...that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time; and when the power of the holy people [God's Church] has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished."  The beast of Revelation 13 also makes war with the saints: "And it was granted to him [the beast] to make war with the saints and to overcome them..."  And of course, the prophecy concerning the great whore in Revelation 17:6 also shows her persecuting members of God's true Church: "And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus..."

These two women (the false Church and the true Church) can be contrasted in another important way.  The false Church forces the world to accept and follow its religion.  It sheds the blood of those that don't, when it can use the power of rulers. It is going to do precisely that in the very near future.  God's true Church on the other hand does not go out to make disciples because it knows that God calls people into His Church.  The true Church just preaches the gospel.  God opens the minds of those whom He is calling to understand the gospel message.  They then make contact with the true Church, and study its doctrines and beliefs.  When they are convinced that this is the truth, they ask to be baptized and join the Church.  The true Church never forces or pressures anyone to become members.

The relationship between a whore and her paramour is an unstable relationship and is not based on the woman’s obedience to the man. The relationship between the bride [the true Church] and her groom [Jesus Christ] is based on total obedience, and will be an everlasting relationship.

The author of this booklet is a member of the true Church of God.

Now that we have identified all the main players, we are ready to consider the events leading to the great tribulation and during the great tribulation.

**CHAPTER 5**

**MILITARY DEFEAT OF THE ISRAELITE ALLIANCE**

**Beginning of the Great Tribulation**

Let us recap the events that are prophesied to happen up to this stage.  The rider of the white horse (false religion) was prophesied to work his deception first.  This has already been fulfilled, though he will continue 'to conquer' right till the return of Jesus Christ.  There is no longer any delay in the fulfillment of the next event which is a true world war (the red horse).  There will be massive famines (the black horse) as a result of this war, followed by plagues (the pale horse) or disease epidemics.  As a result of these events one fourth of the world's population will be destroyed.

The next event will be the three-and-a-half year long great tribulation.  The great tribulation begins with the military defeat of the Israelite Alliance (USA, Britain and the state of Israel), taking their populations captive and selling them as slaves around the world.  The alliance that accomplishes this is the German led European alliance in which ten rulers will have joined and given their power to the military leader (called the beast, and the king of the North).  It is also possible that certain nations will have joined with the German dictator and he appoints the ten rulers after the defeat of the Israelite alliance. The Islamic alliance is also joined with the beast in a confederacy to utterly destroy the Israelite alliance so 'that the name of Israel may be remembered no more' (Psalm 83:4).

It is possible that one religious-military leader may already have emerged at this stage to lead the Islamic alliance (called the king of the South).  But this is not necessary.  A leader could emerge during the great tribulation later to 'push at' the king of the North.  It is also likely that many other nations are joined with the beast in order to destroy Israel.  They have either been cowed down by the beast's military power, or see incredible gain in looting the Israelite countries and are voluntarily in agreement with the beast's plans for the Israelite alliance.

The false prophet [the pope] will also have rallied many peoples to the beast with his miracles after the great world war, as prophesied in Revelation 13:12-14 (NKJV): "And he - the beast with the two horns [the pope] - exercises all the authority of the first beast [the 'Holy Roman Emperor' or the 'King of the North'] in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast...He [the pope] performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,  And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do [by Satan's power] in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast..."

Some additional details about this war are provided by other prophets.  This war will last only a month, as prophesied in Hosea 5:5, 7: "And the pride of Israel doth testify to his face: therefore shall Israel and Ephraim [Britain] fall in their iniquity; Judah [the modern Jewish state of Israel] also shall fall with them...Verse 7: "They have dealt treacherously against the Lord: for they have begotten strange children: now shall a month [the duration of the war] devour them with their portions."

The thirty day duration of the war is also indicated by Daniel 12:11: "And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination that makes desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days."  We know that the great tribulation will be of 1,260 days duration.  The additional 30 days mentioned in Daniel here signify that before they [the False Prophet and the Beast] begin the war with Israel, they will set up an altar in Jerusalem to sacrifice [the abomination of desolation] in order to 'invoke blessings' on their efforts, and then go to war. In 30 days they will be completely victorious and then the 1,260 days tribulation will begin, making a total of 1,290 days.

Ezekiel 5:1-2 provides additional details about this war and what follows soon after: "And thou son of man, take thee a sharp knife, take thee a barber's razor, and cause it to pass upon thy head and upon thy beard: then take thee balances to weigh, and divide the hair.  Thou shalt burn with fire a third part in the midst of the city, when the days of the siege are fulfilled: and thou shalt take a third part, and smite about it with a knife; and a third part thou shalt scatter in the wind; and I will draw out a sword after them."

This prophecy indicates that the Israelite countries (USA, Britain, Canada, white South Africa, Australia and New Zealand) are first going to be besieged (most likely an economic siege, perhaps for a period of about 390 days as indicated by Ezekiel 4:5). After the siege there will likely be a pre-emptive nuclear strike on the major cities.  One third of the population of these countries will die in this attack, i.e. burnt with fire.  Then the beast's (or the king of the North in alliance with Muslim forces along with others) forces are going to enter the countries and attack the remaining population.  But one-third of the population will surrender or be easily captured.  The remaining one-third will resist and the beast's forces will go after them and kill nearly all of them.  One-third that surrender or are captured are then sold around the world as slaves.  They go through such a horrible slavery that only about one tenth of those who go into captivity will survive, and only because Jesus Christ returns and rescues them.

An interesting part of this prophecy is that after the beast destroys the major cities in a nuclear pre-emptive strike killing one third of the population, the remaining population though called to prepare for war, refuses to go to war with the beast, as indicated in Ezekiel 7:14: "They have blown the trumpet, even to make ready; but none goes to battle.”  The reason perhaps is that the war infrastructure has already been destroyed.  Going to war with small arms would be futile.  And perhaps opinion would also be divided (government gridlock), with some advocating surrender and others resisting.  Perhaps the military situation has become so much in the beast's favor because Satan gives them special help in developing new and more deadly weapons, that the Israelite alliance realizes it is futile to resist. Yet another possibility is that military and communications systems would be electronically hacked so that the signal to go to war would not be transmitted.

The following prophecies indicate that the numbers who actually survive is one-tenth of the population.  Amos 5:1, 3 (NKJV): "Hear this word which I take up against you, this lamentation, O house of Israel...For thus says the Lord God: The city that goes out by a thousand shall have a hundred left, and that which goes out by a hundred shall have ten left to the House of Israel."  The prophecy here talks about the house of Israel.  That means the USA, Britain, Canada, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand.  Also Isaiah 6:12-13 (NKJV) prophesies the same thing, but about the Jews in the holy land: "The Lord has removed men far away, and the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land.  But yet a tenth will be in it, and will return and be for consuming."  This prophecy indicates that though a tenth will survive, some will die later because they are still rebellious against God. That is why some of the tenth who return are consumed.  This is also mentioned in Ezekiel 20:38 (NKJV): "I will purge the rebels from among you, and those who transgress against Me; I will bring them out of the country where they sojourn, but they shall not enter the land of Israel.  Then they will know that I am the Lord."

This means that only about 3.33% of the true Israelite population in America, British Commonwealth nations and the State of Israel (excluding the German masqueraders and people of other races in the countries) will come out alive through the Great Tribulation. Roughly, the number that ultimately survives may be between 5-8 million people.

We saw in Hosea 5:5 that Israel and Judah will fall together.  But how Judah falls will be slightly different from the way Israel falls.  How Judah falls is first indicated by Zechariah 13:8-9 (NKJV): "And it shall come to pass in all the land (the land here refers to the holy land, the modern state of Israel, as Zechariah was discussing the holy land here) says the Lord, that two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, but one-third shall be left in it: I will bring the one-third through the fire, will refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested."

Further details are perhaps provided in Ezekiel 5:12 (NKJV) (as Ezekiel was discussing the holy land here in verse 5: "Thus says the Lord God: 'This is Jerusalem..."):"One-third of you shall die of the pestilence, and be consumed with famine in your midst; and one-third shall fall by the sword all around you; and I will scatter another third to all the winds, and I will draw out a sword after them."

This prophecy was given to Ezekiel before Jerusalem was destroyed by king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon.  So this prophecy could have been fulfilled twice before: once during Jerusalem's fall to Babylon, and secondly during Jerusalem's fall in 70 A.D. at the hands of Romans.  But prophecy is often dual, with a former fulfillment and a latter fulfillment in the end-time.  We know that Judah is going to fall along with Israel (Hosea 5:5).  Perhaps again Judah's fall will occur in the same way as the earlier two defeats at the hands of Nebuchadnezzar and the Romans under Titus.  And it is possible that Judah may be militarily besieged 40 days longer than Israel (Ezekiel 4:1-2, 4-6: "You also, son of man, take a clay tablet and lay it before you, and portray on it a city, Jerusalem.  Lay siege against it, build a siege wall against, and heap up a mound against it; set camps against it also, and place battering rams against it all around...Lie also on your left side...For I have laid on you the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, three hundred and ninety days; so you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Israel.  And when you have completed them, lie again on your right side; then you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days.  I have laid on you a day for each year."

Thus one third of the population of the state of Israel dies in famine and disease epidemics [the pope and the Islamic leaders certainly won't want nuclear weapons destroying the holy land which they intend to occupy]; one third die in the war and one-third are taken captives, removed from the state of Israel and sold as slaves, mainly to the Greeks.  The Gentiles (Edomites, Arabs, the pope and those with him) then divide the land among themselves.  The fact that they are carried captives is prophesied in Joel 3:1-3, 6 (NKJV): "For behold, in those days and at that time, when I bring back My captives of Judah and Jerusalem, I will also gather all nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; and I will enter into judgment with them there on account of My people, My heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations; they have also divided up My land (the holy land).  They have cast lots for My people, have given a boy in exchange for a harlot, and sold a girl for wine, that they may drink...Also the people of Judah and the people of Jerusalem you have sold to the Greeks, that you may remove them far from their borders."

Verse 2 above indicates that foreigners will divide up God's land.  Obadiah 11 indicates that Edomites [whose descendants are many Turks and other nations in Central Asia, and Palestinians] will be among those who cast lots for Jerusalem: "In that day you (Edom) stood on the other side - in the day that strangers carried captive his forces, when foreigners entered his gates and cast lots for Jerusalem - even you were among them."

Just before the tribulation begins, the leader of the false church, the pope will have moved to Jerusalem and before the war will have set up the 'abomination of desolation', probably an altar or an actual idol.  The pope will then make Jerusalem his headquarters for the entire forty-two month duration of the Great Tribulation.  But with him, the leader of the Islamic world will also set up his headquarters in Jerusalem, because he also has claims to Jerusalem because of Islamic holy places.  This is indicated by the following prophecies:

Revelation 11:1-2 (NKJV)"...Rise and measure the temple of God...But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles [non-Israelites].  And they will tread the holy city under foot for forty-two months".  And as we had learnt from Obadiah 11, the Edomites [who are nearly all Muslims] will also be among those who cast lots to divide up Jerusalem and the entire holy land.

We also know from Daniel 11:41, 45 ("He [the King of the North] shall enter also into the glorious land...And he shall plant the tabernacle of his palace between the seas [the Mediterranean and the Dead seas] in the glorious holy mountain") that the King of the North captures Jerusalem at the time he subdues the King of the South [which will be described in its proper time sequence].  The war between the King of the North and the King of the South takes place about two-and-a-half years after the beginning of the Great Tribulation.  In this war the King of the North wins and removes all the Islamic population from Jerusalem [perhaps from the entire holy land].  So the King of the North enters Jerusalem about two-and-a-half years after the pope has already been there, and also sets up his regional headquarters there.

In summary then, two-thirds of the population of the U.S.A. and British Commonwealth nations, as well as the Jews in the Holy Land is killed and one-third carried captive with only one tenth of that number surviving to return to the Holy Land. Even some of the rebels among them die on the way and do not make it to the Holy Land.

**CHAPTER 6**

**FIRST TWO-AND-A-HALF YEARS OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION**

We have now reached the stage in prophetic sequence of events when the beast has defeated the Israelite alliance militarily and taken the populationcaptive, and sold them as slaves; the Jews to the Greeks and the Israelites all around the world.  Events for the next two years are all about how the captive Israelites are going to be treated around the world.

But there is another group of Israelites that Satan and the beast will not have forgotten.  Jacob (or Israel) had 12 sons.  His son Joseph had 2 sons: Ephraim and Manasseh.  Since Israel named his name on them, they were individually counted as one of the tribes of Israel.  Their descendants live in the USA and British Commonwealth nations.  Jews are descendants of the tribe of Judah, and some from the tribes of Benjamin and Levi.  But descendants of the other tribes of Israel are mentioned in prophecy as the 'House of Israel'.  That is what they were called when the northern ten tribes split from the kingdom of Judah. Prophecy about them is given in Ezekiel 5:1-4: "And you, son of man, take a sharp knife, take a barber's razor, and cause it to pass upon your head and upon your beard: then take balances to weigh, and divide the hair.  You shall burn with fire a third part in the midst of the city, when the days of the siege are fulfilled: and you shall take a third part, and smite about it with a knife: and a third part you shall scatter in the wind; and I will draw out a sword after them.  You shall also take thereof a few in number, and bind them in your skirts.  Then take of them again, and cast them into the midst of the fire, and burn them in the fire: *for thereof shall a fire come forth into all the house of Israel*."

The last part of verse 4 mentions 'all the House of Israel'.  So this applies to the rest of the Israelite tribes whose descendants live in France, Switzerland, Ireland, the Scandinavian countries (Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Iceland and Finland) and Benelux countries (Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg).  God says that fire will go out to these descendants of Israel.  What causes this fire to go out is described in verse 3.  Here Ezekiel was asked to take some of the hair of his head and beard and bind them in his skirts indicating some of the Israelites will be protected when the beast defeats them.  Then God says take some of those that are protected and throw them in the fire to burn them.  This is a dual prophecy: it applies to the physical Israelites as well as spiritual Israelites (God's true Church).

Concerning God's Church, this prophecy indicates that members of God's Church will be protected, but not all of them.  Those that are lukewarm will be thrown into the fire of the Great Tribulation and ‘burned.’  Some of these lukewarm members will be in the Israelite countries of the House of Israel (France, Scandinavian, Benelux, Ireland and Switzerland) excluding USA and Britain.  The beast and the false prophet (the pope) will ask these countries to give up these members of God's Church.  That is what will cause the fire to go out into these countries.

In addition, a few of the Israelites (USA, Britain and the Jews) may escape to these countries (those that were symbolically bound in Ezekiel's skirts) when the beast alliance attacks them.  The beast will ask them to give up these few Israelites along with members of God's true Church, but they will likely refuse.  That will most likely be the cause that the beast and the false prophet target them, thus fulfilling the prophecy in Ezekiel 5:4 that a fire will come forth into all the House of Israel.

We know from Psalm 83 that the Edomites (Most of the Turks, some central Asian nations, mixed among some Middle Eastern nations, and the Palestinians are descendants of Edom.  It is not known exactly where all of Edom's descendants could be.  In addition to these countries, some could also be scattered in Jordan, Iraq, Syria, central Asia and even Italy) and the Arabs in confederacy with the beast will treat the Israelites worse than anybody else. They will do this at the instigation of the beast.  But the treatment by the Edomites is the worst of all as described in Obadiah 8-14, "Shall I not in that day, says the Lord, even destroy the wise men out of Edom, and understanding out of the mount of Esau?  And your mighty men, O Teman (Ottoman Turks), shall be dismayed, to the end that every one of the mount of Esau may be cut off by slaughter.  For your violence against your brother Jacob shame shall cover you, and you shall be cut off for ever.  In the day that you stood on the other side, in the day that strangers carried away captive his forces, and foreigners entered into his gates, and cast lots upon Jerusalem, even you were as one of them.  But you should not have looked on the day of your brother in the day that he became a stranger; neither should you have rejoiced over the children of Judah (the Jews) in the day of their destruction; neither should you have spoken proudly in the day of distress. You should not have entered into the gate of My people in the day of their calamity; yea, you should not have looked on their affliction in the day of their calamity, nor have laid hands on their substance in the day of their calamity; neither should you have stood in the crossway, to cut off those of his that did escape; neither should you have delivered up those of his that did remain in the day of distress."

The Germans don't do most of the dirtiest work themselves.  They force or inveigle others to do it for them.  The Edomites will only be too glad to do this for them.  And as verse 10 indicates, Edom's violence is against his brother Jacob.  Verses 17 and 18 mention the 'House of Jacob' meaning all the tribes of Israel.  So it will be the Edomites along with the Arabs who will carry out most of the violence against the house of Jacob and Judah.

Tying Obadiah 8-14 with Ezekiel 5:3-4 gives us a clearer picture.  When the Israelite countries (excluding USA-Britain) offer protection to those of God's Church and of USA-Britain and the Jews that have fled to them, the wrath of the beast, the false prophet and their alliance partners the Edomites and Arabs is aroused.  They ask these countries to give them up.  But they refuse.  This is the cause of the fire that then goes into “all the house of Israel”.  The Germans will most likely not do this dirty work themselves.  They are tied in with the Israelite countries through the European Union.  But they will give the Edomites and the Arabs the means (weapons) to do this dirty work for them and Satan.  So war will engulf the entire house of Israel.  This war is also described in Ezekiel 6:11-12: "Alas, for all the evil abominations of the house of Israel!  [Remember the 'house of Israel' refers to all ten tribes, which along with USA, Britain, include France, Switzerland, Ireland, Benelux and Scandinavian countries].  For they shall fall by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence.  He who is far off shall die by the pestilence, he who is near shall fall by the sword, and he who remains and is besieged shall die by the famine.  Thus will I spend My fury upon them.”

Ultimately only about a tenth of this part of the house of Israel (excluding America, British Commonwealth nations and the State of Israel) will survive the Great Tribulation as we have seen earlier.

**Terrible Conditions during Slavery**

The treatment of the Israelite slaves and members of God’s Church by the nations will fulfill the prophecy in Matthew 24:9-12 (NKJV): “9 Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and *you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake*. 10 And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. 11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. 12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.”

While this prophecy applies mainly to God’s Church, it is dual and applies also to Israelite nations. The reason is that the drive for hatred of God’s Church and Israelite nations is led by Satan. The Israelite nations of America and British Commonwealth nations are the most blessed ever in the history of mankind. Even though their economy may not be doing so well right now, they still possess some of the choicest agricultural and natural resources on earth which can last them for centuries. No other nations have this luxury. Envy thus will drive hatred of Israelite nations by other nations of the world.

The author knows the feeling very well personally. He lived the first 30 years of his life in India and thought himself to be a non-Israelite and experienced the feelings of envy for America and British Commonwealth nations. He knows how other nations feel towards the American, British and Jewish peoples. Just as individuals feel envy for the rich and seemingly happy, they feel envy for rich nations and their citizens.

In this end time the envy and hatred for Israelite nations will be intensified due to Satan’s anger, and because God will give Satan a slightly freer hand in world affairs. The reason for his anger is explained in Revelation 12:7-17:

“7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. 9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him…12 Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time. 13 Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman [symbol for a Church; in this case God’s true Church] who gave birth to the male Child. 14 But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place [the place of safety], where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. 15 So the serpent spewed water [symbol for an army] out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. 16 But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. 17 And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring [members of God’s Church that are left in the world to face the Great Tribulation], who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

When the beast defeats the American, British and Jewish Alliance and the tribulation begins, Satan knows that his remaining days as ruler on earth are numbered to only about 1,260 more days. So he and the demons storm heaven to attack God’s throne to try to wrest control of the universe from Him one more time. But they will be defeated and cast back to earth. Satan is then full of wrath. His first target to vent his wrath is God’s Church because only its members keep all of God’s commandments on earth, and totally reject everything that Satan stands for, his religion and way of life.

He first sends an army after the part of the Church that fled to a place of safety only a few days or a month or so ago. But the earth opens up and swallows that army alive. This enrages Satan even more and he now directs his anger at the Church remnant that is still left in the world.

Verse 12 says “woe to the inhabitants of the earth and sea…” This means that Satan’s anger will also be directed at all of humanity. He wants to destroy all of humanity. He will try to accomplish that by first trying to have Israelite slaves destroyed. Then he will set one alliance against another to destroy one another. Therefore as the tribulation begins he and the demons will influence all those who hold the Americans, the British and the Jews captive to hate them. People can do horrible things to other people when overcome by hatred, particularly Satan influenced hatred. We use the term demonic to describe particularly heinous acts. What the Germans did in World War 2 will be nothing compared to what Satan will influence the captors to do to their slaves. That is why Jesus Christ describes this time of trouble in Matthew 24: 21-22 in these terms: “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. 22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved…”

The only ones undergoing this worst time of trouble ever for the first two and a half years of the Tribulation are members of God’s Church and the American, British and Jewish slaves. Beyond envy, Satan and the demons will directly influence the intensity and savagery of the hatred.

Satan will succeed in inculcating hatred for the slaves through deception. He will lead the world to believe that they are doing God a service in destroying the slaves. Jesus Christ foretold this in John 16:2 (NIV): “2 They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God.”

This will obviously be religious deception. As mentioned earlier, this will be the culmination of the deception by the rider of the white horse of the first seal. Jesus also prophesied of this deception in Matthew 24: “4 And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many…11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many…15 "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), 16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains…24 For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.”

These verses indicate that the greatest part of the deception will be perpetrated by people coming in the name of Christ, meaning claiming to be Christians and deceiving many. These will be miracle working false prophets, showing great signs and wonders. The deception will be so cunning and crafty that even members of God’s Church could be deceived if they have not paid heed to these prophecies and have been watching events. If even members of God’s Church could possibly be deceived, then the rest of the world will definitely be deceived by the miracles, signs and wonders shown by the false prophet.

The miracle working false prophet has already been identified earlier as the great false prophet, the pope of the Roman Church. The signs and wonders he will perform are mentioned in Revelation 13:13-15: “13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. 14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. 15 He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.”

Can you imagine the impact this will have on human beings when the pope causes fire to come down from heaven to burn something up? It will scare the living day lights out of people, as well as awe them. They will honor this false prophet and accept his false claims that he is in place of God. The false prophet making such claims is prophesied in 1 Thessalonians 2:3-4: “3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.”

Today when due to some natural phenomena images that look like those of Jesus or Mary, as commonly depicted in art or statues, appear in glass windows, tens of thousands flock to see them in the USA. In India when people hear that a so-called guru can seemingly make some edible substance appear out of thin air, millions flock to see him. Can you imagine the impact a real miracle working false prophet would have on the entire world, aided by behind the scenes influence of Satan and hundreds of millions of demons? Even today the current pope draws crowds hundreds of thousands or even more than a million strong. How mesmerized the world, particularly Europe and Latin America will become when he actually starts working miracles on a regular basis. This false prophet will claim himself to be God and the world will believe him. Revelation 13:14 says, “…he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast…” When he says that Israelites and members of God’s Church should be killed because they worship ‘a false god,’ people in nearly all nations will believe him and obey him.

The religious deception will be so total that even Israelite nations of Europe other than the British (France, Switzerland, Benelux and Scandinavian countries) will be carried away with the deception and will likely hate the British and American peoples. But as stated earlier, the prophecy in Ezekiel 5:4 indicates that these countries will not give up their British and American brothers who find shelter among them to be murdered by the beast and the false prophet, even though they hate them and think they are deceived.

The false prophet could pull a ruse such as saying that the worshippers of ‘the false god’ should be destroyed to protect their immortal soul from further harm, or be killed because they will not fully submit to his kingdom, which he will claim to be the “kingdom of God.”

This will be a conspiracy to wipe out the name of Israel (both physical and spiritual Israel) from the face of the earth. Read it in Psalm 83:1-8: “1 Do not keep silent, O God! Do not hold Your peace, and do not be still, O God! 2 For behold, Your enemies make a tumult; and those who hate You have lifted up their head. 3 They have taken crafty counsel against Your people [physical Israel, or America, British Commonwealth nations and the Jewish state of Israel, and later even the democracies of northwestern Europe], and consulted together against Your sheltered ones [God’s true Church]. 4 They have said, "Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation [God’s Church is also a nation (1 Peter 2:9)], that the name of Israel may be remembered no more." 5 For they have consulted together with one consent; They form a confederacy against You: 6 The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites; Moab and the Hagrites; 7 Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek; Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre; 8 Assyria [Germany] also has joined with them; They have helped the children of Lot.”

This prophecy shows that when Germans get control of much of the world through their European alliance and resurrect the ‘Holy Roman Empire’ in league with the pope for the seventh and last time, their goal will be to wipe out the name of physical and spiritual Israel. All of Europe, Latin America and the Catholic world will have been swayed by the miracles of the pope. They will accept the order from the beast and the false prophet to destroy both physical and spiritual Israel thinking they are doing God a service. They will be allied with the Islamists according to this conspiracy in the prophecy.

When we consider these prophecies, much of Europe will be in alliance with the Germans; all of Latin America and the Catholic world will be allied with them because they will have been deceived and energized by the miracles of the pope into hating America and the British peoples; Islam will be allied with the Germans according to psalm 83. China already hates America and is allied with the Germans. South and western India has had a long standing alliance with the Germans. Then Matthew 24:24 states: “24 For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.” This indicates that the false prophet with his signs and wonders will be able to deceive the rest of the world also to cause them to hate the Americans, the British and the Jews.

Other people who may even have the slightest idea of staying neutral will be cowed down by fear to side with the Beast. As Revelation 13:15 states, the false prophet will “…cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.” Virtually all people will give in to these threats because of the unrivaled military power of the Beast. This is prophesied in Revelation 13:3-8 (NKJV): “3…And all the world marveled and followed the beast. 4 So they worshiped the dragon [Satan] who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "WHO IS LIKE THE BEAST? WHO IS ABLE TO MAKE WAR WITH HIM?"… 7 And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue [language], and nation. 8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Behind the scenes, Satan and the demons will be working up hatred in the minds of people in the world for the Americans, the British and the Jews. We have all heard words such as demonic, fiendish, devilish and frenzied. Such will be the type of hatred Satan and the demons will whip up against the American, British and Jewish peoples. There could be multiple pretexts such as using too much resources of the world per capita, having occupied the land and resources that belonged to others, so everybody has an equal right to take the land and resources from them. Raw envy will also fuel the hatred. Only deep demonic hatred can drive all nations to inflict cruelty and murder 90% of the total population of America, British Commonwealth nations and Israel that they enslave with the goal of wiping off the name of Israel from the face of the earth by murdering all the slaves. But Jesus Christ will intervene to rescue them and prevent that from happening.

The author has learnt very well how Satan and the demons work to deceive people into hating others. His thoughts are being broadcast by Satan and the demons 24 hours a day. But Satan and the demons are liars. Satan is called the father of lies. Many times they actually broadcast lies, palming them off as the author’s thoughts. Sometimes they inject thoughts into his mind that would hurt and harm the most and part the best of friends and closest of family members and simultaneously broadcast them as his thoughts, which in reality are not his thoughts. They describe such thoughts in words that would drive people to hate an individual. By broadcasting such lies in his name, they have probably made him one of the most hated individuals in the world. Using these methods they try to paint him as a buffoon, an idiot, or a misanthrope, a misogynist, or one who is envious of everyone and has ill will towards everyone and wants people dead. By injecting thoughts and ideas into unwary peoples’ minds, they will be easily able to whip up hatred for the American, British and Jewish slaves as well as members of God’s Church to influence nations to commit horrible atrocities and murders against them.

America, British Commonwealth nations and the state of Israel will be abandoned by nations that they were friends with or will try to seek friendship with. The Bible calls the process “hiring lovers.” There are many prophecies that describe Israelites’ destruction at the hands of these lovers and their allies.

Ancient Israel had entered into a marriage covenant [agreement] with God. But they had disobeyed that covenant by forsaking God and following after other gods which were mere idols. Those false gods, and relationships with the people that worshipped those gods were called Israel’s ‘lovers.” Jeremiah says in Jeremiah 3:14: “14 Turn, O backsliding children, says the LORD; for I am married unto you…”

Jeremiah 4:30 described the result of forsaking God’s ways (NKJV): “30 "And when you are plundered, what will you do? Though you clothe yourself with crimson, though you adorn yourself with ornaments of gold, though you enlarge your eyes with paint, In vain you will make yourself fair; your lovers will despise you; they will seek your life.”

Jeremiah 30:14 (NKJV): “14 All your [Israel’s] lovers have forgotten you; they do not seek you; for I have wounded you with the wound of an enemy, with the chastisement of a cruel one [Germany], for the multitude of your iniquities, because your sins have increased.

Lamentations 1:1-2, 18-19 (KJV): “1 How does the city sit solitary, that was full of people! how is she become as a widow! she that was great among the nations, and princess among the provinces, how is she become tributary! 2 She weeps sore in the night, and her tears are on her cheeks: among all her lovers she has none to comfort her: all her friends have dealt treacherously with her, they are become her enemies…(NKJV) 18 "The Lord is righteous, for I rebelled against His commandment. Hear now, all peoples, and behold my sorrow; my virgins and my young men have gone into captivity. 19 "I called for my lovers, but they deceived me; my priests and my elders breathed their last in the city, while they sought food to restore their life.”

Hosea 8:8-9: “8 Israel is swallowed up: now shall they be among the Gentiles [non-Israelite nations] as a vessel wherein is no pleasure. 9 For they are gone up to Assyria [Germany], a wild ass alone by himself: Ephraim [Britain] has hired lovers.”

These prophets tell us specifically that Israel [America and Britain] seeks friendship with Gentile, or non-Israelite nations, particularly Germany, but they will betray her, deal treacherously with her, despise her and seek her life. God says in Jeremiah 30:14 that He is the one who is actually wounding Israelites with the chastisement of the cruelest people on earth, the Germans, for their sins.

Ezekiel the prophet gives a further graphic description of what God thinks of Israel. He writes in Ezekiel 16: 1, 36-42 (NKJV): 1 Again the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 2 "Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations… 36 Thus says the Lord God: "Because your filthiness was poured out and your nakedness uncovered in your harlotry with your lovers [meaning following the religious practices of other nations], and with all your abominable idols, and because of the blood of your children which you gave to them, 37 surely, therefore, I will gather all your lovers with whom you took pleasure, all those you loved, and all those you hated; I will gather them from all around against you and will uncover your nakedness to them, that they may see all your nakedness. 38 And I will judge you as women who break wedlock or shed blood are judged; I will bring blood upon you in fury and jealousy. 39 I will also give you into their hand, and they shall throw down your shrines and break down your high places. They shall also strip you of your clothes, take your beautiful jewelry, and leave you naked and bare. 40 They shall also bring up an assembly against you, and they shall stone you with stones and thrust you through with their swords. 41 They shall burn your houses with fire, and execute judgments on you in the sight of many women; and I will make you cease playing the harlot, and you shall no longer hire lovers. 42 So I will lay to rest My fury toward you, and My jealousy shall depart from you. I will be quiet, and be angry no more.”

Clearly punishment on America, British Commonwealth nations and Israel will be the result of God’s anger against them for violating His laws. God will simply withdraw His protection from them and Satan in his hatred for physical and spiritual Israel will do the rest.

Isaiah 10:5-6 shows that God is the one using the Germans, the modern descendants of the ancient Assyrians to punish Israelite nations: “5 O Assyrian, the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation. 6 I will send him against an hypocritical nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.”

What will slavery be like for the Americans, the British and the Jews? The brutal treatment of slaves will be borne of deep hatred resulting from envy and seeing them suffer. Today we think of slavery as a relic of a bygone era such as Egypt of 15th century B.C., the ancient Roman Empire or 19th century American South. But according to the international organization Free the Slaves, Inc. web site, the organization’s conservative estimates are that there are 27 million people in slavery today. There are more people in slavery today than at any other time in human history. These slaves generate about $35 billion in revenues annually for their masters. But when the American, British and Jewish people are enslaved, their population alone in slavery could range from 90 – 100 million. This will be the largest number of people in slavery than at any other time in human history. And it could be a $100-150 billion revenue generator annually.

According to the Free the Slaves web site, an average slave in the American South in 1850 cost the equivalent of $40,000 in today’s money; today a slave costs an average of $90. When 90-100 million people are available as slaves, the price of a slave will plummet. That is precisely what the Bible prophesies in Joel 3:1-3: “1 For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, 2 I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land. 3 And they have cast lots for my people; and have given a boy for an harlot, and sold a girl for wine, that they might drink.”

Joel the prophet here says that the victors will pick slaves by lot, sell a boy slave for a night with a harlot and sell a girl for some drinks of wine. Abundant supply of slaves will make this possible. Thus the lives of slaves will be cheap. But slavery itself will be big business in terms of the revenue generated.

According to Free the Slaves, as in the past, most slaves today are forced to work in agriculture, mining, and prostitution. From these sectors, their exploited labor flows into the global economy, and into our lives. Quite likely the American, British and Jewish slaves will be engaged in similar back breaking work, with many being just discarded and abandoned to die out of spite as they get exhausted, or when it costs more to feed the slaves to keep them alive than the revenue they generate. That is why 90% of the slave population will die before the remnant is rescued by Jesus Christ with a strong hand.

While the beast and his alliance partners will be busy working their slaves to death, killing them with hunger and thirst, and with the 'sword', they will also be engaged in hunting and mopping up operations against those of the Israelite alliance that escaped capture.  While all this is going on, the two witnesses (Revelation 11) will be warning the world and preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God.  They will also be bringing plagues on those who are mistreating and killing their Israelite slaves.

The plagues brought on by the two witnesses as a deterrent to the nations to offer some measure of protection for the captive Israelite slaves are described in Revelation 11:5-6 (NKJV): “5 And if anyone wants to harm them (the two witnesses), fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. 6 These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy [to deter those who want to starve the Israelites]; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood [to deter those who want to kill the Israelites with thirst], and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire” [to deter those who want to torture and murder the Israelites].

The Israelites will find themselves in three situations.  The first group consists of those who were captured by the beast and sold as slaves.  The second group will have tried to avoid capture by resisting in their cities or fleeing.  They were besieged in their cities [But remember that the large and medium sized cities were destroyed with nuclear weapons.  So the cities besieged are the smaller remaining cities and towns.]  Those who were in the fields died by the sword.  Those besieged in the cities died of famine and disease.  This is prophesied in Ezekiel 7:2, 15 (NKJV): "And you, son of man, thus says the Lord God to the land of Israel...The sword is outside, and the pestilence and famine within.  Whoever is in the field will die by the sword; and whoever is in the city, famine and pestilence will devour him."

But a few of this second group will be able to escape capture by fleeing to the mountains. This is prophesied in Ezekiel 7:16-19: "Those who survive will escape and be on the mountains like doves of the valleys, all of them mourning, each for his iniquity.  Every hand will be feeble, and every knee will be as week as water.  They will also be girded with sackcloth; horror will cover them; shame will be on every face, baldness on all their heads...They will not satisfy their souls, nor fill their stomachs..."

This second group will escape to the mountains in their own countries; but cold and hungry, they will be barely clinging to life.  They will be mourning, repentant and humbled before God. A few of them will ultimately survive.

Mountain in prophecy is also a symbol for a large nation.  So escaping to the mountains could also mean escaping to other nations, most likely other Israelite nations of Europe, and finding protection there.  However, some of this group might also die when war comes to these nations.  But undoubtedly some will survive this way.

The third small group that will try to avoid capture will consist of those who support and protect the rulers.  Some of these will be captured whereas others will escape to other countries.  One of the rulers will be captured alive and probably his eyes put out.  This is prophesied in Ezekiel 12:6, 11-16: "...I have set you [Ezekiel] a sign unto the house of Israel...Say, I am your sign: like as I have done, so shall it be done unto them: they shall remove and go into captivity.  And the prince that is among them [not in Jerusalem, but the prince that is among the house of Israel] shall bear upon his shoulder in the twilight, and shall go forth: they shall dig through the wall to carry out thereby: he shall cover his face, that he see not the ground with his eyes.  My net also will I spread upon him, and he shall be taken in my snare: and I will bring him to Babylon to the land of the Chaldeans [Quoting from Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's book *"The United States and Britain in Prophecy"*: "And where, today, are the ancient Babylonians - the Chaldeans?  They migrated west and settled in Italy.  Their religion was the Assyrian-Babylonian MYSTERY religion."]; yet shall he not see it [perhaps because his eyes will be put out like those of king Zedekiah of Judah were put out by Nebuchadnezzar (II Kings 25:6-7: "So they took the king (Zedekiah), and brought him to the king of Babylon to Riblah; and they gave judgment upon him.  And they slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him with fetters of brass, and carried him to Babylon)], though he shall die there.  I will scatter to every wind all who are around him to help him, and all his troops; and I will draw out the sword after them.  Then they shall know that I am the Lord, when I scatter them among the nations and disperse them throughout the countries.  But I will spare a few of their men from the sword, from famine, and from pestilence, that they may declare all their abominations among the Gentiles wherever they go.  Then they shall know that I am the Lord."

God is promising here that He will spare and protect a few top officials with the rulers in America, Britain and the state of Israel and help them flee to other nations so that they can witness to rulers of those nations that their nations were punished for violating God’s laws and the nations that they are now in should repent and not give in to the religion of the beast and the false prophet. The rulers of the Gentile (non-Israelite) nations perhaps will keep a few of these top officials as their advisors.

While all this is going on, religious persecution will be raging around the world.  The loyal members of God's Church will already be in a place of safety.  Persecution cannot touch them, though the beast and the false prophet had tried to harm them.  They had sent armies to destroy the Church that has fled, but the earth opens up and swallows the armies. However, many members of God's Church will still be in the world.  God is testing the loyalty and faith of these members before He would be willing to offer them eternal life.  Satan is angry at these members and persecutes them to destroy them. This is prophesied in Revelation 12:14-17: “14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place [place of safety], where she is nourished for a time , and times, and half a time [1,260 days], from the face of the serpent [Satan]. 15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood [flood is a symbol for an army] after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. 16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth [meaning the earth opened beneath the army and swallowed it alive]. 17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ [these are members of the Church who are not in the place of safety].”

The instruments of this satanic religious persecution will be the false prophet [the pope] as well as the beast.  This persecution will go on throughout the Great Tribulation.

**But there is Trouble Brewing in the Beast's Confederation**

The Edomites, Arabs and other Muslims will have been doing most of the dirty work of murdering the Israelite captives, as well as warring with other nations of the House of Israel (France, Switzerland, Ireland, Scandinavian and Benelux countries] during the great tribulation.  But just before the end of two years, the confederation begins to fall apart.  The cause of this rebellion perhaps is the high-handedness of the Germans who probably take most of the benefits of controlling the world economy for themselves; or because nations are required to make contributions to the pope and the Church of Rome for worshipping according to its religion.  The false prophet [the pope] will have been working many miracles and deceiving the world, but now all the confederation partners (except the ten rulers who have given their authority to the beast) are beginning to think of their own interests.  Even in the east, those who may have been allied with the beast are engaged in diplomatic activity with Russia and other nations of the east and an alliance is beginning to take shape.  These alliance partners will also sense that a mad scramble for world resources (particularly oil) will take place.

The Islamic alliance is also becoming proud of its accomplishments as Obadiah indicates (Obadiah 1, 3 (NKJV): "The vision of Obadiah.  Thus says the Lord God concerning Edom...The pride of your heart has deceived you, you who dwell in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; you who say in your heart, who will bring me down to the ground?"

They have helped bring the mighty Israelite alliance down, and also wrought havoc among the other Israelite nations in Europe.  They will perhaps also be engaged in policing the oceans and transportation routes through which the commerce of the world passes.  They will thus have become very proud of their accomplishments.  And they perhaps will have a new pride in their religion as well and do not wish to pay allegiance to the False Prophet any longer.  They also control most of the world's oil supply, and may have been pressured to supply it to the beast at concessional prices.  For any combination of these reasons, the Islamic alliance will begin to be alienated from its confederation with the beast.  Perhaps a leader of the Islamic alliance had already emerged when they joined in a confederation with the beast to go to war with the Israelite alliance.  If not, before the end of the two years a leader will certainly have emerged.  He as the King of the South will now be ready to 'push at' the king of the North (the beast) in order to change the equation and extract concessions to get his 'due share' of the world's economy.

These thoughts will have entered into the mind of the King of the South and his advisors before the end of the two years.  When the end of the two years nears, the Islamic alliance will rethink why they have been persecuting the Israelites.  They will realize that they did not have a good enough reason for their enmity and confederacy against them.  As a result, at the end of the two years they will take action to lighten their persecution of the Israelites.  In fact, many other nations will start thinking similar thoughts, but not all.  The Edomites will not change their thinking, as the reaction of the King of the North to the King of the South indicates, which will be discussed later.  This is indicated by Hosea 6:1-2 (NKJV): "Come, and let us return to the Lord; for He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up.  After two days He will revive us; on the third day He will raise us up, that we may live in His sight."

A day in prophecy means a year.  Hosea says God 'will revive us after two days' or two years.  In the third year God will raise them up so that they can live.  This means that the Israelites slaves will have respite after two years and will recover in the following year.  God will cause this change in attitude. This respite comes because of the breakup of the beast's confederation and some rethinking on the part of his other confederation partners.

Now world events are going to speed up even further.  When two-and-a-half years of the Great Tribulation are over, the Day of the Lord (the last year of the Great Tribulation) has arrived.  Till now the Gentiles have been used to punish the Israelites and the Jews of Israel.  But the Day of the Lord is the time of God's wrath on the rest of humanity for its sins.  We are ready for the events of the sixth seal.

**CHAPTER 7**

**THE DAY OF THE LORD BEGINS**

**The Sixth Seal**

Revelation 6:12-17 (NKJV): "I looked when He [the Lamb] opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood.  And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.  Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.  And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!  For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”

Just before the beginning of the Day of the Lord we have an incredible global earthquake that moves all mountains and islands out of their places as the message of the sixth seal describes.  This is the signal that the Day of the Lord, the last one year of the Great Tribulation] is about to begin. Millions could perish in this worldwide earthquake.  Perhaps many volcanoes erupt simultaneously so that smoke, volcanic ash and other debris in the air prevent the sun's rays from reaching the earth resulting in darkness at noon day, and the moon becoming red.  There are incredible meteor showers so that it looks like stars are falling down from the sky.  Then all of humanity sees the sky roll up like a scroll revealing the face of God the Father on His throne. Human beings know that the wrath of the Lamb is now coming on the earth to punish them for their own sins.

Jesus also described this event in Luke 21:25-26: “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; 26 Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.”

Now we are ready for the events of the Day of the Lord to begin, as revealed by the message of the seventh seal.

**Sealing of the 144,000 from the Tribes of Israel**

**Just before God’s wrath is to begin being poured out on humanity, another event takes place. God asks His angels to seal 144,000 physical descendants from the tribes of Israel as described in Revelation 7:4-8 so that they suffer no harm during the events of the Day of the Lord. Revelation 7:4 states (NKJV): “And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed.” Revelation 14:4 declares these to be the firstfruits to God. This means they have been sealed to receive the reward of the firstfruits. They will be changed to spirit beings as sons of God at the return of Jesus Christ to earth. The reason they receive the reward of the firstfruits is that these Israelites went through two and a half years of the Great Tribulation and did not give in to the beast and the false prophet, but instead preached the good news of the very soon coming kingdom of God wherever they found themselves. These are literally those who were called into God’s Church during the eleventh hour.**

**Protection Given to Millions from all Nations**

**In addition to the 144,000, many millions from all nations will repent of their sins during the first two and a half years of the Great Tribulation, accept the shed blood of Jesus Christ for forgiveness of their sins and be converted when they see all the prophecies being fulfilled. This will be the greatest fruit the work of God’s Church will produce. They will not have worshipped the image of the beast or accepted his mark. These people will also receive supernatural protection during the events of the Day of the Lord. Revelation 7:9-15 (NKJV) describes this group: “9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" 13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" 14 And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them.”**

**After the 144,000 have been sealed to be the firstfruits and millions of others from all nations and languages who repented of their sins have received God’s approval for protection during the events of the Day of the Lord, the catastrophic events of the Day of the Lord as revealed in the message of the seventh seal can begin.**

**The Seventh Seal**

Revelation 8:1-2, 5-6 (NKJV): "When He [the Lamb] opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.  And I saw the seven angels who stood before God, and to them were given seven trumpets...Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth.  And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.  So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound."

The seventh seal consists of seven trumpet blasts.  But before the angels begin to sound their trumpets, there are great noises, thunderings, lightnings, much like those that ancient Israel heard when God gave them the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai, but only greater.  And the earth will also quake due to the earthquake, much like Mount Sinai quaked greatly when God descended to speak the Ten Commandments.  The Israelites trembled at the sight, sounds and the quaking.  Human beings on earth will also tremble when they experience these signs.

**War between King of the North and King of the South - First Four Trumpets**

The first event in the day of the Lord is a war between the King of the North and the King of the South.  The King of the South (the Islamic alliance) had been 'pushing at' the beast for about six months.  He will probably have done more than just irritate the King of the North.  He may have taken some precipitating actions such as using the oil weapon to some extent.  This war is prophesied in Daniel 11:40-43: "And at the time of the end shall the King of the South push at him: and the King of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow [NKJV renders it "and overwhelm them] and pass over.  He shall enter also into the glorious land [the land of the state of Israel, or the holy land], and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.  He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape.  But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps."

This indicates that the Edomites will probably not change their attitude towards the Israelites, and may also not have consented to the "push at" actions against the King of the North.  That is why God has determined the final destruction of the Edomites at the hands of Israel (USA and Britain) after the great tribulation as prophesied by Obadiah. Another possible reason for countries in the east of the Holy Land escaping the hands of the King of the North is that God's Church is likely sheltered there.

More details of the war between the King of the North and the King of the South are provided in Revelation 8:7-12.  Now the events of the seventh seal, pictured by seven trumpet blasts have begun to take place.  The war is actually pictured by the first four trumpet blasts.

Revelation 8:7-12 (NKJV): "7 The first angel sounded; and hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth; and a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.  8 Then the second angel sounded: and something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea [the sea here referred to is the Mediterranean Sea], 9 and a third of the sea became blood; and a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed. 10 Then the third angel sounded: and a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water; 11 and the name of the star is Wormwood [or Bitterness]; and a third of the waters became wormwood; and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.  12 Then the fourth angel sounded: and a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened; and a third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night."

This is a description of no small war.  The kings of the North and South are warring for control of the earth. The King of the South will have developed so much confidence in himself that he will think the King of the North had given him all his latest weapons when they fought against the Israelite alliance.  He may have obtained additional weapons from the eastern alliance.  He had enough oil and other looted wealth to pay for them.  In addition, the King of the South also used the nuclear powered ships given to him by the King of the North to terrorize the world in order to control its entire commerce.  They now use these ships against each other.

Like Revelation, Daniel 11 had also prophesied that the King of the North will come against the King of the South 'like a whirlwind [meaning by air]...and with many ships."  Initially perhaps a nuclear missile attack [part of the whirlwind] burns up a third of the trees and all green grass with a great loss of human life.  This corresponds to the first angel’s trumpet blast, which says “…hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth.”

The trumpet blast of the second angel says: “something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea…” A ‘great mountain’ likely means an asteroid strikes the Mediterranean Sea which destroys a third of the sea life and a third of the ships.  This may be God’s direct intervention to relieve the pressure on the other tribes of Israel living in France, Scandinavian and Benelux countries, and directly punishing the King of the South.

The trumpet blast of the third angel signals the next event: “…and a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water; and the name of the star is Wormwood [or Bitterness]; and a third of the waters became wormwood; and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.”

The ‘great star’ burning like a torch could be another asteroid or a meteorite falling on land in the Middle East which somehow poisons much of the sources of fresh water, resulting in much loss of life.

And finally the King of the North will likely set oil wells ablaze.  Smoke from the oil well fires, and dust and smoke from the war would cause a third of the sun, moon and the stars to be darkened.  The loss of population of the countries in the Islamic alliance could be huge.  This war will also be of very short duration.

**War between King of the North and the Eastern Alliance – Fifth and Sixth Trumpets**

The war between the king of the North and the king of the South is almost immediately followed by a war between the King of the North and the armies of the Eastern Alliance, most probably led by Russia.  The worldwide alliance that had defeated the Israelite alliance had fallen apart more than eight months ago, as will be shown later.  About eight months before the beginning of the conflict between the king of the North and the armies of the Eastern Alliance, the Eastern Alliance had been cemented and had started preparing to challenge the King of the North.  At that time, the war between the King of the North and the King of the South was at least six or seven months away. When the King of the North had taken on the King of the South, the Eastern Alliance saw an opening.  The King of the North had just conquered the King of the South when news from the Eastern Alliance troubles him.  So he sets up his regional headquarters in Jerusalem. The beginning of these events is described in Daniel 11:44-45 (NKJV): "But news from the east and the north trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many.  And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas [the Mediterranean and the Dead seas] and the glorious holy mountain [Jerusalem]."

The Fifth Trumpet

The beast makes a pre-emptive strike against the Eastern Alliance with biological or other weapons which we cannot even imagine.  These weapons do not kill human beings but inflict terrible pain and suffering on them.  Undoubtedly Satan would have guided the development of these weapons.  He now leads the armies of the beast against the Eastern Alliance.

The pre-emptive strike is described as the fifth trumpet in Revelation 9:1-11(NKJV): "And the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth.  And to him was given the key to the bottomless pit [or abyss].  And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. And the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit.  Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth [probably refers to weapons stored in deep underground bunkers].  And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.  *And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months.*  And their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man.  *In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die [the pain and suffering is so unbearable], and death will flee from them.* And the shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle; and on their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men.  They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth.  And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle.  They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails.  And their power was to hurt men five months.  And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit [Satan], whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon [or Destroyer]."

John had seen these weapons in a vision.  This was the best description he could come up with.  These appear to be helicopter like weapons, used to deliver biological/chemical weapons.  And the soldiers appear to wear their hair long.

Apparently for five months, the population in the Eastern Alliance countries is so tormented that they are not able to take any action against the beast.  Each side refrains from using nuclear weapons as all life could be wiped off the face of the earth.  They also know that a missile attack might be misunderstood and an all-out war would ensue.  That is why the beast had used conventional airborne vehicles to deliver the biological/chemical weapons. But they continue to prepare for war against the beast.

Description of this war indicates that its effects are not going to be limited to the Eastern Alliance countries.  Verse 4 states: "They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads."  'Men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads' would not be living only in the Eastern Alliance countries.  They would be living all around the world.  This indicates that the effects of the biological weapons will be felt globally.  That means the Eastern Alliance has similar biological and chemical weapons and uses them against the King of the North and those loyal to him.

When the tribulation started, all nations of the world were forced to choose one alliance or the other.  None were allowed to stay neutral.  And each nation's soldiers will probably be fighting in the armies of the alliance they have joined.  This is prophesied in Revelation 13, which talks about the beast with two horns like a lamb, but speaks like a dragon [which we proved earlier to be the pope].  Revelation 13:13, 15-18 (NKJV): "He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men [No pope has ever done such miracles in history. So this is prophecy yet to be fulfilled in the near future]...He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.  And he causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.  Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: his number is 666."

We have earlier identified the beast as the 'Holy Roman Empire'.  But what is the significance of the mysterious symbols "mark of the beast", "image of the beast" and the "number of his name - 666"?  For a detailed explanation of these symbols you may refer to *"The Beast of Revelation: Myth, Metaphor or Soon-Coming Reality"* published by the Living Church of God, available free of charge. It can be read online or downloaded from the Church's web site www.lcg.org. As explained in the booklet, the mark of the beast is a brand of disobedience to God.  It marks those who refuse to keep God's commandments in spite of both the preaching of the two witnesses (of Revelation 11) and even the final warning delivered by three angels of God (Revelation 14:9, which I will cover later.) Obedience to God involves keeping the Ten Commandments and adhering to God's statutes and judgments.  In the Ten Commandments, keeping the Sabbath (from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset) is the test commandment. Instead of the Sabbath, the Roman Empire had foisted Sunday (the day of sun worship) on the world during the time of the Roman emperor Constantine in 321 A.D.  This mark of disobedience to God's Sabbath command thus originally came from Babylon and Rome.

The image of the beast [the Roman Empire] refers to the Roman Catholic Church being developed on the model (or image) of the old Roman Empire from which it derived its structure.

What does the mysterious number 666 mean?  Quoting from *"The Beast of Revelation: Myth, Metaphor or Soon-Coming Reality?"* pages 35-36:"Most of us are familiar with Roman numerals, where the letters of the Latin alphabet have numeric value.  In this system I=1, V=5, X=10, and so on...The number 666 is "...contained in the Greek letters of Lateinos (L=30; A=1; T=300; E=5; I=10; N=50; O=70; S=200)"...Lateinos is a Greek term referring to the Romans. Interestingly, the Greek expression meaning "The Latin Kingdom" (h Latine Basileia) also has a numeric value of 666.Greek writers commonly referred to the Roman Empire in this way.  The book of Revelation was originally written in Greek...

"The founder of ancient Rome was Romulus, from whose name Rome and Roman are derived.  The Latin name Romvlvs is written in Hebrew as Romiith.  In the Hebrew language this also adds up to 666 (resh=200, vau=6, mem=40, yod=10, yod=10, tau=400).  Thus, in both Greek and Hebrew, the two languages of the Bible, the number 666 is stamped upon the kingdom that derived from Rome."

Actually God allows nations to inflict this incredible torture, pain and suffering on each other as retribution for inflicting similar terrible torture, pain and suffering on God’s Church and their Israelite captives.

After 5 months of incredible physical suffering throughout the world pictured by the 5th trumpet, the Eastern Alliance then counterattacks with a massive army of 200 million.

The Sixth Trumpet

The counterattack is described in Revelation 9:13-21 (NKJV): "Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."  So the four angels who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year [KJV renders it "And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year..." This preparation of the Eastern Alliance for approximately 13 months for this counterattack means that when we take out the 5 months of the conflict that was started by the pre-emptive strike by the King of the North, it started about 8 months prior to the pre-emptive strike or about a month or two before the end of the first two years of the Great Tribulation], were released to kill a third of mankind.  Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million, and I heard the number of them.  And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulphur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone.  By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed - by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths.  For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm.  But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; and they did not repent of their murders, or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts [the beast's other specialties]."

Both the King of the North and the Eastern Alliance have weapons that could destroy all of humanity. So each side is reluctant to use these weapons. That is why the King of the North had used biological/chemical weapons in his pre-emptive strike. So the only alternative for the Eastern Alliance to retaliate against the King of the North is to send a huge 200 million strong army against him to fight him globally.This prophecy indicates that a third of mankind will die in this war from the fire, smoke and brimstone (or weapons) alone.  That would be another 1.6 billion people being killed in the world.  The resulting famine and diseases will perhaps kill additional hundreds of millions.  In effect, close to 2 billion people could die worldwide in this war.  The King of the North and his alliance partners worldwide will take a very severe beating in this war.

Notice God’s purpose in allowing humanity to inflict this catastrophe on itself. Verses 20-21 of Revelation 9 state, “But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; and they did not repent of their murders, or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.” God wants humanity to wake up and repent of worshipping Satan and the demons and idols, and of their murders, sexual immorality and thefts. Despite this catastrophic war, humanity still refuses to repent.

**The Two Witnesses Killed, But Rise after Three and a Half Days**

While all these events had been taking place, God's two prophets had been warning the world from Jerusalem for the past 1,260 days.  A great spiritual confrontation had been taking place between the false prophet (the pope) and the beast on one side and God's two prophets.  The beast then battles the two prophets and kills them.  The whole world rejoices at their deaths, but this rejoicing is short lived.  The two prophets rise after three-and-a-half days [probably at the same time as the rest of the dead saints are resurrected, to meet the returning Jesus Christ] ascending into the sky in a cloud, causing great fear on those who see them.  At the same time there will be a great earthquake in Jerusalem killing seven thousand people.

This is described in Revelation 11:3-13 (NKJV): "And I will give power to My two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.  These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth.  And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies.  And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner.  These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.

"Now when they finish their testimony, the beast [the King of the North] that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them.  And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified [Jerusalem].  Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues and nations will see their dead bodies three and a half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves.  And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.  Now after the three and a half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.  And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here."  And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them.  In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell.  In the earthquake seven thousand men were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.”

**CHAPTER 8**

**THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST TO EARTH**

Because the King of the North and his alliance partners have taken such a severe beating, they have no option left but to use all their nuclear weapons to stave off complete annihilation.  Both sides therefore are ready to use all their weapons of mass destruction in order to annihilate the other.  In attempting to do so, they would wipe out all life from the face of the earth.  Only God's intervention can stop this madness.  Jesus Christ will then return to earth as 'King of kings and Lord of lords" to set up God's Kingdom.  All the saints of God who have lived their lives in faith and obedience to God through the ages will be resurrected to eternal life and will accompany Jesus Christ.  This is called the first resurrection and is to eternal life.

**The Seventh Trumpet**

The return of Jesus Christ is prophesied in Revelation 11:15-18 (NKJV): "Then the seventh angel sounded: and there were loud voices in heaven saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"  And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshipped God, saying: "We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was and who is to come, because You have taken Your great power and reigned.  The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth."

Jesus Christ's coming will not be a quiet or secretive event.  The whole world will know when He comes.  Jesus described His second coming this way in Matthew 24:21-31 (NKJV): "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.  And unless those days were shortened, no flesh [or living thing] would be saved: but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.  Then if someone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it.  For false christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders, so as to deceive, if possible, even the elect.  See I have told you beforehand.  Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or; Look, He is in the inner rooms!' do not believe it.  For as the lightening comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be...Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.  Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.  And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

These prophecies show that the sun and the moon will be darkened because of the great war between the king of the North and the Eastern Alliance. Immediately following the war there are great meteor showers.  Stars will appear to be falling from the sky.  Then there will be a great trumpet blast which the whole world will hear, and Jesus Christ will return with His resurrected saints.  His coming will appear as great lightening flashing from the east to the west.  This is hardly a silent and secret return of Jesus Christ to earth.

**Resurrection of the Saints to Eternal Life**

The resurrection of the saints is described in many prophecies. 1 Corinthians 15:51-53 states: “51 Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump [meaning the seventh and last trumpet]: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”

1Thessalonians 4:14-17 (NKJV) sheds further light: “14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”

Revelation 20:4-6 (NKJV) says that those who are in the first resurrection will reign with Jesus Christ for a 1,000 years: “4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.”

Daniel the prophet also mentions the resurrection in Daniel 12:2-4 (NKJV): “2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life [in the first resurrection], some to shame and everlasting contempt [those in the third resurrection]. 3 Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.”

**Nations Angry at the Return of Jesus Christ**

The nations are angry at the return of Jesus Christ as quoted earlier in Revelation 11:18.  There are many reasons for this.  Since the false prophet will have bewitched the world with his miracles, and will claim he is God, he will likely tell the world that the visitor from the outer world is the anti-Christ and should be resisted. Others may have paid some attention to the prophesying of the two witnesses (of Revelation 11) and will know that Jesus Christ has come to rule the world with His saints.  This is what the gospel [or good news] of the kingdom of God is all about.  God's Church has been proclaiming this message since 1933 A.D. [though Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong received the call to do so in 1917 through a dream to his wife Loma Armstrong]. God's two witnesses would have been preaching the same message and warning the world to repent of its sins and submit to God's way of life.  Finally, when Jesus Christ returns to earth, an angel from heaven comes and preaches the same gospel to all the inhabitants of the earth.  This is described in Revelation 14:6-7 (NKJV): "Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth - to every nation, tribe, tongue and people - saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."

But the rulers of the nations and their peoples don't want somebody to take over the rulership of their nation, and force them to submit.  Satan and the demons will be influencing the rulers to resist relinquishing their rule.  When the angel asks the nations to worship God as a mark of submission to His kingdom, the nations resist and become angry.

Another reason for the nations to be angry at Jesus is that they know that their time of judgment has come for having joined themselves in the evil causes of the beast (the King of the North) and the false prophet (the pope), who are led by Satan.  They are going to be punished for all the evil they have done on earth, including destroying much of it.  The two witnesses will have been preaching this message of warning to the whole world.  Now, in addition to the first angel, two more angels are sent to warn the world that the destruction of the Europe-centered political-military-religious system called 'Babylon' is at hand and that human beings should repent.  This is described in Revelation 14:8-11 (NKJV):

"And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.  Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation.  And he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.  And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

The nations will also be angry at the return of Jesus Christ because by his miracles, the pope will have deceived them into believing his 'prophecy' that the Anti-Christ will soon be coming.  So when Jesus Christ returns, the world will possibly be led to believe that He is the Anti-Christ.  What a travesty.  Historian Robert Hertzstein wrote in "The Holy Roman Empire in the Middle Ages": "The [Roman] Empire was understood not as a mere term, but as a universal Christian regent for God on earth, to exist until the coming of Anti-Christ."  This concept of the middle ages will perhaps be revived.

Another reason the nations are angry at Jesus Christ is that He demands that the nations free their Israelite and Jewish captives.  This they do not want to do, as Pharaoh of ancient Egypt did not want to free his ancient Israelite slaves.

**Nations Attack Jesus Christ**

Thus when Jesus Christ returns, the time has come for nations and individuals to be punished for their sins, and for having joined the beast and the false prophet in worshipping Satan and the demons.  As already mentioned, God sends three angels with messages to give individuals and nations a last chance to repent before God's wrath is poured out on them.  The first angel's message is that the world should fear God who has created everything and worship Him.  The second angel warns the world that the ancient Babylonian system (which is now being run by the false prophet and the beast) that was started by Satan and designed to worship him is fallen.  So nations should come out of it.  Then the third angel warns the world that anyone who worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand [an actual visible mark may also have been instituted] will have to face the wrath of God.  Most reject even this very last and dramatic warning given by the three angels.  The reason is that the demons are still working miracles through the false prophet and other human beings in order to deceive the world.  So nations and individuals don't repent of their sins, do not submit to God's rule in worship, and don't release their Israelite and Jewish captives.  As a result Jesus Christ has no alternative but to punish the nations and pour out plagues on an unrepentant world.

**The Seven Bowls/Plagues of the Seventh Trumpet**

The plagues are described as seven bowls in Revelation 16:1-11 (NKJV): "Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, 'Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth.'  So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshipped his image.  Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died.  Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood.  And I heard the angel of the waters saying: "You are righteous, O Lord, the One who is and who was and who is to be [translated as ‘who shall be’ in KJV], because You have judged these things.  For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink.  For it is their just due."  And I heard another from the altar saying, "Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments."  Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire.  [This means the orbit of the earth around the sun may be slightly altered to cause temperatures on earth to rise which start fires that burn alive many people as punishment for having burnt alive members of God’s Church in the recent persecution against them]. And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory.  Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain.  And they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds."

These plagues are poured out on the nations to get their attention to get them to repent of their evil deeds and stop worshipping the beast and demons, and to comply with Jesus' demand to release their Israelite and Jewish captives.  They inflict much pain and suffering on human beings.  Some will certainly die because of the sores, thirst and the heat.

Instead of complying with Jesus Christ's demands, under the influence of Satan and the demons the nations decide to attack Him with all they have.  The painful plagues have made them hopping mad.  Therefore the nations of the world gather at Armageddon (which means the 'hill of Megiddo' in Israel) to battle. Then they move to Jerusalem for the attack where Jesus' headquarters will be located.

The description of this war is given in Revelation 16:12-14 (NKJV): "Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the kings of the east [the kings from the north, west and south will perhaps come by sea and air, and many of their armies will already be in the Holy Land as remnants of the armies of the King of the North and the Eastern Alliance] might be prepared.  And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.  For they are the spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty."

This will be the greatest war the world will have ever fought in the number of people who descend on the battle field.  Literally people from all over the world gather to fight.  One can gauge the number of people involved from the amount of blood that pours out of their bodies, as indicated in Revelation 14:20 (NKJV): "And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles [about 4 feet deep], by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs [approximately 184 miles].”  All the people that come to the battle perish.

How all these armies are destroyed is described in Zechariah 14:12 (NKJV): "And this shall be the plague with which the Lord will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, and their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths."

One can only imagine the amount of blood involved that stretches like a river four feet deep and 184 miles long.  The counterattack of the Eastern Alliance against the king of the North involved an army of 200 million.  The King of the North and his alliance partners could have fielded an army of 40-50 million people.  But the battle field was worldwide.  In this battle against Jerusalem, armies numbering between 100-200 million could be gathered in one place.  Fallen dead soldiers, their armor and coagulated blood that flowed out of their bodies could produce such a huge river of blood.

Though all the soldiers, captains, generals and rulers gathered at Jerusalem for the war against Jesus Christ perish, the war is not over yet.  Almost all the citizens of the nations were involved in opposing the rule of Jesus Christ, and against releasing their Israelite captives.  They fully supported their armies that attacked Jesus Christ and the saints.  They too are guilty of war and deserve to be punished.  Their punishment soon follows.  The world experiences the greatest global earthquake ever.  It levels the cities of the world and the mountains.  Islands are either submerged, or the surface of the oceans is raised so that islands no longer remain islands.  Then there is a great hail all over the world with hailstones weighing up to 100 pounds each.

This phase of the war against Jerusalem is described in Revelation 16:17-21 (NKJV): "Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!” And there were noises and thunderings and lightenings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake *as had not occurred since men were on the earth*.  Now the great city [Jerusalem] was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell.  And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.  Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.  And great hail from heaven fell upon men, every hailstone about the weight of a talent [100 pounds].  And men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great."

It seems that a majority of the remaining population of the world is destroyed in the earthquake, and the hailstorm.  All the cities are leveled.  The intensity of the earthquake will also level most dwellings.  The fires, floods and the general devastation that follows earthquakes will take their toll.  The hailstorm will further level dwellings and kill people.

Though humanity experiences the greatest and most devastating worldwide earthquake ever, there is a great positive outcome from the earthquake.  The surface of the earth is turned upside down.  The mountains are leveled.  The oceans are reduced considerably in size.  The desert areas are greatly changed as a result of the upheaval.

Isaiah also prophesied this in Isaiah 40:4 (NKJV): “4 Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth.” Luke quotes Isaiah with the same words in Luke 3:5.

Currently only about 10% of the earth's surface is cultivatable.  If 50% of the earth's surface was made cultivatable (with the permafrost and the tundra of the Arctic, Antarctic, Greenland, north America, northern Europe, Siberia,the Himalayas etc. thawed); the remaining 50% was not desert or mountainous wasteland, but rather lush forests and grasslands; and the land area could be doubled by reducing the oceans [and thus the vast mineral wealth of the deep oceans also made available], we would have at least ten times the amount of cultivatable land available as compared to today.  In addition, the remaining half of the earth's surface would also produce food and other highly valuable products from forests and grasslands.  Then add the effects of vastly improved agricultural practices among all nations and God's blessings on the crops, the world could easily support 15 to 20 times its current population.  The world would certainly become a happy and abundant place.  Truly, the great earthquake will have a very great positive outcome for the future of the world.

And the world will need what the earthquake will have done to the earth's surface.  All those who have ever lived, but have not known God's way of life (including all the billions who will die in the great tribulation, and will have attacked Jesus Christ) will be resurrected to physical life once more and given their chance to learn God's way of life, repent of their sins and qualify to receive eternal life in God's kingdom.  This is prophesied in Revelation 20:12-13 NKJV): "And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened.  And another book was opened, which is the Book of life.  And the dead were judged according to their works."

An estimate is that perhaps close to 50-60 billion people have been born throughout man's history.  The changes the earthquake will have brought to the earth's surface will be more than enough to support double this population and then some.

**Jesus Christ’s First Order of Business – Rescue Slaves**

*Rescue within 45 Days*

At the end of the 1,260 days of the great tribulation, nations have been devastated and are finally willing to accept Jesus Christ's authority, and free their American, British and Jewish slaves.  Otherwise they know they could all be dead, just as Pharaoh of ancient Egypt realized after the death of all the firstborn of Egypt (Exodus 12:33 – NKJV: "And the Egyptians urged the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste.  For they said, "We shall all be dead.")  The nations will think the same and will release the captives.   The nations in fact will help bring the Israelites to the Promised Land (the modern state of Israel), as prophesied by Isaiah 43:5-6 (NKJV): "Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, and gather you from the west; I will say to the north, "Give them up!"  And to the south, 'Do not keep them back!'  Bring My sons from afar, and bring My daughters from the ends of the earth."

And Isaiah 49:22-23: “22 Thus says the Lord GOD, Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people: and they shall bring your sons in their arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders. 23 And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers: they shall bow down to you with their face toward the earth, and lick up the dust of your feet; and you shall know that I am the LORD: for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me.”

Daniel's prophecy indicates that the process of finding all the Israelites after the 1,260 days of the tribulation will take just 45 days.  Israelites are told to hang on till then.  Daniel 11:11-12 (NKJV): "And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there will be one thousand two hundred and ninety days.  Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days."

Since mechanized transport will still be available, the task of finding all the slaves and bringing them to the holy land from all over the world could easily be accomplished within 45 days.

After the pope sets up the abomination of desolation in Jerusalem to sacrifice to invoke 'blessings' for the war against Israel and Judah (USA, Britain and the state of Israel) we begin counting the 1260, 1290 and 1335 days. The war lasts 30 days before Israel and Judah are defeated and taken captive.  This is followed by the 1,260 days of the tribulation bringing the total to 1290 days.  Then within 45 days all the captives of Israel and Judah will be found and rescued bringing the total number of days since the abomination of desolation was set up to 1335 days. Once the slaves are found, they will truly be blessed as Daniel prophesied because they will have come out alive through the Great Tribulation.

*Second Exodus Much Bigger*

This second Exodus will be much bigger than the first. The first Exodus from Egypt involved about 3 million men women and children. The second Exodus will involve many more millions than that, perhaps 5-8 million. And they will come from all over the world, not just from Egypt.

Isaiah 11 (NKJV) mentions the Stem of Jesse and a Branch out of his roots, referring to Jesus Christ who will rule the earth. Verses 11-13, 16 then mention the second exodus:

“11 It shall come to pass in that day that the Lord shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people who are left, from Assyria and Egypt, from Pathros and Cush, from Elam and Shinar, from Hamath and the islands of the sea. 12 He will set up a banner for the nations, and will assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. 15 The Lord will utterly destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt (the Red Sea); with His mighty wind He will shake His fist over the River, and strike it in the seven streams, and make men cross over dry-shod. [This is how captives in Egypt will be brought over to the holy land, much like the first Exodus.] 16 There will be a highway for the remnant of His people who will be left from Assyria, as it was for Israel In the day that he came up from the land of Egypt.”

Then Isaiah the prophet continues in Isaiah 43:1-5-6, 21 (NKJV): “1 But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are Mine. 5 Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, and gather you from the west; 6 I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' And to the south, 'Do not keep them back!' Bring My sons from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth…21 This people I have formed for Myself; They shall declare My praise.”

Jeremiah the prophet also prophesied about the greater second Exodus. He wrote in Jeremiah 23:3-8 (NKJV): “3 "But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. 5 "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. 6 In His days Judah (the Jews) will be saved, and Israel (the Americans and the British) will dwell safely…7 "Therefore, behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "that they shall no longer say, 'As the Lord lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,' 8 but, 'As the Lord lives who brought up and led the descendants of the house of Israel from the north country and from all the countries where I had driven them.' And they shall dwell in their own land."

Yes! When the world will talk about the Exodus, they will not refer to the first Exodus from Egypt, but the second Exodus from all around the world.

Jeremiah then records in Jeremiah 31:2-12 (NKJV): “2 Thus says the Lord: "The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness-- Israel, when I went to give him rest." 4 Again I will build you, and you shall be rebuilt, O virgin of Israel! You shall again be adorned with your tambourines, and shall go forth in the dances of those who rejoice. 8 Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the ends of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and the one who labors with child, together; a great throng shall return there. 9 They shall come with weeping, and with supplications I will lead them. I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters, in a straight way in which they shall not stumble; for I am a Father to Israel, and Ephraim (the British) is My firstborn. 10 "Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him as a shepherd does his flock.' 11 For the Lord has redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of one stronger than he.”

**Jesus Christ Brings the Guilty to Justice**

Jesus Christ still has plenty of unfinished business left in order to put down rebellion against His authority, and judge and punish the guilty.  The great false church still has to be judged because its leader, the False Prophet, had led the world astray with his miracles and signs.  When the world experiences all the events that have taken place, they realize that the Church of Rome (the Roman Catholic Church) is a false church, just as God's true Church, the two witnesses and the three angels had warned them.  The world then turns on the false church to destroy it utterly so that it will never rise again.  And the ten rulers who were allied with the beast take the lead in destroying it.  This is prophesied in Revelation 17:15-16: "And he says unto me, the waters which you saw, where the whore sits, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.  And the ten horns [rulers] which you saw 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."

Most likely the entire priesthood and the clergy of the Roman Church will be burnt alive, exactly as they will have done to members of God’s Church and others who disobeyed them during the past three and a half years.

Further description of the false church's destruction is given in Revelation 18:1-8, 19-21 (NKJV): "After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory.  And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, 'Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen...For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury.  And I heard another voice from heaven saying, 'Come out of her, My people [This is a prophecy about the Israelite nations of northwestern Europe - France, Scandinavian and Benelux countries, Ireland and Switzerland - some of which may likely be part of the beast led trading alliance, and one or two could even be among the ten kings that give their allegiance to the beast], lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.  For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.  Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix for her double.  In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, 'I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.'  Therefore her plagues will come in one day [the Day of the Lord, or prophetically the last one year of the Great Tribulation] - death and mourning and famine.  And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord who judges her...For in one hour she is made desolate [or has been laid waste].  Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!  Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea saying, 'Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore."

Besides destroying the false Church, the beast [King of the North] and the False Prophet [the pope] have yet to be dealt with for all the wickedness they will have done.  Their fate is described in Revelation 19:19-21 (NKJV): "And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.  Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who worshipped his image.  These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.  And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse.  And all the birds were filled with their flesh."

The end result of this war against Jesus Christ is indicated by Isaiah 24:1, 4-6 (NKJV): "Behold, the Lord makes the earth empty and makes it waste, distorts its surface and scatters abroad its inhabitants...The earth mourns and fades away, the world languishes and fades away; the haughty people of the earth languish.  The earth is also defiled under its inhabitants, because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.  Therefore the curse has devoured the earth, and those who dwell in it are desolate.  Therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men are left."

This has two meanings.  The first is that the population of the world that survives the great tribulation will be small.  There is no indication how many will survive, but the population of the world remaining could be as low as 100 million, or even lower.  In addition, many more females could survive than males because a large portion of the male population of the world will have died in the devastating world wars.

**Those Who Mistreated Israel during its Captivity are Punished**

God has used a certain standard in punishing Israel (USA, Britain, France and other Israelite nations) when they have done evil against other nations.  They have already been punished in the past more than 40 years at the hands of the German alliance because of what they did to Native Americans, African Americans and the Chinese.  That standard was prophesied by the prophet Obadiah 15: "For the day of the Lord upon all the nations is near; *as you have done, it shall be done to you*; your reprisal shall return upon your head."

If God has used this standard to punish Israel, He certainly will use the same standard to punish all the nations for the way they treat the Israelites.  That is precisely to whom Obadiah's prophecy is directed.  The time of punishment is the day of the Lord when Israelite nations are in captivity.  So this prophecy is specifically directed at all the nations for the way they treat their Israelite and Jewish captives.

One of the purposes of prophecy is to warn people and nations so that they do not do evil to others, or repent and give up their evil ways.  This prophecy in Obadiah is thus a warning to the nations.  The way you treat Israel, you will be treated in exactly the same way.  Those who murder Israelites with hard labor or with beatings in captivity will perish.  Those who kill Israelites with hunger and thirst, will themselves die of hunger and thirst.  Remember that the two witnesses of Revelation will have power to smite the earth with plagues as often as they will, including no rain and turning waters into blood.  Those who treat Israelites brutally will also be treated brutally.  Those who torture them will also be tortured.  So let this be a warning to every nation on earth.  God will not spare you if you mistreat or kill Israelites.  You will face exactly the same punishment.

Isaiah 14:1-2 (NKJV) indicates that Israel will take captive whose captives they were: "For the Lord will have mercy on Jacob, and will still choose Israel, and settle them in their own land.  The strangers will be joined with them, and they will cling to the house of Jacob.  Then people will take them and bring them to their place, and the house of Israel will possess them for servants and maids in the land of the Lord; they will take them captive whose captives they were, and rule over their oppressors."

God has prophesied that the Edomites are to be utterly destroyed.  Their descendants live in Turkey, some nations of the Middle East and Central Asia.  Palestinians are another branch of the Edomites.  We do not know with certainty where all the descendants of Edom live.  And not all citizens of particular nations may be Edomites.  But Jesus Christ knows who the descendants of Edom are.  He will be directing this punishment with justice.  It is the Edomites who will have done the major work in destroying the Israelites and the Jews in alliance with the Germans.  They are all part of the alliance with the King of the South (or Islamic Alliance) as well.  Their destruction is prophesied in Obadiah 1-4, 8-18 (NKJV):

"The vision of Obadiah.  Thus says the Lord God concerning Edom...The pride of your heart has deceived you, you who dwell in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; you who say in your heart, 'Who will bring me down to the ground?'  Though you exalt yourself as high as the eagle, and though you set your nest among the stars, from there I will bring you down," says the Lord..."Will I not in that day," says the Lord, "Even destroy the wise men from Edom, and understanding from the mountains of Esau [Esau is another name for Edom]? Then your mighty men, O Teman [Teman was a grandson of Edom], shall be dismayed, to the end that everyone from the mountains of Esau may be cut off by slaughter.  For your violence against your brother Jacob [the patriarch Israel’s original name], shame shall cover you, and you shall be cut off forever.

“In the day that you stood on the other side - in the day that strangers carried captive his forces, when strangers entered his gates and cast lots for Jerusalem - even you were as one of them.  But you should not have gazed on the day of your brother in the day of his captivity; nor should you have rejoiced over the children of Judah in the day of their destruction; nor should you have spoken proudly in the day of distress.  You should not have entered the gate of My people in the day of their calamity.  Indeed, you should not have gazed on their affliction in the day of their calamity, nor laid hands on their substance in the day of their calamity.  You should not have stood at the crossroads to cut off those among them who escaped; nor should you have delivered up those among them who remained in the day of distress.  For the day of the Lord upon all the nations is near; as you have done, it shall be done to you; your reprisal shall return upon your own head.  For as you drank on My holy mountain [Jerusalem], so shall all the nations drink continually; yes they shall drink, and swallow; and they shall be as though they had never been.  But on Mount Zion there shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions.  The house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame; but the house of Esau shall be stubble; they shall kindle them and devour them, and no survivor shall remain of the house of Esau," for the Lord has spoken."

If you will notice, the destruction of Esau will be at the hands of the house of Jacob (which includes France, Scandinavian and Benelux countries, Switzerland and the Jews) and the house of Joseph (which includes the USA and Britain).

Verses 15-16 above mention all the nations that are occupying Jerusalem and the state of Israel. God will bring and settle the tribes of Israel in the holy land and use them, particularly the former American and British slaves, to wipe out the remnants of the Germans, the Europeans, the Islamists and all their allies still surviving in the holy land.

Another entity slated for total destruction is Babylon [which means ‘confusion’].  Babylon in prophecy refers to the religious, political and military system in the end time, the seventh resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire based in Europe, led by the Beast and the False Prophet. The term Babylonian harks back to the Tower of Babel where soon after Noah’s Flood language of mankind was confused marking the origin of many different languages in the world. The Babylonian system thus refers to a group consisting of many different nations with different languages, a perfect description of a European union.

Many of the ancient Babylonians after their uprooting from ancient Babylon by the Medes and Persians settled in what is Italy today. Italy will definitely be part of the European Union headed by ten rulers. While all Italians are not descendants of the ancient Babylonians, some certainly are. The prophecies concerning Babylonians would apply to these descendants who we cannot specifically identify today. But God knows who they are and can punish them to fulfill all prophecies related to them.

Total destruction of the Babylonian system is prophesied in many prophecies of the prophet Jeremiah such as in 50:37, 50:18, 24-26, 29-30, 39-40; 51:37, 42-43, 57, 60-64.

Jeremiah 50:35-37 states (NKJV): “35 "A sword is against the Chaldeans [who ruled in ancient Babylon]," says the Lord, "Against the inhabitants of Babylon, And against her princes and her wise men. 36 A sword is against the soothsayers, and they will be fools. A sword is against her mighty men, and they will be dismayed. 37 A sword is against their horses, against their chariots, and against all the mixed peoples who are in her midst; and they will become like women. A sword is against her treasures, and they will be robbed.”

The destruction of Babylon will come in waves (as the waves of the sea come) as indicated by Jeremiah 51:42: "The sea has come up over Babylon; she is covered with the multitude of its waves."

The first wave that destroys most of 'Babylon' is the war between the king of the North and the Eastern Alliance with its 200 million man army, as we have seen earlier.  This is prophesied in Jeremiah 51:28-29: "Prepare against her [Babylon] the nations, with the kings of the Medes, its governors and all its rulers, all the land of his dominion.  And the land will tremble and sorrow; for every purpose of the Lord shall be performed against Babylon, to make the land of Babylon a desolation without inhabitant."

The ancient Medes settles in what is western Russia, Ukraine and other former Soviet republics. The descendants of the same Medes in alliance with other eastern nations are going to destroy the modern Babylonian system in the near future as the ancient Medes and Persians destroyed ancient Babylon.

The second wave that destroys what is left of Babylon comes when Jesus Christ destroys the armies of the world which come against Him at Jerusalem after first gathering at Armageddon, or the “hill of Megiddo.”  Each and every soldier and officer in the armies will be destroyed in that attack on Jesus Christ.

When the ten rulers who gave their power and authority to the beast, the German dictator, realize that the 'great whore' [the Roman Catholic Church] is truly a lying, false church, they turn on her to destroy her**.** This is prophesied in Revelation 17:16 (NKJV): " 16 And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.”

The Roman Church and its entire clergy need to be brought to justice. They will soon burn alive those who resist their religion, just as they inflicted this punishment on some members of God’s Church and others who resisted being followers of its abominable religion of Satan worship, and just as in the Protestant Reformation and prior to that. The only condign punishment for the clergy of this Church is to be burnt alive. That is exactly what God is going to have done to them through the ten rulers of Europe according to this prophecy.

It seems these ten rulers will not be in Jerusalem with the beast when he sets up his regional headquarters there after defeating the King of the South.  So they will not be captured with the beast and the false prophet.  But it appears that they along with other rulers in the world [those who did not come to Jerusalem to attack Jesus Christ but had sent their armies] will be taken prisoners and punished, as prophesied in Isaiah 24:21-22 (NKJV): "It shall come to pass in that day that the Lord will punish on high the host of exalted ones, and on the earth the kings of the earth**.** They will be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and will be shut up in the prison; after many days they will be punished."

Here are Jeremiah's other prophecies concerning the destruction of 'Babylon':

Jeremiah 50:24-26, 29-30, 39-40: "You have indeed been trapped, O Babylon, and you were not aware; you have been found and also caught, because you have contended against the Lord.  The Lord has opened His armory, and has brought out the weapons of His indignation; for this is the work of the Lord God of hosts in the land of the Chaldeans.  Come against her from the farthest border; open her storehouses; cast her up as heaps of ruins, and destroy her utterly; let nothing of her be left..."Verses 29-30: "Call together the archers against Babylon, all you who bend the bow, encamp against it all around; let none of them escape.  Repay her according to her work; according to all she has done, do to her; for she has been proud against the Lord, against the Holy One of Israel. Therefore her young men shall fall in the streets, and all her men of war shall be cut off in that day, says the Lord"...Verses 39-40: "Therefore the wild desert beasts shall dwell there with the jackals, and the ostriches shall dwell in it.  It shall be inhabited no more forever, nor shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation.  As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah and their neighboring cities', says the Lord, 'So no one shall reside there, nor son of man dwell in it."

Further, Jeremiah 51:37, 42-43, 57, 60-64: "Babylon shall become a heap, a dwelling place for jackals, an astonishment and a hissing without an inhabitant."...Verses 42-43: "The sea has come up over Babylon; she is covered with the multitude of its waves.  Her cities are a desolation [the greatest earthquake ever in man’s history will destroy all cities], a dry land and a wilderness, a land where no one dwells, through which no son of man passes."...Verse 57: "And I will make drunk her princes and wise men, her governors, her deputies, and her mighty men.  And they shall sleep a perpetual sleep and not awake," says the King, whose name is the Lord of hosts"...

Jeremiah 51:60-64: "So Jeremiah wrote in a book all the evil that would come upon Babylon, all these words that are written against Babylon.  And Jeremiah said to Seraiah, "When you arrive in Babylon and see it, and read all these words, then you shall say, 'O Lord, You have spoken against this place [this part of the prophecy probably refers to the site of ancient Babylon, and in its duality to the city of Rome as explained in Revelation 17] to cut it off, so that none shall remain in it, neither man nor beast, but it shall be desolate forever.  Now it shall be, when you have finished reading this book, that you shall tie a stone to it and throw it out into the Euphrates.  Then you shall say, 'thus Babylon shall sink and not rise from the catastrophe that I will bring upon her..."

The book of Revelation further clarifies what God through Jeremiah the prophet prophesied in these verses. First of all, Revelation 17:18 (NKJV) identifies the Great Whore: “18 And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.” The seat of the woman, a symbol for the great false Church is that great city: Rome. Thus when Jeremiah prophesies the destruction of Babylon, he is talking about the utter destruction of Rome in its duality, meaning its latter fulfillment.

Revelation 18:1-3 (NKJV) further clarifies how the great city will have no human inhabitants as described by Jeremiah: “1 After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. 2 And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! 3 For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury."

The reason no human inhabitant will dwell in the former ruins of Rome is that the demons will be imprisoned there during the 1000 years of the reign of Jesus Christ. It will also be inhabited by hated birds such as vultures, crows and the like. And it is possible that after the greatest ever earthquake in the history of mankind mentioned in Revelation 16:18-20, parts of the ruins of the city of modern Rome may be submerged in the ocean to fulfill all of Jeremiah’s prophecies.

**Punishment of the Germans**

And parts of this prophecy will also be fulfilled by what God has prophesied about the Germans - the instigators of most of the evil.  The German dictator known as the beast is the head of the military, political, economic and religious Babylonian system. The Germans were anciently known as Assyrians.  Some prophecies concerning them also mention their ancientcapital city of Nineveh.  The prophets Isaiah and Nahum have much to say about Assyria.

Isaiah describes Assyria's punishment this way in Isaiah 10:12-19: "Therefore it shall come to pass, when the Lord has performed all His work on Mount Zion and on Jerusalem, that He will say, "I will punish the fruit of the arrogant heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his haughty looks."  For he says, "By the strength of my hand I have done it, and by my wisdom, for I am prudent;  also I have removed the boundaries of the people, and have robbed their treasuries; so I have put down the inhabitants like a valiant man.  My hand has found like a nest the riches of the people, and as one gathers eggs that are left, I have gathered all the earth; and there was no one who moved his wing, nor opened his mouth with even a peep."

The Germans have fulfilled these prophetic verses.  The classic example of 'removing boundaries of the people' is that of Saarland in France.  The German tactic has been to infiltrate an area with Germans who then live there and multiply over the centuries.  When they have grown in number, they then clamor to become part of Germany.  Then they suggest a possible solution: a referendum.  That is how France lost Saarland to the Germans.  The Germans have over the years laid similar claims to Sudetenland from the Czech, and territories from Poland, Denmark and Estonia.

And they have robbed the economies of almost all nations of the world by infiltrating nations of Europe, north and south America, and forming alliances with other nations.  They robbed people so surreptitiously that the victims were not even aware of it.  God gives a perfect analogy to describe what they have done.  The analogy is that of a bird and her eggs.  Germans have robbed the economies of the nations like someone stealing the bird's eggs from her nest so surreptitiously that she did not even know.  She did not flutter a wing or utter even a peep when her eggs were stolen.  Just like the bird loses her next generation, the economies of the nations were so thoroughly robbed by the Germans and their allies that it would take them many years if not a decade to recover.

But God continues in Isaiah 10:15-19: "Shall the ax boast itself against him who chops with it?  Or shall the saw magnify itself against him who saws with it?  As if a rod could wield itself against those who lift it up, or as if a staff could lift up, as if it were not wood!  Therefore the Lord, the Lord of hosts will send leanness among his fat ones; and under his glory He will kindle a burning like the burning of a fire.  So the Light of Israel will be for a fire, and his Holy One for a flame; it will burn and devour his thorns and his briars in one day.  And it will consume the glory of his forest and of his fruitful field, both soul and body; and they will be as when a sick man wastes away.  Then the rest of the trees of his forest will be so few in number that a child may write them."

Here the forest is used as a metaphor for the nation.  God will burn and devour the glory of this forest, meaning the population of Germany.  God also adds 'both soul and body' to what will be consumed.  Some of the Germans may have their consciences so seared because of their wickedness that they may not even be able to repent when they are resurrected, given an opportunity to learn God's way of life and their first chance for salvation.  Those that will not repent completely of their old ways will be burned in the lake of fire and their lives extinguished forever.  Thus their body and soul will be consumed. They will not receive eternal life.  They are being warned.

The number of Germans remaining alive will be so few that a little child may write them.  Up to what number can a little child count, leave alone write?  Perhaps only till the teens.  But certainly not to a hundred!  That is the number of Germans who will come out alive through the great tribulation, living in a few tiny villages.  They will escape utter destruction unlike the Edomites and the Babylonians (probably refers only to the descendants of the ancient Babylonians living in Italy) only by the proverbial 'skin of their teeth.'  But they will ultimately grow to a nation as prophesied in Isaiah 19:24-25: "In that day Israel will be one of three with Egypt and Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land, whom the Lord of hosts will bless, saying, "Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance." It will take centuries for them to grow into a nation.

Isaiah 31:8-9: "Then Assyria shall fall by a sword not of man, and a sword not of mankind shall devour him.  But he shall flee from the sword, and his young men shall become forced labor."

This shows that the Germans will take a beating at the hands of the Eastern Alliance, but that is not what will ultimately bring them down.  It will be Jesus Christ Himself who will destroy them ['sword not of man'] when the world fights against Him at Jerusalem, and after that in the greatest ever earthquake in the history of mankind, and 100 lb. hailstones that fall from heaven to punish all mankind as prophesied in Revelation 16:18-21.  This punishment by Jesus Christ will ultimately destroy the power of the Germans, but not as a people.

This prophecy also indicates that young Germans will become forced labor.  Isaiah 14:2 indicates that the house of Jacob will 'take them captive whose captives they were, and will rule over their oppressors'.  Verses 24-25 further show: "The Lord of hosts has sworn...that I will break the Assyrian in My land [the holy land of Israel] and on My mountains tread him underfoot..."

Why will the Germans be punished in Jerusalem? The reason is that the Germans in Germany are punished in these waves of punishment, but many soldiers had come to the holy land and occupied it after they defeated the King of the South. Many of them were destroyed in the attack by the Kings of the East. Some more died when they joined the armies of the world and attacked Jesus Christ. But some living in Jerusalem and the holy land still survived. Some undoubtedly will die in the greatest ever earthquake and the hailstorm. But there will still be some survivors left, along with the beast and the false prophet.

Obadiah the prophet then clarifies in Obadiah 1:15-18 (NKJV) when these remaining Germans and others in the Babylonian system in the holy land will be destroyed completely: “15 "For the day of the Lord upon all the nations is near; As you have done, it shall be done to you; Your reprisal shall return upon your own head. 16 For as you drank on my holy mountain [Jerusalem], so shall all the nations drink continually; Yes, they shall drink, and swallow, and they shall be as though they had never been. 17 "But on Mount Zion there shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions. 18 The house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame; But the house of Esau shall be stubble; They shall kindle them and devour them, And no survivor shall remain of the house of Esau," For the Lord has spoken.”

The House of Judah are the Jews and the House of Joseph are America and Britain. They will be the fire and the flame that will destroy all those that remain of all the nations that occupied the holy land for three and a half years of the Great Tribulation.

Jeremiah 51:42-43 quoted earlier states that the land of Babylon will be desolate without an inhabitant. This will include the land of Germany. This prophecy will be fulfilled when only a few Germans survive and some are held captives. They will perhaps go back to their land after about 50 years in the jubilee year and it will be centuries before their population recovers to become a nation again. For many centuries much of their land and other European lands of the Babylonian System will lie desolate without a human inhabitant, occupied by wild animals.

The prophet Nahum's prophecy is all about the Germans, using Nineveh their ancient capital as a symbol to represent them.  Nahum 1:1, 11 (NKJV): "The burden against Nineveh...From you comes forth one who plots evil against the Lord, a wicked counselor..." Nahum 2:8-10: "Though Nineveh of old was like a pool of water, now they flee away.  "Halt! Halt!" they cry; but no one turns back.  Take spoil of silver!  Take spoil of gold!  There is no end of treasure, or wealth of every desirable prize.  She is empty, desolate, and waste!  The heart melts, and the knees shake; much pain is in every side, and all their faces are drained of color."

Nahum 3:1, 5-7, 18-19: "Woe to the bloody city!  It is all full of lies and robbery.  Its victim never departs...Behold, I am against you," says the Lord of hosts; I will lift your skirts over your face, I will show the nations your nakedness [both literally and figuratively as they will have done to other nations], and the kingdoms your shame.  I will cast abominable filth upon you [as they have cast on other people], make you vile, and make you a spectacle.  It shall come to pass that all who look upon you will flee from you, and say, 'Nineveh is laid waste!'...Your shepherds slumber, O king of Assyria; your nobles rest in the dust.  Your people are scattered on the mountains, and no one gathers them.  Your injury has no healing, your wound is severe.  All who hear news of you will clap their hands over you, for upon whom has not your wickedness passed continually."

The author has been personally acquainted with the filthy and vile deeds as well as the wickedness of the Germans and their alliance partners in India and the USA since the age of ten, and for his entire working life of 39 years.  He has lived in poverty almost all the 39 years because the Germans and their allies have targeted him and prevented him from making a decent living.

But why are the Germans being spared from being annihilated whereas the Edomites and the Babylonians will not be spared? They have been more violent and cruel than any other nation in history. Why will they survive as a nation?  The reason is that God has used them to punish nations, particularly Israel.  They have been His instrument for punishing peoples.  They have performed a service for God.  And whenever God uses a nation for a particular purpose, He does not destroy it utterly.  God used ancient Egypt to demonstrate His power to Israel and the world when He rescued Israel from Egyptian slavery.  The Egyptians fulfilled God's purpose.  That is why Egypt was not utterly destroyed.  Even Pharaoh was used as an instrument to demonstrate God's power in the Exodus of ancient Israel.  That is why Pharaoh survived the plagues, and scholars agree that he did not drown in the Red Sea with the rest of his army.But the Edomites and the Babylonians will be utterly destroyed because they are the home of the two most violent, anti-God, Satan inspired and led religions in the world - Islam and Roman Catholicism.  Adherents of both religions have abundantly shed the blood of those who did not submit to them.

A Special Message for the Edomites, Some Italians and the Germans

God is not willing that any should perish.  He wants all to be saved and given eternal life.  Even though God has decreed utter destruction for the Edomites, Babylonians [whose descendants live in Italy], and most Germans, they will not have lost their chance for salvation and eternal life.  When the 1000 years of God's Kingdom are over, all those who were ever born and have died without having been called into God's Church will be resurrected as physical human beings.  Then they will be judged for a 100 years.  They will be taught God's way of life.  Satan won't be around to influence them.  Those who accept God's way of life [and most of humanity will] and make progress in living according to that way will qualify to receive eternal life.  So being destroyed in the great tribulation does not mean that they are lost forever.

However, any Edomite, Babylonian and German who wants to can repent of his or her sins now, accept God's way of life and join God's Church.  He will survive the great tribulation even though utter destruction is decreed for his people.  The best example that illustrates God's mercy in this regard is the example of the harlot Rahab.  God had decreed that all the Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites and the Jebusites were to be utterly destroyed and Israel was to possess their land.  Rahab the harlot lived in the city of Jericho.  Jericho was the first city chosen to be conquered.  But Rahab hid the Israelite spies.  She put her trust in God.  As a result Rahab and her entire family were spared even though everyone else in Jericho perished.  So any Edomite, Italian or German who wants to put his trust in God will certainly be spared and will not die in the destruction of his people.  The choice is entirely yours.  The ancestors of the Germans repented at the preaching of the prophet Jonah.  They are the only nation that has ever repented at the preaching of a prophet.  I would counsel individual Germans to follow the example of your ancestors and repent of your wickedness, lest your consciences be so seared that you will not be able to repent even when Satan's influence is removed.

**CHAPTER 9**

**GOD’S KINGDOM ESTABLISHED ON EARTH**

**Marriage of the Lamb**

After all the nations are subdued and there is no more opposition from human rulers to the rule of Jesus Christ, God’s kingdom will be established on earth. The establishment of God’s Kingdom is celebrated with a great feast and marriage of the Lamb. This is when Jesus Christ symbolically marries His Church, the saints collectively, who had been resurrected to eternal life at the return of Jesus Christ.

The marriage of Jesus Christ is mentioned in Revelation 19:6-9 (NKJV): “6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! 7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." 8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. 9 Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' "And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

Paul the apostle refers to the Church as a chaste virgin espoused to Jesus Christ in 2 Corinthians 11:2: “2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.”

**Satan Finally Bound and Put Away**

The Bible shows that Satan has deceived the whole world (Revelation 12:9).  The world will not have peace as long as Satan is around to deceive humanity.  So at the beginning of Jesus Christ's rule on earth, Satan is put away.  This is described in Revelation 20:1-3 (NKJV): "Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.  He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit [or abyss], and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished..."

These verses indicate that Satan will be in solitary confinement for 1,000 years of the Kingdom of God. His angels called demons will also be restrained.  They too will no longer be allowed to influence and deceive the nations any more.  This is indicated in II Peter 2:4: "For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell [tartarus - a place of restraint] and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;.."  Their most likely place of restraint will be the ruins of the city of Rome in the land of Babylon [modern Italy], as indicated in Revelation 18:1-2: "After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory.  And he cried mightily with a loud voice saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a habitation of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird."

**What will God's Kingdom Be Like?**

After Satan and the demons have been put away, the earth will finally be at peace.  God's kingdom will have been established on earth.  Saints of God, who were called into God's Church throughout man's history and remained faithful to Him till the end of their lives will have been resurrected at the return of Jesus Christ (when the seventh trumpet sounded) as spirit beings and appointed kings and priests [not kings or priests, but kings and priests; no separation of Church and state any more] over the nations.  They will reign with Jesus Christ over the nations as kings, lords and priests for a thousand years. Jesus Christ will be the King of these kings and Lord of these lords.

**One More Ugly Incident**

After Jesus Christ has settled the American, British and Jewish slaves and the other tribes of Israel in the holy land once again and will have been ruling over the nations for anywhere between a decade or so up to about two generations, the Israelites will start becoming prosperous due to God’s blessings. But their prosperity and living in unwalled, unprotected villages will give perverse thoughts to the survivors of the Russians and Chinese**.** And they will hatch a nefarious scheme to take over and loot Israelites in the holy land. Let Ezekiel the prophet tell the story in chapters 38 and 39 of his book.

Ezekiel 38 (NKJV):

“1 Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 2 "Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog [talking primarily about China and eastern Russia], the prince of Rosh [Western Russia], Meshech [Moscow], and Tubal [Tobolsk in Russia], and prophesy against him, 3 and say, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal. 4 I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords. 5 Persia [Iranians], Ethiopia [most likely the eastern branch in south, central and east India ], and Libya [most likely the eastern branch in western India] are with them, all of them with shield and helmet; 6 Gomer [Gomer gave rise to the Siamese (Thai), Burmese, Indonesians, Filipinos, Vietnamese, Laotians and Cambodians] and all its troops; the house of Togarmah [refers to Siberia, Mongolia, eastern Turkey] from the far north and all its troops--many people are with you.

“7 "Prepare yourself and be ready, you and all your companies that are gathered about you; and be a guard for them. 8 After many days you will be visited. In the latter years you will come into the land of those brought back from the sword and gathered from many people on the mountains of Israel [this identifies the fulfillment of this prophecy after Israelites are rescued from their slavery at the hands of the King of the North], which had long been desolate; they were brought out of the nations, and now all of them dwell safely. 9 You will ascend, coming like a storm, covering the land like a cloud, you and all your troops and many peoples with you."

“10 'Thus says the Lord God: "On that day it shall come to pass that thoughts will arise in your mind, and you will make an evil plan: 11 You will say, 'I will go up against a land of unwalled villages; I will go to a peaceful people, who dwellsafely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates'-- 12 to take plunder and to take booty, to stretch out your hand against the waste places that are again inhabited, and against a people gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and goods, who dwell in the midst of the land. 13 Sheba, Dedan, the merchants of Tarshish, and all their young lions will say to you, 'Have you come to take plunder? Have you gathered your army to take booty, to carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, to take great plunder?' " ' 14 "Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say to Gog, 'Thus says the Lord God: "On that day when My people Israel dwell safely, will you not know it? 15 Then you will come from your place out of the far north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great company and a mighty army. 16 You will come up against My people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land. It will be in the latter days that I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me, when I am hallowed in you, O Gog, before their eyes."

“17 Thus says the Lord God: "Are you he of whom I have spoken in former days by My servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied for years in those days that I would bring you against them? 18 "And it will come to pass at the same time, when Gog comes against the land of Israel," says the Lord God, "that My fury will show in My face. 19 For in My jealousy and in the fire of My wrath I have spoken: 'Surely in that day there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel, 20 so that the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all creeping things that creep on the earth, and all men who are on the face of the earth shall shake at My presence. The mountains shall be thrown down, the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.' 21 I will call for a sword against Gog throughout all My mountains," says the Lord God. "Every man's sword will be against his brother. 22 And I will bring him to judgment with pestilence and bloodshed; I will rain down on him, on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. 23 Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the Lord." '

Then God continues in Ezekiel 39 (KJV):

“1 Therefore, you son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say , Thus says the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: 2 And I will turn you back , and leave but the sixth part of you, and will cause you to come up from the north parts, and will bring you upon the mountains of Israel: 3 And I will smite your bow out of your left hand, and will cause your arrows to fall out of your right hand. 4 You shall fall upon the mountains of Israel, you, and all your bands, and the people that are with you: I will give you unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured. 5 You shall fall upon the open field: for I have spoken it, says the Lord God. 6 And I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know that I am the LORD. 7 So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; and I will not let them pollute my holy name any more: and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.

“8 Behold, it is come, and it is done, says the Lord God; this is the day whereof I have spoken. 9 And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth , and shall set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, and the hand staves , and the spears, and they shall burn them with fire seven years: 10 So that they shall take no wood out of the field, neither cut down any out of the forests; for they shall burn the weapons with fire: and they shall spoil those that spoiled them, and rob those that robbed them, says the Lord GOD.

“11 And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will give unto Gog a place there of graves in Israel, the valley of the passengers on the east of the sea: and it shall stop the noses of the passengers: and there shall they bury Gog and all his multitude: and they shall call it The valley of Hamongog [multitude of Gog]. 12 And seven months shall the house of Israel be burying of them, that they may cleanse the land. 13 Yea, all the people of the land shall bury them; and it shall be to them a renown the day that I shall be glorified, says the Lord God. 14 And they shall sever out men of continual employment, passing through the land to bury with the passengers those that remain upon the face of the earth, to cleanse it: after the end of seven months shall they search. 15 And the passengers that pass through the land, when any sees a man's bone, then shall he set up a sign by it, till the buriers have buried it in the valley of Hamongog. 16 And also the name of the city shall be Hamonah [Multitudes]. Thus shall they cleanse the land.

“17 And, you son of man, thus says the Lord GOD; Speak unto every feathered fowl, and to every beast of the field, Assemble yourselves, and come; gather yourselves on every side to my sacrifice that I do sacrifice for you, even a great sacrifice upon the mountains of Israel, that you may eat flesh, and drink blood. 18 You shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams, of lambs, and of goats, of bullocks, all of them fatlings of Bashan. 19 And you shall eat fat till you be full, and drink blood till you be drunken, of my sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you. 20 Thus you shall be filled at my table with horses and chariots, with mighty men, and with all men of war, says the Lord God. 21 And I will set my glory among the heathen, and all the heathen shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid upon them.

“22 So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day and forward. 23 And the heathen shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity: because they trespassed against me, therefore hid I my face from them, and gave them into the hand of their enemies: so fell they all by the sword. 24 According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions have I done unto them, and hid my face from them. 25 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD; Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for my holy name; 26 After that they have borne their shame, and all their trespasses whereby they have trespassed against me, when they dwelt safely in their land, and none made them afraid.

“27 When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies ' lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations; 28 Then shall they know that I am the Lord their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there. 29 Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, says the Lord God.”

God here says that only one sixth of the vast army of many nations will return home alive to carry the tale of their defeat and that the God of Israel in Jerusalem is indeed the true God. Israelites will not have to do any fighting. God Himself will destroy 5/6th of the invading army, and Israel will learn the lesson that they will not need to fight battles, because God will fight for them. All Israelites will finally know that their God is the true Almighty God after God’s Holy Spirit is given to all of them.

**Allotment of Land to the Nations**

After this incident, the nations will finally acknowledge that the God of Israel is the true Creator God and will finally be willing to listen to Him. Perhaps at this time, in the Jubilee Year (that is the 50th year) after God’s Kingdom will have been established, when nations are willing to listen to God, a division of countries for all the surviving nations will be made. Remember, the greatest ever earthquake in the history of mankind will have altered the surface of the earth. Mountains and islands will have disappeared. Much more land will have become available for man’s use. The earth’s population would also have recovered somewhat.

Just as Noah divided the land between nations soon after the Flood and sent out colonies, perhaps Noah will again be charged with the task of informing all peoples about division of the earth into countries for all nations, and they will be asked to move to their respective allotted lands. The movement of people though will likely be minimal as most will already be settled in their allotted lands. But they will be happy to go to colonize new land that would have become available. This time there will be no rebellion against God’s plan as there was in Noah’s day after the Flood when Cush, Nimrod, Semiramis and Asshur built the Tower of Babel in rebellion against God. All peoples will go to their respective allotted countries.

Nations will go to their lands with happiness and joy because of the abundance of fertile land, full of natural resources, and no ferocious wild animals. Nations will no longer be moved from their lands by conquering armies and will live in peace. No one will make anyone afraid in their land. They will rebuild the waste places of the cities that were destroyed. Nations of Israel are promised that they will never again be moved from their lands, and will dwell in peace and abundance, which promise by extension will apply to all nations.

Amos 9:14-15 says (NKJV): “14 I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; They shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; They shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them. 15 I will plant them in their land, and no longer shall they be pulled up from the land I have given them," says the Lord your God.”

Micah 4:4 says: “4 But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken it.”

Jeremiah 33:10-13 prophesied of the joy and happiness that will characterize the land of Israel (NKJV): “10 "Thus says the Lord: 'Again there shall be heard in this place…in the cities of Judah, in the streets of Jerusalem…11 the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride… For I will cause the captives of the land to return as at the first,' says the Lord. 12 "Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'In this place which is desolate, without man and without beast, and in all its cities, there shall again be a dwelling place of shepherds causing their flocks to lie down. 13 In the cities of the mountains, in the cities of the lowland, in the cities of the South, in the land of Benjamin, in the places around Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah…”

Jeremiah 31:11-13 (NKJV): “11 For the Lord has redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of one stronger than he. 12 Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, streaming to the goodness of the Lord -- for wheat and new wine and oil, for the young of the flock and the herd; their souls shall be like a well-watered garden, and they shall sorrow no more at all. 13 "Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old, together; for I will turn their mourning to joy, will comfort them, and make them rejoice rather than sorrow.”

**How God will Solve Humanity’s Problems**

1) ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT

Many statesmen have pondered world problems and are virtually unanimous in proclaiming that the only solution lies in one super world government, and that government must come from a ‘strong hand from some place,’ capable of putting down any dictator like Hitler or Stalin, or any nation in its place, and preventing it from waging war.

Sir Winston Churchill once said, “The creation of an authoritative all-powerful world order is the ultimate aim toward which we must strive.  Unless some effective world super government can be brought quickly into action, the proposals for peace and human progress are dark and doubtful.”

Robert Muller, a former Assistant Secretary General of the U.N. said: “We must move as quickly as possible to a one-world government, one-world religion, under a one-world leader.”

Jesus Christ is returning to earth to set up just such a world government. Isaiah prophesied this in Isaiah 9:6-7 (NKJV): “6 For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.”

The ugly incident of the attack by Gog in the land of Magog will have taught the nations to not wage war any more.  The sculpture of a soldier beating his sword into a plowshare outside the United Nations’ headquarters is based on the prophecy about God’s kingdom in Micah 4:1-3 and Isaiah 2:3-4 (NKJV): “Many people shall come and say, “Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths [meaning one Law or constitution for all of humanity, the Holy Bible, and one world religion].”  For out of Zion [meaning God’s Church headquartered in Jerusalem] shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall rebuke many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn anymore.”

Mountain in prophecy is a symbol for a great nation or empire and government. So mountain of the Lord refers to God’s kingdom and government. Zion refers to Jerusalem, the symbol and the future capital of God’s world ruling government. Zion in prophecy is also a symbol for God’s Church.

Historians say that more wars have been fought in the history of mankind over the land in and around Jerusalem than any other piece of land. In God’s kingdom great peace, abundance, happiness and joy, and no more destruction are prophesied for Jerusalem, though there will be one more attack attempted on Jerusalem later at the end of the 1000 years of God’s Kingdom.

Isaiah 65:18-19 says: “18 But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. 19 And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.”

Isaiah 60:18 says: “18 Violence shall no more be heard in your land, wasting nor destruction within your borders; but you shall call your walls Salvation, and your gates Praise.”

Zechariah 8:3-5 (NKJV) says: “3 "Thus says the Lord: 'I will return to Zion, and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, The Mountain of the Lord of hosts, The Holy Mountain.' 4 "Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each one with his staff in his hand because of great age. 5 The streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets.”

Isaiah 33:20 (NKJV) says: “20 Look upon Zion, the city of our appointed feasts; Your eyes will see Jerusalem, a quiet home, A tabernacle that will not be taken down; Not one of its stakes will ever be removed, Nor will any of its cords be broken.”

So what man hopes for but cannot do for himself, God will do for him.  God will not allow any dictator like Hitler, Stalin, Saddam Hussein or Idi Amin to arise to make war.  Every human being will be perfectly secure in his own property.  No criminals, gangsters or warlords will be allowed to rise.  There will at last be universal peace and the world will look to Jerusalem, the world capital, for guidance, direction and instruction. Jesus Christ will then set His hand to reeducate and save or spiritually convert the world.

2) A CHANGE OF HEART

The process of spiritually saving the world begins with spiritual reeducation. And that cannot be accomplished in a carnal human mind. Ancient Israel proved that. So a change in heart will be needed for all of humanity and will begin with the tribes of Israel. The change of heart begins with learning God’s way of life, repenting of one’s sins and making a commitment to obey God’s laws and pursue righteousness. The commitment is sealed by being baptized and receiving God’s holy spirit, which will then enable human beings to keep God’s law in the letter and spiritual intent. Many prophecies indicate what God will do, beginning with Israel.

The last verse of Ezekiel 39:29 quoted earlier stated this: “29 Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, says the Lord GOD.” Change of heart begins with God giving His holy spirit to Israel first and all living human beings later as they become converted and baptized.

God speaking through Ezekiel further says in Ezekiel 36:26-27: "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit [meaning God’s holy spirit] within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them."

Jeremiah 31:33 says: “33 …this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”

Joel 2:28: “28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh…” All flesh means all of humanity.

God’s holy spirit given to all of humanity will open man’s mind to understand God’s law and lead to a change of heart to enable man to obey all of God’s commandments. Our carnal minds are incapable of fully understanding God’s law and obeying it with all of our being.

God’s holy spirit will produce in each human being the fruits that God’s holy spirit does. These are described in Galatians 5:22-23: “22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”

The fruits of the spirit will replace the works of the flesh from the hearts, minds and lives of individuals and nations mentioned in Galatians 19-21: “19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

This change in the hearts and minds of human beings will usher in the peace and harmony the Bible prophesies. Even the nature of wild animals will be changed as described by Isaiah 11:6-9 (NKJV): “6 "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. 7 The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. 9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.”

Oh, what a wonderful and peaceful world it will be for all of humanity to enjoy!

3) REEDUCATING THE WORLD

After the ugly attack of Gog in the land of Magog and their allies, the world will finally be willing to learn from the God of Israel, Jesus Christ, and the saints now made immortal ruling with Him. These saints have been appointed as kings, governors and mayors over the nations with Jesus Christ as the King of these kings and Lord of these lords. But just as today, God will also use human beings of the tribes of Israel to teach the nations.

The process begins by making an announcement to the nations that they are required to send a delegation to God’s Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem for 8 days to learn from the God of Israel. And those who won’t comply will be punished. This is prophesied in Zechariah 14:16-19: “16 And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. 17 And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, on them there will be no rain. 18 If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have no rain; they shall receive the plague with which the Lord strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. 19 This shall be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.”

Initially some may decide not to send a delegation, but when there is no rain in their lands and face starvation and have to rely on charity from other nations, they will comply with Jesus Christ’s requirement to send a delegation annually to the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem. The rest of the population will keep the Feast of Tabernacles for 8 days in their own lands. God’s plan of salvation and knowledge of His Law and His ways will begin to be taught during God’s weekly Sabbaths and seven annual holy days.

The nations will also seek out Israelites who have lived among them and have had experience in their ways to now teach them God’s ways. And Jews are that people, some of who have been scattered among and lived among virtually all nations of the world. Then will be fulfilled the prophecy in Zechariah 8:22-23 (NKJV): “22 Yes, many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the Lord.' 23 "Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you."

Founded by the pagan philosopher Plato, the world’s academic system has always remained pagan. Its basis is human philosophy. But in the 17th and 18th centuries, German rationalism, and later in the 19th and 20th centuries, atheism and the theory of evolution were injected into it. The basis of all these thought processes is to explain life and the material universe by human reasoning, experience or experimentation alone, but inspired by Satan behind the scenes. The true creator God, who created everything that exists is left completely out of the picture. That is how Satan has deceived the whole world.

In God’s kingdom, the foundation of all knowledge will be revelation from God. And God’s inspired word, the Holy Bible, is that foundation of knowledge. The Holy Bible will also be the constitution of the world according to which the whole world will be governed.

When Jesus Christ begins His rule, educating and reeducating the world will be one of the most important tasks the Kingdom of God will face. Today much of humanity is illiterate. God will first have to restore peoples’ minds to be able to develop basic reading, writing and arithmetic skills. And virtually all people follow false and deceptive values. Their entire thinking will need to be reoriented based on understanding the true purpose of human life. God’s Law, His plan of salvation for mankind, His way of life and true values will be taught. God’s truth will replace paganism based on human intellectual ignorance or vanity, or inspiration from Satan and the demons.

The true knowledge, including knowledge of God’s law will go forth from the Church – and from Jerusalem, the new world capital. The prophet Micah prophesied in Micah 4:2-3: “…2 And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion [a symbol for God’s Church], and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 3 And he [Jesus Christ] shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”

Perhaps more wars have been fought over religion in the history of man than any other cause.  But in God’s government there will be only one religion throughout the earth.  People today have problems believing in God.  They don’t know which the true religion is.  But in God’s kingdom no proof will be needed.  The Creator of mankind, Jesus Christ Himself will be with men and they will not need any proof that He exists.

Human beings will also be able to believe in God’s plan of salvation because they will be able to see the former saints of God who will have become eternal beings.  This will give great hope to all human beings.  They will have the sure knowledge and hope that they can themselves become literal eternal sons of God.  Only God’s true way of life will be taught.  Satan and his demons will be removed as rulers of the earth.  So they will no longer be able to deceive human beings into believing in false religions. There will be one religion for all of humanity.

Humanity will be able to see and be taught by saints made immortal. Isaiah 30:20-21 (NKJV) says: “20 And though the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your teachers will not be moved into a corner anymore, but your eyes shall see your teachers. 21 Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left.”

As a result of this massive reeducation effort, the world will become full of the knowledge of God’s Law and His ways. Jeremiah the prophet prophesied this in Jeremiah 31:34: “34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know Me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, says the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

Isaiah 11:9 also says: “9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.”

4) FROM SCARCITY TO ABUNDANCE

Scarcity or lack of resources is a major cause of warfare among nations as well as fights among individuals. All people on earth want to enjoy the same standard of living as an average American. But that will require the resources of a few planets the size of the earth in its current state. In His Kingdom God will first solve humanity’s so-called overpopulation problem before the beginning of the millennium by making the earth capable of supporting at least 100 – 120 billion people.  God has a plan for salvation for all human beings who have ever lived.  The estimate of their number is anywhere from 50-60 billion people.  They are all going to be resurrected after 1,000 years of Jesus’ rule on earth as physical human beings.  The earth will be able to support all of them.  This will have become possible because of the surface of the earth being transformed during the greatest earthquake in the history of mankind as described earlier from Revelation 16:17-21 when Jesus Christ punished all the nations that sent armies against Him to Jerusalem.

With increase in the cultivatable area that is now under the oceans, availability of plenty of water, right agricultural practices and lifting of God’s original curse on the earth mentioned in Genesis 3:17-19 when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, and His blessings on the crops instead, the earth will be able to support at least 20 times its current population. Because of great volcanic activity due to earthquakes and the land that is now under the oceans rising, the wealth of the oceans and the minerals brought to the surface due to lava outflows will make much more mineral resources available for man’s use. That is how God will solve humanity’s overpopulation problem: by turning scarcity of land, water and mineral resources into great abundance of all these things.

Then before humanity’s population begins to increase in the 1000 year reign of Jesus Christ, the land that will not be cultivated for a few centuries will develop a thick layer of fertile rich soil for humanity to later use for growing bumper crops.

The blossoming of deserts is prophesied in Isaiah 35:1-2, 6-7: “And the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose.  It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, even with joy and singing…for waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.  The parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water.”

Availability of plenty of fresh water is also prophesied in Isaiah 41:18-20 (New International Version - NIV): “18 I will make rivers flow on barren heights, and springs within the valleys. I will turn the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into springs. 19 I will put in the desert the cedar and the acacia, the myrtle and the olive. I will set pines in the wasteland, the fir and the cypress together, 20 so that people may see and know, may consider and understand, that the hand of the LORD has done this, that the Holy One of Israel has created it.”

Transformation of the earth will lead to abundance of food and other crops to feed and clothe mankind as God had promised ancient Israel. These promises are mentioned in Leviticus 26:4 and Deuteronomy 28: 11.

Leviticus 26:4-5: “4 Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. 5 And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and you shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely.”

Deuteronomy 28:11 (NKJV): “11 And the Lord will grant you plenty of goods, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your ground, in the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers to give you.”

Because abundant fertile land and plenty of water will be available with suitable climate for growing crops, there will be bountiful harvests all over the earth. Therefore, scarcity of food will be a thing of the past. The prophet Amos prophesied in 9:13:"Behold, the days are coming," God says, "when the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; the mountains shall drip with sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it."

Can you imagine every person on earth being able to afford to drink quality wine? That is the quality of abundant food that every human will be able to afford.

Nations and different races will be distributed all over the earth.  Because abundant land, water and mineral resources will be available to all nations, they will not covet each other’s land.  This is indicated in God’s instructions to ancient Israel in Exodus 34:24: “***24*** For I will cast out the nations before you and enlarge your borders; neither will any man covet your land when you go up to appear before the Lord your God three times in the year.” This will be fulfilled in God’s Kingdom. There will be peace and harmony between the nations and races.

5) PERFECT GLOBAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM

God’s kingdom will restore a perfect global economic system for mankind.

*Minimal Taxation*

Today’s governments demand 40, 50 even 90% in taxes from their citizens.  But God requires human beings to pay Him only 10%.  In God’s kingdom, the entire government, justice, education and religious systems will be financed only by this 10%.  There will be no need for other taxes except for a third tithe to help the poor [widows, orphans, strangers] in the second and sixth years of a seven year cycle.  The reason there will be no need for other taxes is that the kings and rulers of cities will not need to be paid salaries.  They will be eternal sons of God.  People will be able to enjoy full 90% of what they earn.  And the 10% given to God will also be used in the service of man to pay salaries to teachers, judges and priests engaged in teaching and administering God’s laws and His ways.

*Booming Global Economy Based on Free Enterprise*

National economies will be based on free enterprise. No nation will have a communist or a socialist form of economy. Land will be allotted to families which will remain in the family for future generations. Agricultural land will be sold and bought based on the number of years to the Jubilee Year, every 50th year, the year of release. If a family had to sell land because of hardship, every fiftieth year the family will return to its ancestral land free and clear.

This law is stated in Leviticus 25:8-18 (NKJV): “8 'And you shall count seven sabbaths of years for yourself, seven times seven years; and the time of the seven sabbaths of years shall be to you forty-nine years. 9 Then you shall cause the trumpet of the Jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement you shall make the trumpet to sound throughout all your land. 10 And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a Jubilee for you; and each of you shall return to his possession, and each of you shall return to his family. 11 That fiftieth year shall be a Jubilee to you…12 For it is the Jubilee; it shall be holy to you…13 'In this Year of Jubilee, each of you shall return to his possession. 14 And if you sell anything to your neighbor or buy from your neighbor's hand, you shall not oppress one another. 15 According to the number of years after the Jubilee you shall buy from your neighbor, and according to the number of years of crops he shall sell to you. 16 According to the multitude of years you shall increase its price, and according to the fewer number of years you shall diminish its price; for he sells to you according to the number of the years of the crops. 17 Therefore you shall not oppress one another, but you shall fear your God; for I am the Lord your God.”

Thus God’s law will give a fresh start every 50th year to all families that may have fallen on hard times. This, coupled with other laws in the Bible such as the third tithe (payment of 10% of income for two years in a 7-year cycle) will provide all help necessary to maintain the poor and the needy.

Defense expenditures constitute a large percentage of most nations’ budgets. Since war will be banished in God’s kingdom, there will be no need for armies or defense establishments.  These costs now paid for through taxes will no longer be incurred.

With eternal beings ruling, there will be honest government.  No bribes, no perversion of justice, no favoritism. There will be no need for an elaborate bureaucracy to watch over other government officials.  In addition, a level playing field, fairness and honesty in business and industry will be required and maintained.  All nations will receive a fair price for their produce, resources or industrial production.  No pollution will be allowed. Such an economic environment, the availability of abundant agricultural and mineral resources and government stability will spur entrepreneurial and industrial activity, resulting in a booming global economy, leading to universal prosperity.

6) UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE

In most nations’ economies, healthcare costs constitute major government expenditures. No single expenditure bankrupts more families today than healthcare costs even in a developed country like the USA. In God’s government, there will be no need for an elaborate healthcare system, and the insurance or medical costs associated with it. Jesus Christ Himself will take charge of healthcare and will not leave it in the hands of puny human beings.

There is a cause for every effect.  There is a cause for every sickness.  Sickness is the result of violating God’s laws of health.  Once we remove the cause of sickness, the body usually heals itself.  So sickness and disease in God’s Kingdom will be solved in two ways: First, human beings will be educated on the laws of good health.  As a result they will be able to avoid the causes of sickness. This will prevent sickness and disease.

When some become sick despite taking all measures to prevent the causes, God will supernaturally heal them.  God’s method of healing is described in James 5:14: “Is anyone among you sick?  Let him call for the elders of the Church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.  And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up.”

Malachi 4:2 (NKJV) says: “2 But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings; And you shall go out and grow fat like stall-fed calves.”

Not only all sickness will be removed, even all deformities will be removed. This is described in Isaiah 35:5-6: “Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing.”

No healthcare expenditures will have a tremendous positive impact on personal incomes and personal and national productivity.

7) ONE WORLD LANGUAGE

Peace and prosperity among nations in God’s kingdom through cooperation will also be facilitated by ONE COMMON LANGUAGE all over the earth. Today all languages are corrupt.  They are literally filled with terms that originated in paganism and superstition, euphemisms for blasphemous words, phrases that take God’s name in vain, expressions peculiar to the particular language, misnomers, exceptions to rules, and filthy words inspired by Satan and his demons.  But God says in Zephaniah 3:9 “For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may call upon the name of the Eternal, to serve Him with one consent.”

The world had one language at one time and humans could communicate with one another easily. As a result evils multiplied.  That is why God confused man’s language at the Tower of Babel in order to slow the spread of evils between peoples and nations.  At that time Cush, Nimrod, Semiramis and Asshur were attempting to impose their Satan inspired paganism on the entire world by force. But God divided humanity along racial lines by giving each race a different language and forced it to spread out around the world and colonize different areas of the earth. It prevented Cush, Nimrod, Semiramis and Asshur from realizing their dream of ruling all of humanity.

When God restores one pure language to mankind, right education, music, literature and scientific discoveries will be more easily shared between nations and peoples.  The result will be much faster progress for mankind in all areas.

That is the kind of world God’s kingdom will usher in for all of humanity to enjoy for a millennium, or one thousand years.

**CHAPTER 10**

**CHANCE FOR SALVATION FOR ALL OF HUMANITY**

**One Final Human Conflict**

At the end of the millennium, the first event that occurs is the release of Satan for a little season. This is described in Revelation 20: 7-10: “Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and he will go to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city [Jerusalem]. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. And the devil who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet were cast. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”

To fully understand why God releases Satan for a “little season”, which means only a short time (could be as short as a few months), we must understand what happened to him and the demons at the beginning of the millennium. As pictured by the annual holy day or festival called the Day of Atonement, all of humanity’s sins were laid on Satan’s head and he was imprisoned in chains in the bottomless pit or abyss by the hand of a mighty angel, as described in Revelation 20:1-3. Symbolism of the Day of Atonement that pictured this event was the taking away of the Azazel goat to an uninhabited wilderness and releasing it (Leviticus 16:5-10). Uninhabited wilderness would parallel the solitary confinement of Satan in the abyss for 1,000 years.

The demons, however, will be imprisoned in the territory that is spiritually known as Babylon, which in Revelation 17 and 18 is described as “that great city.” Students of prophecy know that city to be Rome. So for the 1,000 years the demons are imprisoned in the ruins of Rome. But Satan is no longer ruler over them. Hence he can no longer influence them. In their place of imprisonment the demons will be free to decide how they want to conduct themselves and be governed. They can choose to still live in Satan’s way of ‘get’, deception, violence and murder, or change their ways and learn to live according to God’s way of love. Perhaps many of them have already gone too far and it is impossible for them to repent and change. But their imprisonment without Satan’s influence will at least provide them an opportunity to repent and change their ways.

The apostle Paul wrote in I Corinthians 6:3: “Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more things that pertain to this life?” This shows that one of the jobs of the firstfruits will be judging demons. Judging does not mean sentencing but evaluating the conduct of individuals being judged and making a decision regarding them after a certain period of evaluation. This is the precise meaning of the white throne judgment that is pictured by the Last Great Day, which I will shortly explain. Thus it seems that the immortal saints will be judging the demons during the 1,000 years of their imprisonment, and later.

Letting Satan loose for a “little season” is perhaps a test God has devised for the demons to see if any of them will repent of their sins. It is also a way to test humanity to see if they are totally convinced that God’s way is the only way that works for the best interests of everyone.

Once Satan is turned loose, he and the demons that join him proceed to again influence mankind. But only the people of Gog and Magog which refers mainly to China, Mongolia and countries close to it, and parts of Russia, respond to Satan’s influence. Revelation 20:8 actually says, “8 and [Satan] will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog…” This seems to imply that towards the end of the millennium, nations descended from Gog and Magog would have spread to all four corners of the earth. We should remember that the greatest earthquake ever in the history of mankind had greatly altered the surface of the earth, shrinking the oceans and making much more land available. Gog and Magog would have been allotted this land in all corners of the earth which is currently under the oceans.

Perhaps Satan uses the historical resentment of the nations of Gog and Magog for destroying their armies at the beginning of the 1000 year reign of Jesus Christ when they had attacked the Israelites as quoted earlier from Ezekiel 38 and 39. He could also cause them to feel resentment against Israelite nations because of their relatively greater blessings and prosperity and accuse Jesus and the saints occupying top positions in God’s government at Jerusalem with Him of favoritism, most of who will have been Israelites in their human lives. In addition, physical Israelites occupy the Holy Land which gives them a prosperous economy because all nations come to visit Jerusalem. Millions will be deceived, despite having been exposed to sound teaching of the truth in the millennium, and being forewarned of Satan’s arrival.

It is not fully revealed how God will treat those who rebel against Him in this last conflict. They could forfeit their opportunity for eternal life. But if God Almighty wants this history written as a lesson for eternity and already knows who will be influenced in this rebellion, He could resurrect those of Gog and Magog who rebelled in the second resurrection that immediately follows this Satan led rebellion. The reason for this could be that many of these people of Gog and Magog were still unconverted and had not yet made a commitment to God’s way of life by being baptized, even though they were living in the millennium. They had not known any other way of life. By releasing Satan, perhaps God wants to show humanity how powerful and diabolically cunning Satan really is, and that He was protecting mankind all along as He chose to protect them. Humanity will know that no human could have resisted Satan and the demons on his own, and in some cases even after having received God’s Holy Spirit. Thus humanity will learn the lesson forever that they ultimately need to rely on God the Father and Jesus Christ for protection forever.

The statement in Revelation 20:10, “where the beast and the false prophet are cast” should read “were cast.” The verb “are” was placed by the translators, whereas this is describing a past event and the verb should be past tense. The beast and false prophet had immediately perished in that fire. The only beings that survive in the lake of fire are spirit beings—Satan and the demons.

Let’s read Revelation 20:10 again with “are” changed to “were”: “The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet were cast. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.” Since the pronoun ‘they’ is used instead of he, this means that some of the demons, or perhaps many of them do follow Satan even in this rebellion against God, after their imprisonment for 1,000 years, but free from Satan’s rule over them. It is a rebellion against God because the armies of Gog and Magog travel the breadth of the earth and surround the beloved city Jerusalem to attack Jesus Christ and the saints at Jerusalem and not other nations. Again, one of the likely reasons for resentment against the former saints could be that most of those occupying top positions are former Israelites, and virtually none from Gog and Magog.

Of course, this attack fails and the armies are destroyed, as stated in Revelation 20:9: “and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.” Then Satan and the demons with him who led this final rebellion are cast into the lake of fire and brimstone burning in Jerusalem to be tormented by being restrained there for the next 100 years from ever again influencing mankind. Their fate is now sealed.

**The Second Resurrection**

Immediately after this final Satan influenced tragic conflict, God’s plan now begins the process of offering salvation to all human beings who have ever lived. This is described in Revelation 20:11-13 (NKJV): "Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it [this is talking partly about all who died in Noah’s Flood and are buried in the depths of the oceans], and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works."

The dead who stand before their Creator are all those who died never knowing the true God. These people emerge from their graves and begin to know the true God. The books they are judged by are the books of the Bible, the only source of knowledge of eternal life. The Greek term biblia used here is the same word translated “bible.” Finally all will have an opportunity to fully understand God's plan of salvation.

The dead who are resurrected in this White Throne Judgment (the 2nd resurrection) are to be judged primarily according to what they do after being resurrected to a physical life. These people will live in a millennial-like setting and experience firsthand the abundance and joy of living God’s Way *for the first time*. It is a time of judgment—not a time of sentencing, as many have been misled to believe.

In Revelation 20:5 John writes that "the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished." Here John makes a clear distinction between the first resurrection, which occurs at Christ's second coming (verses 4, 6), and the second resurrection, which takes place at the end of Christ's millennial reign. Remember that the first resurrection is to eternal life. By contrast, God raises those in the second resurrection to a physical, flesh-and-blood existence.

We can also be certain that this second resurrection is to a physical life from Isaiah 65:20-25: “No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days. For the child shall die one hundred years old. But the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit…It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent’s food. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, says the Lord.”

These verses clearly show that these are physical human beings who will live a hundred years during this judgment time (whether they begin as infants and grow to maturity, or as elderly people whose health and vitality are restored). They also build houses and inhabit them. Only flesh and blood humans need to do that. Also note that verse 25 shows the change in the nature of carnivorous and dangerous animals, just as occurred in the Millennium. This one-hundred-year time of judgment will have similar conditions as existed in the Millennium, including all the blessings and abundance of that time. All who had never been called to salvation before the Return of Christ will be given their first and only chance for salvation. When they are resurrected to this world of peace, tranquility, abundance, joy, health and happiness, the vast majority will overwhelmingly treasure God’s way of life over the misery and sin of their prior existence. The tens of billions (possibly 50-60 billion) in this judgment will be receptive to the truth and responsive to their teachers.

From these verses it appears that God has allotted a time span of 100 years for the White Throne Judgment. Why do human beings need to be given a hundred year time span to enable them to learn and be judged according to God’s ways, while the average life span these days is only 70 years? The reason is that in the second resurrection there will be many resurrected who lived 900 years or more before the flood, such as Lamech and his descendants. That was their normal life span. When these people wake up in the second resurrection, 20-30 years will not be enough time for them to be properly judged according to their time perspective. Thirty years have a different meaning for those whose life span is only 70 years than for those whose normal life span has been more than 900 years. Those who have lived more than 900 years need to be given sufficient time to learn, absorb and experience God’s way of life at the pace they are used to. God in His wisdom has perhaps decided that 100 years is an appropriate space of time for this purpose. In addition, because the curse on the earth would have been lifted and food, air and water will be pure and healthy again, people will be able to live healthier and longer lives. So even those who died only 70 years old will live the full 100 years! Certainly they will have to be resurrected into bodies that would last 100 years.

**Ezekiel Also Describes a Physical Resurrection**

The prophet Ezekiel also describes this physical resurrection to an opportunity for salvation in a vision of a valley full of bones in chapter 37:1-14 (NKJV). He writes:*1* The hand of the Lord came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. ***2*** Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry. ***3*** And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord God, You know." ***4*** Again He said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! ***5*** Thus says the Lord God to these bones: "Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. ***6*** I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the Lord." ' "

***7*** So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. ***8*** Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them. ***9*** Also He said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." ' " ***10*** So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army. ***11*** Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!' ***12*** Therefore prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. ***13*** Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. ***14*** I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken it and performed it," says the Lord.' "

In this vision a physical resurrection took place. The people thought their situation was hopeless. But God gives them hope by saying that He will resurrect them and give them His holy spirit. Then verses 26-28 say: ***26*** Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them, and it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; I will establish them and multiply them, and I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore. ***27*** My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ***28*** The nations also will know that I, the Lord, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore."

God promises that He will make an EVERLASTING COVENANT of peace with Israel. Verse 28 says that the nations will also know that God will sanctify [or set apart as holy] Israel, which means that other nations will also be resurrected at the same time as Israel. The EVERLASTING COVENANT is the same original covenant that God desires with all intelligent creatures He has created, which is to live among them as verse 27 states: “My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” But that can happen only when humanity stops sinning by becoming eternal sons of God.

Not only Israel, but all who have never had a chance to drink from the living waters of God's Word and His Holy Spirit will at last be able to do so (Romans 9:22-26 (NKJV): 22 What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, 23 and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, 24 even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles? 25 As He says also in Hosea: "I will call them My people, who were not My people, And her beloved, who was not beloved." 26 "And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people [Non-Israelite nations and the unconverted],' There they shall be called sons of the living God."). God will freely offer them the opportunity for eternal life.

This was made clear when Jesus Christ discussed the second resurrection.

**Jesus Discusses the Second Resurrection**

Matthew records in 11:20-24: “Then He [that is Jesus] began to upbraid the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent: Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you.”

Christ was rebuking the cities of Chorazin and Bethsaida in which He had performed miracles and other works and the people had ignored His witness. He told them that had the same works been done in ancient Tyre and Sidon, they would have readily repented. Therefore, it would be more tolerable (in the future judgment of the 2nd resurrection) for these ancient cities of Tyre and Sidon than for those who ignored Christ’s miracles and works. For the same reasons, ancient Sodom would fare better than Capernaum. God will clearly hold those accountable who have been exposed to the truth and ignored it. Christ’s generation will have to demonstrate its repentance at a much deeper level in the White Throne judgment due to their failure to heed His words.

Matthew then records in 12:41-42: “The men of Nineveh will rise in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here. The queen of the South [or the queen of Sheba] will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon is here.”

Christ here compared the city of Nineveh—which responded to the warning of Jonah—with His generation in Judah, who dismissed His warnings. He also contrasted the Queen of the South (Sheba), who came to hear the wisdom of Solomon from far off, with those of His generation, who were oblivious to the fact that One much greater than Solomon was among them.

God’s plan for salvation of all mankind shows how deep and far reaching are the merciful judgments of God. The inhabitants of ancient Tyre, Sidon and Sodom—cities that had incurred the wrath of God for their depravities—will receive mercy in the Day of Judgment. God will resurrect these people and include them in the time of judgment that is beyond the 1,000-year reign of Christ. Even those of Jesus’ day will be resurrected to have their minds opened to the truth.

Perhaps now people can understand why God uses His prerogative to order people to be utterly destroyed like the Canaanites and Sodom and Gomorrah, and why he drowned the world in a worldwide flood in Noah’s days. He knows He will resurrect them to life again, who will then be humbled and willing to listen to Him after having experienced the trauma of violent death.

The apostle Paul states in Hebrews 8:11: “***11*** None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.” Thus the second resurrection is a time when all of humanity will know the true God, and receive its opportunity for salvation.

The Bible thus shows that each and every human being ever born will receive an opportunity for salvation, but each in his or her own time.

**God’s Seven Annual Holy Days Picture God’s Plan of Salvation**

The process of offering a chance for salvation for every human being is termed “God’s calling’ in the Bible. Every human being is not being called today to offer him or her salvation. The truth is that only a very few are being called today. Calling of different people at different times to receive their chance for salvation is depicted in God’s seven annual holy days.

God took the three harvest seasons in the biblical land of Israel to picture how and in what numbers He will spiritually harvest human beings for eternal life in His Kingdom.

In Israel, there are three harvest seasons: the first harvest season is the early-spring harvest, second the late-spring harvest and the third the early-autumn harvest season. The spring harvest seasons are the seasons of the smaller harvest, and the early-autumn harvest season is the time of the greater harvest. God's plan of salvation for mankind is an exact parallel of these harvests. First comes the smaller harvest of souls for God's kingdom during the first 6.000 years of man’s history; then comes the greater harvest of souls to eternal life in the 1,000 year reign of Jesus Christ in God’s Kingdom.

Let us briefly look at what all the seven annual holy days picture in God's master plan for salvation of mankind.

*1) The Passover*

Two of God's festivals: the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread are celebrated during the first harvest season, the early spring harvest season, in March-April in our modern calendars.

The Passover for the ancient Israelites was an annual reminder that God spared or passed over the firstborn of Israelite slaves, when He slew all the firstborn of Egypt at the time of the Exodus. They were spared because they had put the blood of a sacrificed lamb on their doorposts.

The sacrifice of the lambs without blemish foreshadowed the sacrifice of the sinless Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God without blemish, for the sins of mankind. Every human being has sinned and come short of the glory of God as stated in Romans 3:23. As a result all of us have earned the death penalty, as Romans 6:23 says, 23 …the wages of sin is death. Jesus as our Creator sacrificed his life to pay the death penalty on behalf of each and every human being so that our sins could be forgiven. That is what the Passover pictures for the Christian.

*2) Feast of Unleavened Bread*

The second feast during the early spring harvest season is the Feast of Unleavened Bread, immediately following the Passover. During this feast, God commands His people to put leaven (or yeast) out of their homes for seven days (Exodus 12:19, I Corinthians 5:7-8). Leaven symbolizes sin. Therefore, this festival teaches and reminds us annually that after our sins have been forgiven through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, we are not to remain in sin, but to work diligently to put all sinful thoughts, attitudes and actions out of our lives.

The early spring harvest season (which comes in March – April) pictures the very first of the firstfruits. And the first of the firstfruits was Jesus Christ, the only soul that has been harvested for God's kingdom during the first 6,000 years of man’s history. And that was pictured by the wave sheaf offering ceremony during the Days of Unleavened Bread. That ceremony is described in Leviticus 23:10-11: “***10*** "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. ***11*** He shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.”

*3) Feast of Pentecost*

The only annual feast during the second harvest season, the late spring harvest season, is called the Feast of Pentecost, also known as the Feast of Firstfruits. On this day in 31 A.D., God's holy spirit was first given to a group of disciples to begin God’s New Testament Church.

The firstfruits are the first agricultural products that mature and ripen. This feast, therefore, pictures the calling out by God of a few people during the first 6,000 years of man’s history, granting His holy spirit to enable them to understand His laws and live a righteous life in order to qualify to receive eternal life through a resurrection at Jesus Christ's second coming. The firstfruits will then reign with Jesus Christ for 1,000 years in God’s kingdom.

Only the firstfruits are being called and judged to qualify to be harvested for God's kingdom at this time. The rest of humanity is not being called at this time and will get its chance for eternal life later.

The Feast of Pentecost, therefore, teaches us that this is not the only time for salvation. In fact, only a relatively few are receiving their chance for salvation during the first 6,000 years of man's history. Calling of the relatively few as the firstfruits is perfectly pictured by the smaller spring harvest. Most of humanity will be called later, as pictured by the much greater autumn harvest.

This Feast is celebrated during the months of May – June every year.

*4) The Feast of Trumpets*

Now we come to the annual Feasts of the third harvest season, the greater autumn harvest season, celebrated during the months of September – October. Four Feasts are celebrated during this season. All these four feasts are about the kingdom of God and its establishment. The first of the autumn feasts is the Feast of Trumpets.

This Feast teaches us that Jesus Christ will return to earth in great power and glory to take over the kingdoms of the world. Also at this time, the firstfruits – those who are called from the time of the creation of Adam to the return of Jesus Christ – will be resurrected as immortal spirit beings and will reign with Jesus Christ in His kingdom.

*5) The Day of Atonement*

The next Feast during the autumn holy day season is called the Day of Atonement. This festival teaches us the need for humanity to be reconciled to God through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the sins of all mankind. It also pictures Jesus Christ as our High Priest interceding for us with God the Father.

This feast teaches us that true reconciliation with God is not possible until the author of all of humanity's sins, which is Satan the devil, is put away. Therefore, the Day of Atonement also pictures the putting away of Satan for 1,000 years during the reign of Jesus Christ, after all of humanity's sins have been laid on his head, as symbolically pictured by the ceremony described in Leviticus 16:20-24, 26 in which the high priest laid the sins of the people on the Azazel goat and released the goat in an inhabited wilderness.

This festival is celebrated by fasting for 24 hours to draw closer to God, to picture the reconciliation of mankind to Him.

*6) Feast of Tabernacles*

The seven-day Feast of Tabernacles represents the next step in God's master plan for salvation of mankind and pictures the 1,000 year reign of Jesus Christ on earth as King of kings and Lord of lords (Revelation 19:11-16; 20:4; Matthew 17:1-4; Hebrews 11:8-9), assisted by the resurrected, immortal saints. God's kingdom will establish a new, perfect society, ruled according to God's laws, beginning at Jerusalem and then spreading out to all nations.

God's commandments, laws and ways will be taught throughout the earth. Unlike in our time, during the millennium, each and every human being living will be called by God and receive his or her chance for salvation. Therefore, this feast represents the greater harvest of souls for God's kingdom. Satan and the demons will be imprisoned so that they can deceive the nations no more during the 1,000 years. God's rule will usher in an era of universal peace, prosperity, abundance, happiness and joy (Isaiah 2:2-4; Daniel 2:35, 44; 7:13-14).

*7) The Last Great Day*

The seventh feast called the eighth day or the Last Great Day of the Feast teaches us that after the 1,000 year reign of Jesus Christ, God will offer a chance for salvation to each and every human being who has ever lived and died without being called by God.

All such human beings will be raised from the dead as physical human beings and called by God. They will have their minds opened to understand the truth of the gospel message. They will be given sufficient time (100 years as mentioned earlier) to repent and qualify to receive eternal life. It thus pictures a time of the greatest harvest of souls for God's kingdom.

We thus see that each holy day season represents an ever-increasing harvest of souls for God's kingdom. The Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread during the early spring harvest represented only Jesus Christ receiving eternal life; just one soul being harvested for the kingdom of God, as the first of the firstfruits. The Feast of Pentecost during the late spring harvest season represents the firstfruits being harvested for the kingdom of God during the first 6,000 years of man's history, from the creation of Adam to the return of Jesus Christ. During this time perhaps people in the hundreds of thousands or a few million will have qualified to receive eternal life. The Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day during the autumn harvest season represent the greatest harvest of souls for God's kingdom with tens of billions qualifying to receive eternal life.

# The Fate of Those Who Refuse to Repent

# Although God will in His great mercy extend the opportunity for salvation to every human being born, some will still refuse to repent and accept God’s way of life. What is their fate?

# The Bible reveals that, rather than be tortured forever in an ever-burning hell, their lives will simply be permanently extinguished. They will cease to exist, and will be as though they had never been.

Revelation 20:15 reveals that, after the final judgment depicted by the Last Great Day, "anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire."

Revelation 21:8 adds, "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

These verses make absolutely clear that the fate of the incorrigible is clearly death, not eternal life of torture. Their lives will be extinguished forever. Even their memory will be forgotten.

Paul also made it plain that the punishment of the wicked is death. He states in Romans 6:23: "For the wages of sin is death…" Malachi the prophet also described the fate of the incorrigibly wicked in Malachi 4:1-3: "'For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, and all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up,' says the LORD of hosts, 'that will leave them neither root nor branch. But to you who fear My name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings; and you shall go out and grow fat like stall-fed calves. You shall trample the wicked, for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day that I do this,' says the LORD of hosts."

We had seen earlier that after the final conflict when Satan was released from his solitary confinement at the end of the 1000 years, and some demons had joined him in leading Gog and Magog to unsuccessful rebellion against Jesus Christ and the saints, Satan and the demons were thrown in the Lake of Fire smoldering in Jerusalem. They had remained there during the 100 years of the White Throne Judgment. Their fate was sealed to have their lives extinguished forever as well with all human beings who had continued to follow Satan’s way of life even during the reign of Jesus Christ, as well as those who received their chance for eternal life during the first 6,000 years, but failed to qualify.

This fate of Satan is indicated in Ezekiel 28:18-19: “***18*** You [that is Satan] have defiled your sanctuaries by the multitude of your iniquities, by the iniquity of your traffic; *therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of you, it shall devour you, and I will bring you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold you.* ***19*** All they that know you among the people shall be astonished at you: you shalt be a terror, and *never shall you be any more*.”

A normal fire that can consume human beings and material things does not consume spirit beings like Satan and the demons. But God will prepare a special fire that will consume Satan and the demons as well with the rest of humanity that failed to repent. This is mentioned in Matthew 25:41: “41Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, you cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.”

All those who were called during the first 6,000 years of man’s history but failed to qualify to receive eternal life, and died, will have to be physically resurrected to then be burnt alive in the Lake of Fire. This is the third resurrection. Daniel 12:2 describes it this way: “2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life [during the first resurrection at the return of Jesus Christ], and some to shame and everlasting contempt” [after the 100 years of the White Throne Judgment are complete].

The third resurrection is not called the third resurrection by name. But with a clear understanding of the sequence of the resurrections and their purpose, it is evident that the third resurrection will be a resurrection to physical life for humans.

Revelation 20 mentions all the 3 resurrections. The first two resurrections have already been described. Verses 12-15 state; “12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the Lake of fire.”

Verses 12-13 describe the second resurrection to physical life. The dead who are made alive are judged according to their works (meaning how they live their lives) by what is written in the books of the Bible to finally have their names either written in the Book of Life or excluded from it. At the end of the 100 years of the White Throne Judgment, those who by their conduct fail to qualify to have their names written in the Book of Life will be cast into the Lake of Fire. They had died a physical death earlier which was the first death. After being cast into the Lake of Fire they die the second death which is permanent. These people are still living after the second resurrection. But in the third resurrection will be the very small number of people who received their chance for eternal life during man’s first 6,000 years of history but failed to qualify to have their names written in the Book of Life. They are the ones who are resurrected in the third resurrection, called the resurrection ‘to shame and everlasting contempt’ in Daniel 12:2. These along with those from the second resurrection who are still alive are left standing on earth when the earth is set ablaze to consume it. They together die the second permanent death in this Lake of Fire.

Burning up of the incorrigibly unrepentant in the lake of fire completes God’s plan of salvation for humanity as depicted by God’s seven annual holy days.

**CHAPTER 11**

**A NEW BEGINNING**

**A New Heaven and a New Earth**

As the wicked are consumed, the fire continues to burn and purify the earth, as written in II Peter 3:7, 10-12 (NKJV): “But the heavens and the earth which now exist are kept in store by the same word, reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men…But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.”

After the entire earth is burnt up and consumed in this fire, the next event to occur will be a new earth and new heavens. This is prophesied in Revelation 21:1-3 (NKJV): “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying; and there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

The New Earth with the new holy city, the New Jerusalem, will no longer need oceans and seas to sustain physical life because only spirit beings, the immortal sons of God, will inhabit it from then on. God the Father will also dwell among them.

The apostle Peter also mentioned the new heavens and the new earth in II Peter 3:13: “Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwells righteousness.”

Isaiah also mentions the new heavens and the new earth in 65:17-19, 66:22: “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create…”

**God’s Purpose in Creating Humanity**

Perhaps now we can understand God’s great purpose in creating mankind in His own image as explained by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong through whom God founded the modern era of His true Church.

God first created the angels. Three angels of apparently the highest rank of archangels were Lucifer, Michael and Gabriel. After they had learnt God’s way of life and government, God then created the earth and the rest of the material universe. He then sent one third of the angels under the leadership of Lucifer to earth to finish its creation.

Ezekiel 28:12-15 (NKJV) describes Lucifer this way: “Thus says the Lord God: "You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created. 14 "You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. 15 You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you.”

Thus God created Lucifer a perfect spirit being, but he led apparently one third of all the angels under his command to rebellion against God. Then God saw that He could create a perfect being with incredible talents, but He could not create perfect holy righteous character in that being by fiat.

Mr. Armstrong writes in his book “*Mystery of the Ages*” p. 101:

“Character cannot be automatically created by fiat. Godly spiritual character is the habitual action and conduct of the person or created entity to come to knowledge of the true ways of God, and to exercise the will to follow those ways even against opposition, temptation or self-desire to the contrary. Character must be developed with the assent, will and action of the separately created entity. It is imparted by God and must be willingly received by that entity.”

When Lucifer and the angels under his command rebelled against God, they demonstrated that they had not developed perfect, holy and righteous character. Otherwise they would not have rebelled against God and His government. Mr. Armstrong continues on pages 93-95:

“As God surveyed this cataclysmic tragedy [the destruction of the earth and other parts of the universe caused by Satan’s rebellion], He must have realized that since the highest, most perfect being [Lucifer who became Satan]…had turned to rebellion, it left God himself as the only being who would not and cannot sin…

“God saw that no being less than God, in the God family [currently with only two members in it – God the Father and Jesus Christ as the Son], could be certainly relied on to never sin. To fulfill His purpose for the entire vast universe [which was to finish its creation by beautifying it], God saw that nothing less than himself (as the God family) could be absolutely relied upon to carry out that purpose in the entire universe.

“God then purposed to reproduce himself, through humans, made in his image and likeness, but made first from material flesh and blood, subject to death if there is sin unrepented of – yet with the possibility of being born into the divine family begotten by God the Father…And that is why God put man on earth.”

Mr. Armstrong writes on p. 103:

“Man was [is] to improve the physical earth as God gave it to him, finishing its creation (which sinning angels had deliberately refused to do) and, in so doing to RESTORE THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD, with God’s way of life; and further, in this very process FINISHING THE CREATION OF MAN by the development of God’s holy, righteous CHARACTER, with man’s own assent.

“Once this perfect and righteous character is instilled in man, and man converted from mortal flesh to immortal spirit, then is to come the INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL – man being born into the divine family of God, restoring the government of God to the earth, and then participating in the completion of the creation over the entire endless expanse of the universe… [Thus] God shall have reproduced Himself untold millions of times over.”

God says in 2 Corinthians 6:18: “I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.” God always means what He says.

John the apostle also wrote 1 John 3:2: “Beloved, now we are the children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”

Thus our human potential is to be born into God’s divine family as His literal sons and daughters, with a spirit body like His, and rule the entire universe with Him.

**Next Colonize the Entire Universe**

Here is proof that we shall rule the entire universe.

God has promised all things, meaning the entire universe, to those who overcome and became His immortal sons and daughters. This is stated in Revelation 21:7 (NKJV): “7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.”

Hebrews 2:6-8 (NKJV) also states: “6 But one testified in a certain place, saying: "What is man that You are mindful of him, or the son of man that You take care of him? 7 You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, and set him over the works of Your hands. 8 You have put ***all things*** in subjection under his feet." For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him.”

The picture is quite clear. The New Jerusalem will be the center of the universe where God will dwell with all His immortal sons and daughters. But they will not be confined to the earth. They will have inherited all things from God the Father and Jesus Christ, meaning the entire physical universe and the spirit realm to work with and rule. God will have set His immortal sons and daughters over all the works of His hands that He has created.

God said through Isaiah the prophet about the earth in Isaiah 45:18: “For thus says the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he has established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else.” If God created the earth to be inhabited, He certainly would not have created more than 100 billion stars with their planets in each galaxy with more than 100 billion galaxies in the universe to lie waste and empty. He created them to be inhabited at some time like the earth.

Thus after God’s plan of salvation for mankind is complete, and human beings have become literal immortal sons of God with God the Father dwelling among them, there will be a new beginning. What has been accomplished on earth, God’s sons will then accomplish in the rest of the universe, which Satan and the demons disqualified from doing. They will have proved to God the Father that even when they are sent to the remotest corner of the universe, they will not rebel against Him as Satan and the demons did after they were sent away from heaven to rule the earth. God’s sons and daughters will administer God’s government throughout the universe.

These things cannot be imagined by our limited minds but God has revealed them to members of His Church through His holy spirit as Paul declared in 1 Corinthians 2:9-10 (NKJV): "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him. 10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit."

**There is a Way of Escape**

We have used only the sure words of prophecy (2 Peter 1:19: “19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto you do well that you take heed, as unto a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts”) to show what will happen in the world in the very near future. These words come straight from the Bible, describing the horrors the world will soon be plunged into. But there is a way of escape from these catastrophic events.

Only one group in the world is promised protection throughout the entire three and a half years of the coming Great Tribulation: members of God’s true Church with the Philadelphian attitude as described in Revelation 3:7-11 (NKJV), “' 7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: 8 I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, ***have kept My word, and have not denied My name…10 Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. 11 Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.”***

Millions of others besides members of God’s Church will survive, but when the 7 billion population of the world is taken into consideration, the percentage surviving may be 1% or less. Those are very poor odds of surviving the troubles that lie ahead. The best chances of survival are promised for members of God’s Church who keep God’s word, meaning all His commandments and doctrines, have not denied that they worship the true Jesus Christ of the Bible, persevere in doing God’s work of warning the world of the coming catastrophes, proclaiming the most wonderful news of the return of Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of the Kingdom of God, and endure to the very end while diligently doing these things.

God has laid before us the choice He offers to all human beings. But each and every human being must individually choose and take action. So the choice to become members of God’s Church and do God’s work in order to receive protection during the Great Tribulation, or stay in the world and watch along as events unfold and engulf everyone is entirely yours.

**How you can Join God’s True Church**

If you would like to become members of God’s true Church, you must first learn more about God's way of life and then make your choice. You can do so by reading the literature published by the United Church of God.  Two small United Church of God booklets that could be read in a total of about 2-3 hours explain what steps an individual must take to receive God’s free gift of eternal life, and what the fundamental beliefs of the true Church of God are. These booklets are titled “The Road to Eternal Life” and “Fundamental Beliefs of the United Church of God.”

All literature is offered free of charge upon request by the United Church of God.  It can also be read online, or downloaded free at the Church's web site www.ucg.org.  You can also write to the United Church of God at: United Church of God, Post Office Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254, USA. In the USA you can also request literature on the phone by calling toll free at 1-888-886-8632, or from anywhere in the world at 1-513-576-9796. You may also request a free subscription to our monthly magazine “The Good News” at www.ucg.org.

The Church also has ministers available almost everywhere in the world to answer any questions you may have or counsel for baptism to become a member of God's true Church.

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