

Things To Come

The Spirit's Forecast Of The Future
By Pastor Art Watkins

***You can know the future before it happens from the greatest
prophecy teacher in the all the world***

***Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will shew you things
to come.***
John 16:13

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By Pastor Art Watkins

(Messages heard on the Gulf Coast Radio Bible Class)

John 16:13 says; ***"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he shall shew you things to come."***

It's obvious from this verse that God does not want the believer to be in the dark concerning the future or things to come. He has sent his Spirit into the world and into our hearts to show us ***"things to come."*** How does he show us things to come? By the scriptures he inspired the apostles and prophets to write. If you have the Spirit of God living in you he will open the eyes of your understanding to see what he said about things to come in the scriptures. In the scriptures the Spirit has revealed the future before it happens. In the scriptures of the apostles and prophets he has shown us things to come; ***politically, religiously, economically, morally and spiritually.*** Therefore, there is no excuse for a Christian to be ignorant of future events. The Spirit of God has laid out the future in clear, easy to understand words in both the Old and New Testaments.

Many dispensationalists are ignorant of the future because they believe that future prophecy has nothing to do with the church. They have the mistaken idea that prophecy cannot be fulfilled as long as the church is on the earth. So they are not concerned about future prophecy. They have this erroneous idea that prophecy pertains to quote "Israel" only and not the church. This is a serious error when you consider that one of the major gifts God gave the church was prophets.

1 Corinthians 12:28 says: ***And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets.***

God ordained and placed prophets in every local church in the Bible. And what do prophets do? They prophecy of things to come. They tell us the future before it happens.

1 Corinthians 14:3-4 says: ***But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort. He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.***

The fact the church is edified by prophecy shows us what the prophets wrote about future events does indeed pertain to the church. As a matter of fact all future events prophesied by the prophets pertain to the church. The church is one of the main subjects of prophecy in the future. God put his Spirit in us to show us things to come in the future because what will happen in the future will have a tremendous affect upon our personal lives as you will see in these studies. Don't buy into this false theory that prophecy has nothing to do with the church. The lives of every true member of the church will be vitally affected by the things that are coming in this world.

There are those who spend a lot of time preaching about prophecy, but their doctrine looks like a train wreck. It obvious that what some teach about prophecy did not come

from the Spirit of God. In the years that I have been saved and preaching I have noticed that most preaching, teaching and writing today about future events is based upon books that other men have written about the future. My hobby is reading. Some folks like to fish and hunt, I love to read. When you read as much as I do you can almost tell what books a preacher has been reading. For example, a man by the name of Clarence Larkin wrote a large book about prophecy in 1920. Larkin was an architect and he drew many large charts and diagrams of how he saw future events. Larkin was a hyper dispensationalist and most teaching, preaching and writing today about prophecy is based upon Larkin's book and his hyper dispensational doctrines. Many so called prophecy preachers today simply rehash what Larkin wrote 92 years ago. Most of the charts on prophecy that men draw today are duplicates of Clarence Larkin's. There is a TV preacher in Texas who professes to be prophecy teacher and on his stage there are large charts diagramming future events and they are straight out of Clarence Larkin's book of charts. He plagiarizes Clarence Larkin. (The problem with these prophecy charts is that people start believing these charts and diagrams are infallible and ignore what the Bible says.)

Many people who teach prophecy or write about it do so with a covetous motive. There is big money in prophecy conferences and prophecy books. The biggest seller in the past few years is the Left Behind series which have made millionaires out of the writers. The book stores have stacks of them, but I got to say one good thing about them; They are located in the fiction section and that's good for that is where they belong.

I don't have any books to sell or private doctrines to advance. I believe what I believe about the future because of what the Spirit of God inspired the apostles and prophets to write down in the word of God. And if you are saved you can see and understand things to come. If you are saved you have living inside of you the greatest prophecy teacher in the world; the Holy Spirit. And Jesus said he will teach you all things and he will show you things to come. No one knows the future better than the Holy Spirit and he can give you an accurate picture of the future if you let him.

Paul wrote this about the Spirit of God in 1 Corinthians 2:9-12: ***But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.***

But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

Paul said the Spirit of God will show you the things the eye of man has not seen, the ear of man has not heard and the heart of man does not understand. He will show us the deep things of God. And Jesus said he will guide you into all truth and show you things to come.

If the Holy Spirit lives in you there is no reason why you should be in dark concerning future events. You can know the future before it happens. All we have to do is simply

believe what he says, as he says it and where he says it. He is God's true infallible prophecy teacher. All of his predictions are true and they will all come to pass. All we have to do is believe what he says and he will indeed show us things to come. Don't be concerned about what the religious system teaches about the future; just believe what the Spirit of God wrote down in the scriptures of the apostles and prophets. You may not like what he wrote and what he wrote may be different from what men teach, but what he wrote is infallible and accurate 100% of the time.

Things To Come *The Spirit's forecast of the future*

RESURGENCE

In the very near future we will witness the resurgence of another one world government. I say another, because we have had world governments in past history. In times past Babylon once ruled the world and so did Persia, Greece and Rome. (Read Daniel 2) World government is nothing new. History has a way of repeating itself. What goes around comes around, for we will witness another world government in the future. What will this mean to us in this country? You and I can safely predicate that the USA and all the other nations of the earth will lose their sovereignty and will fall under the control of another government. We may not like to hear this, but it is true. This is God's political prediction for the future.

Where did God predict a world government that would supersede all others? In a number of places, but especially in Daniel 7. One way that God revealed the future to his prophets was through dreams and visions. In Daniel 7 Daniel had a dream and the interpretation of his dream shows us things to come. It's one of the most important prophecies in the Bible for it shows us what we can expect politically up until the second coming of Christ. The political future of the world from now till the second coming is revealed ahead of time in Daniel 7.

Daniel 7

1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, *and* told the sum of the matters.

2 Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.

3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.

4 The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

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

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

7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and

brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.

8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

What was the meaning of this dream? Daniel wanted to know that himself.

15 I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me.

16 I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things.

17 These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth.

In his dream Daniel saw four beasts rise up out of the sea. These four beasts are identified in verse 17 as typifying four kings and kingdoms that would come to power. We know from the Bible and history that three of these kingdoms have come and gone, but the fourth kingdom is still future.

When describing the fourth kingdom Daniel wrote in verse 23:

The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise.

It says this fourth beast, representing the fourth kingdom, shall devour the whole earth. It is a massive world wide kingdom and government that will devour and take control of all the nations and kingdoms of this world. Daniel 7:23 is one of the most important political predictions in the Bible. The political future of all governments, political parties, nations, kingdoms, rulers and militaries is found in one verse of scripture, Daniel 7:23. People ask me: is America in prophecy? The answer is yes and so are all the nations of the earth in prophecy. Daniel 7:23 predicts the future of America and Canada, Europe, Asia etc. The whole world will come under the control of the fourth kingdom of Daniel 7 which will have 10 kings.

We may not like to hear it but America as we know it will no longer exist when the fourth kingdom of Daniel 7 comes to power. This is why many people do not like to study or hear about prophetic events. It scares them. They would rather hear these health, wealth, and prosperity doctrines than this prediction about one world government. Some would even consider it treason to say the USA will fall under the control of another government. That is nothing new for when Jeremiah warned the Jews in Jerusalem that Israel would fall and be in bondage to the kingdom of Babylon they accused him of treason and shut him up in prison. They said; how dare you say that about our beloved nation. But what he said came to pass.

In many countries today like China it's against the law to preach prophecy because if prophecy is true China like all the other nations of the world will fall under the control of

the fourth kingdom of Daniel 7. I believe the time will come in this country when it will be considered treason to say the USA will fall and be no more, but this is not my opinion, this is what God said in Daniel 7:23. He said the fourth kingdom: **shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.** I may not like what it says but I believe the Bible means what it says and says what it means. When he said the fourth kingdom will devour the whole earth, I believe it will devour the whole earth. When he said it shall tread it down and break it into pieces, I believe it will tread it down and break it into pieces. If you don't agree with me then your disagreement is with God not me. God wrote the Bible not me and this is his prophecy not mine.

It is diverse from all kingdoms

The scope of its power is diverse from all other kingdoms.

When Rome, Greece, Persia, and Babylon ruled the world in times past, they ruled over a limited part of the earth. There were limits to the Babylon Empire and all the others. But the fourth kingdom of Daniel 7 will devour the **whole earth**. The Spirit is emphatic about this. This kingdom will be a world wide kingdom stretching from one end of the earth to the other. It will not be a limited kingdom as Rome and others that preceded it.

Its rulers are diverse from other kingdoms.

It will have 10 kings for it will be composed of 10 nations. It will be a 10 nation kingdom having 10 kings. Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome had one king, but the fourth kingdom will have 10 kings because it will be a 10 nation confederacy.

Verse 7 says: **it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.**

Verse 24 says: **And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise.**

(John also describes these 10 kings in Revelation 17)

How it comes to power

Verse 23 says: it will; **devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.**

It comes to power by force, war, violence. It will be a brutal kingdom. It will be an absolute dictatorship and under it all the rights and liberties guaranteed in our constitution and bill of rights will be lost. The USA as we know it today and the freedom we have today will no longer exist when the fourth kingdom of Daniel 7 arises to reign over the whole earth.

When it will come to power

It will come to power before the antichrist rises to power because he comes to power after it according to verse 24.

Verse 24 says; And the ten kings out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them: he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. And he shall speak great words against the most high.

The little horn in this verse is separate from the 10 kings of the fourth kingdom. He is in fact the antichrist as we will see later in this study. But what is important to note here is

that in verse 24 the antichrist comes to power after the fourth kingdom rises to power. The fourth kingdom precedes the antichrist by many years.

We know the antichrist is one of the major figures of the coming tribulation. He can be seen throughout Daniel and Revelation in the context of the coming tribulation. If the fourth kingdom rises to power years before the antichrist appears this of course means the fourth kingdom will rise to power before the tribulation begins.

This again shows us that prophecy pertains to the church for the church will witness the rise of the fourth kingdom of Daniel 7:7. There is a great possibility that many people reading this will witness the fulfillment of Daniel 7:23. They will see the fourth kingdom rise to power and devour the whole earth and tread it down and break it into pieces. They will see all the nations of this earth including our own fall and come into bondage to the fourth kingdom of Daniel 7.

Where it will come to power

Many prophecy preachers and writers say the fourth kingdom will be the old Roman Empire or the European Union or China or Russia. They teach this because many of them follow Clarence Larkin's book of prophecy or the notes in the Scofield Bible or the writings of some other hyper dispensationalist teacher like Larkin and Scofield.

But what saith the scriptures? What part of the world will the fourth kingdom rise to power? It will rise to power out of what we call the Middle East. The 10 nations that compose the fourth kingdom of Daniel 7 are located in what we call the Middle East. Why do I say this? Because the antichrist will come to power in one of the 10 nations that compose the fourth kingdom of Daniel 7.

Verse 8 says; ***I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another little horn before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots.***

It says the little horn who is the antichrist will come up among them. In other words he will rise to power in one of the 10 nations that compose the fourth kingdom of Daniel 7:23. The Bible tells us without a doubt what nation the antichrist will rise to power out of and when you see his nationality you will also see the fourth kingdom will rise out of the Middle East. If the antichrist rises to power out of the Middle East then the fourth kingdom rises to power in the Middle East for it plainly says the little horn comes up among them.

REVELATION

After the formation of this one world dictatorship, a man of great power, intellect, charisma, will appear. He will be known and admired throughout the world. He is the little horn of Daniel 7. Through his power and force he will overcome the fourth kingdom and the ten kings and then he will capture the throne to kingdoms of this world.

Daniel 7:24-25 says; ***And the ten horns out of this kingdom (Fourth) are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and shall subdue three kings.***

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

Verse 21 says: ***I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;***

The little horn is the antichrist also known as the man of sin and the son of perdition. But when will he appear? When will he overthrow the fourth kingdom and come to power? Many people say he will come to power in the tribulation. No doubt he will appear during the tribulation and will have tremendous power during the tribulation, but where is it written that he cannot appear and come to power before the tribulation? What's more, where is it written that the church will not witness the antichrist's rise to power?

I have heard teachers for years say that the church must be removed from the earth before the antichrist appears. Many so called prophecy experts say the church will not witness the revelation of the antichrist or the rise of the fourth kingdom of Daniel 7. But where does the Bible say this? It's not in the Bible. Men say this, but the apostles and prophets who wrote the scriptures never said it. As a matter of fact they all said the church will witness the revelation of the antichrist.

Paul the apostle of the gentiles said this about the church and the antichrist in **2 Thessalonians 2:**

1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

According to these verses someone had the Thessalonians all shook up about the coming of Christ for the church. Paul founded the church in Thessalonica in Acts 17 and he taught them the truth about Christ's coming before he left. But after he left someone crept into the church and taught them that Christ's coming for the church was at hand and was about to take place. This is nothing new for throughout history there have been thousands of false predictions about the coming of Christ for the church. Men have set dates for his coming for the past 2000 years and 1000's of people have been deceived into believing he was about to come. This started in Paul's day and continues unto this day. Every year there is someone picking dates for the second coming of Christ and people get all shook up about it like they did in Thessalonica.

To straighten it out and to comfort their minds Paul said in 2 Thessalonians 2:3 that the day of Christ which is Christ's coming for the church shall not come *except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed the son of perdition Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.*

According to Paul the apostle of the Gentiles, Christ's coming for the church is preceded by at least 3 prophetic events in this chapter. What are they?

(1) A falling away first. That's apostasy.

(2) The man of sin be revealed the son of perdition. That's the antichrist.

(3) The antichrist sitting in the temple of God in Jerusalem saying he is God. And we know there is no temple there now.

Paul says that until you see these events take place no one can say the coming of Christ for the church is at hand. The any moment coming of Christ theory is false for these verses plainly say that Christ's coming for the church is preceded by these three prophetic events and one of them is the appearing of the antichrist.

So, will the church witness the appearing of the antichrist? According to Paul the apostle of the gentiles the answer is yes. Paul plainly says the coming of the antichrist will precede the coming of Christ for the church and not vice versa as some teach today. God the Spirit has shown us things to come. He has shown us ahead of time that the Church will witness the revelation of this man and will live under his reign.

We also know that he rises to power after the fourth kingdom of Daniel 7. This means the church will witness both the fourth kingdom of Daniel 7 and the coming of the antichrist predicted in Daniel 7. This is why the church should study prophecy for prophecy does indeed concern us and it pertain to us.

Don't buy into this false teaching that the church will not witness these prophetic events. Paul said let no man deceive you by any means. Deceive you about what? About the coming of Christ and the coming of the antichrist. Both comings are found in 2 Thessalonians 2. Do not be deceived into believing that Christ comes before the antichrist comes, for the coming of Christ is preceded by the coming of the antichrist. Therefore if you believe Christ comes for the church before the coming of the antichrist Paul says you are deceived. And there is not a verse anywhere that says he will not appear and come to power until the tribulation begins. There is a great possibility that you and I could not only witness the formation of the fourth kingdom of Daniel 7, but the revelation of the antichrist of 2 Thessalonians 2. Both will rise to power years before the tribulation begins.

This puts prophecy into a different light doesn't it? This tells us we had better study it now more than ever. Prophecy vitally affects the church. The church will see all the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation come to pass. Many saints who are alive today will witness the appearing of this man and their life will be greatly affected by him. He will have a great affect upon them **personally**. He will affect the church financially, religiously and politically. He will change government, politics, money, laws, liberties, speech, worship, travel, commerce, freedom, and rulers.

The antichrist is one of the central figures of prophecy. You cannot understand prophecy unless you study and know something about the antichrist. Next to Jesus Christ more is said about this man than any other person in prophecy. Two of the most important books of prophecy in the Bible are the books of Revelation in the New Testament and Daniel in the Old Testament. Both books have many references to the antichrist as well as Jesus Christ.

The antichrist is seen through the book of Revelation. He is the white horse rider in chapter 6:2 and the pale horse rider of 6:8. He is the beast out of the bottomless pit in 11:7. He is the beast out of the sea in Rev.13:1-2. He is the one who is wounded to

death and is resurrected in 13:3. He is the one who makes war on the saints in 13:7. He is the one who compels all the earth to take his mark and worship him in Rev.13:17. An image is made of him that speaks in Rev. 13. He is the son of perdition of Rev.17:8 and also 2 Thess. 2:3. He is the one who makes war with Christ in Rev.19. He is the one who killed the saints and martyrs of Rev.20:4. He is the one who is cast into the lake of fire with the dragon and false prophet in Rev.20:10.

In the book of Daniel the antichrist is the little horn of Dan.7, the King of fierce countenance in Dan.8, and the king of the north in Dan.11.

As you can see in these two books the antichrist plays a big part in prophecy. He is one of the main characters of the last days that precede the second coming of Christ.

We are told by these so called prophecy teachers and the Left Behind fiction books and movies that the church will not witness the rise of the antichrist, so we should not be concerned about him. But that is bogus; the fact is we will witness the rise of the antichrist according to Paul the apostle in 2 Thessalonians. 2. He plainly says that before Christ comes to gather the church unto himself there must FIRST be a falling away which is apostasy and the revelation of the son of perdition who is the antichrist. So we should know something about this man before he appears for he that forewarned is forearmed.

His Pedigree

Where he comes from and his nationality. This is important to know because of all the false doctrine that is taught today about the nationality of the antichrist.

Throughout my life I have heard preachers and "quote" Bible scholars try to convince people to believe that the antichrist comes out of the USA. I have heard them say that Henry Kissinger was the antichrist, and then it was Jimmy Carter, and then Ronald Reagan, and then it was George Bush and now Barak Hussein Obama.

There were many preachers during WW2 who said the antichrist was a German: Adolf Hitler and others said he was an Italian: Mussolini. Others pointed to Communist Russia and said Joseph the Stalin was the antichrist. Today some say the antichrist will come to power in the European Union and they say that Prince Charles is the antichrist. Many preachers and book sellers throughout history have taught that the Pope of the Roman Catholic Church is the antichrist. Most of the reformers believed and taught this. Most fundamentalists believe this today.

Let me ask you; do you know the nationality of the antichrist? Do you know what nation he will rise to power in? You should, because the scriptures are amazingly clear as to who this man is and what nation he will come to power in. It is so clear and simple that you have to wonder if the devil has not blinded people's minds to keep them from seeing what nation the antichrist will come from.

Micah 5

Verse 2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, *though* thou be little among the thousands of Judah, *yet* out of thee shall he come forth unto me *that is* to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth *have been* from of old, from everlasting.

This is a prophecy of the birth of Jesus Christ. Where he would be born 100's of years before he was born and the fact that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God for it says he is from old from everlasting. Also that he would one day rule over the house of Israel.

4 And he (Christ) shall stand and feed in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God

5 And this *man* (Christ) shall be the peace, when the Assyrian (antichrist) shall come into our land: and when he shall tread in our palaces, then shall we raise against him seven shepherds, and eight principal men.

6 And they shall waste the land of Assyria with the sword, and the land of Nimrod in the entrances thereof: thus shall he deliver *us* from the Assyrian, when he cometh into our land, and when he treadeth within our borders.

This is a future prophecy of an Assyrian who will attack the land of Israel and tread down their land and palaces but when he does Jesus Christ will fight against him and deliver them from this Assyrian.

Who is this Assyrian? It's a prophecy of the antichrist who will attack Israel and persecute them as these verses say. But what is important to note is what the antichrist is called in these verses. **The Assyrian**. What does this tell us? The antichrist will come out of Assyria. What the Bible calls Assyria is what we call modern day Iraq.

Here in Micah 5 is a remarkable prophecy of the two main characters of the last days. Jesus Christ and the antichrist. Jesus Christ is God incarnate and the antichrist is the devil incarnate. What is interesting to note is their birth place are given. Jesus came from Bethlehem and the antichrist will come from Assyria. He is called the Assyrian.

Isaiah 14

Isaiah 14:4 That thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased!

5 The LORD hath broken the staff of the wicked, *and* the sceptre of the rulers.

6 He who smote the people in wrath with a continual stroke, he that ruled the nations in anger, is persecuted, *and* none hindereth.

This is a prophecy against a King of Babylon. Babylon is located in Assyria which is modern day Iraq. This King of Babylon will smite the people in his wrath and rule over many nations. But we see in these verses that God will smite him and bring an end to his kingdom and his city which is the city of Babylon. Some say this is past history of Nebuchadnezzar who was the King of Babylon, but it's not because if you keep reading you find out that this King of Babylon is the devil incarnate, the future antichrist.

9 Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet *thee* at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, *even* all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations.

10 All they shall speak and say unto thee, Art thou also become weak as we? art thou become like unto us?

11 Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, *and* the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee.

12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

The king of Babylon in Isaiah 14:4 is none other than Lucifer according to Isaiah 14:12. Who is Lucifer? The devil according to Ezekiel 28. The king of Babylon who will smite the nations in his wrath is the devil incarnate. In fact he is the antichrist who will be the devil incarnate and the king of Babylon which is located in Assyria modern day Iraq. There is no doubt this is the antichrist.

13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

It says he will exalt his throne above the stars of God.

The antichrist will do just that: Dan. 8:9-10 says: ***And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land. And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them.***

It says he will sit upon the mount of the congregation in the sides of the north.

The temple of God in Jerusalem is on the sides of the north called Mt. Moriah. And the antichrist will indeed sit in the temple of God in Jerusalem on the sides of the north according to Paul in 2 Thess. 2:4 and Daniel in 11:37. (Nebuchadnezzar never did that.)

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

In 2 Thess. 2 Paul said the antichrist will sit in the temple of God and show himself as God.

15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

In Revelation 19:20 the antichrist will be cast into hell.

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

25 That I will break the Assyrian in my land, and upon my mountains tread him under foot: then shall his yoke depart from off them, and his burden depart from off their shoulders.

In this verse the antichrist is called an Assyrian, showing us again his nationality; Assyria is modern day Iraq. The antichrist will come to power in Iraq. He will be the king of Babylon which is located in Iraq. The Lord will break and tread him under his feet at the second coming of Christ just like this verse says.

In Isaiah 14 this King of Babylon is called Lucifer and Lucifer is the devil. This King of Babylon is not Nebuchadnezzar. This is a future king of Babylon who is the devil incarnate in the flesh, the antichrist.

And he will say what Isaiah said he would: *I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.*

This shows again the antichrist will come out of Assyria which is modern day Iraq. He will be the King of Babylon which is located in Iraq which agrees with Daniel 11 where

he is called the King of the North a reference to Assyria. We also know from Revelation 18 that Babylon will be rebuilt.

Isaiah 10

Isa. 10:12 Wherefore it shall come to pass, *that* when the Lord hath performed his whole work upon mount Zion and on Jerusalem, I will punish the fruit of the stout heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his high looks.

24 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD of hosts, O my people that dwellest in Zion, be not afraid of the Assyrian: he shall smite thee with a rod, and shall lift up his staff against thee, after the manner of Egypt.

26 And the LORD of hosts shall stir up a scourge for him according to the slaughter of Midian at the rock of Oreb: and as his rod was upon the sea, so shall he lift it up after the manner of Egypt.

27 And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.

20 And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* the remnant of Israel, and such as are escaped of the house of Jacob, shall no more again stay upon him that smote them; but shall stay upon the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth.

21 The remnant shall return, *even* the remnant of Jacob, unto the mighty God.

22 For though thy people Israel be as the sand of the sea, *yet* a remnant of them shall return: the consumption decreed shall overflow with righteousness.

What Isaiah describes in this chapter is the future destruction of the king of Assyria, who is the antichrist at the second coming of Christ. He prophesies that when God smites him Israel will return to their land permanently which has never happened and the salvation of a remnant of Jews also. Paul quotes these verses in Rom. 9:27-29 and applies them to the remnant of Jews who will be saved at the second coming of Christ. Again the antichrist is called an Assyrian as in Isaiah 14 and Micah 5.

Isaiah 30

30 And the LORD shall cause his glorious voice to be heard, and shall shew the lighting down of his arm, with the indignation of *his* anger, and *with* the flame of a devouring fire, *with* scattering, and tempest, and hailstones.

31 For through the voice of the LORD shall the Assyrian be beaten down, *which* smote with a rod.

33 For Tophet *is* ordained of old; yea, for the king it is prepared; he hath made *it* deep *and* large: the pile thereof *is* fire and much wood; the breath of the LORD, like a stream of brimstone, doth kindle it.

This is obviously a reference to the second coming of Christ in wrath, anger, fire, lightening, and hailstones just like John predicted in Revelation 16. In that day he will smite the Assyrian which he says smote them with a rod. The Assyrian is the antichrist of Isaiah 14, Isaiah 10 and Micah 5. We see also there is a special place God has prepared to punish the antichrist with fire called Tophet in verse 33 which is located in

the valley of the sons of Hinnom, southeast of Jerusalem, where Israel offered human sacrifices to Moloch by fire; hence a place of burning.

Nahum 3

18 Thy shepherds slumber, O king of Assyria: thy nobles shall dwell *in the dust*: thy people is scattered upon the mountains, and no man gathereth *them*.

19 *There is no healing of thy bruise; thy wound is grievous: all that hear the bruit of thee shall clap the hands over thee: for upon whom hath not thy wickedness passed continually?*

This is another among many verses in the prophets that tell us without a doubt that the antichrist will come out of Assyria and will be the future king of Babylon. Babylon is located in modern day Iraq and if you know anything about Bible history that city is the origin and source of all cults, false religions and heresies and lies and Satanism. It is only fitting for the antichrist to be the king of such a vile wicked city.

This is why it is wrong to say that men like Kissinger, Hitler, Stalin, Obama and the Pope etc is the antichrist. People who say such things are not serious students of prophecy. They read books about prophecy, but they don't read the prophets. If you read the prophets you can easily see that the antichrist will come out of Assyria which is modern day Iraq.

His Power

In our studies we have seen in Daniel 7 that a major kingdom will come to power and devour the whole earth and tread it down and break it into pieces. Daniel 7 says it will have 10 kings meaning it will be a 10 nation confederacy. It will rise to power in the Middle East and then spread throughout the world. In Daniel 7 it says the antichrist will rise to power in one of the 10 nations that compose this world wide kingdom. It will be Iraq which is one reason we know the fourth kingdom will rise out of the Middle East. Iraq will be one of those 10 nations. The antichrist will be the king of Babylon and when he comes to power he will increase in strength and power until he subdues the 10 kings and becomes the sole king of the fourth kingdom of Daniel 7.

Daniel 7:8: I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

This verse says he will pluck up 3 of the 10 kings of the fourth kingdom. Verse 24 says he shall subdue 3 kings. This will give him one third control of the 4th kingdom but later he will gain full control over the rest of the kings.

In Revelation 17 John also wrote about the 10 kings and the fact that they will give their power to the antichrist.

12 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

13 These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

17 For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

John says the 10 kings *shall give their power and strength unto the beast and they shall give their kingdom unto the beast*. In other words the 10 kings of the fourth kingdom of Daniel 7 which will devour the whole earth will give the beast who is the antichrist complete control of their kingdom so that he and he alone becomes the absolute dictator and ruler over all kingdoms and nations of the earth.

What this means is this: For 42 months or 3 ½ years in the future the antichrist will have all political, religious and financial power. This is clearly seen in Revelation 13.

Revelation 13

5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

*According to verse 7 the antichrist will have all **political power** for it says *power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations*.

*According to verse 15 the antichrist will have all **religious power** for an image will be made of him and all men will be required to worship his image and those who do not will be killed. It says: *that the image of the beast (antichrist) should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed*.

*According to verses 16-17 he will have all **financial power** for it says: *And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name*.

I will have more to say about his power later in these studies.

REBUILDING

To rebuild means to build something again. It means to rebuild something that once stood or existed. As far as prophecy is concerned there are two things of major importance that will be built again in the last days. Both of them once stood but were both destroyed. They lay in ruins now but in the last days both will be rebuilt.

(1) The City of Babylon

In Genesis 10 Nimrod was the original founder and builder of Babylon. In the Bible Nimrod is called by many different names and the name we are most familiar with is Baal. When men worshipped Baal they worshipped Nimrod who was the founder and builder of Babylon.

Nimrod was a person of great stature, immense bodily powers. He was the son of Cush who was the father of the Ethiopians. It is said that he was a leader of the giants on the other side of the flood.

Nimrod is a forerunner of the antichrist. He is one of the first types of the antichrist in the Bible.

*The name Nimrod means a rebel. He rebelled against God. The antichrist will be a rebel. He will oppose the true and living God like no one has ever done.

*Nimrod headed up a major revolt against God. He instigated the construction of the tower of Babel which was built in open defiance of God. The antichrist will lead a worldwide revolt against God. He will go as far as to lead millions to fight against him at the battle of Armageddon.

*Four times the word mighty is used to describe Nimrod. The antichrist will be mighty. He will have power and might over all nations, people and tongues and power to work signs, wonders and miracles.

*Nimrod was a mighty hunter, a hunter of souls. The same is true of the antichrist.

*Nimrod lived in what later came to be known as Assyria. The antichrist will come out of Assyria.

*Nimrod was the king of Babylon. The antichrist is called the king of Babylon in Isaiah 14.

*Nimrod's headquarters was in Babylon. The antichrist's headquarters will be in Babylon.

*Babylon was the center of idolatry under Nimrod. Babylon will be the seat of idolatry under the antichrist.

*Nimrod was worshipped as a god. The antichrist will be worshipped as a god.

*A woman was worshipped along with Nimrod. A woman is worshipped along with the antichrist. She is called a great whore in Revelation 17.

The tower that was built in Babylon was a temple dedicated to gods and idols. It was known throughout the world. It was filled with images and idols of devils and demons built in defiance of God. All the signs of the zodiac were painted in the tower of Babel. The tower was built as a symbol of their pagan religion. That is why the Bible says that Babylon was the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit. Babylon is the source of all false religion and idolatry. Babylon is where idolatry and false religion was reintroduced into the world after the flood in Genesis 6. All false satanic religions can be traced back to Babylon. All idols and idol worship can be traced back to Babylon. It is the origin and seat of idolatry.

In past history Babylon was destroyed by the Medes and Persians. (See Dan.5, Jer.51) But history will repeat itself. The city will be rebuilt again and will again become the center of idolatry, satanic religion and commerce. We know this is true by the fact it will be destroyed again in the future.

Revelation 17

3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

18 And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

Revelation 18

1 And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. She saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow

8 Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.

9 And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning,

10 Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.

18 And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city!

21 And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.

Revelation 14

8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

The Bible says what it means and means what it says. When the Bible says that great city Babylon it does not mean Rome, New York or any other city. It means Babylon. Just because Babylon does not exist today does not mean it will not exist in the future. What you read in Revelation 14, 17, 18 is prophecy. Prophecy is forecasting future events. When God gave John this revelation he saw a city in the future that will become the world headquarters of commerce, idolatry and false religion. He tells us ahead of time that it will be a wicked city and will shed the blood of many saints. He calls that city Babylon. Everything that was true of the city of Babylon in times past will become true again. The antichrist will come to power in the city of Babylon, he will be the King of Babylon which was and is located in modern day Iraq. It will be destroyed again never to be rebuilt.

(2) The Temple Of God

In Luke 21 Jesus prophesied the temple of God in Jerusalem would be destroyed. He said; ***The days will come in the which there shall not be left one stone upon another that shall not be thrown down.***

Daniel also prophesied of its destruction in Daniel 9:26. He said; ***The people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.***

This prophecy came to pass in 70 AD. The temple was destroyed by Titus and the Roman army. Today the temple lays in ruins. But history will repeat itself. The temple in Jerusalem will be rebuilt. We know this is true by what Paul says in 2 Thessalonians 2.

1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

Today there is no temple in Jerusalem yet we know the temple will be rebuilt by the fact that the antichrist will one day sit in the temple of God in Jerusalem and say he is God. I have heard and read in many places that the plans and preparations are under way now to rebuild the temple of God in Jerusalem. They say all the furniture for the temple has been assembled. A priesthood has been trained to serve in the temple. Their special garments have all been made. All the instruments used in offering sacrifices have been constructed. All they need is a building. The temple has been built in miniature and it can be constructed in less than 300 days.

RESUMPTION

We know from the scriptures that the antichrist will be a major politician when he appears. He is called the King of Babylon. Daniel 8 says that peace and prosperity will flourish for a time when he first appears. Many nations and people will admire him. Revelation 13 says that all the world will wonder after the antichrist including the Jews. Jesus said in John 5; ***I am come in my Father's name and ye receive me not; if another shall come in his own name him ye will receive.*** This is a prophecy that the Jews in the future will receive and believe on the antichrist when he appears.

If he is an Assyrian why will the Jews receive him? He will win their hearts by allowing them to do what they have been wanting to do for nearly 2000 years. Rebuild the temple in the city of Jerusalem, resume the daily sacrifices, and reinstate the Mosaic Law and the Levitical priesthood. If the Jews in Jerusalem today tried to rebuild the temple there would be a major war on all sides. But it appears the antichrist will protect them and even help them rebuild the temple just like Cyrus and Darius who were pagan idol worshippers did in time past. (See Ezra and Nehemiah)

When the temple was destroyed in 70 AD that was a sign from God that the Law of Moses was abolished, the Levitical priesthood was out of business and animal sacrifices were no longer accepted for sins. But the antichrist will allow the Jews to rebuild it all again. They will build the temple again, ordain another priesthood and resume the daily, weekly monthly animal sacrifices. Animal sacrifices for sin will be offered again in a temple in Jerusalem. This is how he will win the hearts of the Jews.

But after a period of time he will turn against them and stop the daily sacrifice and will pollute the temple of God by placing an idol of himself in the Holy place. Daniel 11:31 says; ***And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.***

In the Bible sacrifices were offered for sin and not as a so called testimony. Read Leviticus 1-5. And any man who offers a sacrifice for sin after Christ died for our sins, is either deceived or lost. The Jews who will offer sacrifices for sins in the tribulation are lost Jews who will not believe that Christ is their Messiah and will not trust his death and shed blood to forgive their sins. Any Jew or gentile who trusts the death and shed blood of Christ to save him now or in the future does not offer animal sacrifices for his sins for any reason again.

Hebrews 10

8 Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law;

9 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.

10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

11 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.

14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

These verses make it clear that the Law of Moses with its animal sacrifices for sin and Levitical priesthood were done away with and abolished forever as far as God is concerned when Christ offered himself to God as the one all sufficient sacrifice for sin. But what Paul wrote in Hebrews 10 concerning the law and sacrifices being abolished is totally rejected by the Jews in Israel today. And for a period of time in the future the antichrist will aid and assist the Jews to reinstate the Mosaic Law in Jerusalem and resume offering animal sacrifices and temple worship again.

RENUNCIATION

We hear many preachers predicting a revival in the church in the last days. But is this true? I wish it was, but it is not. Sad to say, Christ and all of the apostles predicted a major apostasy within the church in the last days that precede Christ's coming. Many saints will renounce the faith and go into apostasy. The scriptures are very emphatic about this.

In 1 Timothy 4:1 it says; ***Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.***

To depart from the faith means a person was once in the faith. They will depart from the faith by giving heed to seducing spirits who teach doctrines of devils. These seducing

spirits are men who teach doctrines of devils and it's their doctrines that cause God's people to depart from the faith.

2 Thessalonians 2:3 says; ***Let no man deceive you by any means; for the day of Christ shall not come except there come a falling away first.***

Paul predicted a falling away would precede the coming of Christ for the church. The Greek word translated falling away in this verse is apostasia. It doesn't take a Greek scholar to see what that word means. The falling away Paul predicted in the church is apostasy.

In 2 Timothy 3:13 Paul wrote; ***In the last days perilous times shall come...Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.***

According to 1 Timothy 4 it's the saints who will be deceived.

In 2 Timothy 4:3 it says; Preach ***the word... For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.***

This is a prediction that God's own people will no longer endure hearing sound doctrine. They will turn away their ears from hearing it. Instead they will give heed to fables which are lies, false stories, myths and false doctrine.

Paul the apostle did not predict revival in the last days. He predicted apostasy within the church in the last days and so did the apostle Peter.

2 Peter 2

1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

Jesus himself predicted the same apostasy.

Matthew 24

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.

In these verses the Lord was speaking of his own people.

I am sad to say, but the future of the church as a whole does not look good spiritually speaking. The Spirit of God has predicted a major apostasy in the church in these last days. By the time that Christ comes again only a small minority of saints will remain true to the faith and sound doctrine. When I say a small minority I mean a very, very small minority. How small is it? Jesus said; ***That as it was in the days of Noah so shall it be***

in days of the coming of the son of man. How many people lived on the earth in Noah's day before the flood? How many of them were true to the faith and sound doctrine? Only 8 people. Would you say that 8 out of millions was a small minority?

We already see the apostasy that the Spirit predicted under way and it will only get worse as we approach the coming of Christ.

Today, there is a major turning away from the Gospel of the Grace of God and the doctrines of Grace. Many churches today are becoming like the Galatians who forsook the gospel of grace for another gospel of works.

Christians who once believed and stood for the King James Bible no longer believe it. They have swapped it for perversions like the NIV that attack the deity of Christ and his blood atonement.

Those who were once sound in the fundamentals of the faith, are giving heed to doctrines of devils.

Thousands are being sucked into the false health, wealth and prosperity movement and the new age movement.

The moral condition of the church is at an all time low. We see churches and even preachers defend adultery, divorce, rock music, immoral dress, alcohol, gambling, fornication, and even sodomy. It's hard to tell the difference between the saints and the lost any more.

Ignorance of God's word is rampant in the body of Christ. Local churches are nothing more than entertainment centers, business contacts, playgrounds and social organizations where people meet to find out the latest news and gossip and to find someone to date.

In no way does the church today resemble the early church which gave itself to prayer, preaching and ministering the word.

All members of the body of Christ will not go into apostasy. There will be some who will stand against the wiles of the devil and keep the faith in the last days. There is always been a remnant of true believers in every age. Some time they are hard to find for they are outnumbered by the apostates. In Elijah's day there were only 7000 out of many millions.

Dear Christian what are you going to do in the last days? Are you going to keep the faith or depart from the faith? Are you going to stand strong or fall away? Are you going to love and believe sound doctrine or turn away your ears to fables instead? Are you going to be numbered with the small remnant of true believers or be a part of the apostates?

If you are a Bible believing preacher the best thing you can do to keep your people from departing from the faith is to preach the word. 2 Timothy 4 says: (2) ***Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.***

(3) ***For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;***

The command to preach the word in and out of season in verse 2 is given in view of the apostasy in verse 3. We do not surrender to the coming apostasy; we fight it now more than ever with the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God. If you are a Bible believer the best thing you can do to save yourself from the coming apostasy is what Paul told Timothy to do in 1 Timothy 4. In this same chapter where he predicted the

major apostasy of the last days (verses 1-2) he shows us how we can save ourselves from it.

1 Timothy 4

13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. (Reading, hearing and studying)

15 Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

The salvation in verse 16 is not from sin and hell. Its salvation from the coming apostasy in verses 1-2. We save ourselves from it by reading the word of God, hearing the word of God and studying the word of God and sound doctrine. If we do we will save ourselves from the major apostasy that Christ and all the apostles predicted in the last days.

We have been told by many dispensationalists that we are living in a timeless, sign less age and that we should not look for signs. Someone made that statement years ago and people have repeated it so many times that most Christians assume that it must be true. Nothing could be farther from the truth. So far in our studies we have seen that the Spirit of God has predicted a **Resurgence**: That in the last days the fourth kingdom of Daniel 7 will rise to power and conquer the whole earth long before the tribulation begins. The Spirit has predicted a **Revelation**: That the antichrist will be revealed and will overthrow the fourth kingdom and begin to build his power base even before the tribulation begins. Paul says that the day of Christ will not come until the man of sin is first revealed the son of perdition which means the church will witness the revelation of the antichrist. The Spirit of God has predicted a **Rebuilding**; In Revelation 17-18 the city of Babylon will be rebuilt and become the world headquarters of politics, false religion, and commerce. The temple of God will be rebuilt because the antichrist will sit in it. The Holy Spirit has also predicted a **Resumption**; That the Mosaic Law and priesthood and animal sacrifices will be resumed again in the temple of God in Jerusalem.

In view of these prophetic events prophesied by the Spirit of God what should we do? If we see these things come to pass we should do what the Lord said in Luke 21.

Luke 21

28 And when these things (The predictions of the Spirit) begin to come to pass, then look up, (not down) and lift up your heads; (be encouraged) for your redemption draweth nigh.

29 And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees;

30 When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand.

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

When we see the things the Spirit of God has predicted come to pass it should make us happy and excited. Why? We will know that Christ's coming is near and the kingdom of

God is about to come. And if Christ's coming and kingdom does not excite you then something is wrong with your excitement button.

REAPPEARANCE

In the last days there are people who once lived on the earth who will appear again. They will make a re-appearance. They will have a second coming.

Revelation 11

3 And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.

5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.

6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

This is a prophecy of two men in the future who will work signs, wonders and miracles in opposition against the antichrist. They will preach and prophecy during the same 3 1/2 years the antichrist rules and reigns on earth. Who are these two men? They are two men who once lived on the earth in the Old Testament that we are all familiar with. They are Moses and Elijah. The two witnesses of Revelation 11 is the second coming of Moses and Elijah.

It is prophesied that Elijah will come again before the coming of Christ. Malachi 4:5-6: **Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: 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.**

The day of the Lord is the second coming of Christ. This verse shows us that Elijah will appear before that day. But he is not the only one who will come again. The Jews not only believed that Elijah would come again, but another prophet would appear with him.

John 1:19-21 says: And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ. And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No.

According to these verses the Jews not only expected Elijah to come again, but they expected a prophet would also come again with him. We know that Moses was a prophet according to Deuteronomy 18:15 and we know that Moses appeared with Elijah on the mount of transfiguration in Mark 9:4-5. Elijah never died for he was caught up into heaven in a whirlwind, but Moses died. But when Jesus took Peter, James and John with him on the mount of transfiguration they saw Jesus talking with Elijah and Moses showing us they are both alive and with the Lord in heaven. It is obvious that God has separated these two men for a future ministry. They are the two witnesses of Revelation 11. Moses who represents the Law and Elijah who represents the prophets

will reappear and do again what they did in times past under similar circumstances. What is said about the two witnesses fits Moses and Elijah perfectly.

Both men contended with an evil king

Elijah stood up against Ahab. Moses against Pharaoh. They will contend with another evil king again; the antichrist. For 3 1/2 years they will openly and publically oppose and expose the antichrist in Jerusalem.

Both men worked miracles

During their lives in time past they worked many miracles and they will work the same miracles again in the coming tribulation.

Revelation 11:5 says; ***And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies.***

Both men destroyed God's enemies with fire from heaven in time past. Moses did in Exodus 9:23-25. Elijah did in 2 Kings 1:10

Revelation 11:6 says: ***These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy.***

Elijah stopped it from raining 3 1/2 years in 1 Kings 17:1.

Revelation 11:6 says; ***They have power over waters to turn them to blood.***

Moses turned water into blood in Exodus 7:20

Revelation 11:6 says: ***They have power to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.***

Moses smote the earth with multiple plagues; Read Exodus chapters 7-12.

The past ministries of Moses and Elijah are a preview of things to come. If you want to know the future, read the past. Moses and Elijah will reappear in the future and do again what they did in the past. Their ministries will coincide with the reign of the antichrist. They will preach and prophecy and work miracles during the same 42 months or 1260 days the antichrist will have his greatest power. They will oppose the beast by working miracles and to keep the elect from being deceived by the beast.

There is another man who will appear again. Let me explain: There are two men in the Bible called the son of perdition; the antichrist in 2 Thessalonians 2:3 and Judas Iscariot in John 17:12. How can they both be called THE son of perdition? Judas Iscariot was a false apostle who denied the Lord and betrayed him to be crucified and he was a devil according to John 6:70. After he denied the Lord he killed himself and it says he went to ***his own place.*** (Acts 1:25) That place is the bottomless pit in Revelation 17:8. His body was put in a grave but his spirit went into the bottomless pit. During the coming tribulation someone will kill the antichrist but he will rise from the dead. When he does it says: ***he will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go into perdition.*** It's not his body that will ascend out of the bottomless pit; it's a spirit in that pit that will enter his body. It's the spirit of the son of perdition. It's the same spirit that dwelt in Judas Iscariot. The antichrist is a devil and so is Judas Iscariot and the same spirit that dwelt in Judas

will enter the body of the antichrist when he is raised from the dead. The antichrist will be the re-incarnation of Judas Iscariot. Judas will show up again in the body of the antichrist.

RE-ANIMATION

I've chosen this word because it means to be restored back to life. During the coming tribulation someone will assassinate the antichrist, but the devil will restore him back to life again.

Revelation 13:3 says: ***he (antichrist) was wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.***

In Revelation 13:14 the false prophet will say to them that dwell on the earth; ***that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.***

You can imagine the impact this will have on the earth when he raised from the dead. His resurrection from the dead will be the main reason why the majority of lost people will believe he is God.

According to Romans 1:4 the event that proved Jesus Christ is the Son of God was not the miracles he worked during his life on the earth for others worked miracles like him. It was his resurrection from the dead. It says he was; ***declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.***

Christ's resurrection from the dead proved beyond any doubt that he is the Son of God.

In the same way, during the coming tribulation and even before, the antichrist will work signs, wonders and miracles like Christ. 2 Thessalonians 2:9 says: ***that his coming is after Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders.***

Many people will be deceived by the miracles of the antichrist, but the event that will convince them more than any other to believe his is God will be his resurrection from the dead.

Once they see him raised from the dead they will be more than willing to worship him and to take his mark. His miracles will convince many but his resurrection will be even more powerful. And anyone who speaks out against the antichrist from that time forward will be considered a blasphemer and a traitor.

Ruse

A ruse is a scam, a trick, deception, a scheme or a hoax. A ruse is used to deceive people. The devil is a master deceiver.

Revelation 12:9 says: ***And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world:*** How does he deceive? By false doctrine and miracles. It may come as a surprise to most people but the devil and his ministers can and do work miracles.

In Revelation 13:14 is found the false prophet of satan who will aid and assist the antichrist in the coming tribulation. It says he: ***deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast.***

2 Thessalonians 2: 9 says the antichrist will come with; ***all power and signs and lying wonders.***

During that same time Matthew 24:24 says: ***there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.***

The danger of miracles

Most people think that all miracles are good, but they are not and these verses are proof of this. God uses miracles to benefit his people. The devil uses them to deceive and destroy people. Every miracle the devil does in the Bible is done to hurt people. In John 10:10 Jesus said the devil comes *to steal, kill and destroy*. It is against the devil's nature to do good. His miracles are done to call attention to himself, to deceive, and to destroy. They are a ruse to deceive you and me and the world.

Miracles are not always a sign that a person is sent from the Lord

The devil and his ministers all work miracles. Every member of the satanic trinity work miracles.

Revelation 16:13-14 says: ***And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.***

Miracles can be evil

In Revelation 13 miracles are used to persuade men to take the mark of the beast. In Revelation 16:14 miracles will be used by the devil to gather men together to fight against the Lord at the battle of Armageddon. These are examples of miracles being used for evil purposes.

Miracles can be used to promote false religion

In Revelation 13:14 the false prophet works miracles to persuade men to worship the antichrist and to promote false religion. Beware of religious movements that emphasis signs and wonders and miracles; it may be satanic.

Miracles can deceive you

Verse 14 says the false prophet: ***deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast;***
Matthew 24:24 says: ***For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.***

The last days preceding the coming of Christ will be a time of great deception due to the miracles, signs and wonders the devil and his ministers will work.

Miracles can hurt you

Revelation 12:14-16 says: ***And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might***

cause her to be carried away of the flood. 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.

By miraculous means the devil will send a flood against the woman to drown her and kill her, but God will intervene with another miracle to save her. This is an example of a miracle being used to hurt and even kill someone.

Miracles can damn you

Revelation 13:16 says: ***And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:***

All those deceived by the miracles of the false prophet will take the mark of the beast and will be damned when they do.

Throughout the New Testament Christ and the Apostles warned us all about being deceived. The word deceive means to mislead the mind; to cause to err; to cause to believe what is false, or disbelieve what is true; to delude, to beguile and to cheat. We are warned repeatedly about men who deceive, false prophets and false teachers who deceive, doctrines that deceive and miracles that deceive. Deception is something we must be on guard against at all times. During the days of the apostles many believers were deceived and today the deception continues and it will grow and intensify in the last days like it never has before. The last days will be days of major deception caused by the signs and wonders of the devil and his ministers. Don't be fooled by their ruse.

REJECTION

In the coming tribulation the Devil will be rejected or ejected from the heavens. This may surprise some people to know that the devil is even in the heavens, but he is. The devil did not start out as the devil. He started out as an anointed cherub serving God around the throne of God according to Ezekiel 28:13-19. His name at that time was Lucifer. Because of pride he was cast out of the third heaven down to the second heaven where he is now the prince and power of the air and the god of this world. That is when Lucifer became the devil.

In the coming tribulation he will be cast out of heaven down to the earth where he will reign with the antichrist for the last 3 1/2 years of the tribulation according to Revelation 13. At the end of the tribulation he will fight against Christ at the battle of Armageddon and lose and will be cast into the bottomless pit for 1000 years according to Revelation 20:1-3. After a 1000 years he will be released from the bottomless pit and lead a revolt against God and lose again and then he will be cast into the lake of fire to suffer forever and ever in Revelation 20:9-10.

He starts out at the throne of God in the third heaven and ends up in the lake of fire. He starts out as a special cherub chosen for a special service to God around the throne of God and ends up the devil, the most despicable, horrible creature in the universe burning in the lake of fire forever.

The rejection of the devil from heaven

Revelation 12

7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

When the Devil is cast out of heaven a number of important things happen:

(1) The Devil will lose his throne as the "prince and power of the air." (Ephesians 2:1-3)

(2) He will no longer accuse the brethren before God as he now does day and night.

(3) The kingdom of God will be established in all 3 heavens.

(4) The satanic trinity will all be present in the flesh, on earth at the same time for 3 1/2 years according to Revelation 13. The 3 1/2 years preceding the second coming of Christ will be the most evil, satanic period of history of this planet. That is why it is called the great tribulation.

(5) He will unleash his wrath upon the woman who is Israel.

Revelation 12:13 says: ***And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.***

The antichrist will make war on the saints while the devil will make war on the woman who is Israel.

Resurrection

In Acts 24:14-15 Paul said: ***But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets: And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.***

There are two resurrections in the future; one of the just who are the saved and one of the unjust who are the lost.

The resurrection of the just will come to pass when Jesus comes again. So when we speak of resurrection we are speaking of the second coming of Christ for that is when God will raise the just from the dead. The second coming of Christ and the resurrection of the just is the most important event prophesied by the Spirit in the scriptures. It is the main theme of all Bible prophecy. There are more verses devoted to the second coming of Christ and the resurrection of the saints than any other subject of Bible prophecy.

**The resurrection of the just
1 Thessalonians 4**

13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

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

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

**The resurrection of the just will be announced around the world physically,
audibly, and supernaturally**

1 Thessalonians 4:16 says: ***For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God.***

*There is nothing secret or silent about this resurrection. It will be seen and heard from one end of heaven and earth to the other. The Lord himself will appear along with all his angels.

*The Lord will give a shout that will be heard around the world.

In John 5 Jesus said: ***The hour is coming when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God and they that hear shall live. Marvel not at this for the hour is coming in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice and they shall come forth.***

*The voice of the archangel will be heard

It will be the voice of Michael the archangel who is also the Prince of Israel according to Daniel 12:1. This shows us that Old Testament saints will be in the resurrection of the just.

*The last trumpet of God will sound.

Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15: ***In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump, for the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised.*** Jesus also said in Matthew 24:31: ***And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.***

In Numbers 10 trumpets were blown for two reasons; To gather the saints together and as an alarm of war. This trumpet will serve both purposes. It will gather all saints from all ages together to meet the Lord in the air and at the same time it will announce war on the lost, the devil, the false prophet, the antichrist and the evil nations that fight against Christ when he comes.

In the resurrection of the just Christ will bring those who sleep in Jesus with him
Those who sleep in Jesus are New Testament saints who die before the Lord comes. They are now with the Lord in the heavenly city New Jerusalem. They will accompany the Lord when he comes again.

1 Thessalonians 3:13 says: ***And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you: To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.***

When the Lord comes again he will come *for and with his saints*. He will come *with* the saints who are now with him in heaven in 1 Thessalonians 4:14. They are New Testament saints who have died in this age. The saints he will come *for* are those still alive when he comes in 1 Thessalonians 4:17.

At the resurrection of the just the dead in Christ from past ages will be raised from the dead

1 Thessalonians 4:16 says: ***The dead in Christ shall rise first.*** There are three groups of saints in the resurrection of the just in 1 Thessalonians 4. The dead in Christ of verse 14 who die in this age who are now with the Lord in heaven. They are the ones who will accompany him at his second coming. Those who are alive are those alive when he comes again. The dead who shall rise are saints from past ages.

The dead in Christ in verse 16 are different from the saints who sleep in Jesus in verse 14. Those who sleep in Jesus are with the Lord now and will return with him when he comes. The dead in Christ are those who will be raised from their graves when Christ comes. They are the dead from past ages such as the Old Testament saints. The Old Testament saints are not in heaven with the Lord now because the blood of Christ has not been applied to them. Only those who sleep in Jesus are in heaven with him, for the blood of Christ has been applied to their sins. Daniel wrote of the resurrection of the Old Testament saints in Daniel 12.

1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

The saints who who sleep in the dust of the earth are Old Testament saints. The saints who sleep in Jesus in heaven are New Testament saints who die in this age. Things that are different are not the same. These are two different groups of dead saints, but they will all be united together when Christ comes again.

Summing up the first resurrection

The first resurrection will take place when Christ comes again and not before. It will be announced by the shout of the Lord, the voice of Michael the archangel, and the trumpet of God. Jesus will come again with all his Holy angels. Those who now sleep in Jesus in heaven will return with Christ when he comes. The dead saints from past ages will be resurrected from their graves. Those who are alive will be caught up without dying. There will be gathering together of all saints from all ages to meet the Lord in the

air. The resurrection of the just is the blessed hope and comfort of all saints of all ages. See Job 19:25-28, Psalms 17:15.

The resurrection of the just is called the first resurrection in Revelation 20:5. It's called the first resurrection for a reason; there is a second resurrection.

The second resurrection is the resurrection of the unjust or the resurrection of damnation

Revelation 20:

11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

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.

The judgment John wrote about in Revelation 20 will take place 1000 years after the second coming of Christ. If the dead are going to be judged it only stands to reason that they must be resurrected to be judged. The ones who will be judged in that day are lost people for it says they will be judged and then cast into the lake of fire. So there is a resurrection of lost people which means that when a lost man dies he is not dead like a dog. This resurrection is called the resurrection of the unjust by Paul in Acts 24:15 and the resurrection of damnation by Christ in John 5:29.

All men from all ages, saved or lost, will stand in judgment one day. From Genesis through Revelation God plainly says he will judge all men. It is appointed unto men once to die and after this the judgment. (Hebrews 9:27) If God is going to judge the lost dead then he must raise them from the dead. This is the judgment of the lost from all ages therefore it is the resurrection of the lost dead from all ages. It is the second and final resurrection of the dead.

RETRIBUTION

In the Bible the resurrection of the saints and the retribution of the lost are seen together. They are not separated by years as some extreme dispensationalists teach. At the same time that Christ comes for the saints he will also take vengeance and retribution against the lost. Both will happen in the same day. This can be clearly seen in many places in the Bible such as Luke 17.

Luke 17

24 For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day.

25 But first must he suffer many things, and be rejected of this generation.

26 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

27 They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.

28 Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;

29 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.

30 Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

In these verses the Lord uses two illustrations from the Old Testament to show us the fate of the saved and the lost when he comes again. His coming will be like the days of Noah and Lot. In these examples salvation and wrath are seen together. At the same time he will save the saints like Noah and Lot, the lost will suffer his wrath as in the days of Noah and Lot.

First, he said his coming will be as the days of Noah in verse 26. We are familiar with Noah because in his day God destroyed the world with a flood because of the extreme wickedness and violence of men in the earth. Luke 17:27 says that in the day Noah entered into the ark the flood came and destroyed those outside the ark. It was a day of salvation and wrath. It was a day of salvation to Noah in the ark and a day of wrath to those outside the ark. Once God shut Noah and his family in the ark God's wrath fell on the whole world in a flood of water. The flood came the day that Noah and his family and all the animals were safely in the ark.

Second, the Lord said his coming will be as the days of Lot in Luke 17:28. We are familiar with the story of Lot because in his day God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah with fire from heaven. But, when did God destroy Sodom and Gomorrah? Luke 17:29 says: ***The same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.*** The Holy Spirit is very careful to show us that it was in the very same day that Lot was delivered out of Sodom that he destroyed the Sodomites. Not a week or year later, but the same day.

In these two examples we see salvation and wrath in the same day. The same day Noah entered into the ark, the flood came and destroyed millions outside the ark. In the same day the angels delivered Lot out of Sodom, God rained fire and brimstone from heaven and burned up the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. And in Luke 17:30 Jesus said: ***Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.*** His coming will be as the days of Noah and Lot. If the second coming of Christ will be as the days of Lot and Noah then we know the same day the Lord comes again saints like Noah and Lot will be saved and the lost like the Sodomites will be destroyed with fire. It will be a day of salvation and wrath.

Matthew 13

49 So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,

50 And shall cast them (the wicked) into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

43 Then shall the righteous (saints) shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Salvation and wrath are seen together in these verses. When Jesus comes again his angels will sever or separate the wicked from the just as they did in the days of Noah and Lot. In the same day they will punish the wicked with fire, they will save the righteous as they saved Lot and Noah. In the same day the righteous will shine as the sun in the kingdom of God, the wicked will suffer the fire of God's wrath as they did in the days of Noah and Lot.

In 1 Thessalonians 4-5 Paul describes the second coming of Christ and his description of the saved and lost at his coming is the same as Christ's; Salvation of the saints and wrath upon the lost in the same day.

1 Thessalonians 4-5

4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

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

4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

These verses describe the fate of the saints when the Lord comes again. But, in the next chapter he shows us the fate of the lost when he comes again. He goes on to say;

5:1 But of the times and the seasons, (of his coming) brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord (Christ's coming) so cometh as a thief in the night.

5:3 For when they (the lost) shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

Paul said that when Christ comes again not only will the saints be caught up to meet the Lord in the air, (4:17) but at the same time sudden destruction (5:3) will come on the lost and they shall not escape. The reason why the saints will be caught up in a moment in the twinkling of an eye (1 Cor.15:52) is because within moments of our departure sudden destruction will come on the lost. Not 3 or 7 years later, but in the same day the saints are caught out, the wrath will fall suddenly on the lost and they shall not escape.

That is exactly what happened in Noah's and Lot's day. Sudden destruction came upon the world the day Noah entered into the ark. Sudden destruction came upon Sodom and Gomorrah the same day Lot was taken out. And Paul says in chapter 4 the saints will be caught out of this world as Lot was caught out of Sodom and in chapter 5 he says then sudden destruction will come on those left behind as it came on the sodomites in

Lots day and the lost in the flood in Noah's day. The second coming of Christ will be a day of salvation and retribution. Salvation for the saints and damnation to the lost.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 says: ***For God hath not appointed us (the saved) to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.*** The salvation in this verse is from the wrath of God that will fall suddenly upon the lost at the second coming of Christ in 5:3. The lost are appointed unto wrath, but believers will be saved from it, just as Noah and Lot were saved from the wrath of God in their day.

In 2 Thessalonians 1 Paul describes the sudden destruction that will come on the lost at Christ's coming.

2 Thessalonians 1

7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

According to these verses in the same day the saints will be glorified at Christ's coming in verse 10, the lost shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord in verse 9. The saints will be glorified at the same time the lost will be punished. The saints will be saved at the same time the lost will be destroyed. The saints will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air at the same time the angels will take vengeance against the lost on earth.

Christ's coming will be a day of salvation and retribution and the issue that will separate the wicked from the righteous in that day is the gospel of Christ according to 2 Thessalonians 1:8. Those who have believed the gospel of Christ will be saved in the day of his coming and those who have not believed the gospel of Christ will suffer the vengeance and wrath of God.

It will be as it was when the death angel flew over Egypt. Those whose houses had the blood applied to the door were saved and those whose houses were not covered with the blood were killed. (Exd. 12:21-29) It was a night of salvation and wrath; salvation to the Israelites and wrath upon the Egyptians. When God sends his angels at his coming they will separate those who are covered by the blood of Christ from those who are not. If you are covered by the blood you will rest in that day according to verse 7. If you are not covered by the blood you will be terrified and destroyed in that day according to verse 8.

REWARD

At the resurrection of the saved, not only will all saints be raised from the dead and meet the Lord in the air, but all saints will be judged, rewarded and recompensed

according to their works. Jesus said in Luke 14:14: ***For thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.***

All saints from all ages will stand before God and be judged according to the work they did as believers in their life time at the resurrection of the just. Any work that you do that God defines as good today will be rewarded in that day.

The judgment of the saved is a common doctrine found in both Testaments. Solomon the king and wisest man in the world said in Eccl. 12:13-14: ***Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.***

Solomon said that God will bring every work into judgment both the good and evil. The apostles in the New Testament said the same, plus they defined the rewards for the good works and the penalty for the bad works.

Paul the apostle in the New Testament said in 2 Corinthians 5:10-11: ***For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.***

Paul and Solomon agree about the judgment; Solomon said that God will bring every work, even secret works, into judgment whether it be good or evil. Paul said God will judge the works we have done in our bodies whether it be good or bad. Paul also shows us that God will reward the good works and penalize the bad.

1 Corinthians 3

11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

The purpose of this judgment is not to determine who is saved or not. The Judgment Seat of Christ is a judgment of the saved only. God will put our works on trial, not our salvation. God will bring every work into judgment and he will reward the good and penalize the bad.

The works we do as believers are compared to gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, and stubble. It says a fire will try our works and some works will abide the trial and some will be burned up.

Gold, silver and precious stones are fireproof. Wood, hay and stubble burn easily for they are combustible. Some of the works that believers do today are like gold, silver and precious stones; when God tries them they will abide the fire. But the works of some

believers today are like wood, hay and stubble; they will burn and go up in smoke at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Works that are like gold and silver and precious stones will be rewarded. It says: If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. Works that are like wood, hay and stubble will be penalized; It says: If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss. This means that some believers will see a life time of works go up in smoke at the Judgment Seat of Christ and they will walk away empty handed while others walk away with crowns and rewards. As the rewards will be eternal, so will the loss. This is why Paul said; ***Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men.*** If this is a judgment of the saved how can it be terrifying? It will be terrifying to some when they see all the works they did as a Christian go up in smoke. It will be terrifying to walk away empty handed while others walk away wearing crowns and reigning with Christ. It will be terrifying to know that they will never have another chance to go back and work to gain the rewards they lose. That is a very terrifying and sobering thought.

What the apostles and prophets wrote about the coming judgment of the saved should have a radical impact upon your personal life if you are saved.

*In view of this coming judgment we should be steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. (1 Cor. 15:58)

*This coming judgment should provoke us to cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. (2 Cor. 7:1)

*This coming judgment should convince you to present your body a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service*. And be not conformed to this world: but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God*. (Romans 12:1-2)

*This coming judgment should cause us to seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. And to set our affection on things above, not on things on the earth. (Col. 3:1-2)

I am convinced that if Christians always kept this judgment before their eyes and on their minds it would radically change the way they live. They would never waste their time, money, energy and lives pursuing carnal, worthless things, "causes" and stuff and junk that will all go up in smoke at the judgment seat of Christ. What we should spend our time, money, life and efforts doing in our short time in this world can be summed up in one verse: ***1 Timothy 2:4 Who (God) will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.***

God will have all men to be saved; that's ***evangelism***. God will have all saved men to come into knowledge of the truth; that's ***edification***. This one verse shows us why we are saved and what we should spend our time doing while we are still in the world. We should spend our time in this world trying our best to evangelize the lost and to edify the saints. If what you are doing does not evangelize the lost or edify the saints, then stop doing it. Devote your time, money, efforts, body, soul and spirit to evangelizing lost people and teaching and edifying the saved in the knowledge of the truth. If you do, your works will be like gold, silver and precious stones and when God tries them they

will abide and you will be richly rewarded. But if the work you are doing now does not evangelize the lost or edify the saints, your works will go up in smoke at the Judgment Seat of Christ, no matter how much men admire them and esteem them.

Use every opportunity God gives you to evangelize lost people and to teach the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth to saved people. Don't get side tracked or become entangled with the cares of this life or anything that prevents you from these two goals. These should be the two main goals in every Christians' life. And it's the only work God will reward at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Reign

A king reigns and rules in a kingdom. The Spirit of God has shown us that there are two people who are going to reign and rule in a coming kingdom as kings and rulers over other people. The Spirit has also shown us that not everyone will reign as kings and rulers in the coming kingdom.

Jesus Christ

Luke 1

30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Romans 15:21: And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust.

Isaiah 24:23: Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously.

Revelation 11:15: And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become *the kingdoms* of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

All of these verses predicting the reign of Christ have things in common. They all say he will reign literally, physically and visibly on the earth in the city of Jerusalem. They all say he will reign forever and that he will reign over both Jews and gentiles. They say he will begin to reign at the last trumpet because in that day he will destroy all the kingdoms of this world and he alone will become the King over the whole earth. In that day the world will know that he is King of all Kings and Lord of Lords.

But he will not reign alone. There are saints who will reign with him. Not all, but some will. Who are they? The apostles and Jesus answer that question.

Paul says in 2 Timothy 2:11-12: ***It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: if we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:***

There are two classes of Christians in these verses. Those who will live with Christ in his coming kingdom and those who will **ALSO** reign with him. The ones who will live with him are those who died with him. All saints have died with Christ for the Holy Spirit baptized all believers into Christ and being baptized into Christ we were all baptized into his death. (Romans 6) His death on the cross is counted as the death of all saints. Therefore, all Christians will live with Christ in the coming kingdom. But those Christians who suffer for Christ in this life will not only live with him, but they will **ALSO** reign with him.

Living with Christ is conditional upon dying with Christ, which means all Christians will live with him because all Christians have died with him. Reigning with Christ is conditional upon suffering for Christ. And because all Christians do not suffer for Christ in this life, all Christians will not reign with him. The Bible is very clear about this issue: reigning with Christ is conditional upon suffering with Christ. And because all believers do not suffer all believers will not reign.

Revelation 2

26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

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

28 And I will give him the morning star.

29 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Paul said those who suffer will reign whereas Jesus said he that overcomes will reign with him. It's the same because an overcomer is one who suffers for Christ and may even lose his life for Christ's sake. Jesus says the overcomers will be given power over the nations like him and they will rule them with a rod of iron as he will.

Revelation 3:21: To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

In this verse, Jesus said that he will share his kingly throne with the overcomers. They will reign as kings along with him!

Revelation 5

8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four *and* twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

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

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

John sees this vision in heaven of the 24 elders with golden vials full of odours which are the prayers of saints. Those saints are those who will lose their life in the future for Christ sake. (See them praying in Rev. 6:6-9.) They are the saints in verse 10 that God will make kings and priests and will reign on the earth.

Revelation 20

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

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

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

The ones who will reign with Christ for 1000 years in Rev. 20:6 are the saints who will be beheaded for Christ in Rev. 20:4.

This shows us that if we want to wear a crown in the future we must bear a cross now. Many Christians want the crown now without a cross. The favorite gospel today is the health, wealth and prosperity gospel. It's very popular among lost people and carnal Christians because it promises salvation from sickness, poverty and suffering and sacrifice. But Jesus and the apostles did not preach the health wealth and prosperity gospel. The gospel they preached promised suffering, sacrifice and persecution to those who believed. They all said that when you get saved you inherit the enemies of the Lord and they will hate you and persecute you as they did Christ.

In John 15:19-20 Jesus said: **If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.**

Jesus did not say that if you become my servant you will get rich, prosper and be healthy. He said men will treat you the way they treated me. How was he treated? They hated him and persecuted him and crucified him. If they hated and persecuted and crucified him, can we expect better treatment? We can expect the same if not worse treatment than Christ because we are his servants and servants should not expect better treatment than their masters. But, those who are persecuted for the sake of Christ will reign with him forever and the glory of reigning with him will be worth any suffering you endure for him in this life.

In John 16:33 Jesus said: **These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.**

The Lord did not promise his followers health, wealth and prosperity in this world. He promised his followers tribulation as long as they live in this world. But if you suffer tribulation for Christ in this world, you will reign with Christ in the coming world.

In 2 Timothy 3:12 Paul wrote: ***Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*** But in 2 Timothy 2:12 he said: ***If we suffer, we shall also reign with him.***

In Romans 8:16-18 Paul wrote: ***The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.***

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Part of the glory in this verse is reigning forever with Christ in his coming kingdom. But, notice what precedes the glory: *Suffering with him.*

A deception about suffering

There are Christians who are deceived into believing that any suffering they endure in this life will be rewarded. When they read about the rewards given to those who suffer they assume it's all suffering without exception and distinction. But, what saith the scriptures? The scriptures tell us that all suffering will not be rewarded.

*Suffering you experience for sin, carnality, and carelessness will not be rewarded.

*Suffering chastisement for sin will not be rewarded.

*Suffering pain, disease, and sickness because of carnal habits such as smoking, drinking, or gluttony will not be rewarded.

*If people dislike you or speak against you because you have a rotten personality, don't expect a crown for that.

*If people avoid you or refuse to listen to you because you are a hypocrite don't expect a reward for that.

The only suffering God will reward at the Judgment Seat of Christ is suffering for Christ's sake.

2 Timothy 2:8-12 says: ***Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel: Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound. Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us.***

In the context in which it appears, the suffering God rewards is physical suffering for Christ sake like those Paul describes in these verses.

In chapter 3:10-12 he also wrote these words about suffering: ***But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at***

Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

These verses like many others make it clear that God does not reward all suffering without exception. The suffering he rewards is suffering for the sake of Christ and living godly in Christ Jesus. If we suffer for Christ, we will reign with Christ. If we do not suffer, we will not reign with him. All Christians will live with Christ in the kingdom of God according to 2 Timothy 2:11, but only those who suffer for Christ will also reign with Christ according to verse 12.

This is an unpleasant subject, but the fact is there will be a marked difference between believers in the coming kingdom of God. Some will reign as kings and some will not. Some will wear crowns and some will not. Some will rule over nations and some will not. Some will have great authority and some will not. Some will receive rewards and some will suffer the loss of rewards. It is all up to you.

You can spend your life, time, money and energy any way you want. You can spend your time and life chasing dollars, pursuing your “career” or building your own kingdom of earth. You can have your cake and eat it too, right now. But, if you do you will end up empty handed in the coming kingdom of God.

Or, you can devote your time and life and energy and possessions doing the will of God. What is the will of God? 1 Timothy 2:4 says that God will have all men to be saved and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. God will have all men to be saved; that’s evangelism. God will have all men to come into the knowledge of the truth; that’s edification. If you spend your time and life pursuing those two goals you will be rewarded in the coming kingdom of God. If your main goal is to evangelize the lost and to edify the saints, God will see to it that you will reign with him and exercise authority with him in the coming kingdom of God.

Many saints want the crowns and rewards today without the suffering and sacrifice it takes to gain them. They make the mistake of assuming that everything is free under grace like salvation. But, we should never mix salvation with rewards and reigning with Christ. Salvation is free, but rewards and reigning with Christ is conditional upon suffering for Christ in this life. Unless we suffer and make the necessary sacrifices we will lose rewards we could have gained and be denied the privilege of reigning with Christ as kings. Don’t be deceived into believing that all suffering will be rewarded or that rewards and crowns are free.

Take inventory of your life; what are you doing right now to evangelize the lost? What are you doing now that edifies the saints in the word of God? It will cost you something and it may require sacrifice and even suffering to evangelize the lost and teach the saints the word of God. (See the price the apostles paid to do it.) But it will be worth it all when God makes you a king and ruler in the coming kingdom of God for he said if we suffer we shall also reign with him.

Restoration

The time is coming that God will restore the power and authority over the kingdoms and nations of this world back to its rightful heir which is Jesus Christ. (Matt. 21:38) Today the kingdoms of this world are under the power and rule of Satan and the gentiles and will remain this way till the second coming of Christ. This is clearly seen in Daniel and Revelation.

In Daniel 2 Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had a dream about a great image of a man and in his dream he saw a stone fall from heaven and it smote the image of the man and destroyed it and the stone became a great mountain and it filled the earth. Daniel was called in to interpret the dream because the wise guys in Babylon couldn't.

Daniel said:

Daniel 2:31: Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible.

32 This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass,

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

34 Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet *that were* of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.

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

The great image Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream represented the gentile kingdoms of this world from Babylon till the second coming of Christ. The kingdom of Babylon was the head of gold; Media Persia was the breast and arms of silver; Greece was the belly and thighs of brass; Rome was the legs of iron; but the feet with 10 toes represents the kingdom that will be in power when the stone from heaven comes down and smites the image. The 10 toes of Daniel 2 is the fourth kingdom of Daniel 7:7 that will rise in the future and devour the whole earth tread it down and break it into pieces. It's a future kingdom that will have 10 kings and it's the one that will be in power when Jesus comes again. What Nebuchadnezzar saw was the whole political history of this world from his day till the second coming of Christ.

Daniel goes on to say:

Daniel 2:42: And as the toes of the feet *were* part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.

43 And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.

44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, *but* it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

45 Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the

gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream *is* certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

The stone that smites the image is Christ's second coming. When he comes again he will smite the great image and break in pieces and destroy all the kingdoms of this world represented by the image and then his kingdom, the kingdom of God, will fill the earth and will never be destroyed.

This prophecy affects us today because we live in the time period that Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream. It's called the times of the gentiles in Luke 21:24. The times of the gentiles is the time in which the gentiles are in power politically over the nations and kingdoms of this world. The times of the gentiles began with the kingdom of Babylon and will end when Christ comes and smites the 10 kings of the fourth kingdom of Daniel 7:7 represented by the 10 toes of Daniel 2. Till Christ comes again the gentiles are in power, but their power is derived from the prince and god of this world who is the devil.

This explains one of the temptations of Christ. In Luke 4 we read about the temptation of Christ by the devil. In one of the temptations it says:

Luke 4:5: And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

6 And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.

7 If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.

8 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

The devil said that all the power over the kingdoms of this world was given to him and he could give it to whomsoever he wanted to. He offered Christ all the power and authority over the kingdoms of this world if he worshiped him but he refused. If what the devil said was not true then this temptation was not real. What he said was true and that is why the Lord did not correct him. The Lord did not deny what the devil said about his power over the kingdoms of this world. The Lord knew he had this power and will keep it the second coming of Christ. The Lord himself said that the devil is the prince of this world in John 14:30 and the god of this world in 2 Cor. 4.

The devil is in charge of this world politically and religiously and he rules in and through the gentile nations and rulers of this world including ours. This is why a Christian should never put his trust in politicians and government. The devil runs the politics and religions of this world because he is the prince of this world and the god of this world.

But all this will change when Christ comes again.

Revelation 11:15: And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become *the kingdoms* of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

16 And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,

17 Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

The 7th trumpet is the last trumpet and it is when Christ comes again. When he comes again the gentile kingdoms of this world will become his and he will reign forever. This is when the stone smites the image in Daniel 2. This is when the times of the gentiles come to an end. This is when the fullness of the gentiles comes in Romans 11:25.

At his first coming the devil offered Christ the kingdoms of this world if he would worship him. The Lord rejected the offer and at his second coming at the last trumpet he will take it by power and force. By power and force he will take back the throne to all the kingdoms of this world. They will be restored back into his hands and he will reign forever as King of Kings and Lord of Lord's.

The devil is not going to give up all the power he has without a fight. We read in Revelation 16:

Revelation 16:13: And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs *come* out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, *which* go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

Here is a case where the devil will use miracles to persuade all the kings and rulers of the whole earth along with their armies to fight against Jesus Christ when he come again at the what is called the battle of Armageddon. The battle of Armageddon will be between Christ and his armies and the devil and his armies which are the kings and rulers of the kingdoms of this world. This is a battle over who will rule and reign over the kingdoms of this world in the future. The battle is not described here but it is in Revelation 19.

Revelation 19:11: And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

12 His eyes *were* as a flame of fire, and on his head *were* many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

13 And he *was* clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

14 And the armies *which were* in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast,

and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

These verses tell us who will win the battle of Armageddon before the first shot is fired. This is when and how the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our Lord and Christ. This is when and how the stone of Daniel 2 will smite the nations and bring an end to the times of the gentiles. He will defeat the nations at the battle of Armageddon, cast the antichrist and the false prophet into the lake of fire and bind the devil in the bottomless pit. It will be a major victory over the satanic trinity and the kings and kingdoms of this world.

Concerning the devil it says:

Revelation 20:1: And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

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

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

REGENERATION

Matthew 19:28 says: ***And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.***

The regeneration he spoke of is the regeneration of the earth in the coming kingdom of God. In the coming kingdom of God the earth will be regenerated and made new again. The promise of a regenerated earth is the same as the promise of the coming kingdom of God. For example when Jesus taught the apostles to pray he said: ***After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. (Matthew 6:9-10)*** When the kingdom of God comes the will of God will be done on earth as it is in heaven. The earth will become like heaven. It will be heaven on earth for the heavens and the earth will be regenerated and made new. That is why the kingdom is often called the kingdom of heaven. When men preached the kingdom of God they preached about a regenerated earth.

The Kingdom of God is a literal, physical, visible, earthly kingdom. The Kingdom of God is one of the greatest promises in the Bible for it meets every need of man. The Kingdom of God will solve every problem men have politically, environmentally, spiritually, religiously, physically, morally, and economically. You name the problem the Kingdom of God will solve it.

In the Kingdom of God the bodies of the saints will be changed and transformed

1 Corinthians 15:50-53: Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.

In the Kingdom of God, the throne of God will be on the earth

Luke 1:32-33: He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Jeremiah 23:5-6: Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this *is* his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Isaiah 2:2-3: And it shall come to pass in the last days, *that* the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Revelation 21:3: And I heard a great voice out of 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 shall be with them, *and be* their God.

The government of His Kingdom will be a theocracy. God himself will reign in the person of Christ.

Isaiah 9:6-7: For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

The government of the Kingdom of God will be pure and free from corruption

Isaiah 11:4: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

Isaiah 61:11: For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

Jeremiah 23:5: Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

In the Kingdom of God, war and crime will cease.

Isaiah 2:4: And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Isaiah 9:7: Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

In God's Kingdom the Devil will be cast out of heaven and off the earth

Revelation 20:1-3: And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

Revelation 20:10: And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *are*, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

In the Kingdom of God the creation and environment will be regenerated

2 Peter 3:12-13: Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

In the Kingdom of God the earth will become like the Garden of Eden

Isaiah 51:3: For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.

In the Kingdom of God all physical infirmities and sickness will be healed.

Isaiah 35:3-7: Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them *that are* of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come *with* vengeance, *even* God *with* a recompence; he will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame *man* leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water.

Jeremiah 30:17: For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the LORD; because they called thee an Outcast, *saying*, This *is* Zion, whom no man seeketh after.

In the Kingdom of God the animal creation will be tamed.

Isaiah 11:6-9: The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. 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.

In the Kingdom of God prayer will be answered without delay.

Isaiah 65:24: And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

John 16:23: And in that day (the kingdom of God) ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give *it* you.

In the Kingdom of God great rapidity of growth will be seen in nature and hunger and starvation will disappear.

Leviticus 26:4-6: 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. And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and ye shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely. And I will give peace in the land, and ye 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.

Amos 9:13-14: Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt. And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit *them*; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them.

Isaiah 49:10-11: They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them. And I will make all my mountains a way, and my highways shall be exalted.

In the Kingdom of God the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord

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

In the Kingdom of God the Law of God and the Word of God will go forth from Jerusalem into all the world.

Isaiah 2:2-3: And it shall come to pass in the last days, *that* the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

In the Kingdom of God he will destroy all his enemies.

1 Corinthians 15:22-26: For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then *cometh* the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy *that* shall be destroyed *is* death.

In the Kingdom of God the heavenly city New Jerusalem will be established upon the earth.

Revelation 21:1-3: And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of 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 shall be with them, *and be* their God.

In the Kingdom of God all idols, false teachers, false religion, cults will be purged

Revelation 22:15: For without *are* dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

In the Kingdom of God sin, sorrow, suffering, sickness and death will be finally abolished.

Revelation 21:4-5: And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the

throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

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