

# **FROM HERE TO ETERNITY – AN OUTLINE OF ESCHATOLOGY**

## **[A] INTRODUCTION**

Many people get excited about the idea of prophecy and become unbalanced. In 2 Peter 3:10-14 we have perhaps the most dramatic event of all, the end of time itself. Here Peter is talking about the end of the world. Everything that is solid is to go but he does not dwell on that at all. He focuses on personal behaviour showing that holy conversation and godliness should be the result of the study of prophecy.

We should know that the world is going to end one day and the attitude we should have should be with that fact in mind. We need to recognise that the world is going to pass away and that we need to look to the one who is going to make it pass away. Our eyes should be on Christ the author and finisher of the universe. We should look through this to a new creation. God's Word should be more real to us than the present physical creation. He tells us to be careful and thoughtful how we live.

If the study of prophecy does not tend to holiness we do not understand prophecy. If you have a person who is talking a lot about prophecy but is not demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit their interpretation is wrong. When you know what God is going to do to this world it should change your behaviour and your attitude to this world.

## **APPLICATION OF PROPHECY**

Prophecy is not an optional extra. It is very important. Paul was in Thessalonica for only a couple of weeks and he talked about the Rapture, the Second Advent and the new heavens and new earth to the Thessalonians in those two weeks.

Luke 21:5-27 is an important prophetic passage. The important verse for our study is verse 24. It was very important for the Jews in Jerusalem and they also remembered Matthew 24:15-21

When the Romans surrounded Jerusalem from 67 to 70 AD all the Christians remembered these passages and applied it to their situation. During the period of the siege there was a short time when the siege was lifted while the Romans went and dealt with another matter.

At that time all the Christians got out of Jerusalem on the basis of the Word of God and headed for the mountains. The Romans eventually returned to Jerusalem and in August of AD 70 they took the city and destroyed the Temple and every stone was pulled down. There were no Christians left in the city.

This chapter goes beyond the 70 AD incident. The Lord makes it clear that this will occur until the time of the Gentiles is fulfilled. He said that Jerusalem will be under Gentile domination until the end.

The Lord was quite correct when he said that the pregnant women who had to run from the Roman army had a hard job. This happened in the siege but the whole Christian community left remembering the Lord's words.

In verse 24 the Lord said that they would fall by the edge of the sword and they did, that they would go into captivity and they did. The Romans knocked down every wall with the exception of the wailing wall. The wailing wall was left so that the people could see how great the city had been and yet what the Romans had done to it.

Jerusalem itself was trodden down by the Gentiles until 1967. For the first time in history since the time of our Lord Jerusalem in our lifetime has again come under Israeli rule.

## **THE BIBLICAL CONCEPT OF PROPHECY - 2 PETER 1:19-21**

What does the Bible say about the origin of prophecy, its accuracy and its application to our lives.

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

In this passage Peter assures us that we have totally reliable prophecy in the Bible and encourages his readers to take great heed of it. Peter further says that it is not man's invention or thoughts but the very thoughts of God written down under the concept of inspiration by believers under the control of the Holy Spirit.

Our study of prophecy that we are to undertake is therefore of great importance and should have significant impact on our lives.

### **BIBLE: INSPIRATION**

1. The principle of inspiration is found in (2 Timothy 3:16) "All Scripture is God breathed". Gk. THEO PNEUSTOS. The Holy Spirit communicated to the human authors God's complete plan (2 Samuel 23:2, 3, Isaiah 59:21, Jeremiah 1:9, Matthew 22:42, 43, Mark 12:36, Acts 4:24, 25, 28:25) The human authors of Scripture so wrote that in spite of their personalities, they were able to communicate God's plan with perfect accuracy in the language they wrote.

2. The origin of Scripture is beyond human viewpoint. (2 Peter 1:20, 21)

3. The Bible is the mind of Christ. (1 Corinthians 2:16) Therefore it is the absolute standard for believers. (Psalm 138:2)

4. Pre Canon revelation from God occurred through the Holy Spirit. There was no written scripture until the time of Moses. (2 Samuel 23:2, Ezekiel 2:2, 8:3, 11:1, 24, Micah 3:8, Hebrews 3:7)

5. Four categories of Old Testament revelation:

- a) The spoken word - thus saith the Lord. (Isaiah 6:9, 10, Acts 28:25)
- b) Dreams. (Numbers 12:6, Genesis 15:12, 31:10-13, 31:24, Daniel 10:9) -whilst asleep.
- c) Visions. (Isaiah 1:1, 6:1, 1 Kings 22:19) - whilst awake.
- d) Angelic teaching. (Deuteronomy 33:2, Acts 7:53, Galatians 3:19, Psalm 68:17)

6. The extent of revelation:

- a) The unknown past - the Bible portrays past historical details unknown to man apart from revelation. (Genesis 1-11). The accuracy of these historical facts is guaranteed by inspiration. e.g. Creation, Noah's Flood.
- b) Ancient history - whilst the Bible is not a text book of history, all historical citations are accurate.
- c) Objective law - the Old Testament contains many laws for both individuals and national life. These laws express perfectly the mind of God to those people to whom they are addressed.
- d) Some portions of the Bible contain direct quotations from God. The doctrine of inspiration guarantees that such quotations are properly recorded exactly as God desired.
- e) God uses the emotions, trials and triumphs of certain believers to declare His grace in devotional literature like the Psalms, Song of Solomon
- f) Inspiration extends to the recording of falsehoods just as they were uttered. Satan Genesis 3:4
- g) Inspiration guarantees the accuracy of all recorded prophecies.

### **RELIABILITY OF PROPHECY AND THE CHARACTER OF GOD**

The other question that arises is what are the attributes of God that makes the Bible unique as far as accuracy is concerned. Can we rely entirely on what God says?.

### **GOD: CHARACTER OF GOD**

1. Whilst God is three persons all three persons have exactly the same essence or character:

a) SOVEREIGNTY

The Father (Ephesians 1:11 , cf Isaiah 40:8, Matthew 6:10, Hebrews 10:7, 9)  
The Son (John 5:21, Revelation 19:16)  
The Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:11 , cf Hebrews 2:4)

b) RIGHTEOUSNESS

The Father (John 17:25)

The Son (Luke 1:35, Hebrews 7:26, 2 Corinthians 5:21)  
The Spirit The Holy Spirit

c) JUSTICE

The Father (Job 37:23, cf 8:3)  
The Son (Acts 3:14, John 5:22, Revelation 19:11)  
The Spirit (Nehemiah 9:20)

d) LOVE

The Father (John 3:16)  
The Son (Ephesians 5:25, 1 John 3:16)  
The Spirit (John 16:7-11, 1 Corinthians 2:10)

e) ETERNAL LIFE

The Father (John 5:26)  
The Son (Micah 5:2, cf John 1:1-2, 1 John 5:11)  
The Spirit (Isaiah 48:16)

f) ALL-KNOWING

The Father (Hebrews 4:13, cf Matthew 11:27, 1 Peter 1:2)  
The Son (John 18:4, cf Matthew 9:4, John 2:25, 1 Cor 4:5)  
The Spirit (Isaiah 11:2, cf 1 Corinthians 2:11)

g) EVERYWHERE

The Father (2 Chronicles 2:6)  
The Son (Matthew 28:20, cf Ephesians 1:23)  
The Spirit (Psalm 139:7)

h) ALL-POWERFUL

The Father (Mark 14:36, cf 1 Peter 1:5)  
The Son (Hebrews 1:3, cf Matthew 24:30, 2 Corinthians 12:9, Philippians 3:21)  
The Spirit (Romans 15:19)

i) UNCHANGEABLE

The Father (Hebrews 6:17, Psalm 33:11)  
The Son (Hebrews 13:8)  
The Spirit (John 14:16)

j) TRUTH

The Father (John 7:28, John 17:3)  
The Son (1 John 5:20, cf John 1:14, 14:6, Revelation 19:11)  
The Spirit (1 John 5:6, cf John 14:17, 15:26, 16:13)

From the above we note that the Holy Spirit who guided spirit filled authors of the Bible is All Knowing so He knows every detail of not only what has past but of every action in the future.

The Holy Spirit is Absolute Truth. He cannot lie, what He states is the truth.

God is also the Sovereign of the universe. If He says something is going to happen it will.

The Holy Spirit is Eternal and this ensures accuracy as far as eternity is concerned.

Not surprisingly we can be totally confident of prophecy from the Bible based on its source, the Character of God.

### **PROPHECY: FULFILLED PROPHECY PROOF OF INSPIRATION**

All scripture is inspired by God (2 Peter 1:19-21) Therefore, all Biblical prophecies must come true. This is demonstrated in prophecies already fulfilled.

1. Reuben would be unstable and lose his rights as firstborn. Prophecy (Genesis 49:3-4) - Fulfillment (Numbers 26:5-11)

2. Simeon would not have land allotted in the Promised Land. Prophecy (Genesis 49:5-7) - Fulfillment (Joshua 19:1-9)
3. Levi would not have land allotted in the Promised Land. Prophecy (Genesis 49:5-7) - Fulfillment (Joshua 21:4-7)
4. Judah would become the ruler over the nation of Israel. Prophecy (Genesis 49:8-12) - Fulfillment (Numbers 10:14, Joshua 15:1 Revelation 5:5)
5. Zebulun would receive an allotment of land on the coast and it would reach down to Sidon. Prophecy (Genesis 49:13) - Fulfillment (Joshua 19:10-16) as well as history when they took the land to the south of their area previously allocated to Asher and their influence reached right down to Sidon.
6. Issachar would be given a fertile area between two mountains and would be a servant. Prophecy (Genesis 49:14-15) - Fulfillment (Joshua 19:17-22)
7. Dan would be a full member of Israel but would lead the nation away in idolatry. Prophecy (Genesis 49:16-18) - Fulfillment (Joshua 19:40-48) and the fact that idolatry in the nation was led by this tribe. It is also of interest that his tribe is not mentioned as having any part in the 144,000 witnesses in (Revelation 7).
8. Gad would be a warrior tribe. Prophecy (Genesis 49:19) - Fulfillment (1 Chronicles 5:18-20, 12:8)
9. Asher would have a rich and fertile land. Prophecy (Genesis 49:20, Deuteronomy 33:24-25) - Fulfillment - History - Asher enjoyed a rich and fertile area together in more recent times successful oil exploration.
10. Naphtali would be quick to spread good news Prophecy (Genesis 49:21) - Fulfillment (Matthew 4:13-15) as Jesus began his ministry in Naphtali and most of the disciples who gave the good news came from that region.
11. Joseph would receive great blessing. Prophecy (Genesis 49:22-26) - Fulfillment (Deut 33:13-17)
12. Benjamin would be a ferocious group Prophecy. (Genesis 49:27) - Fulfillment (Judges 19, 20:21-47)
13. Joshua and Caleb to enter into the Promised Land after 40 years wandering. Prophecy (Numbers 14:24, 30) - Fulfillment (Joshua 3:7,17 14:6-12)
14. Sisera would be defeated by a woman. Prophecy (Judges 4:9) - Fulfillment (Judges 4:21)
15. Hophni and Phineas would die on the same day. Prophecy (1 Samuel 2:34) - Fulfillment (1 Samuel 4:11)
16. The priesthood would be removed from the family of Eli. Prophecy (1 Samuel 2:27-36, 3:11-14) - Fulfillment (1 Kings 2:26-27)
17. Saul was to be the first king of Israel and would save the nation from the Philistines. Prophecy (1 Samuel 9:15-16) - Fulfillment (1 Samuel 11;14)
18. Saul's kingdom would not continue. Prophecy (1 Samuel 13:14, 15:28, 24:20) - Fulfillment (2 Samuel 3:1, 5:1-3)
19. Saul to die in battle on a certain day. Prophecy (1 Samuel 28:19) - Fulfillment (1 Samuel 31:1-6)
20. Solomon to build the Temple not David. Prophecy (1 Chronicles 17:1-12) - Fulfillment (1 Kings 7:51)
21. The sword not to depart from David's house because of sin. Prophecy (2 Samuel 12:10-12) - Fulfillment (2 Samuel 13:28-29, 16:21-22)
22. The bones of Jeroboam's pagan priests to be burnt upon the false altar that Jeroboam had constructed. Prophecy (1 Kings 13:1-3) - Fulfillment (2 Kings 23:4-6)
23. Jeroboam's dynasty to be destroyed. Prophecy (1 Kings 14:10-11) - Fulfillment (1 Kings 15:27-28)

24. Ahab to be victorious over the Syrians. Prophecy (1 Kings 20:28) - Fulfillment (1 Kings 20:29-30)
25. Ahab to die in battle for killing Naboth. Prophecy (1 Kings 21:19, 22:17) - Fulfillment (1 Kings 22:37)
26. The dogs would then lick his blood from his chariot. Prophecy (1 Kings 21:19) - Fulfillment (1 Kings 22:38)
27. Jezebel to be eaten by wild dogs. Prophecy (1 Kings 21:23, 2 Kings 9:10) - Fulfillment (2 Kings 9:30-37)
28. Elisha to receive a double portion of Elijah's spirit. Prophecy (2 Kings 2:9) - Fulfillment demonstrated by the fact that the Bible records that Elisha performed twice as many miracles as Elijah.
29. Naaman to recover from his leprosy. Prophecy (2 Kings 5:3,8,10) - Fulfillment (2 Kings 5:14)
30. The starving inhabitants of Samaria to receive an abundance of food in twenty four hours. Prophecy (2 Kings 7:1) - Fulfillment (2 Kings 7:16-17)
31. An arrogant aide to the king to see the miracle but not to eat of the food. Prophecy (2 Kings 7:2,19) - Fulfillment (2 Kings 7:17,20)
32. Beb-Hadad, a Syrian king to recover from his sickness, but die anyway.. Prophecy (2 Kings 8:10) - Fulfillment (2 Kings 8:15)
33. Jehu to have four generations on the throne of northern kingdom. Prophecy (2 Kings 10:30) - Fulfillment (2 Kings 15:12)
34. Jehu's dynasty to then be destroyed. Prophecy (Hosea 1:4) - Fulfillment (2 Kings 15:8-12)
35. Joash to defeat the Syrians on three occasions. Prophecy (2 Kings 13:18-19) - Fulfillment (2 Kings 13:25)
36. Jehoram to suffer with a disease because of sin. Prophecy (2 Chronicles 21:15) - Fulfillment (2 Chronicles 21:18-19)
37. Amaziah to die because of his idolatry. Prophecy (2 Chronicles 25:16) - Fulfillment (2 Chronicles 25:20-27)
38. Sennacherib to be assassinated in his own land. Prophecy (Isaiah 37:7) - Fulfillment (Isaiah 37:37-38)
39. Sennacherib's attempt to invade Jerusalem not to be successful. Prophecy (Isaiah 37::33-35) - Fulfillment (Isaiah 37:36-37)
40. Hezekiah to be healed of a terminal disease. Prophecy (Isaiah 38:5) - Fulfillment (Isaiah 38:9)
41. Cyrus to allow the Jews to go back to Jerusalem. Prophecy (Isaiah 44:28) - Fulfillment (Ezra 1:1-2)
42. Zedekiah to be captured by Nebuchadnezzar. Prophecy (Jeremiah 21:7) - Fulfillment (Jeremiah 52:8-11)
43. Jehoahaz to die in Egyptian captivity and not return to Judah. Prophecy (Jeremiah 22:10-12) - Fulfillment (2 Kings 23:33-34)
44. Jehoiachin to be captured by Nebuchadnezzar. Prophecy (Jeremiah 22:25) - Fulfillment (2 Kings 24:15)
45. Coniah was told that no seed of his would sit on the throne of David. Prophecy (Jeremiah 22:28-30) - Fulfillment - historical. This prophecy is in apparent contradiction to the Davidic Covenant of (2 Samuel 7:8-16) where David was promised a "son" who would reign forever on his throne. This apparent contradiction is solved by the virgin birth of the Lord Jesus Christ as Mary was descended from David via Nathan. (Luke 3:23-31)
46. Hananiah, a false prophet to die within a year. Prophecy (Jeremiah 28:15-16) - Fulfillment (Jeremiah 28:17)

47. Nebuchadnezzar to invade Egypt. Prophecy (Jeremiah 43:9-13) - Fulfillment - history
48. Nebuchadnezzar to defeat the Egyptians at Carchemish. Prophecy (Jeremiah 46) - Fulfillment - history.
49. Nebuchadnezzar to be given the mind of an animal because of pride. Prophecy (Daniel 4:19-27) - Fulfillment (Daniel 4:28-37)
50. Belshazzar to have his kingdom removed from him. Prophecy (Daniel 5:5, 25-28) - Fulfillment (Daniel 5:30)
51. Alexander the Great to establish a world empire in a very short time. Prophecy (Daniel 2:32-39, 7:6, 8:5-8, 21, 11:3) - Fulfillment - history.
52. Alexander to defeat the Persians - Prophecy (Daniel 8:5-8) - Fulfillment - history
53. Alexander to die at the height of his power and his kingdom to be divided into four parts. Prophecy (Daniel 8:8, 22, 11:4) - Fulfillment - history tells us that at the height of his power Alexander died of a fever in Babylon at the age of 33. After a period of some twenty years of internal struggle and fighting the eleven generals of the Greek army who had survived Alexander were reduced to four called in Scripture the four winds of heaven, Ptolemy, Seluchus, Cassander and Lysimachus.
54. Antiochus Epiphanes to persecute the Jews and desecrate their Temple. Prophecy (Daniel 8:11-25) - Fulfillment - history. The whole of (Daniel 11) represents historical prophecies of the Greek dynasties based on Ptolemy and Seluchus which lasted until the time of Julius Caesar with Cleopatra being the last Greek ruler of Egypt. This area is covered in some detail in Bible Topic Book volume 2, topic 291.
55. Zacharias would be mute until the birth of John the Baptist. Prophecy (Luke 1:20) - Fulfillment (Luke 1:57-64)
56. John the Baptist to be the herald for the Lord Jesus Christ. Prophecy (Luke 1:76-77) - Fulfillment (Matthew 3:1-11, Luke 3:2-6)
57. Simeon to live until he had seen the Messiah. Prophecy (Luke 2:25-26) - Fulfillment (Luke 2:28-30)
58. Peter would deny Jesus Christ. Prophecy (John 13:38) - Fulfillment (John 18:24-27)
59. Peter to die as a martyr. Prophecy (John 21:18-19, 2 Peter 1 :12-14) - Fulfillment - history
60. Judas to give himself over to Satan. Prophecy (John 6:70) - Fulfillment (John 13:27)
61. Judas to betray Jesus. Prophecy (John 13:21) - Fulfillment (John 18:2-5)
62. Paul would suffer a lot for the Lord Jesus Christ. Prophecy (Acts 9:16) - Fulfillment (2 Corinthians 11:23-28, 12:7-10, Philippians 1:29-30)
63. Paul would be a minister to the Gentiles. Prophecy (Acts 9:15) - Fulfillment (Romans 11:13, Ephesians 3:1)
64. Paul would preach before kings. Prophecy (Acts 9:15) - Fulfillment (Acts 24-26)
65. Paul would go to Rome. Prophecy (Acts 23:11) - Fulfillment (Acts 28:16)

### **WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THE FUTURE ?**

This will be dealt with in detail below. However all Bible believing Christians agree that at some time in the future the Lord Jesus Christ will return. There will then be a final separation of the just from the unjust. The just will spend eternity in the presence of God while the unjust are condemned to an eternity with the Devil and his angels in the Lake of Fire

The basis of the future of all members of the human race is on their personal acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

The details of the events from here to eternity differ as to the method of interpretation of Eschatology. The various methods of interpretation will now be examined and the selected method, that of a pre tribulation, pre millennial viewpoint which is the interpretation accepted by this college will be used as the basis for the rest of this book.

## **[B] METHODS OF INTERPRETATION OF ESCHATOLOGY**

The greatest concentrated amount of information about this period is found in the Book of the Revelation. There are a number of different means used to interpret this book.

### **[A]. PRETERIT INTERPRETATION**

In this form, of interpretation the prophecies of Revelation are viewed as having been fulfilled in the early history of the Church and are all past. A preterit outline would therefore be:

- [i] Chapters. 6-11 tell of the church's victory over Judaism.
- [ii] Chapters. 12-19 tell of her victory over pagan Rome. '
- [iii] Chapters. 20-22 tell of the happy bliss and glory of the church.

This view of the Book of the Revelation came from a Spanish Jesuit of Antwerp named Alcasar in the early part of the seventeenth century. This was to counteract the teachings of the Reformers who included in their interpretation the concept that the Pope was the Antichrist.

### **[B] THE IDEALIST, POETIC, SPIRITUALIST OR ALLEGORICAL INTERPRETATION**

This interpretation considers the book a pictorial unfolding of great principles without reference to actual events. Such an interpretation regards the book only as a form of spiritual encouragement and assurance of the ultimate triumph of Christianity.

Augustine in the 5<sup>th</sup> century regarded Revelation as presenting in a symbolic way the total conflict between Christianity and evil or the City of God versus the City of Satan.

This point of view originated in the Alexandrian School of Theology represented in Clement of Alexandria and Origen. To them the book was one big allegory. The holders of this view do not believe that the 1,000 years mentioned in Revelation 20 should be read literally and are therefore Amillennial in outlook.

### **[C] THE HISTORICIST INTERPRETATION**

This view understands the book as portraying a panorama of the history of the church from the days of John to the end time or the Second Advent. Though it had earlier proponents, Joachim of Fiore [1135-1202], a Roman Catholic scholar, is largely responsible for this as was also the originator of the first forms of post-millennialism.

This method of interpretation achieved popularity during the Reformation because of its identification of the Pope and the Papacy as the beasts of chapter 13. Wycliffe, Luther and Joseph Mede were adherents of this view.

One problem with this view is that no two scholars can agree in the identification of the personnel pictured in Revelation nor of the historic interpretation of the events.

The very variety of historical interpretations is its own downfall. If this is the correct method of interpretation, then it is clear that no one has found the key or understood God's revelation to man.

### **[D] THE FUTURIST OR LITERAL INTERPRETATION**

This views the book of the Revelation chronologically with chapters 4-22 as prophecy yet to be fulfilled. This was the view held by the early church until spiritual decline corrupted her doctrine.

This method allows for the Scriptures to be accepted on face value with the concept of when a passage makes sense we should seek no other sense.

### **ADOPTED METHOD**

Having indicated the four methods used to interpret the book of the Revelation we have adopted orthodox one, the one that was once and for all given to the saints - Jude 3 - the futurist or literal interpretation.

## **SEQUENCE OF MAIN ESCHATALOGICAL EVENTS**

The overall sequence of the main events are therefore as follows:-

The Removal of the Church at the Rapture

A time of great trouble called the Tribulation involving a one world Government

The Second Advent of Christ

The Millennial Reign of Christ on Earth

The Last Judgment

Eternity Future

## **[C] BIBLICAL LAYOUTS**

There are a number of outlines that which illustrate or confirm the outline or certain elements of the above sequence of events.

### **DANIEL'S 70 WEEKS**

The study of this prophecy shows that there is a seven year period which was promised by God to the Jews before the setting up of the Kingdom that still has to be completed in the future. This seven year period is called the Tribulation, a time of unmitigated problems on the earth. [see Revelation chapters 6-18]

1. Scripture:- Daniel 9:24-27

"Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity and to bring in everlasting righteousness and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. " (Daniel 9:24)

2. What is a week? In the ancient world both Greek and Latin philosophers knew the week, as the week of years. In this system one week equals 7 years. Thus seventy weeks equal  $70 \times 7$  years = 490 years.

3. What Type of Year? The year used in scripture of Daniel's time was the Jewish year which Abraham had preserved from his Chaldean home. Abraham's year was the lunar year and consisted of 360 days. The period stated then is  $70 \times 7 \times 360$  days giving a total of 176 400 days.

4. Who are Involved? 'Thy people, thy holy city' refer to the Jews and Jerusalem or Judea. We therefore have a period of 490 years involving the Jews and Jerusalem.

5. When Does this Period End?

a) In the second half of verse 24 the end of the period is given by six separate events:

i) to finish the transgression - the start of the Millennium at the 2nd advent.

ii) make an end to sins - perfect environment starts at the 2nd advent and continues for a thousand years. (Romans 8:19-21)

iii) make reconciliation - since AD 70 the Jews have been dispersed amongst the nations, they will continue to be dispersed until Jesus Christ calls them back to their land at the 2nd advent.

iv) bring in everlasting righteousness - the millennium starts a period of everlasting righteousness with the reign of Christ, this everlasting righteousness continues into the eternal future. This period starts at the 2nd advent.

v) to seal up the vision and prophecy - the 2nd advent fulfills the Abrahamic, Palestinian and Davidic covenant and this prophecy.

vi) to anoint the most Holy - at the 2nd advent Jesus is anointed King of Israel.

b) The terminal point in all six statements can therefore be said to be the 2nd advent of the Lord Jesus Christ or the midnight hour of (Matthew 25:6). We thus have a period from (Daniel 9:24) of 490 Jewish years each having 360 days terminating at the 2nd Advent.

c) In the next three verses the period of 70 weeks is carefully divided into three sections.

d) "Know therefore and understand that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks (49 years) and three score and two weeks (434 years):the streets shall be built again, and the wall even in troubled times. " (Daniel 9:25)

e) We have therefore three periods into which the 70 weeks is split - 7 weeks + 62 weeks leaving a balance of 1 week. Expressed in years we have 49 years + 434 years + 7 years.

6. What is the Starting Point?

a) There were three edicts issued by Persian princes dating after the time of Daniel and relating to the Jews returning to their homeland, they were:-

i) The edict of Cyrus in 538 BC to rebuild the house of the Lord (Temple) (Ezra 1).

ii) The edict of Darius in 520 BC to rebuild the temple which is found in (Ezra 6) Darius' edict was to confirm Cyrus' previous order, the temple works having been stopped after the death of Cyrus.

iii) The edict of Artaxerxes Longimanus to rebuild Jerusalem in 445 BC (Nehemiah 2)

b) Inspection of Daniel 9:25 shows that the critical commandment which starts the 70 weeks clock ticking was the order to rebuild Jerusalem not the temple. The correct order was the edict of Artaxerxes in 445 BC The practice of Persian Kings was to issue such orders on their New Years day, the 1st of the month of Nisan. Using the services of the Astronomer Royal in London, Sir Robert Anderson, was able to determine that the 1st Nisan of 445 BC occurred on 14th March 445 BC. We therefore have the following date:-

c) 14th March 445 BC -- 490 years -- 2nd Advent

d) It also states that Jerusalem will be rebuilt with its walls completed after 49 years (7 weeks) in difficult circumstances. There is considerable biblical evidence that Jerusalem was rebuilt under very difficult circumstances.

e) "And after three score and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for Himself. " (Daniel 9:26a)

7. Who is the Messiah? - Jesus Christ!

In Luke's gospel on entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, just prior to his crucifixion, the crowd welcomed Jesus Christ as the promised Messiah (Luke 19:38) this being the only time when he was so called by the mass of the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

8. When was He cut off?

According to (Luke 3:1 ) Jesus Christ was baptised in the 15th year of Tiberius Caesar. As his ministry was three years in length, the entry into Jerusalem occurred in the 18th year of Tiberius. Searches of literature including, 'The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire' by Gibbon, has shown that Tiberius became Caesar in 14 AD Entrance into Jerusalem was therefore on Palm Sunday 32 AD Again by computation the date of Palm Sunday 32 AD was 10th Nisan or 6th April AD 32, the crucifixion occurring on 9th April AD 32.

9. If this is correct, we should find correlation between the 483 Jewish years to the cutting off of the Messiah and the time between 14th March 445 BC and 6th April AD 32. The time between these two dates is 476 years and 24 days. Total number of days are therefore as follows:-

476 years x 365 days = 173,740

14/3 to 6/4 = 24

Leap years = 116

TOTAL = 173,880 days.

Jewish time: 483 x 360 = 173,880 days

a) Our scale now shows:-

b) 14th March 445 BC -- 483 years -- 6th April 32 AD

10. The following questions now arise:

a) Has the second advent of Jesus Christ occurred? - No.

b) Is it longer than 7 years since Jesus Christ rode into Jerusalem? - Yes.

c) Therefore there must be a gap between the 69th week and the 70th week.

11 The Sequence - 445 BC -- 483 years -- 32 AD -- GAP -- 7 years -- 2nd Advent  
This gap has been filled in God's view of history by the church age.

The 70th week which is 7 years in length therefore starts at the end of the church age. These 7 years of the 70th week are the worst 7 years in the history of man - the tribulation.

11. CONCLUSION The course of this 70th week is denoted in (Daniel 9:26b, 27).

a) "and the people of the prince (the dictator of the Revived Roman Empire) that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary, and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and until the end of the war, desolations are determined.

b) And he (the dictator) shall confirm the covenant (mutual defence pact) with the many (the Jews) for one week (7 years) and in the midst of the week (3 1/2 years) he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, (this refers to the erection of a statue in the rebuilt temple in Jerusalem, see Revelation 13:11-15). even until the consummation (the 2nd advent) and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate (the dictator will be judged and cast into hell, see Revelation 19:20)."

c) We thus have Daniel's 70 weeks divided as shown:-

d) 445 BC -- 483 years -- 32 AD -- CHURCH -- RAPTURE -- TRIBULATION [7 years] -- 2nd Advent

## **BOOK OF THE REVELATION**

The structure of the Book of the Revelation indicates the Pre Tribulation, Pre Millennial view of Eschatology.

The Structure is as follows

Chapter 1:- The Lord Jesus Christ

Chapters 2-3 - The Church on Earth

Chapters 4-5 - The Church in Heaven

Chapters 6-18 - The Tribulation including:-

The Seal Judgments - Chapter 6

Evangelism in the Tribulation - Chapter 7

The Trumpet Judgments - Chapters 8-9

God's two witnesses - Chapter 11

Satanic Attack on Israel - Chapter 12

Antichrist and the False Prophet Chapter 13

The Bowl judgments - Chapter 16

Political Globalisation - Chapter 17

Financial Globalisation - Chapter 18

Chapter 19 - The Second Coming of Christ

Chapter 20 - The 1000 year reign of Christ

## **JEWISH WEDDING**

The structure is also found in the customs of a Jewish Wedding at the time of Christ.

At the time of Christ the wedding would be arranged by the father of the groom. In this analogy the relationship between Christ and mankind will be examined.

1. Prior to the first visit of the prospective groom to the bride, the father made arrangements for their relationship. (Hebrews 2:13)  
Analogy - God the Father - the Planner made arrangements for mankind in eternity past.
2. The prospective groom would then meet the bride and fellowship with her.  
Analogy - Christ came to earth at the first advent and spent time with man.
3. Prior to leaving the bride's house the bridegroom would pay the whole dowry or payment for the bride. (Hebrews 9:23-28)  
Analogy - Christ's death on the cross paid the debt of all mankind in full.
4. The bridegroom would return to his father's house and build a future house for the newly married couple to live in. (John 14:1-3)  
Analogy - Christ ascended to his father's house to prepare a place for his bride.
5. At the Father's request the Son would go to the Bride's home to pick the bride up.  
Analogy - Christ's return to earth for his church at the Rapture.
6. The bride as she left her home was married to the groom. (1 Corinthians 15:51-58)  
Analogy - As the body of Christ rises to meet Christ in the air the body becomes the bride.
7. The bride has been preparing her wedding garments waiting for the bridegroom. The bridegroom adorns his bride for the wedding supper. (1 Corinthians 3:12-15)  
Analogy - Whilst waiting for the return of Christ, the body produces gold, silver and precious stones. The final dressing of the body is done by Christ at the Judgment seat of Christ.
8. The bride and groom hold a wedding feast which in rich families could last a month.  
Analogy - The wedding feast of Christ will last 1,000 years - The Millennium on earth.
9. Friends of the bridegroom would attend the wedding feast.  
Analogy - Old Testament Saints in resurrection bodies will be in the rejoicing of the Millennium.
10. Friends of the bride waited outside the wedding hall, with lamps alight waiting for the bridal couple before they entered the wedding feast. (Matthew 25:1-13)  
Analogy - Tribulation Saints who survive the great tribulation will enter into the Millennium in their physical bodies to replenish the earth. Unbelievers will be cast off the earth as they are not invited to the marriage supper of the lamb.
11. The passage of scriptures from the first advent of Christ to the end of the Millennium is clearly seen in its analogy to the Jewish Wedding Ceremony.

## **FEEDING OF THE FIVE THOUSAND**

The final illustration is taken from the feeding of the multitude followed by the storm on the Sea of Galilee

1. The feeding of the five thousand and the subsequent walking on the water can be analogised to the span of human history from the ministry of Jesus Christ on earth to the Millennial reign of Christ (Matt 14:13-33).

2. The healing of the sick and the feeding of the five thousand relates to the ministry of Jesus Christ on earth during his first advent in the Age of the Jews (v 15-21 ).
3. The baskets of bread with which the disciples set off in the boat - the canon of scripture (v 20),
4. The setting off in the boat - the church age believers without Jesus Christ in a physical form on earth (v 22).
5. The water represents the Gentile nations which make up the church (v 22).
6. Jesus going up into the mountains to pray by himself shows the ascension and session of Christ at the right hand of God during the Church Age where he makes intercession for us.
7. The boat hit by a tremendous storm (v 24) portrays the time of the tribulation just prior to the return of Christ, a time of great testing.
8. The Lord appearing at the height of the storm (v 27) indicates the return of Jesus Christ at the Second Advent.
9. As the Lord enters the boat the storm ceases (v 32), representing the perfect environment of the Millennium with the Lord back on earth.
10. The worship of Jesus Christ shows the worship of Christ in the Millennium (v 33) when the knowledge of the Lord will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

## **PRE TRIBULATION VERSUS MID TRIBULATION**

There is a variant in the pre Tribulation format which deals with the position of the Rapture with some saying that the Rapture occurs 3.5 years instead of at least 7 years before the Second Advent of Christ.

This is based on Revelation 11:12 "**And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.**" The "come up hither" phrase deals with the ascension of the Two Witnesses not the Church.

From Daniel 9 it is clear that the covenant or treaty with Israel is for a period of seven years. The contract is between the Antichrist and Israel. As will be seen later it is clear from Scripture that the Antichrist is not known until after the removal of the Church. In Revelation 11 we see him fully revealed and killing the two witnesses. Thus the 7 year Tribulation period is considered the right interpretation in the events from Here to Eternity.

## **[D] CHURCH AGE**

Examination of the characteristics of the seven Churches of Revelation 2 and 3 have been compared by many Biblical scholars to the dominant features of the church in succeeding ages. A more detailed study of this is given in the Commentary on the Book of the Revelation.

In this study we are mainly interested in the last church, that of Laodicea which we will look at in more detail..

In order to see the concept in context the overview of the churches of the Book of the Revelation are as follows.

## **CHURCHES OF REVELATION 2,3**

The letters to seven churches are given in Revelation 2 - 3. Revelation 1:20 tells us that the seven lampstands are the seven churches. While these represent literal churches in John's time, they also represent the condition of the Church during the Church Age.

1. EPHESUS:-

- a) Scripture:(Revelation 2:1-7)
- b) Description of Christ - Hand Holding Stars (Revelation 1:16)
- c) Evaluation - Mediocre spiritual life.
- d) Criticism - Stayed out of fellowship.
- e) Advice - Get back into fellowship.
- f) Praise - Rejected paganism.
- g) Future Assurance - Eternal life.
- h) Type - Bible believing, but legalistic.
- i) Era - 33-100 AD

## 2. SMYRNA -

- a) Scripture:(Revelation 2:8-11)
- b) Description of Christ - First and Last (Revelation 1:11)
- c) Evaluation - Strong in Doctrine.
- d) Criticism - Nil
- e) Advice - Do not worry in oppression.
- f) Praise - Faithfulness.
- g) Future Assurance - No condemnation.
- h) Type - Persecuted Church.
- i) Era - 100-312 AD

## 3. PERGAMUM:-

- a) Scripture:(Revelation 2:12-17)
- b) Description of Christ - The Judge with the Sword (Revelation 1:16)
- c) Evaluation - Faithful in a pagan area.
- d) Criticism - Some following of paganism.
- e) Advice - Remove Nicolatans
- f) Praise - Nil.
- g) Future Assurance - Justification.
- h) Type - State Church.
- i) Era - 312-592 AD

## 4. THYATIRA:-

- a) Scripture:(Revelation 2:18-29)
- b) Description of Christ- Eyes of Fire, Feet of Brass (Rev 1:14,15)
- c) Evaluation - Followers of False Doctrine. 41,
- d) Criticism - False teachers.
- e) Advice - Reject false doctrine
- f) Praise - Faithfulness.
- g) Future Assurance -Rulership, Happiness.
- h) Type -Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches
- i) Era - 590-1517 AD

## 5. SARDIS:-

- a) Scripture:(Revelation 3:1-6)
- b) Description of Christ - 7 Spirits of God (Revelation 1:16, 20)
- c) Criticism - Working in the power of the flesh.
- d) Advice - Return to producing divine good.
- e) Praise - Some are in fellowship.
- f) Future Assurance - Future Righteousness.
- g) Type -Fundamental but legalistic.
- h) Era - 1517-1750 AD

## 6. PHILADELPHIA:-

- a) Scripture (Revelation 3.- 7-13)
- b) Description of Christ - Holy and True (Revelation 1:16)
- c) Evaluation -Grace church working in the spirit.
- d) Criticism - Nil
- e) Advice - Keep up the good work.
- f) Praise - Nil
- g) Future Assurance - Future Provision.
- h) Type - Bible believing, missionary church.

i) Era - 1750-1925 AD

7. LAODICEA:-

- a) Scripture:(Revelation 3:14-22)
- b) Description of Christ - Faithful and true witness (Revelation 1:5)
- c) Evaluation - Carnal believers and apostate.
- d) Criticism - Poor witness.
- e) Advice - Get back into fellowship.
- f) Praise - Nil
- g) Future Assurance - Rulership.
- h) Type - Apostate Church.
- i) Era - 1925-Rapture.

## THE CHURCH OF LAODICEA

Here we have the final of the seven churches. The name Laodicea comes from "laos" (the people) and "dike" (rights). Thus the "human rights" church. The apostasy of this church is found in that it was "lukewarm." The cooling of love for Christ begun in Ephesus had now become total apostasy and indifference.

This church prided itself on its wealth, riches, programs, and buildings; but Christ was completely left out Revelation 3:20. Jesus Christ vomits from His mouth this apostate organisation (vs. 16). Yet still the offer of grace was extended to anyone, who would receive it (vs. 18, 20).

Historically Laodicea represents the "modernistic" church. Whatever the name or designation, it places a premium on riches, programs, buildings, and, above all, human rights. The social church has become man-centred and has pushed Christ out of His rightful place "in the midst of the churches." In this age of complacency, Christ continues to call His people out from apostasy and into the true riches of His grace and fellowship.

The city to which this letter is addressed was famous as a centre for the eye doctors and eye ointment or salve in the ancient world. It also had the latest in water supply technology with water being piped using stone pipes from the hot springs at Therme. As a result when the water arrived at Laodicea the water was luke warm.

The people ruling is set in contrast with the Spirit ruling the church. It is a church ruled entirely by men and as such the Holy Spirit is not present in His role of empowering and guiding. Ephesians 5:18. This becomes a good illustration of the apostate church which began in the early 1900's and continues until this day in the West.

Cold is the unbeliever, hot is the spirit filled believer. If the person is hot they are a believer who is controlled by the Holy Spirit and can be used by the Lord Jesus Christ in His service. If the person is cold they are an unbeliever who can listen to the gospel and accept the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and become a hot believer.

This is in contrast with the lukewarm person who is the carnal Christian of verse 16 who is of no use at all.

The Greek word for luke warm in verse 16 is "chliaros" and is only used once in the Scriptures. To "spue" is a word meaning to vomit. In the Greek it is "emeo is where we get the English word emetic. The luke warm believer, the carnal Christian, makes the Lord sick and wants to disassociate from them.

The people here are rich in worldly goods but are self deceived because they are spiritually poor blind and naked. The Sermon on the Mount contrasts this with those who will be blessed - Matthew 5:3 Those who are rich often do not see the need for spiritual things or salvation. They believe that money can buy you everything. Are we rich in goods but spiritually destitute.?

This is a good picture of the apostate church. An apostate can be defined as a person who has departed from the truth that he may professed to have had. Seldom however does the apostate have and hold the full truth. The form that apostasy takes is given in 1 Timothy 4:1-3, 2 Timothy 3:5, 2 Peter 2:1-22 There would be apostasy in the church in the latter times [2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, 1 Timothy 4:1]

In verse 18 there is a call to sanctification, they are counselled to seek spiritual wealth in Christ. Secondly because they are spiritually naked they are urged to put on imputed righteousness that can only be obtained at the Cross. Revelation 3:4, 3:5, 6:11, 7:9, 13-14 Thirdly because they are spiritually blind they are exhorted to spiritually see. As Christians even having been saved we can be poor of sight. We need to receive imputed righteousness and live in the knowledge of that.

The love mentioned in the Greek in verse 19 is "phileo" which is a friendship type love rather than "agapao" unconditional love whilst repent means to change your mind. Those who Christ loves are those who follow His commandments. The Lord disciplines those who are his friends so that they may change their minds and become zealous for the faith. Hebrews 12:7-12

In verse 20 Christ is outside the church, knocking. Christ is not in this church because it is basically an out of fellowship church. Notice the word to sup means to take a meal indicating a person is going to have fellowship.

The exhortation is to any individual in the apostate church to hear Christ's voice and open his heart to Him. If he does so Christ will come in and have fellowship with Him.

Christ is at the right hand of the Father which is the place of commendation. To be seated is one of appointment. God invited Jesus Christ to sit at His right hand until he made His enemies His footstool.

Whilst the majority of the Laodicean type church will go through the Tribulation as unbelievers the believers will sit with Christ in a place of honour. We as believers are at the right hand of the Father in Christ. It is a place of great security.

#### **DENIALS OF THE END TIME CHURCH**

1. Denial of God. (Luke 17:26; 2 Timothy. 3:4-5)
2. Denial of Christ. (1 John. 2:18, 4:3; 2 Peter. 2:1)
3. Denial of Christ's return. (2 Peter 3:3-4)
4. Denial of the Faith. (1 Timothy. 4:1-2; Jude 3)
5. Denial of Sound Doctrine. (2 Timothy. 4:3-4)
6. Denial of Separated Life (Practical Sanctification. 2 Timothy 3:1-7)
7. Denial of Christian Liberty. ( 1 Timothy 4:3-4)
8. Denial of Spirituality. (2 Timothy 3:1-8; Jude 18)
9. Denial of Authority. (2 Timothy 3:4)

#### **APOSTASY**

1. Apostasy means falling away.
2. Apostasy differs from backsliding. A true Christian can backslide, an apostate is never born again. eg. Judas Iscariot.
3. The backslidden Christian breaks fellowship, but doesn't lose his salvation. (John 5:24)
4. The apostate is declared in (2 Timothy 4:3-4) and (1 John 2:19)
5. Apostates may do good works calling themselves Christians but they should not be accepted as such. (2 John 9-11, John 10:12-13).
6. There will be a great apostasy prior to the Rapture (2 Thessalonians 2:3)

#### **LAST DAYS: CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LAST DAYS**

Just as world conditions just before the flood indicated judgment was overdue so conditions now show that we are at the end of the last days.

1. Preoccupation with physical appetites - Luke 17:27
2. Rapid advances in technology - Genesis 4:22
3. Grossly materialistic attitudes and interests - Luke 17:28
4. Uniformitarian attitudes and interests - Hebrews 11:7
5. Inordinate devotion to pleasure and comfort - Genesis 4:21
6. No concern for God in either belief or conduct - 2 Peter 2:5, Jude 15
7. Disregard for the sacredness of the marriage relation. - Matthew 24:38
8. Rejection of the inspired Word of God - 1 Peter 3:19
9. Population explosion - Genesis 6:1,11
10. Widespread violence - Genesis 6:11, 13
11. Corruption throughout society - Genesis 6:12
12. Preoccupation with illicit sex activity - Genesis 4:19; 6:2
13. Widespread words and thoughts of blasphemy - Jude 15
14. Organised Satanic activity - Genesis 6:1-4
15. Promotion of systems and movements of abnormal depravity - Genesis 6:5, 12

### **MULTICULTURALISM - NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM**

In Daniel 2 Nebuchadnezzar the World Ruler had a dream which troubled him.

1. It was the outline of human history from his time to the setting up of God's Kingdom on earth. Its interpretation was a series of Empires would follow one another until a rock, the symbol of the Messiah would smash the whole concept and set up a world wide empire.

Nebuchadnezzar's answer to the interpretation was to set up a statue of gold representing his desire for his empire, which was identified as the Head of Gold by Daniel, to be everlasting.

The interpretations of the dream are as follows:-

2. **Head of Gold** (Daniel 2:32, 38) - Chaldean Empire under Nebuchadnezzar who dispersed the Southern Kingdom in 586 BC and took them into captivity in Babylon. The last king was Belshazzar who was defeated by the Persians in 538 BC (Dan 5; 7:4).

3. **Shoulders of Silver** (Daniel 2:32, 39) - The Medio Persian Empire under Cyrus the Persian and Darius the Mede who having overthrown the Chaldeans in 538 BC dominated the Middle East until 331 BC. (Daniel 7:5, 8:3-8, 20-22).

4. **Belly of Bronze** (Daniel 2:32, 39) - The Greek Empire under Alexander the Great who conquered the known world in 12 years, died of an alcohol related disease in Babylon as he was trying to set up a super race of half Greek and half Persians. His empire lasted until the 1st century BC with the death of Cleopatra in Egypt. (Daniel 7:6, 8:3-8, 20-22).

5. **Legs of Iron** (Daniel 2:33, 40) - The Roman Empire with its two parts the eastern and western empires based on Constantinople and Rome. It finally collapsed under the Vandals, its last emperor being Romulus Augustus in the 5th century AD) (Dan 7:7).

6. **Ten Toes of Iron and Clay** (Daniel 2:33, 41-3, 7:8, Rev. 13:1) - Is often called the Revived Roman Empire of the Tribulation which forms the power base for the Beast. It is true from a study of Daniel 9 that the leader of the World Empire will be Roman.

Unlike the other parts of the image the toes are not homogeneous, there is a mixture of iron and ceramic. This shows a great mixture of different peoples making up the Empire and could indicate that the Empire will be multicultural.

In Revelation 17 ten kings are said to rule over the whole world. It is of interest that the world has been divided into ten regions by global planners.

North America

Western Europe

Japan

Rest of the Developed Market Economies

Eastern Europe

Latin America

North Africa and the Middle East

Main Africa

South and South East Asia

Centrally Planned Asia

7. **The Rock** (Daniel 2:34,35, 44-5,7:11,12) - represents the return of Jesus Christ at the Second Advent to overthrow the world empires and reign, the stone takes up the whole earth.

## **CONCLUSION**

The whole emphasis on the condition of the world just prior to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ is one of decay and degeneracy. The state of the world is demonstrably not getting better This is a common feature in history from a Biblical viewpoint as demonstrated in the concept of Civilisations.

## **CIVILISATIONS**

A civilisation for the purpose of this study is defined as a period of time that commences in righteousness and degenerates to a state where there is universal judgment from God.

There are three civilisations in the history of mankind.

**Adam to the Flood** - Man started in innocence and ended in the universal judgment of the Flood

**Noah to the Second Advent of Christ** - Eight righteous souls commenced this civilisation as they emerge from the Ark. It will end in the universal judgment of the sheep and the goats at the Second Advent of Christ

**Millennial Civilisation** - Commences with believers only, the sheep from the Tribulation and ends with the Last Judgment at the end of time.

## **[E] - RAPTURE**

## **RAPTURE**

1. The Rapture of the Church is the termination of the Church Age and is the taking of all believers since Pentecost to Heaven by the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. General Scripture (John 1 4:1-3, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

3. The Rapture and the 2nd Advent should not be confused, they are at least 7 years apart being separated by the Tribulation and have different characteristics.

### 4. Rapture

- a) Not revealed in Old Testament.
- b) Promises to the Church fulfilled.
- c) Judgement seat of Christ rewards (1 Corinthians 3:12-15, 2 Corinthians 5:10-11, 2 Timothy 2:11)
- d) Christ the Bridegroom and Head
- e) Believers body changed (not creation) (1 Corinthians 15:51-58, Philippians 3:21)
- f) Church goes to heaven. (1 Thessalonians 4:17)
- g) Imminent - no signs to be fulfilled before the Church can be removed.
- h) Time of comfort for believer. (1 Thessalonians 4:18)
- i) Christ will meet the Church in the air. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)
- j) Private (only believers will see)
- k) Before tribulation
- l) Believers go out of the world. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18)
- m) Removal of the Holy Spirit. (2 Thessalonians 2:7)

### 5. Second Advent

- a) Spoken of by all major Old Testament prophets. (Zechariah 14:4)
- b) Promises to Israel fulfilled.
- c) Great White Throne Judgement (after Millennium) - unbelievers. (Matthew 25:31, Revelation 20:12-15).
- d) Christ the Messiah to Israel (Daniel 9:25)
- e) Radical changes in nature. (Romans 8:19-22)
- f) Church comes back to earth (1 Thessalonians 3:13) 4:17)
- g) Many details of prophecy yet to be fulfilled. (Revelation Chapters 6-19)
- h) Time of terror for unbeliever. (Revelation 6:15-17)
- i) Christ will come back to earth (Zechariah 14:4)
- j) Public - every eye shall see him (Revelation 1- 7)
- k) After tribulation.
- l) Unbelievers taken off the earth (Matthew 24:37-42)
- m) Removal of Satan (Revelation 20:1-3)

6. The Rapture is before the Tribulation. Thus the Pre Tribulation Rapture position is shown by nine factors.

- a) The worried Thessalonians (2 Thessalonians 2:1-6)
- b) The Restraint removed (2 Thessalonians 2:7-12)
- c) The lack of the word 'Church' in (Revelation 13:9)
- d) The verb Tereo in (Revelation 3:10)
- e) Grace before judgement (John 14:3)
- f) Resurrections in their order. (1 Corinthians 15:22-26)
- g) The Covenant approach. The Abrahamic, Davidic and Palestinian covenant fulfilled at 2nd Advent.
- h) The Church is in heaven before the Seal Judgements (Revelation 4,5)
- i) The contrast between the 2nd Advent and the Rapture

## **PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURE: (Why the Church will not go through the Tribulation)**

1. On the basis of the distinction between Israel and the Church:

- a) God differentiates between Israel and the Church.
- b) Because of the promises to Israel, yet unfulfilled, Israel must have a future. Evangelistic and missionary responsibility of Israel will be completed in the Tribulation.
- c) The nation Israel has not been completed.
- d) "Daniel's 70 weeks" not completed. (Jeremiah 25:11, 12, 29:10, Daniel 9:2, 24, 25)

2. Statement and Structure of Revelation:

- a) The statement (Revelation 3:10) "Tereo ek" (to keep out), not "Aireo" (to take out) used in context.
- b) The structure: Church Age/Tribulation/Millennium/Eternity. (Revelation 2-3, 7-19, 20, 21:1-8)

3. The Statement of Thessalonians:

- a) 2 Thessalonians 2:6, 7. Removal of the restraining presence of the Holy Spirit is impossible without removing the Church at the same time.

b) 2 Thessalonians 2:2 Incorrect translation in the A.V. confuses the entire passage. "Day of Christ" should read "Day of the Lord".(False teachers came with a forged letter supposedly from Paul which implied that the Day of the Lord, or the Tribulation, had already come).

c) 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18. Phrase "in Christ" refers to believers in the Church Age. Verse 18 emphasises a comfort which could not exist if the Church went through the Tribulation.

4. Remnant of the Tribulation:

a) Christ returns to the earth with His saints. (1 Thessalonians 3-13, Jude 1 4).

b) Jesus at the same time delivers saints at the Second Advent. (Zechariah 14:1-5)

c) Christ cannot come with saints and deliver saints unless there are two groups of saints - Church and Tribulational. Obviously, both groups exist and both groups of saints are separated.

5. Grace before Judgement: God gives grace before judging.

a) Warning - Noah was rescued by heeding God's warning.

b) Rescue - Lot was rescued by God.

6. Imminence of the Rapture:

a) No prophecy of Scripture has to be fulfilled before the Rapture can take place. (1 Corinthians 1:7, Colossians 3:4, 2 Thessalonians 2:1, Titus 2:13)

b) Hence, the Rapture can take place at any time.

c) Not so the Second Advent: much prophecy must be fulfilled before Second Advent.

7. Nature of the Tribulation:

a) Purpose of the Tribulation: to bring judgement on a Christ-rejecting world. God demonstrates that man cannot provide a perfect environment when Satan has full control and restraining ministry of the Holy Spirit is removed.

b) God completes His dealings with Israel, which allows the Jews to fulfil their missionary ministry begun after the Babylonian Captivity.

c) God prepares Israel for the fulfilment of the Unconditional Covenants by the return of Christ during Israel's darkest hour and the low point of human history Tribulation).

8. Activity of the Church in Heaven (Revelation 4,5)

a) Before the Church returns to the earth with Christ, they must appear before the Judgement Seat of Christ for evaluation of production in the Christian walk - rewards. (2 Corinthians 5:10, 1 Corinthians 3:11-15)

b) Hence, some interval is necessary (7 years) before the Bride of the Lamb can be prepared.

c) The marriage of the Lamb takes place in heaven. (Revelation 19:6-8) after which the Bride returns to the earth with the Groom. (Revelation 19:14). The wedding feast is held on earth. (Revelation 19:9)

## BIBLICAL REFERENCES TO THE RAPTURE

There are a number of references to the event called the Rapture.

### JOHN 14:1-3

**1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.**

The section from the gospel of John relates back to the Jewish Wedding custom. The marriage of the Jews took place when the bride joined the groom who then took her to his father's house after preparing a dwelling place for her at the father's property.

In this case the Lord Jesus Christ returns from His Father's house which is heaven to the bride's house which is earth. The bride which is the Church joins the Bridegroom and they travel to the Father's House in heaven. This is why the meeting is in the air and why we need to have a resurrection body.

### 1 CORINTHIANS 15:51-57

**51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? 56**

**The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

This passage talks more about the resurrection body and has implications concerning the Feasts of Israel.

## **RESURRECTION**

1. The resurrection of Christ is central to the gospel. (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)
  - a) Had there been no resurrection then we would all still be in our sins. (1 Corinthians 15:17).
  - b) Resurrection indicates completion of justification. (Romans 4:25, 2 Corinthians 5:2 1)
  - c) Resurrection is a guarantee of ultimate sanctification. (1 Corinthians 15:20-23)
  - d) The resurrection is the Father's seal on Christ's completed work, and the public declaration of its acceptance.
  - e) Without the resurrection it is impossible for Christ to be glorified. The humanity of Christ is glorified higher than the angels. (John 7:39, John 16:14)
  
2. Historical proof of the resurrection:
  - a) The empty tomb. (Matthew 28)
  - b) Many of witnesses died rather than change their testimony.
  - c) Subsequent changes and confidence of the disciples after the resurrection.
  - d) The day of Pentecost. The reality of the resurrection was so well known that when Peter preached the first two sermons in Jerusalem over 8000 people were saved. (Acts 2:41, Acts 4:3-4)
  - e) The observance of the first day of the week as the worship day. (Acts 20:7, 1 Corinthians 16:2, Revelation 1:10)
  - f) The historic existence of the church. The church worships a literal risen Saviour, and not merely the memory of a dead martyr. (Romans 5:12,14,17, 6:3-9, 8:2, 1 Corinthians 15:26,54-55, Hebrews 2:14)
  
3. Baptism is a sign of the new resurrection life. (Romans 6:3-11, Colossians 2:12).
  
4. The Lord's Supper is a reminder of the expected return of the risen Lord. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)
  
5. Order of the resurrections:-
  - a) The first for believers only including Jesus Christ which is divided into four parts.
    - i) The resurrection of Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:23, Romans 1:4, 1 Thessalonians 1:10, 1 Peter 1:3)
    - ii) The Rapture of the church (1 Corinthians 15:51-57, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18)
    - iii) The Old Testament saints and tribulation martyrs at the end of the Tribulation. (Daniel 12:13, Isaiah 26-19-20, Revelation 20:4)
    - iv) The Millennial saints and those who survive the Tribulation to enter the Millennium in their physical bodies.
  - b) The second resurrection occurs at the end of the Millennium and is for unbelievers only. They are judged and cast into the lake of fire forever. (1 John 5:28, 29, Revelation 20:12-15, 2 Peter 3:7, Matthew 25:41)
  - c) Jesus, who must be the first eternally resurrected human., was not raised until three days after the crucifixion.
  - d) People in the Old Testament who were "raised from the dead" were merely resuscitated, and later died.
  - e) Matthew 27:52-53 is a transfer scene not a resurrection scene. The transfer is one of saints from paradise to the third heaven (Ephesians 4:8). Some were given resuscitated bodies to witness to the Jews.
  
6. The sequence of events at the Lord's resurrection is as follows:-
  - a) Mary Magdalene, Salome and Mary the mother of James and Joses head towards the tomb followed by other women carrying embalming spices.
  - b) The three find the stone rolled away. Mary Magdalene goes back to tell the disciples. (Luke 23:55-24:9, John 20:1-2)
  - c) Mary the mother of James and Joses draws near to the tomb and sees the angel. (Matthew 28:2)
  - d) She goes back to the women carrying the spices.
  - e) Peter and John who have been advised by Mary Magdalene arrive, look inside the empty tomb and go away.(John 20:3-10)
  - f) Mary Magdalene returns weeping, sees two angels and then Jesus.(John 20:11-18)
  - g) As instructed by the Lord she goes to tell the disciples.
  - h) Mary the mother of James and Joses meets the women with the spices and returning with them they see the two angels. (Luke 24:4-5, Mark 16:5)
  - i) They also receive advice from the angels and, going to seek the disciples, are met by Jesus. (Matthew 28:8-10)

7. Recorded appearances after his resurrection.
  - a) Mary Magdalene (John 20:14-18)
  - b) Women returning from the tomb (Matthew 28:8-10)
  - c) Emmaus couple (Luke 24:13-31)
  - d) Peter (Luke 24:34)
  - e) Ten disciples (Luke 24:36-43)
  - f) Disciples including Thomas (John 20:24-29)
  - g) Lake Tiberias appearance (John 21:1-23)
  - h) To the 500 (1 Corinthians 15:6)
  - i) James (1 Corinthians 15:7)
  - j) Disciples at the ascension (Acts 1:3-12)
  - k) Stephen (Acts 7:55)
  - l) Paul on Damascus Road (Acts 9:3-6)
  - m) Paul in the Temple (Acts 2 2:17-2 1)
  - n) Paul at night (Acts 23:11)
  - o) John on Patmos (Revelation 1:10-19)

### **RERSURRECTION BODY**

The resurrection body of Jesus Christ -

- a) Retained the nail prints in the hands and feet. (Psalm 22:16, Zechariah 12:10, John 20:25-29)
- b) Retained the wound sear in the side. (John 20:25-29)
- c) Christ was recognised on 15 appearances by his disciples as the one who died and rose again.
- d) Resurrection body of Christ could eat. (Luke 24:42-43)
- e) It had substance, it could be touched and felt. (Matthew 28:9, Luke 24:39, John 20:17)
- f) His body could breathe. (John 20:22)
- g) His body possessed flesh and bones. (Luke 24:39-40)
- h) Could walk through closed doors. (Luke 24:36, John 20:19)
- i) Appears and disappears suddenly. (Luke 24:31,36)
- j) Could move vertically or horizontally. (Acts 1:9,10)
- k) Our body will be just like His without the nail prints or wound in the side.

### **FEASTS OF ISRAEL**

1. In the Jewish calendar seven feasts were ordained by God for the Jews to follow and to be a sign to all believers.

2. In order the feasts were:-

- a) Passover
- b) Unleavened Bread
- c) First Fruits
- d) Pentecost
- e) Trumpets
- f) Atonement
- g) Tabernacles

3. THE PASSOVER (Deuteronomy 16:1-8, Leviticus 23:5)

Historically

- a) This feast originated on the night when the angel of the Lord passed over the land of Egypt immediately prior to the children of Israel leaving their bondage under Moses.
  - b) A male lamb without blemish was killed on the 14th Nisan having been brought into the house 4 days before, great care being taken that not a bone in its body was broken. (Exodus 12:1-6)
  - c) The lamb was roasted, eaten with bitter herbs and any portion left was burnt. (Exodus 12:7-10)
  - d) In the original Passover the blood of the Lamb was daubed on the doorposts and lintels, any such house being spared from the last plague against Egypt. (Exodus 12:21-28) All plagues were against the gods of Egypt.
  - e) The Passover was on the anniversary of the promise to Abraham. (Exodus 12:41)
- Fulfilment

- a) The sacrificial lamb represents the Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 5:7)
  - b) Christ died on the 14th Nisan on the cross having entered Jerusalem, the Holy city 4 days before on the 10th Nisan.
  - c) When the Roman soldiers broke the legs of the thieves they found Jesus dead so no bone in His body was broken. (John 19:32, 33)
  - d) The roasting of the lamb represents judgement, the bitter herbs representing sins or failures.
  - e) The eating of the lamb represents faith in the work of Christ i.e. eating and drinking at the communion table.)
  - f) By faith in Christ we are protected from the final judgement of God. (Romans 8:1)
- Currently
- a) Each time we celebrate the Lord's supper we are looking back to the cross and the work of the Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)
  - b) This could also represent salvation to the believer.

#### 4. UNLEAVENED BREAD (Leviticus 23:6-8)

- a) This feast lasted for seven days starting on the 15th Nisan and portrays the provision and fellowship with God.
- b) The bread was unleavened due to the need to leave Egypt with utmost haste. In addition the wine was without leaven or alcohol - the wine being boiled during this feast. This has been found in Chaldean army instructions when it was feared that the Jews could revolt during the time of unleavened bread if they were served with alcoholic Chaldean beer.
- c) As God can have nothing to do with sin God's provision is without leaven as leaven represents evil in the scriptures.
- d) There are various forms of leaven in the Bible:-
  - i) Leaven of the Sadducees - human viewpoint. (Matthew 16:6)
  - ii) Leaven of the Pharisees - ritualism (Mark 8:15)
  - iii) Leaven of Herod - worldliness (Mark 8:15)
  - iv) Leaven of the Corinthians - wantonness (I Corinthians 5:6, 7)
  - v) Leaven of the Galatians - legalism (Galatians 5:9)
- e) Bread made without leaven shows the perfection of Christ. (Leviticus 2:11)
- f) This could represent the Christian walk for the believer.
- g) The unleavened bread was cooked on a griddle which caused the bread to have stripes. It also had holes. By his stripes we are healed (Isaiah 53:5) They will look upon him whom they have pierced. (Zechariah 12:10)

#### 5. FIRST FRUITS (Leviticus 23:9-14)

- a) This feast always occurred on a Sunday and was celebrated on the 17th Nisan.
- b) This feast portrayed the resurrection of Christ and occurred half-way through the feast of Unleavened Bread.
- c) Christ is said to be the first fruits of them that sleep. (1 Corinthians 15:20)
- d) Christ rose 3 days after his death on the Passover.
- e) The Jews crossed the Red Sea 3 days after leaving bondage.
- f) The ark rested on Ararat on this very day after the flood. (Genesis 8:4)
- g) This could represent the resurrection body for the believer.

#### 6. PENTECOST (Leviticus 23:15-21)

- a) Pente - fifty - this occurred always on a Sunday 50 days or a week of weeks after the first fruits, generally in May or June. (Leviticus 23:15)
- b) It represents the dispersion of the Jews which occurred historically in AD 70 and there followed a long gap to the next feast representing the long time the Jews would be out of the land.
- c) Pentecost in the year of the crucifixion was the day on which the Church age started with the baptism of the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem. (Acts 2:1-4).
- d) At Pentecost, 3,000 were born again; at the giving of the law, 3,000 were killed.

#### 7. TRUMPETS (Leviticus 23:23, 24)

- a) This occurred in September, the blowing of the trumpets representing the coming of the king. It is the Jewish New Year Day.
- b) This represents the return of the Lord Jesus Christ for his Church at the Rapture. The Jews recognise this as the day on which God would again have a relationship with the Jews.

#### 8. ATONEMENT (Leviticus 23:26-32)

- a) This occurred ten days after the feast of trumpets. It represents the fact that believing Jews only enter into the Millennium.
- b) From evaluation of (Daniel 12:11 & 12) and parallel passages it is apparent that there is a period of judgement at the second advent of some 45 days. This is a period of the wheat and tares, the sheep and the goats. The unbelievers are baptised with fire. (Matthew 3:11,12.) The believers enter the Millennium.
- c) This was the only day of the year that the high priest was able to enter the Holy of Holies bringing a bowl of blood, once for himself and once for the nation. (Hebrews 9:6-7). His entry represents the sacrifice of Christ.
- d) Christ's sacrifice is the fulfilment of this ritual. Christ only had to make one offering, as he was sinless, for the sins of the world. (Hebrews 9:11-14) On the feast of Atonement red wool, the Atonement Lot, was tied to the temple pillar. After the blood was spilt the lot turned white until the time of the cross. Afterwards it stayed red. This sign showed Christ's once and for all sacrifice.

#### 9. TABERNACLES (Leviticus 23:33-36)

This occurred five days after the feast of Atonement and lasted a week. It represents the Millennial reign of Christ and the perfect provision and environment provided. (Deuteronomy 16:13-15, Romans 8:19-22)

10. It is of interest that the two feasts that speak of God's perfect provision - Unleavened Bread and Tabernacles - were a week duration whilst the others were for a day, speaking of a point in time occurrence such as the crucifixion, resurrection or rapture of the Church.

#### 11. SUMMARY

- a) PASSOVER fulfilled at The Crucifixion on Passover AD 32
- b) UNLEAVENED BREAD fulfilled at Burial of Christ on Unleavened Bread AD 32
- c) FIRST-FRUITS fulfilled at Resurrection of Christ on First-Fruits AD 32
- d) PENTECOST fulfilled at End of Jewish Age on Pentecost AD 32
- e) TRUMPETS to be fulfilled at Rapture of Church
- f) ATONEMENT to be fulfilled at Second Advent of Christ
- g) TABERNACLES to be fulfilled at Millennial reign of Christ

12. As Paul had seen the literal fulfilment of the first four feasts in some 8 weeks in AD 32 it is hardly surprising that he would expect to be in the "rapture generation" (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 2 Thessalonians 2:1)

#### 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

**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.**

An area where the Thessalonians had not been taught was the Rapture of the Church. They were obviously concerned about Thessalonian believers who had died and what their future might be. We are not to mourn as those who have no hope.

In verse 13 Paul says that he "Would not have you ignorant brethren" - Paul would not wish any of the believers to be ignorant. Present active infinitive - it was Paul's objective in life that no believer would remain in ignorance. This is in relation to the future.

"Them that are asleep" is a present middle participle. From time to time believers die. It is a dramatic present. It to be absent from the body and face to face with the Lord.

There are several dramatic moments in life.

Firstly when one accepts the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour.

The second is physical death that means going into the presence of the Lord. There is no more sorrow. The sorrow is for those who remain behind. The middle voice shows that the person is benefited by the action of the verb. It shows that the believer is benefited by departing from this life and being present with the Lord 2

Corinthians 5:8 We should have absolutely no fear of death. A coward dies a thousand times, a brave man but once.

The word "sleep" is used for the death of a believer. It is never used for the unbeliever. The soul and the spirit are awake in the presence of the Lord.

There were two views of missing out on the Rapture. If you died before the rapture or if you were out of fellowship when the Rapture occurred you would miss out on the rapture. Both concepts are contrary to the grace of God.

Soul sleep is a heresy. Matthew 27:52, 2 Corinthians 5:8, Luke 16:19-31, 20:38, 2 Corinthians 12:1-4, Ephesians 4:9, 1 Peter 3:18-22. Those who are asleep are those who have gone to be with the Lord.

"Even as others who have no hope". It is legitimate to sorrow over the death of a loved one but your sorrow should not be heathen sorrow, those who have no hope. There is no judgement to those in Christ Jesus. We are going to a place of no judgement. 1 Peter 1:3-5 - we have an incorruptible inheritance. Revelation 21:4 - no more pain, death, sorrow the old things have passed away. John 14:1-3 we are having a place prepared for us.

"For if we believe" - if is in the first class condition, if and it is true , we do believe. If we believe and we do that Christ died. Died is in the aorist tense, at a point in time, at the time of the cross for our sins.

"Rose again" is another aorist tense. This links the two actions together and shows that you cannot separate the death and resurrection of Christ. It is the Rapture which gives efficacy to his death. The resurrection of the Lord shows that his death was unique. Christ's death is the most significant death in history.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the first human being who has risen from the dead. This was not resuscitation as seen with the raising of Lazarus where the person would eventually die again. This was a resurrection where the Lord Jesus Christ is no longer subject to death. He was raised again on account of our justification.

Christ had died physically and some of the Thessalonians had died as well. Even though your loved ones have died physically they are going to be included in the Rapture, they are going to have a resurrection body.

"Sleep in Christ" are those who are born again, those who have believed in Christ and have lived their life, long or short and are now in the presence of the Lord. The word "in" is not "in" at all it should be translated through, those who sleep through Jesus. These are those who are in the grave and out of the grave will come this glorious future incorruptible body.

In verse 14 we see that when the Lord comes back for the Church he will bring all the saints from the Church Age who have died back with Him so that they can receive their resurrection bodies at the same time.

In 1 Corinthians 15:13-14 Paul says "But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: and if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. However in verse 20 he concludes "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept". In verse 23 he alludes to the Rapture of the Church "But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming".

There are four sections to the first resurrection [those who have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ]. They occur at different times in history

- [a] Jesus Christ at the feast of First Fruits
- [b] The Church at the Rapture of the Church
- [c] Old Testament Saints and Tribulational Martyrs at the Second Coming of Christ
- [d] The Millennial saints at the end of the Millennium.

There is only one section to the second resurrection [all unbelievers] This is at the Last Judgement at the end of the Millennium.

In verse 15 it says “We say unto you by the word of the Lord” – this is in the sphere of the word of the Lord. That introduces a result clause.

“We who remain” means those who survive, we who are alive and survive. Alive is in the present tense. We will survive until such time as we are called home. We are in the devil’s world. Remain is in the passive voice which means we receive it from God.

Participle “The coming of the Lord” is not Christ coming back to the earth, it is the Rapture of the Church where we meet the Lord in the air. Over seven years later Christ returns to commence his reign on the earth.

We have the statement that those who have died will be raptured and then we whom are alive will join them.

Those who are alive at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for his Church will not precede those believers who have died in the Lord as far as receiving their resurrection bodies are concerned. This passage is paralleled by 1 Corinthians 15:51-53 above

Jesus Christ will descend from heaven with three things, a shout, the voice of the archangel and the trump of God . The dead believers will receive their resurrection bodies first.

In John 14:3 Jesus said “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

The trumpet was often used as a calling device. This trumpet is noted as the last trumpet in the 1 Corinthians passage This could have implications in relation to the Feast of Trumpets where the last of 100 trumpet calls was called the last trumpet. It was different from the previous 99 trumpet calls.

The dead in Christ are those that have died in the Church Age with the phrase “In Christ” being a specific phrase dealing with positional sanctification.

Who is involved in this verses 16,17. It includes the commander of the angelic group and a trumpet sound. The dead in Christ will rise first. These are believers who have died throughout the Church Age.

These are those who are absent from the body and present with the Lord. It does not matter whether the body is buried or burnt. It is in an indicative mood. This resurrection will happen. Jesus said “I am the resurrection and the life”.

“Caught up” - present active participle - we that are alive and remain shall be caught up with them. This is a future tense and passive voice. We will receive catching up. The subject receives the action of the verb. We are going to be caught up.

The word “meet” is a noun which emphasises the dramatic meeting in the air.

In verse 17 we have a parallel passage to Acts 1:9-11 which describes the ascension of our Lord. Acts 1:9-11 says “And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”

In John 17:24 Jesus says “Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me”

In verse 18 this is to be a source of comfort for believers in contrast to the terror as portrayed at the second advent where in Revelation 6:15-17 the unbelievers of that time ask the mountains to fall upon them and hide them from the wrath of the Lamb.

Comfort is an imperative mood, it is an order. This gives you the doctrine for comforting anyone who is bereaved or in sorrow. You comfort knowing that they are with the Lord

## **CONCLUSION**

There are few sadder places than the funeral of an unbeliever where the person has died with no hope for the future. The family and friends are generally bereft . It is a time of great sorrow.

A Christian funeral however can be a celebration of a life of service to the Lord combined with a sure knowledge of a future with the master, the Lord Jesus Christ. If you are a believer you will rest in peace. If you are an unbeliever there will be no resting.

One of the great testimonies in the Christian life is a Christian funeral. You have stability because you know you are going to see them again. In the Christian life our belief concentrates on the promises and doctrines of God. When we believe we become wonderfully stabilised. As a result of the resurrection of Christ believers will rise ourselves and receive a glorious body just like His glorious body. Philippians 3:21 Knowing doctrine is a source of reducing sorrow.

There will be a generation that will not see death. This advice is given by Paul by the Word of the Lord. We are present on this earth yet we are in union with the Lord Jesus Christ at the right hand of the Father

We who are alive will be caught up together with the rest of the saints who have been resurrected. We will meet the Lord in the air and so shall we ever be with the Lord which is His desire. We can and should use prophecy for encouraging the saints. In the case of the Rapture of the Church and our being with Him this should be a point of encouragement that our Lord one day in the future will return for His own. Encouragement goes a long way to building team spirit and raising activity within the local church. Let us be encouraged by these things.

## **[F] EVENTS PRIOR TO THE TRIBULATION**

### **SEQUENCE OF PRE TRIBULATIONAL EVENTS**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Revelation chapters 2 and 3 have dealt with the Church on earth, Revelation 4 and 5 will show the church in heaven, while Revelation 6-18 portrays the Tribulation period. It is now appropriate to examine the sequence of events which will occur around the time of the return of the Lord Jesus Christ for his church.

#### **DEFINITIONS**

Three periods need to be defined in chronological sequence: -

**RAPTURE** – The instant in time when the Lord Jesus Christ returns in the air for His Church

**TRIBULATION** – A period of 7 years of great trouble and testing on the earth

**MILLENNIUM** – A period of 1000 years of the reign of Christ on this earth to fulfil the Davidic and Palestinian covenants with Israel

#### **GAPS EITHER SIDE OF THE TRIBULATION**

##### **[A] RAPTURE - TRIBULATION**

It should be noted that there is an indeterminate time lapse between the Rapture and the Tribulation as the technical start of the Tribulation is the signing of the seven year covenant between the Antichrist and the Leader of Israel. Daniel 9:24-27

However 2 Thessalonians 2 6-8 clearly states that the Restrainer [The Holy Spirit] will be taken out of the way before the Antichrist is revealed.

All believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit as stated in John 14:16,17.

We believers will therefore not know the identity of the Antichrist as when the Holy Spirit goes at the Rapture we will go as well. There is therefore a gap between the technical start of the seven year period and the Rapture of the Church.

[B] TRIBULATION - MILLENNIUM

There is a gap between the Tribulation and Millennium which appears to be 75 days according to Daniel 12:11-12. This has relevance in the determining of the position of the northern invasion of Israel [see event 4 in the list of pre tribulational events noted below]

### **PRE TRIBULATIONAL EVENTS**

There are a number of events prophesied to take place prior to the Tribulation. The first three have already been fulfilled.

They are

1. World Wars
2. The Rebirth of Israel
3. Jewish control of Jerusalem
4. Northern Invasion of Israel
5. One World Government
6. The World Divided into Ten Regions
7. The Rise of the Antichrist
8. Period of Peace and False Security
9. The Seven Year Covenant
10. The Return of Elijah
11. The Third Temple
12. Blackouts

It should be noted that the sequence of events 10-12 are not necessarily stated chronologically.

These twelve events are divided into three - Events that have already happened, Events that we may see and Events that we will not see.

### **FULFILLED EVENTS OF THE COMING TRIBULATION**

#### **EVENT 1. WORLD WARS – Matthew 24:1-8**

In verses 7-8 Christ revealed the single event that will indicate the end of the age has begun “ **Nation shall rise up against nation and kingdom against kingdom**” coupled with famines and earthquakes. This is said to be the beginning of travail or birth pangs.

This idiom taken in the Jewish context means world war or a total conflict of the area in view. The idiom is found in two O T passages Isaiah 19:1-4 which speaks of conflict all over the land of Egypt and 2 Chronicles 15:1-7 which speaks of conflict over all the Middle East. In the Olivet Discourse the whole world is in view hence World War

There has been a great increase in earthquakes. It has been stated that between 63 and 1896 there were only 26 recorded earthquakes. There have been a huge number of deadly earthquakes since then. In addition famines have increased especially since the mid 1970's

## **EVENT 2 - THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF ISRAEL**

This happens in two stages, the return in unbelief in preparation for judgment which occurs in the form of the Tribulation, which is followed by a world wide regathering in faith in preparation for blessing in the Millennium. The fact that the unbelief stage is followed by the believing stage and the return to the land is given in Ezekiel 37: It is noted that those returning are from all the tribes of Israel and not just the two in captivity in Babylon with Assyria having taken the 10 tribes into captivity some 150 years before Ezekiel's ministry.

Passages regarding Judgment – Ezekiel 20:33-38, 22:17-22

Passages regarding blessing – Ezekiel 36:22-24, Isaiah 11:11-12

The judgement is the Tribulation Zephaniah 1:14-18, 2:1-2 with the Day of Jehovah or Day of the Lord referring to the Tribulation

It is of note that the Tribulation starts with the signing of a covenant between the World Dictator and the Leader of Israel that shows that there must be a nation Israel in place for that to occur.

## **EVENT 3 JERUSALEM UNDER JEWISH CONTROL**

This is required for the building of the third temple. There are 4 passages showing the relation between the Temple and the Tribulation. They are:-Daniel 9:27, Matthew 24:15, 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, Revelation 11:1-2

## **FUTURE EVENTS OF THE COMING TRIBULATION WHICH WE MAY SEE**

The following events we may or may not see.

### **EVENT 4. THE NORTHERN INVASION OF ISRAEL - Ezekiel 38:1-39:16**

Details of the Invasion

**Who are Involved** – 38:1-6 – Gog – Czar or Ruler

Magog, Rosh, Meshech and Tubal are all tribes that in ancient times occupied modern Russia. Rosh is the basis of the word Russia whilst Meshech is preserved in the City of Moscow and Tubal in the City of Tobolsk in the Urals in Siberia.

The position of these invaders is given in verse 6 – from the uttermost parts of the north. It is of note that Jerusalem has a longitude of 35.14 E whilst that of Moscow is 37.35 E. This is repeated in Ezekiel 38:15 and 39:2.

The northern confederation is joined in verses 5-6 by Persia or Iran, Cush or Ethiopia, Put or Somalia, Gomer and Togarmah or Armenia.

**Where does it occur?:**- 38:7-9 - In the mountains of Israel. There are many troops

**Why does it occur?**

**From a human viewpoint** - to take spoil. Some nations protest against this – [ Sheba and Dedan] which are in Arabia and Tarshish which is either Spain or Britain and the nations they founded – 38:10-13

**From God's viewpoint** - that He be sanctified before the nations - 38:14-16

**What and how?** – 38:17-23

The army will be destroyed by God through earthquakes [v19-20], civil war in the army [v21], pestilence, flood, hailstones, fire and brimstone [v22]. God is therefore glorified in the nations as He eliminates the army by Himself.

The location of this defeat is given in 39:2,4 – on the mountains of Israel

In 39:7 it shows that the north itself will be devastated by God's judgment.

#### **Revival in Israel – 39:7-8**

The Big Cleanup – Ezekiel 39:9-16

Removal of the weapons of war will take 7 years and burying of the dead 7 months.

#### **The crucial question is when chronologically this will take place**

From the above passage we see that at the time of invasion Israel is a state again, the waste places are inhabited, Israel is dwelling in unwallied villages and is dwelling securely. All these factors occur now in Israel.

#### **Timing of the Invasion**

There are five different positions held as to when this occurs.

- A. The most probable is before the Tribulation which allows for the clean up of seven years and seven months burial.
- B. In the Tribulation – the Jews would likely try and use the weapons rather than destroy them. They would have trouble enough without trying to have 7 months of burial parties
- C. Associated with the battle of Armageddon – this is at the end of the Tribulation period. The battle of Armageddon involves all nations of the world and not just the northern group.
- D. Between the Tribulation and Millennium – however this is a 75 day period as shown above and would also involve the cleanup taking place in the Millennium which is incompatible with the character of that age
- E. At the end of the Millennium – this again involves armies from the whole world and is incompatible with the fact that soon after the Lord destroys the armies besieging Jerusalem eternity future comes into being with a new heaven and new earth.

#### **EVENT 5 THE ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT**

In Daniel 7:23-24 we see the fourth beast devouring the whole world to form a One World Government. Out of this will eventually come the Antichrist. We see many trends towards one world systems nowadays in 2001

#### **EVENT 6. THE TEN KINGDOMS**

Daniel 7:24a says "And out of the kingdom shall ten kings arise" This shows that from the one world government 10 regions covering the world will be formed. It is of interest that the Club of Rome divided the world into ten regions in the early 1970's

#### **FUTURE EVENTS WE WILL NOT SEE**

#### **EVENT 7 – THE RISE OF ANTICHRIST**

Daniel 7:24b says 'and another shall arise after them and he shall be diverse from the former and shall put down three kings'

This is the Antichrist rising to power. His identity and status must be known prior to the Tribulation as the start of the Tribulation is the signing of the covenant with the Jews for the seven year period. We will not know his identity as outlined above

#### **EVENT 8 – PERIOD OF PEACE AND SECURITY**

This is placed just before the Tribulation. It is mentioned in 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3 and says that the Tribulation will come suddenly when people are saying peace and safety.

#### **EVENT 9 – SEVEN YEAR COVENANT**

The signing of this covenant between the Antichrist and the Jews will start the Tribulation period.

#### **OTHER PRE TRIBULATION EVENTS WHICH WE MAY OR MAY NOT SEE**

#### **EVENT 10 THE THIRD TEMPLE**

There are 4 passages showing the relation between the Temple and the Tribulation. They are:-Daniel 9:27, Matthew 24:15, 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, Revelation 11:1-2

That a third Temple will be operating in the Tribulation is clear. Whether it will be built before the Tribulation or during the first few months of the Tribulation is not clear, It is clear however that the Jews are ready to build this Temple. In addition they have already trained priests from the tribes of Levi to function once the Temple is a reality.

#### **EVENT 11 – THE RETURN OF ELIJAH**

The last two verses in the Old Testament – Malachi 4:5-6 tells of the return of Elijah before the Tribulation. He will have a ministry of strengthening the Jewish family

#### **EVENT 12 BLACKOUT**

In Joel 3:21 we are told that "the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon into blood before the great and terrible day of Jehovah cometh" This darkness is total. We may see this day

It is clear from the above that as a generation we are seeing the fulfillment of a number of these events and the distinct possibility of the other events occurring.

#### **[G] TRIBULATION**

To examine this in more detail please see the Commentary of the Revelation.

#### **THE STRUCTURE OF THE TRIBULATION**

The period of tribulation is some seven years in extent. It is divided into two with the second half of the time period being called the time of Jacobs Trouble or the Great Tribulation.

#### **THE START OF THE TRIBULATION PERIOD**

The commencement of the Tribulation is not as many teachers have proposed at the Rapture of the Church. As shown above the Antichrist, the man who signs the seven year covenant with Israel, is not revealed until after the Church is removed at the Rapture

There is therefore an unknown period of time between the Rapture of the Church and the official start of the Tribulation.

The first half of the Tribulation will see a Temple in action in Jerusalem with animal sacrifices being performed by Levitical Priests under the protection of the Antichrist. These sacrifices will cease at the mid point of the Tribulation being replaced by the worship of the Antichrist as god.

This is a period of the ten regions in a global format. In seizing power the Antichrist eliminates three of the ten regional rulers

### **THE MID POINT OF THE TRIBULATION**

The mid point is marked by a number of events,

The erection of the image of the Antichrist in the Temple in Jerusalem where he sets himself up as God

The ejection of Satan and the fallen angels from heaven

The fleeing of believers from Jerusalem to the mountains of Jordan

The resuscitation of the two witnesses killed by the Antichrist and their ascension into heaven

The period following this event is given in Matthew 24

### **THE END OF THE TRIBULATION**

The end of the period is marked by the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to set up His kingdom on earth. This is shown in greatest detail in Revelation 19

This period of great trouble is not only given in the Book of the Revelation but also in Matthew's gospel.

### **TRIBULATION IN MATTHEW 24**

The second half of the Tribulation or Great Tribulation is portrayed in (Matthew 24)

1. It commences with the erection of the abomination of desolation, the statue of the Antichrist being erected in the Temple in Jerusalem. (v 15)
2. Believers in Jerusalem are told to flee to the mountains of Ammon, Edom and Moab (v 16-20)
3. It will be a time of maximum terror and pressure with many false Christs, signs and wonders. They are not to be led astray as believers as they know that when the Lord returns He will be seen by all. (v 21-26)
4. The next item seen is the smiting of the armies by the Lord Jesus Christ as He returns. (v 27-28)
5. The glorious appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ, visible to all, and the gathering of Israel from the four corners of the earth to the land now occurs. (v 29-31)
6. The fig tree prophecy shows that with the emergence of Israel and many other nations we are the generation that will see the Second Coming of Christ. (v 32-35)
7. The passage concludes with a warning to be prepared for the return of the Lord in glory. (v 36-51)

This period is also a time of globalism, upheaval in the world, political struggle and degeneracy.

### **CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TRIBULATION**

1. One World
  - a) One Worldism (Revelation 13:7, 16-18)
  - b) One World Church (1 Timothy 4:1, Revelation 17)
  - c) One World Economy (1 Timothy 6:10, Revelation 13:16, 17)
2. Political Signs
  - a) Israel (Luke 21:29-32)

- b) King of the North (Ezekiel 38:1, 12)
- c) King of the East (Revelation 16:12, 9:16)
- d) King of the West (Daniel 11:40-45)
- e) King of the South (Daniel 11:40-45)

### 3. Natural Signs

- a) Earthquakes (Luke 21:11)
- b) Famines (Matthew 24:7)
- c) Weather (Luke 21:25)
- d) Diseases (Luke 21:11a)

### 4. Man made Signs

- a) Wars Hot and Cold (Matthew 24:6, 7)
- b) Preparation for War (Joel 3:9, 10)
- c) Knowledge and Technology (Daniel 12:4)
- d) Travel (Daniel 12:4)
- e) Pollution (Revelation 8:10-11)
- f) Moral Decline (Luke 17:26, 2 Tim 3:3)
- g) Homosexuality (Luke 17:28-30)
- h) Apostasy and False Prophets (Matthew 24:5, 24)
- i) Witchcraft and Occultism (1 Timothy 4:], 2)
- j) Drugs (Revelation 9:21)

5. Consider the conditioning we are now seeing in the media that aliens from outer space may arrive on earth to solve all of our problems and unite the world. How would the world react if this were to happen? Something like this is within Satan's power, and the perfect delusion to install Antichrist as world ruler.

## **JUDGMENTS IN THE TRIBULATION**

### SEVEN SEALS

- 1. White Horse of Peace. (Revelation 6:1-2)
- 2. Red Horse of War. (Revelation 6:3-4)
- 3. Black Horse of Famine. (Revelation 6:5-6)
- 4. Pale Horse of Death. (Revelation 6:7-8)
- 5. Persecution. (Revelation 6:9-11)
- 6. Destruction. (Revelation 6:12-17)
- 7. Seven Trumpet Judgments. (Revelation 8:1)

### SEVEN TRUMPETS

- 1. Hail, Fire and Blood. (Revelation 8:7)
- 2. Burning Mountain. (Revelation 8:8- 9)
- 3. Wormwood. (Revelation 8:10-11)
- 4. Universe Struck. (Revelation 8:12-13)
- 5. Locusts. (Revelation 9:1-12)
- 6. 200 Million Man Army. (Revelation 9:13-21)
- 7. Seven Bowls Judgments. (Revelation 11:15-19)

### SEVEN BOWLS

1. Severe Sores. (Revelation 16:2)
2. Sea of Blood. (Revelation 16:3)
3. Rivers of Blood. (Revelation 16:4- 7)
4. Scorching Heat. (Revelation 16:8- 9)
5. Darkness and Pain. (Revelation 16:10-11)
6. Armageddon. (Revelation 16:12)
7. Earthquake and Hailstones. (Revelation 16:17-21)

### **THE GOOD NEWS - EVANGELISM IN THE REVELATION**

While there is tremendous judgments in the Tribulation period it is also a time of Great Evangelism.

The evangelism is led by the Jews who evangelise the world in the form of the 144,000 witnesses and the two witnesses in Jerusalem. These are augmented by the witness of their converts and a mighty angel

The four fold evangelism of the world is therefore as follows

[a] 144,000 Jewish evangelists with 12,000 from each tribe of Israel except the Tribe of Dan Revelation 7

[b] Their converts Revelation 7

[c] The two witnesses - Revelation 11

[d] The mighty angel - Revelation 14

The mighty angel in Revelation 14:6,7 gives the gospel to the whole world fulfilling the prophecy in Matthew 24:14 that after the gospel of the kingdom has been preached to everyone the Second Advent will occur.

It needs to be remembered that Matthew 24 deals with the Tribulation and Second Advent of Christ and not the Rapture. Many teachers identify the person who is taken in Matthew 24:38-41 as the believer who is taken in the Rapture. Looking at it in context however the person who is taken is the person unbeliever who is removed from the scene prior to the setting up of the kingdom.

There is a great need to differentiate between the Church and Israel especially in the area of eschatology. The Tribulation represents the final seven years of the Age of the Jews, the Church being no longer on earth but in heaven.

### **THE CHURCH IS DIFFERENT TO ISRAEL.**

a) Israel started with Abraham (Gen 12:1-3).

The Church started at Pentecost. (Acts 2; Gal 3:26-28)

b) Israel was promised blessings on earth. (Deut 28:1-14)

The Church is promised blessings in heavenly places. (Eph 1:3; Heb 3:1)

c) Israel's relationship to God was based on a Covenant. (Gen 17:7,8)

The Church's relationship to God is based on new birth. (John 1:12;13; 1 Pet 1:23)

d) Israel's prophecy is mainly in the Old Testament.

Prophecy of the Church is only in the New Testament.

e) Israel worshipped at Jerusalem. (Psa 122:1-4)

The Church worships where two or three are gathered together in Christ's name. (Matt 18:20)

f) Israel lived under the law. (Ezek 20:10-12)

The Church is under grace (John 1:17; Rom 6:14).

g) Israel's destiny is with Palestine. (Isa 60:18-21 )

The Church will be removed from the earth.(I Thess 4:13-18)

h) Christ is King and Messiah to Israel.

Christ is Head and Bridegroom to the Church.

i) Israel contained Jews only.

The Church is made up of both Jews and Gentiles.

## **THE CHURCH IN HEAVEN**

During the period of the Tribulation on earth the church is being prepared at the Judgement Seat of Christ for the Wedding Supper. In heaven all human good works are removed and our lives are individually evaluated for reward purposes based on those works undertaken whilst alive on earth under the control of the Holy Spirit

### **JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST**

1. There are three types of judgment for believers in the Church Age.

a) Judgment of Sins:- The Lord Jesus Christ on the cross substituted the payment of all man's sins. The penalty of sin is death. (Romans 6:23) There is therefore no judgment for those in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:1). The substitutionary death is given in 2 Corinthians 5:19-21, Galatians 3:13.

b) Judgment of Self:- We are told that if we judge ourselves we shall not be judged. Failure to do so brings discipline. (1 Corinthians 5:1-5, 11:31, 32, 2 Corinthians 2:5-7, Hebrews 12:7, 1 John 1:9)

c) Judgment Seat of Christ:- This is the evaluation of the production of believers for the purpose of reward (2 Corinthians 5:10)

2. The Judgment Seat of Christ is a time of reward. Our human works (wood, hay, stubble) will be burned, our works in the power of the Spirit (gold, silver, precious stones) will be rewarded. (1 Corinthians 3:11-16).

3. At the Judgment Seat of Christ the believer can be denied reward but can never lose his salvation. (2 Timothy 2:12-13)

4. Backslidden believers have no reward at the Judgment Seat of Christ. (Hebrews 6:7-12)

5. The Judgment Seat of Christ is illustrated by the famous athletic games in the ancient world. (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)

6. Rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ is based on grace. (James 2:12, 13)

7. Since we will be judged by Christ, we are not to judge each other (Matthew 7:1-2)

## **[H] SECOND ADVENT**

REVELATION 19 :11-21

**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. 16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. 17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; 18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. 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.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Second Advent of the Lord Jesus Christ is given in the second half of Revelation 19 which is divided into two parts.

[a] Verses 11-16 show, that Jesus Christ is the key to all judgement.

[b] Verses 17-21 show us the events immediately following the Second Advent.

## **FOUR STRIKING THINGS SEEN OF THE VICTORIOUS CHRIST.**

### **[A] HIS MOUNT - VERSE 11**

White horses were used in ancient Rome for victory parades. White horses are rare, the horses are normally grey. The Antichrist had his counterfeit of this in Revelation 6:2 where he is seen on a white horse as the conqueror.

On the other hand, if a king or general came in peace, he rode a mule or donkey. The Lord Jesus Christ came in peace at the First Advent. He was rejected and crucified as the prince of peace.

This time he comes as the victorious Lion of the Tribe of Judah, this time in judgement as a conqueror riding a white horse. It should be noted that only humanity can sit on a horse as deity is everywhere.

The phrase "makes war" is the present active indicative of "polemeo" in the Greek. Millions of men under arms are killed at the Second Advent and it is accomplished by the Lord Jesus Christ himself..

He is wearing "diadem" crowns rather than "stephanos" crowns. The "diadem" was worn by right whereas the "stephanos" was one given as a reward. The flaming eyes [see Revelation 1:14] speak of righteous indignation and wrath. He is crowned with many diadems as king of kings by right not conquest.

The vesture in verse 13 is a robe worn by a Chiliarch or Roman leader of a thousand men. He has the mantle of a military commander. It is dipped in blood. The word "dipped" in the Greek is "bapto" from which we get the word baptised.

At the second advent the garments of christ will be stained with the blood of his enemies. Isaiah 63:1-3

### **[B] HIS NAMES**

Four names are given here:

#### **[1] Faithful and True verse 11**

He is called here "Faithful and True" which speaks of His Integrity. He is faithful to his word, both for blessing and cursing. God is faithful to us right now even though we may be fickle.

#### **[2] The Unknown Name verse. 12**

"The unknown name" the name written is often used for a personality. His unknown name relates to Revelation 2:17. A special name is given to everyone who overcomes by faith. In our case it speaks of our own private history with god.

### **[3] The Word of God verse 13.**

Jesus Christ is also called here "The Word of God" cf. John. 1:1-4 The living word is revealed in the written word.

### **[4] King of Kings, Lord of Lords verses. 16.**

He is called "King of Kings, Lord of Lords" it was common practice for a victorious Roman general to wear a banner on his thigh. This name on Jesus Christ's thigh speaks of his absolute authority and sovereign power.

All power is His in heaven and earth. He is the source of all authority. Based on this authority, he judges the earth as its rightful king and ruler.

The word "written" in the Greek is in the perfect tense showing that it was written in the past with a result that it stays written for ever. He always had absolute authority.

Lord of Lords is Deity and King of Kings is humanity. Our commanding general is unique in the fact that He is the God man.

### **[C] HIS ARMIES - VERSE 14**

This army is made up of the saints of earth who follow him wherever he goes. This army does no fighting it is the commanding general that does all the fighting.

### **[D] HIS WEAPON - VERSE 15**

The weapon of Christ is the sword of his mouth. The Word of God is compared to a sword in Hebrews. 4:12. The Greek word for sword there is the "machaira." which was easy to handle, could thrust, and cut both ways with little difficulty.

Here however the word is "romphaia." the great Thracian broadsword which required a person of great strength to wield it. This 1.8 metre [6 foot] sword. was intended to kill with one mighty sweep. What a picture of the ease with which Christ will defeat his enemies! One mighty blow from the word of his mouth will execute total judgement on the armies of Antichrist and unbelieving mankind.

This will be the "Baptism of Fire" pictured in Revelation 20:14 and spoken of in Matthew. 3:10-12. When the Prince of Peace comes back he makes war to clean up the earth. The winepress is used to show maximum destruction of the enemy

### **JUDGMENT ON THE UNBELIEVERS**

The angel standing in the sun calls for the birds to pick the bones. He calls them to supper indicating a meal at the end of the day. This is the end of history as far as the unbelievers are concerned

In verse 18 there are 7 types of people involved:- Kings - the supreme rulers, Captains which are army chiefs or Chiliarchs, men in charge of one thousand men, Mighty men are the fit people of the armies, Horses which is the army transportation, Them that sit upon them are the military commanders, The Freeman and the Slaves. showing that there will still be slavery in the tribulation

The slaughter that occurs here is totally impartial and totally encompassing. All unbelievers removed for the lord is bringing in an era of righteousness. Matthew 24

When the Lord was before Pilate, He said, "If my kingdom were of this world, then my servants would fight" John. 18:36. When the time comes for his kingdom to be set up, He will illustrate the principle that there is no peace apart from military victory!

The kings of the earth are kings ruled by the Antichrist. The armies of these kings are concentrated. For the unbeliever this is the beginning of eternal damnation as he will spend eternity in the lake of fire.

The beast (Antichrist) and the False Prophet are now cast alive into the lake of fire. In one thousand years they will welcome Satan for whom the Lake of Fire was created Matthew 25:41. The Greek word for "worship" here indicates that the unbelievers worshipped the Antichrist as God.

## **LOCATION OF THE SECOND ADVENT**

The location of the Second Advent of Christ is given in Zechariah 14

**Zechariah 14:4-9** And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. **5** And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee. **6** And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark: **7** But it shall be one day which shall be known to the LORD, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light. **8** And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be. **9** And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.

1. We see the Lord Jesus Christ physically return to earth just as he left it at the ascension on the Mount of Olives. This occurs at the culmination of the tribulation (Acts 1:10,11).
2. The Mount of Olives will split, allowing for waters to go out both east and west from Jerusalem, from the Mediterranean to the Dead Sea, allowing those besieged to flee into the newly formed valley (I Corinthians 10:13).
3. American geologists have reported that a vertical fault exists in the Mount of Olives, which would facilitate such a movement Whilst God does not require such factors, the existence of such a fault bears witness to this verse.
4. This event immediately precedes the setting up of the universal reign of the Lord Jesus Christ over all the earth: the Millennium.
5. The weather conditions will also be unusual on the day of the Second Advent, but by evening it will be light It is of interest that on two occasions darkness of a supernatural form was noted in the Bible. The first was during the last three hours on the cross; the second when Christ returns to earth.

## **WHO WILL SEE HIS RETURN?**

**Revelation 1:7** 'Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wall because of him. Even so, Amen.

1. It should be noted that with the writing of the last book of the Bible [in 96 AD], the Second Advent of the Lord Jesus Christ was still future. An historical Millennium or Tribulation relating to that time is therefore seen as erroneous.
2. The Lord's return causes terror for the nations, who now realise that judgment has come. The attitude of mankind to this event should be noted in contrast to the reaction of the Rapture of the Church, where Paul states, Wherefore comfort one another with these words (I Thessalonians 4:18).
3. The fact that every eye shall see Him is of interest The earth will be in darkness, which the Lord the light of the world, will penetrate in His glory at the second advent

## **THOSE INVOLVED WITH THE MILLENNIUM**

A picture of those who will be involved in this is given in **Mark 9:1-7** : **And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power. 2** And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter, and

**James, and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them. 3 And his raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them. 4 And there appeared unto them Elias with Moses: and they were talking with Jesus. 5 And Peter answered and said to Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. 6 For he wist not what to say; for they were sore afraid. 7 And there was a cloud that overshadowed them: and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him.**

1. In the case of the second advent, we not only have prophecy but also a practical demonstration of Christ's return at the Mount of Transfiguration.
2. On the Mount the Lord is seen in His resurrection body (verse 3).
3. Moses in his resurrection body represents all the saints who have died.
4. Elijah in his resurrection body represents all the saints who have been translated (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).
5. Elijah and Moses are the two heralds of the second advent, just as John the Baptist was the herald of the first advent
6. Peter, James and John in their natural bodies depict the regenerate of Israel entering the millennial kingdom to repopulate the earth.
7. The multitude at the base of the mountain represent Gentile believers who also enter the millennial kingdom (Isaiah 11:10).
8. Here, therefore, we have the complete representation of the second advent with those in their physical bodies who, as believers, survive the tribulation: entering the millennium to repopulate the earth.

## **THE GAP OF 75 DAYS**

In a similar way to the waiting for the day of Pentecost to fully come and the gap demonstrated between the Rapture of the Church and the official start of the Tribulation there is a gap between the Second Advent of Christ and the commencement of the Millennium.

This is seen in the statement in Daniel 12:9-13 "**9 And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. 10 Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand. 11 And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days. 12 Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days. 13 But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.**

A brief review of this passage shows that Daniel is being told that the book is closed [that it is relevant] to the end of the age, the Jewish Age. This occurs at the Second Advent of Christ. There are going to be many believers but there will also be rampant wickedness.

In verses 11 and 12 we have a month over the three and a half Jewish years of the Tribulation and an extra forty five days making an apparent total of 75 days from the end of the Tribulation at the Second Advent to the commencement of the Millennium.

In the last verse Daniel is told that he will be resurrected at the Second Advent to enjoy an inheritance again reinforcing the resurrections in their order..

## **[1] THE MILLENNIUM**

## THE MILLENNIAL REIGN

The reign of Christ is mentioned in the Old Testament including Isaiah 24:22,23, Hosea 3:3-5

"Millennium" is derived from the Latin and means a "thousand years".

It is mentioned six times in this chapter.

Human history begins in the garden and concludes in the kingdom with perfect environment

## KINGDOM - MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

1. "Thy will be done on earth, " will be fulfilled in the Millennium. (Matthew 6:10)
2. The Kingdom is the Millennium, the first 1,000 years of Jesus' eternal reign. It will be after the second advent, on the old earth. (Revelation 20:4-6)
  - a) Promised (2 Samuel 7:8-17, Psalm 89:20-33)
  - b) Prophesied (Isaiah 2:1-5, 2:11, 12, 35, 55, 56, 62:11)
  - c) Presented (Matthew, Mark, Luke ) Israel, not the church)
  - d) Postponed Epistles of New Testament (for church age)
  - e) Proclaimed (Revelation 10) (Angelical herald) (Revelation 11:1-14) (Human heralds)
  - f) Plagiarized (Revelation 13)
  - g) Perfected (Revelation 11:15-19)
3. Issues relating to the Kingdom
  - a) The Character of God - will He keep His word to Israel? Yes. Jesus Christ will reign.
  - b) Unconditional Covenant - will He keep Covenant? Yes. Abrahamic, Palestinian, Davidic, New - all fulfilled in the Millennium.
  - c) Dispersion of Israel - will He recover them again? Yes. At the second advent.
  - d) Advent - will He return to earth at the worst period in history? Yes. At the end of the Tribulation.
  - e) Millennial - The Kingdom of Jesus Christ is eternal, why the emphasis on the first 1,000 years? Jesus will do what Satan has been trying to do for 6,000 years; He will create perfect environment in an instant, as a demonstration to prove that perfect environment is not the answer; regeneration is.
4. Principles from Micah 4:1-8
  - a) The Kingdom will be supreme. (Micah 4:1)
  - b) The Kingdom will be universal. (Micah 4:2)
  - c) The Kingdom will be peaceful. (Micah 4:3)
  - d) The Kingdom will secure universal prosperity. (Micah 4:4-5)
  - e) The nation of Israel ruled by the Lord for the Kingdom. (Micah 4:6-8)

Chapter twenty can be divided into four sections

### [A] THE BINDING OF SATAN. VERSES. 1-3

**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.**

There will be no Satanic deception in the Millennium. An angel with authority A

Satan is chained in the Abyss. The chain is probably one of darkness Jude 6 "**And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day**"., 2 Peter 2:4 "**For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment**"

This demonstrates that Satan is not all powerful. We are in the hand of almighty God John 10:22-30. We need to stay in fellowship with the Holy Spirit so that Satan cannot attack us.

The angel who could be Archangel Michael as in Jude 9 he fought Satan over the body of Moses violently seizes Satan and puts him on death row.

#### FOUR TITLES OF SATAN - V 2

[a] The dragon in Revelation 12:3-4 in relation to his revolt against God in eternity past and his great intellect cf. Isaiah. 14:12-14; Ezekiel 28:12-19.

[b] The serpent relates him to the temptation in the garden where he appeared as "nachush" the bright shining one in Genesis 3:1-7.

[c] The devil means "slanderer" or "accuser" and this is his practice against God and the saints cf. Job 1:6-12; 2:1-6; Revelation 12:10.

[d] Satan means "adversary" and shows his opposition to all that is of God.

Satan's mission is to deceive. The Greek word for this is "planao" is in the aorist active subjunctive. Active voice - Satan does the deceiving. Aorist tense means that he does it at various points of time. Subjunctive mood the success of the deceit is only potential.

If your country has very good laws it is possible that Satan may not deceive your nation.

Satan is always trying to set up internationalism attempting to set up a Millennium without God of Communism. He attacks Free Will, Marriage, Family and Nations. His aim is to obscure the grace of God.

The blessings on nations who apply bible truths is shown in the revival of the Assyrian empire under the ministry of Jonah, the prosperity of the Roman Empire between 96 and 192 AD, the rise of Britain in the 19th century and of America in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The decline of nations can also be seen as they depart from these principles towards Satanic concepts and idolatry such as the Spanish Empire and Nazi Germany.

When Satan is loosed at the end, man will have experienced all that God's power and grace can provide on earth. However mankind without regenerating faith will still revolt against God proving the depravity of natural man beyond the shadow of a doubt. Revelation 20:7-9

#### **SATAN'S DESTINY**

1. Satan is called a "prince" indicating that he had his own power and followers. (John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11, Ephesians 2:2, 2 Corinthians 4:4)

2. Yet he is still a creature, and is still ultimately subject to God (Job 1:12)

3. At the cross, Christ defeated Satan, as his main power was through sin and death. (John 12:27-32, Romans 5:12, 1 Corinthians 15:54-56, Colossians 2:14-15, Hebrews 2:14-15)

4. God purpose with the world is not yet complete - therefore the enforcement of Satan's defeat will not take place until the end of the Millennium (Hebrews 1:13, Revelation 20:10)

5. Satan's final judgment is sure:-

a) When he fell he was condemned, this was before (Genesis 1:2).

b) In the garden the certainty of God's judgment was announced. (Genesis 3:15)

c) The Cross was his final defeat. (John 12:31, Colossians 2:14-15)

d) In the midst of the Great Tribulation his access to heaven will be stopped. He will no longer be able to slander believers. (Revelation 12 :7-12)

e) At the Second Advent he is arrested and bound. (Revelation 20:1-3)

f) After the Millennium he is briefly released to lead the last great rebellion against God, and is finally cast into the Lake of Fire. (Revelation 20:10)

g) There are therefore four falls of Satan:-

i) from his place in eternity past to the earth with access to heaven.

ii) then that access is denied causing him to be restricted to the Earth.

iii) he is then contained in Hades for a thousand years.

iv) then his final fall into the Lake of Fire.

6. Satan has six abodes in his journey from the throne room of God to the Lake of Fire.

a) The Throne of God Ezekiel 28:12

- b) The Mineral Garden of Eden Ezekiel 28:13
- c) The Atmospheric Heavens Ephesians 2:2, 6:12
- d) The Earth Revelation 12:7-12
- e) The Abyss Revelation 20:1-3
- f) The Lake of Fire Revelation 20:7-10

**[B] THE FIRST RESURRECTION AND THE SECOND DEATH. VERSES. 4-6**

**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 rest of the chapter deals with the resurrections to commendation and to condemnation.

It begins with a statement regarding the first resurrection to commendation in verse 4 followed by a similar statement in verse 5 regarding the second resurrection which is to condemnation.

In verses 5b and 6 the first resurrection is amplified while the second resurrection is expanded upon in verses 11 to 15.

Those sitting on the thrones in verse 4 are believers who are already in a resurrection body..

Church Age believer are promised authority over the nations Revelation. 2:26-27 and are placed on Christ's throne Revelation 3:21.

Since the judgment of the Gentile nations Christ spoke of in Matthew 25:31-46 occurs before the Millennium, this must be the "judgment given to them."

We also have the resurrection of Tribulation saints.

I Corinthians 15:23-24 clearly teaches that the "first resurrection", the resurrection of the saints, occurs in different "orders."

- [a] Christ is the first fruits from the dead, then
- [b] Church Age believers at the Rapture, followed by
- [c] Old Testament and Tribulational saints at the Second Advent
- [d] Millennial saints at the end of the Millennium

Notice again the basis of victory for these Tribulation martyrs Revelation 7:14-17 cf. 12:11. These people were beheaded because of witnessing and the Word of God and had not joined the world system of the Beast. They will live and reign with Christ in the 1000 year Millennium.

As believers we are immensely rich in Christ. We share his destiny as we are in union with him.

The unbeliever has relationship with other human beings through the soul. He cannot have relationship with God the Father unless he is born again.

The "rest of the dead" in verse 5 refer to the unbelievers of all human history from Cain onwards who will be raised for eternal judgment at the Great White Throne judgement after the Millennium Revelation 20:12.

The phrase "This is the first resurrection" should be in verse 6 rather than at the end of verse 5. It is an example where the verse breaks which were introduced to assist in the mechanical printing system are shown not to be inspired. Another example would be 1 John 2:1-2 which should be the last two verses of 1 John 1. Generally however the chapter and verse breaks are correct.

The "first resurrection" is the "resurrection of the just" mentioned in Daniel 12:2; John. 5:29 and Acts 24:15.

Those included are "blessed," that is, joyous and happy and "holy" or sanctified by faith in Christ. They have overcome the second death 1 John. 5:4-5. Thus the Millennial earth will begin with believers only in physical

bodies under the rule and priesthood of glorified saints of past ages. This is the fifth blessing in the book of the Revelation.

The blessings of the book of the Revelation show that it does not matter how rough things get there is always blessing for the believer. There will be people that survive and will have inner happiness. Irrespective of where you are or your circumstances it is possible for the believer to have inner happiness and confidence.

**SANCTIFICATION**

1. Definition:- Sanctification means holy or set apart unto God.
2. There are three stages of sanctification corresponding to the three stages in the Christian life.
  - (a) Salvation - Positional Sanctification - The believer is eternally sanctified through Christ's death. (Hebrews 10:10) They became Saints at the instant of belief. (Philippians 1:1, Hebrews 3:1)
  - (b) Christian Walk - Experiential Sanctification - The believer when controlled by the Holy Spirit produces the character of Christ in his life and is therefore sanctified. (Galatians 5:16, Romans 8:4). This also is portrayed by yieldedness. (Romans 12:1). When controlled by the Old Sin Nature, however the believer is positionally sanctified but experientially carnal.
  - (c) Heaven - Ultimate Sanctification - (1 John 3:2) - Here the believer loses his sinful nature, receives a resurrection body and is eternally in a sanctified condition.

**[C] SATAN'S FINAL REBELLION. VERSES. 7-10**

**7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, 8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. 9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. 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.**

At the end of the thousand years, Satan will be released from his prison. He will lead his final revolt against God. Revelation 20:3 told us "he must be released." This necessity is the result of divine justice as the foundation of God's plan. The inhabitants of the Millennial earth will live under the visible rule of Jesus Christ with the glorified saints as witness to the end of God's grace.

Even in the Millennium man in their physical human bodies still have sin natures and must have their free will exercised and tested. Many will outwardly profess faith even as they do today. The release of Satan will prove that they are unregenerate and therefore remain in hostility toward God. The astounding thing is that after so much visible evidence of the perfection of God's plan and power that they will number an immense multitude.

Satan is not loosed until the plan for the Millennium is completed as far as God is concerned. As soon as His plan for the thousand years is over Satan is released to lead the final rebellion against God. This is the second advent of Satan. In both cases he came into perfect environment and destroyed it. He promises a perfect system but destroys it. The end of history will be the same as in the beginning where Satan is shown not to be able to solve man's problems and that the only solution to those problems is regeneration. There is no collective solution to man's problems it is a personal one.

In verse 8 we note that even under perfect environment the world is ruled by the Lord Jesus Christ in nations. The Lord does not set up an international system. We see also that after a thousand years Satan returns again to his old habits of deception. Satan here is able to deceive the nations after one thousand years of perfect environment.

Here we have Gog and Magog in contrast to Gog of Magog in Ezekiel 38. The number of people involved is innumerable.

REVELATION 20	EZEKIEL 38
Gog and Magog	Gog of Magog
This has a personal connotation	This has a geographical connotation
Gog and Magog is a group of people in revolt.	The King of the North is Gog of Magog
This is post Millennial	This is pre Millennial.

The fact of this last major battle represents the presence of weapons which is amazing since there have been no weapons for a thousand years as in the Millennium man shall learn war no more. The whole world has enjoyed a thousand years of perfect environment and peace. However the unbeliever cannot enjoy perfect environment. The answer to the happiness of your life does not rely on your environment it relies on your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

If Satan can get people to follow him after a thousand years of perfect environment what can he do nowadays. We need to be aware of the strategies of Satan. Satan is controlled by God so that he cannot escape for a thousand years but on release he appears to act as if God has no power.

The Greek word translated "to compass" in verse 9 means to encircle. Millions of people come to Jerusalem and encircle the city in an attempt to conquer it. However fire comes down from heaven and consumes them. Somehow, in a world where swords have been beaten into ploughshares Isaiah 2:4, Micah. 4:3, this rebellious company will fashion weapons and mobilise an assault upon Jerusalem. The battle will be over in a flash of fire from heaven. There is no longer a need for God to permit the conflict to continue. The demonstration of the hostility of unregenerate men and Satan is finally completed.

God is in control and will not only eliminate the opposition in this case by fire but also removes Satan for the last time from the earth. Here violence is met by violence and is a replay of what occurred a thousand years previously. God keeps his word to the Jews and keeps his word to us as well.

## PALESTINE

1. The only land given by God to a nation (Genesis 13:14-17).
2. It is Jehovah's land (Hosea 9:3).
3. It is Israel's inheritance (Psalm 105:9-12; Isaiah 60:21)
4. The Jews were removed from the land because of their sin (Jeremiah 9:11-16).
5. It will become fruitful again when the Jews return (Ezekiel 36:8-12).
6. The desert will blossom like a rose (Isaiah 35:1,2).
7. When Christ returns with His saints (1 Thessalonians 3:13):
  - (a) an earthquake will level the hills (Zechariah 14:3,4,10);
  - (b) He will stand on the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14:4);
  - (c) Jerusalem will be made a mountain (Isaiah 66:20);
  - (d) the Mediterranean and Dead Seas will be joined (Zechariah 14:8; Ezekiel 47:1-12);
  - (e) Jerusalem will become a port (Zechariah 14:8);
  - (f) Cities will be rebuilt (Isaiah 61:4);
  - (g) Population will increase (Ezekiel 36:38);
  - (h) Jesus will rule from Jerusalem (Zechariah 8:22; Isaiah 2:3-4).
8. The land of Palestine will at long last become the land of the Jews at the Second Advent.

## UNFULFILLED PROPHECY IN ISAIAH

There are eight prophecies in Isaiah yet to be fulfilled.

1. Day of the Lord. (2:10-22, 4:1, 13:9-13, 24:1-23, 32:1-20, 63:1-6)
2. Blessing on a Jewish remnant from the Great Tribulation. (12:1-6, 25:1-12, 26:1-19, 33:24, 35:10, 43:25)
3. Restoration of Israel to Palestine in the Millennium. (11:10-12, 14:1-2, 27:12-13)
4. Israel to become the leader of nations. (2:1-5, 4:2-6, 11:4-16)
5. Palestine restored. (11:10-12, 14:1-2, 27:12-13)
6. Jerusalem as capital city of the world. (2:1-5, 4:2-6, 59:20-21)
7. Blessings on all nations. (11:3-4, 9-10, 25:6-9, 60:1-12)
8. Entire creation blessed. (65:17, 66:22)

In verse 10 Satan is immediately cast into the Lake of Fire to join his fellow conspirators, the beast (Antichrist) and false prophet, forever. They will very quickly be joined by others.

Brimstone indicates that chemical activity occurs to perpetuate the lake of fire. This is a literal fire where the beast and the false prophet are.

They shall be tormented for ever day and night without rest. There is no cessation of the Lake of Fire. The unbelievers are in everlasting torment for all eternity. The Lake of Fire was formed for Satan and his angels Matthew 25:41. The unbeliever shares the Lake of Fire with them because he did not believe the Lord and thus continued to be a subject of the prince of this world. Many of these people are very self righteous and religious such as the Pharisees, a group of whom the Lord called children of the Devil.

This terminates the satanic attack on the plan of God with Satan and his plan totally ruined

## **SATANIC ATTACK ON THE PLAN OF GOD**

Pre Adamic

1. Creation of Satan. Satan was the most beautiful, most powerful angel who ministered at the Throne of God in heaven Ezekiel 28:13-15
2. Fall of Satan: He became proud, and declared himself god (five "I will's") Isaiah 14:12-15
  - a) 1/3 of Angels follow Satan Revelation 12:4
  - b) God's Judgment - the Lake of Fire - Matthew 25:41
  - c) Satan appeals fourthly to attack the Word of God and the individual believer.

### **Satan strategy**

Firstly to get man to sin,

Secondly having had a Saviour promised to attack the line of Christ

Thirdly an attack on the Saviour until He completed His work

Fourthly to attack individual believers and deceive unbelievers

### **Stage 1 - Attack on Man's Innocence**

**Object** - Man, an inferior creature who has been given dominion over the earth will become subject to Satan

1. Man created Genesis 1:26-27 Woman falls Genesis 3:1-6 Man falls 1 Timothy 2:13, 14
2. Judgment on the Serpent
3. Salvation promised to man through the seed of the woman Genesis 3:15
4. Judgment on the Woman and Man - expulsion from the Garden

### **Stage 2 - Attack on the Line of the Saviour**

**Object:** If Satan can prevent the Saviour being physically born he has proved that God does not keep his promises.

1. Attack 1. Cain kills Abel - [Attack on the seed of the woman) An unbeliever kills a believer but Seth, another believer is provided for the line of Christ.
2. Attack 2. Infiltration of Fallen Angels. (Attack on the humanity) - Infiltration until only Noah's family left as the humanity. Flood removes angel/men demons incarcerated in Tartarus (Hades)
3. Attack 3. Tower of Babel (Attack on nationalism) - An attempt by Satan to bring in the Millennium without God. The original UN. God forms nations and confuses their tongues.- Tower of Babel.
4. Attack 4 on the line of Abraham. - Abraham promised the Saviour will be descended from him.
5. Attack 5. Pharaoh of Egypt. - Satan attempts to eliminate the Jews through Pharaoh's edict to kill all the male Jews

6. Satan now attacks the descendants of David as David promised a King descended from him will reign forever [the Messiah] 2 Samuel 7:16

7. Attack 5. Against the Kings of Judah - Josiah, boy King of Judah divinely protected comes to throne at age of 8 after coup d'etat eliminates every other member of the royal line.

8. Attack 6. Against the Jews - Satan attempts to destroy the Jews using Haman. Haman eventually executed.

9. Attack 7. Against Jerusalem. - 185,000 Assyrian troops under Sennacherib killed by God outside Jerusalem.

### **Stage 3. Attack on the Person of Christ**

**Object** - If Jesus Christ can be kept from the Cross salvation would not be available and God would not keep his promise

Attack 1. Possible stoning of Mary - the removal of the embryo of Christ

Attack 2. Herod the Great. - the removal of the young child

Attack 3. Temptation in Wilderness - the Crown without the Cross

Attack 4. Temptation not to go to the Cross. - failing in the plan of God

Attack 5. Attempt to stone Jesus. - He was to die on wood, the place of cursing

Attack 6. Attempt to tempt Jesus down from the cross. appeal to pride

Attack 7. The drugged wine. - Interference with the free will of Jesus Christ

### **Stage 4. Attacks since the Cross.**

**Object** - To obscure God's plan to prevent man from believing and becoming part of the plan of God

1. Attack 1. Against Scripture.

2. Attack 2. Atheism - the World without God

3. Attack 3. Elimination of the Jews.

4. Attack 4. One World Government.

5. Attack 5. Socialism.

6. Attack 6. Persecution.

**Conclusion** - God always wins and is successful

### **[D] THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT. VERSES. 11-15**

**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.**

Human history now reaches its conclusion so far as man's eternal destiny is concerned. The consequence of death is judgment Romans. 5:12; Hebrews. 9:27, and for this reason eternal judgment is called "the second death." It is from this that we are delivered by the second birth by regeneration in Christ. If you are born twice you die once but if you are born only once you die twice, physically and the second death.

In verse 11 we have a Great White Throne. White is the colour of perfect righteousness. He who sits on it is the Lord Jesus Christ to whom all judgment is given. John 5:22-27

The phrase "Earth and heaven fled away" is the destruction of the universe at the end of history. 2 Peter 3:7,10-12. This old universe makes way for a new one which is created for eternity. Now the "small and the great" stand before an impartial holy and all knowing God Romans. 2:11.

God is everywhere. There is no place that you can escape the omnipresent God. This can be of great comfort to the believer but is a sense of frustration and terror to the unbeliever. Hebrews 12:25-27

## **THE LAST JUDGMENT**

1. The judgment of the Great White Throne is the last judgment. (Revelation 20:11, 15)
2. Only the unsaved are judged at the last judgment as there is no judgment for Christians. (Romans 8:1)
3. The last judgment occurs at the end of the Millennium. (Revelation 20:7-15)
4. The unsaved are judged according to their works from the Books of Works (Revelation 20:12)
5. The judgment is to show that the Human works of man cannot satisfy the justice of God. God is totally fair and shows that he is only satisfied by "The Good Work". The death of Christ on the Cross.
6. Having shown the unsaved they have failed to satisfy the holiness of God, the condemned are cast into the Lake of Fire. (Revelation 20:15)

Verse 12 introduces the resurrection of damnation. They stand in the presence of God. They will be given absolute justice based on the record of the books of the heavenly court. On the one hand we have the Book of Life containing the names of all who have believed in Jesus Christ.

Obviously they are not found recorded here, the reason being their own refusal to trust in Christ as their Saviour. Therefore, having rejected the righteousness of God offered in Jesus Christ, they must stand on their own righteousness.

Their sins are not mentioned. All their sins were paid for by Christ Romans. 5:16-18; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 2 Peter. 2:1; 1 John. 2:2 Because of this sacrifice God has never imputed to them their own sins 2 Corinthians 5:19.

Another book is a book of a similar kind "allos" The word translated "according to" is the preposition "kata" which means according to a standard and that standard is the absolute standard of God. The only issue is this are you, in your own righteousness and merits, worthy of heaven? The answer as anticipated by Isaiah 64:6 is negative.

The two most striking things in this passage are that men are judged on their good works without reference to sins and that the ultimate issue is their rejection of Christ resulting in self-exclusion from the Book of Life.

By the time you get to eternity the Book of Life will contain only the name of every person who has accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour. All human sin was judged at the cross with the exception of unbelief. We are reminded that not by works of righteousness that we have done but according to his mercy he saved us.- Titus 3:5

The concept of the sea in verse 13 may well relate to the fact that in the ancient world the abode of fallen spirits was protected by sea gates. Job 38:8. The only work that is satisfactory to God is the perfect work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross. Judged is in the aorist passive indicative, the aorist tense indicates a point of time, the passive voice they receive judgment and the indicative mood is the reality of it.

Death and Hades are cast into the lake of fire in verse 14. "Cast" is in the aorist tense which means that at a point of time this occurs, it is divorced from time and perpetuated forever. The second death is eternal separation from God. Literally therefore it says "this the second death" which gives great emphasis to this sentence in the Greek. Only unbelievers are in Hades at this time because of the transfer of the believers to heaven after the victory of the cross.

Verse 15 indicates that there is a genuine existence for unbelievers after physical death. At this point we are told that each will acknowledge the justice of their own sentence to eternal fire, as well as bow humbly and confess the glory of Jesus Christ Romans. 14:11; Philippians 2:10-11.

Therefore it is true that God does not condemn men to hell; they condemn themselves. In every one of them will be the knowledge of God's fairness and of the freedom of the gift of eternal life in Christ. In this sense everyone in hell will be a believer; they just believed too late An understanding of the lake of fire is essential in understanding judgment and salvation.

## **THE UNBELIEVER**

1. God is Holy and cannot compromise with sin or evil. (Psalm 22:1-3, John 1:5)
2. Sin is solved at the Cross for all. (1 John 2:2)
3. The way is therefore open to all who will believe. (John 3:16,36, Acts 16:31)
4. Those who reject Christ are without hope, promise and God in the world. (Ephesians 2:12, Romans 5:14,17, 6:23)
5. We are born dead to God. (Psalm 51:5)
6. It is only through Christ that we can be born again. (John 14:6)
7. The unbeliever spurns this grace offer and the Lord who died for him. (Hebrews 2:1-4)
8. God is Love, but when love is spurned, that person has chosen darkness rather than light. They are therefore judged on the basis of their works as they have rejected the Lord's work for them. (John 3:16-21, Revelation 20:11-15)
9. The first stop for the unbeliever after death is Torments in Hades or Sheol . This is a place of regret, torment and anguish. It is also called the bottomless pit. (Revelation 9:2)
10. Their ultimate state is the Lake of Fire after they have been judicially sentenced to it by the Lord Jesus Christ at the Last Judgment where they are judged according to their works. (Revelation 14:11, 20:11-15, Matthew 8:12, 25:41, Mark 9:44, Jude 13)

## **CONCLUSION**

Eternal Life exists only in Christ. To have life you must receive the Life Himself (John. 1:4, 14:6; 1 John. 5:11-12). If you reject Him, you actually condemn yourself to eternity in the Lake of Fire. The decision is your own; what will you do with Jesus Christ?

## **[J] ETERNITY FUTURE**

The main area in Scripture that talks about eternity is the last two chapters in the Bible Revelation 21 and 22

### **Chapter 21 can be divided into four sections**

- [A] Three New Things In Heaven. 21:1-2
- [B] Three Perfect Things In Heaven. 21:3-5

[C] The Inheritance Of Eternity. (Verse. 6-8)

[D] The New Jerusalem - Verses. 9-27

## INTRODUCTION

In these final two chapters we have the conclusion of the book with the anticipation of eternal conditions. No doubt the infinite joys and blessings of heaven are beyond the grasp of our present finite minds. Future anticipation, like prophecy, always involves unknown factors for the simple reason that we have no means for fully understanding these things. Eternity is impossible to understand and explain in human language. It is therefore described in terms of precious gems which has great beauty.

### THREE NEW THINGS IN HEAVEN. 21:1-2

**1 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. 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.**

We should first recognise that in the original language two words are translated "new." First we have "neos", which means new in time, recently made. This is not the word used here. Instead we have the word "kainos", meaning renewed or renovated. The concept is that while the present creation is cleansed by fire 2 Peter. 3:7-12, God brings out of it new conditions. This is in also Paul's teaching of Romans 8:18-23.

"Kainos" therefore means new in quality, or new in character rather than in substance. The very same term is used of the unregenerated believer becomes a "new creation" (I Corinthians, 5:11) in a term which does not lose the personal identity but transforms it. So in the final change of the physical universe it does not lose its identity but will pass away as to its outward and recognisable form and be renewed in a fresh and more glorious one" (cf. Revelation 20:11).

The new heaven in verse 1 gives us some idea of the drastic effects of the rebellion of Satan and the fall of man. Our sins have indeed reached as high as the heavens. This does not, however, refer to the third heaven, the abode of God. This is rather the atmosphere and universe of creation. There is also a new earth. Peter tells us "the earth and it's works will be burned up" 2 Peter. 3:10. The word he uses is "luo", which literally means "release, set free." So the world is renovated and set free of the works and ravages of evil.

There was no more sea, The sea that is now so essential to animal and vegetable life on earth is not needed in God's eternity. He is not only the source of life as He ever was and is, but is then the direct sustainer of it. The universe in which we now live is going to be completely destroyed.

There are three earths mentioned in the Bible, the original earth Genesis 1:1,2 Peter 3:5, the restored earth, Genesis 1:3. 2 Peter 3:7 and the new earth Revelation 21:1 and 2 Peter 3:13. The inhabitants of the new earth will be the Old Testament saints and the regenerate of Israel.

What God can do with our present universe, in preparation for His eternal Kingdom, can only be guessed at. Yet perhaps we have a suggestion in the nature of the resurrection body of the saved where corruptible matter by the power of the Holy Spirit made glorious, powerful and imperishable (I Corinthians. 15:42-44). Whatever else this phrase "and there was no more sea" may mean, it seems to indicate the end of the old order (Exodus 20:11; Ezekiel 48:28). As understood literally it also indicates a complete change in climatic conditions.

The third new thing is in verse 2, it is the New Jerusalem. The heavenly Jerusalem is the eternal home of the saints that Jesus said He would prepare John. 14:1-3. Here the city is compared to a bride and is actually called "The bride, the wife of the Lamb" in verse 9. It is interesting that in John's day contemporary coins called Jerusalem the "holy city"

The Greek word "apo" translated from shows that the new Jerusalem comes from the ultimate source of God whilst "hietomazo", the word translated "prepared" is in the perfect tense which means that it was prepared in the past with a result that it continues for ever. Our provision is prepared for us before we need it and comes direct from God.

## **ETERNITY FUTURE**

In eternity future

- a) God reveals to us exceeding riches of His grace (Ephesians 2:7).
- b) God brings many sons into glory (Hebrews 2:10).
- c) Believers enjoy an inheritance. (1 Peter 1:4)
- d) It is God's purpose for the church to know the manifold wisdom of God. (Ephesians 3:10).
- e) All former things pass away. There will be no more death, sorrow, pain, crying, sea, night or sun. (Revelation 21:1-5,23).
- f) The curse will be lifted. (Revelation 22:3).
- g) All things in heaven and earth will be gathered in Him. (Ephesians 1:10).
- h) the present creation will be forgotten (Isaiah 65:17).
- i) a river of water of life will run (Revelation 22:1).
- j) the tree of life will be seen again. (Revelation 22:2).
- k) The Son of God will rule eternally. (Daniel 2:44; 7:13,14)
- l) He will still be subject to the Father. (John 10:29; 1 Corinthians 15:28).
- m) the lake of fire will continue forever (Isaiah 66:24; Revelation 14:11).

## **THE BRIDE**

1. The Body of Christ is being formed on the earth during the Church Age. (Ephesians 1:22, 23, 2:16, 4:4,5, 5:23, Colossians 1:18, 1:24, 2:19).
2. When the body is completed the Rapture occurs. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18, 1 Corinthians 15:51-7. Compared with Revelation 19:6-8, Zechariah 13:2 and 1 Thessalonians 3:13)
3. During the tribulation on earth the bride is being dressed in heaven.
  - (a) For ultimate sanctification - the resurrection body. (1 Corinthians 15:51-7, Philippians 3:2 1, 1 John 3:1,2).
  - (b) The bride is prepared by being cleansed from all human good. (1 Corinthians 3:12-15)
  - (c) The bride no longer possesses an old sin nature.
4. The bride returns at the second advent. (1 Thessalonians 3:13)
5. Upon the return of the bride and groom judgement occurs. (Psalm 110:1)
  - (a) Disarming of demons (Colossians 2:15)
  - (b) Satan is imprisoned for 1,000 years. (Revelation 20:1-3)
  - (c) Jesus Christ casts demons into prison Zechariah 13:2, Colossians 2:15, 1 Corinthians 15:24,25)
6. Coronation of the Groom, Jesus Christ is Crowned King of the World. (Revelation 19:6)
7. Wedding Supper of the Lamb. (Revelation 19:7-9)
  - (a) Marriage occurred in heaven, supper to take place on earth. (Matthew 25:1-13)
  - (b) Wedding supper described in detail (Revelation 19:6-9)
  - (c) Four categories involved in this supper:-
    - (i) The Groom - Jesus Christ.
    - (ii) The Friends of the Groom - Old Testament Saints (John 3:29)
    - (iii) The Bride - Church Age Believers.
    - (iv) The Friends of the Bride - Tribulation believers, i.e. those who have known the Bride and become believers. (Matthew 25:1-13)

## **FUNCTIONS OF THE HOLY CITY**

The holy city has three functions

[a] It will be the personal residence of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is of interest that on the basis of land formations Jerusalem is the most efficient city on earth as far as a cumulative minimum distance to the rest of the earth is concerned.

[b] It fulfils the promise to Abraham as it is a city that is provided in grace.

[c] This is the headquarters of the universe for eternity Hebrews 11:9-10

## **THREE PERFECT THINGS IN HEAVEN. 21:3-5**

**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. 4 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. 5 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.**

The three perfect things are

Perfect fellowship - verse 3,

Perfect happiness - verse 4

Perpetual newness - verse 5

## **PERFECT FELLOWSHIP**

Perfect Fellowship is demonstrated in verse 3. Jesus came to bring us into restored fellowship with God. John writes so that we might have this fellowship and its accompanying joy 1 John. 1:1-4. Yet in this world our fellowship is of a spiritual, inner, invisible nature. In Heaven God will dwell in our midst. The Greek word for "dwell" is "skenoō", which means literally "to tabernacle or be in the same tent as us."

This word "dwell" is used of Jesus in John. 1:14. He "tabernacled among us." In Him was the Shekinah glory of God in our midst. Therefore "Emmanuel" or God with us as stated in Matthew. 1:23 will be a final physical and eternal reality,

It is noted in this verse that the use of the word "He" indicates that it is a person, the Lord Jesus Christ, and not a literal Tabernacle or God's Tent.

The Tabernacle of God is a complete Christology in the Old Testament. This refers to Jesus Christ himself. Jesus Christ will be in His glory in eternity. Jesus Christ dwelt with Israel in the form of the Shekinah glory.

The glory of man comes from the light being absorbed or reflected but in the dark there is no glamour. If however you have light within you will be perpetually glamorous

## **TABERNACLE**

1. The Tabernacle was set up as the basic system of worship in Israel and was a part of the spiritual code of the Mosaic law portraying the person of Christ, the unique High Priest, the unique person, the unique Saviour.

a) The tabernacle also speaks of the human body in a tent or temporary storage place for the soul.

b) The tabernacle also portrays God's dwelling place and portrays God's dwelling with man in grace.

c) The tabernacle is also the place where man meets God and as the tabernacle represents the Lord Jesus Christ this shows that God meets people at the cross.

d) Only the priest was able to enter the tabernacle and only the believer today has fellowship with God.

- e) The tabernacle was given in fine detail and shows that God plans things down to the finest detail.
- f) The tabernacle was divided into two parts - the outer area which represented the earth and the inner which represented God's domain.
- g) The inner area was divided into two, the holy place in which the Levitical priests functioned, the Holy of Holies in which the high priest functioned once a year. The holy place represents heaven, the Holy of Holies representing the throne room of God where our High Priest Jesus Christ constantly intercedes for us.

2. The Tabernacle was located in the centre of the camp. All around the tabernacle were the tribes of Israel, three to each cardinal compass point.

Principle: Everybody starts on the outside, only those who enter the tabernacle (i.e. are born again) have fellowship with God.

3. The specifications which start in Exodus 25 commence with the Holy of Holies. This is to show that salvation starts with God and not man. All blessing comes from God.

4. The tabernacle is a perfect rectangle 100 cubits by 50 cubits, 175 feet long, 87 1/2 feet wide and 8'9" high. It was always that way and never changed - God is unchangeable. (Exodus 27:9-15)

5. The side of the tabernacle was supported by 60 brass pillars on the outer court, 60 brass sockets. Brass judgment, Pillars - cross. On the top of the pillars was a silver chapter. Silver - redemption. Twenty on the north and south side and 10 on the east and west sides. (Exodus 27:9-15)

6. The outside of the tabernacle was of fine white linen - representing the righteousness of God. (Exodus 27:9)

7. There was one door into the tabernacle - there is only one way to God - through Christ. The door was blue in colour and 35' wide. Once you had passed through the door you were inside the tabernacle representing imputed righteousness. The large width meant that all could pass through, the material was very fine showing that minimal faith was needed to enter in. (i.e. weak people could push the material aside). There were four layers of material. In order they were blue, purple, scarlet, white:- blue - deity of Christ, purple - Kingship of Christ, red - redemptive work of Christ, white - total righteousness of Christ. Thus by the time you had fully passed through the door the white righteousness of Christ encompassed you completely. (Exodus 26:36)

8. The pillars supporting the doors were of acacia wood overlaid with gold - the unique person of Christ. 5 pillars: 5 = grace, gold- deity, wood - humanity. (Exodus 26:37)

9. The floor of the tabernacle weighed 6 1/2 tonne.

10. The roof had four layers:(Exodus 26:1-14)

(a) Outer: Badger skin - Humanity Ram's wool dyed red - Redemption White Goat's hair - Sinlessness

(b) Inner: Fine linen - Righteousness

11. There were seven articles of furniture in the tabernacle:

a) The brazen altar outside the door.

b) The brazen laver near the door.

c) The table of shewbread.

d) The golden lampstand.

e) The golden altar near the veil.

f) The mercy seat.

g) The ark of the covenant.

The veil was between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies; the golden altar was associated with the Holy of Holies.

12. THE BRAZEN ALTAR (Exodus 27:1-8)

This was situated adjacent to the entrance into the tabernacle. Brass represents judgment. You could not enter into the Holy Place unless you had sacrificed on the brazen altar. Fire burnt the sacrifice. Fire judgment.

Application: You cannot enter the plan of God unless you have trusted in Christ at the cross.

13. THE BRAZEN LAVER (Exodus 30:17-21)

The brass bowl filled with water. This was also situated outside the tabernacle. Prior to entering the tabernacle the priest washed his hands representing confession of sin. Brass - sins judged on the cross. Water - cleansing.

Application: Before we can have fellowship with God we have to confess our sins. In the Church Age we are all priests, we have to confess our sins before we fellowship. Our brazen laver is 1 John 1:9

#### 14. TABLE OF SHEWBREAD (Exodus 25:23-30)

This was in the Holy Place, constructed of acacia wood overlaid with gold. Laying on top of the table was the shewbread, 12 loaves, one for each of the tribes except Levi. The loaves were made of fine flour without leaven baked with frankincense and baked in fire. Bread - fellowship, Fine flour - righteousness of Christ. No leaven - no sin. Frankincense - propitiation. Fire - judgment. The priests ate the loaves after they had been exhibited for 1 week. Eating represents intake of Bible doctrine. Each loaf was placed under a crown showing the Lord Jesus Christ is the King of Israel. No leper priest allowed to eat, neither a stranger.

#### 15. THE GOLD CANDLESTICK (Exodus 25:31-40)

This was also in the Holy Place constructed of gold - the candlestick represents Christ as the light of the world. There were seven candlesticks with a central stick, the other six branching off the central stick, three on either side. Six is man's number, seven is God's number - the perfect number.

Analogy - Man is made perfect in Christ.

The candlestick was the only light in the Holy Place. The fuel in the candlestick was oil. Oil represents the Holy Spirit. Oil in the centre stick represents Christ being empowered and relying on the Holy Spirit during his incarnation. Oil in the other lamps shows the Christian way of life walking in the Spirit. (Galatians 4:19, 5:22, 23) The six candlesticks branching off the central stick represents the Christian in union with Christ and fellowship between Christians.

The candlestick weighed 48 lbs. (21 kg) and was beaten out of one piece of gold. It was very valuable and shows the preciousness of Christ. The candlestick was fashioned by beating and represents Christ suffering for the sins of the world. On the top of the centre candlestick they had knobs or pomegranates representing the eternal life and perfection of Christ. There were also almond buds opening up representing Christ being the fount of all life.

Flowers occurred on all seven candlesticks. The flowers represent the beauty of the character of Christ which we produce when we are filled with the Spirit. Each lamp had a wick which drew the oil up through the lamps. The wick has to be soaked in oil before it burns otherwise it emits smoke. Light divine good or production. Smoke - human good or production.

Application: If the believer is empowered by the Holy Spirit he produces works which are noticeably different from the unbeliever. The burnt wick represents work for the Lord Jesus Christ. The priest used to collect the burnt wick and put it in a snuff box. God remembers our works for Him. (1 Corinthians 3:12-15)

An alternate interpretation of the candlestick likens the seven stems as the seven spirits of God as found in (Isaiah 11:2, Revelation 1:4). The spirit of the Lord, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

#### 16. THE GOLDEN ALTAR OF INCENSE (Exodus 30:1 -10)

This is located just outside the Holy of Holies and represents intercessory prayer. The altar was made of gold overlaying wood and was in the form of a crown. The priest would go to the brazen altar, pick up coals, pass through the holy place and place the coals into the crown. Incense was then sprinkled onto the coals and the fumes coming up from the incense represented prayer to God. By taking coals from the brazen altar it showed that the basis for effective prayer is the death of Christ. The unbeliever cannot pray effectively except for accepting Christ as Saviour. The only person who could obtain the coals was a priest representing a believer.

The crown is also significant. The cross must come before the crown, the crown also speaking of Christ the King priest after the order of Melchizedek. Fire spoke of judgment, the judgment of the cross being the basis for effective prayer. The Incense which was put on the altar contained four ingredients which speak of the work of Christ.

- a) Stukti - liquid from a gum tree representing the Father who is the recipient of prayer.
- b) Onoika - a ground-up shell (representing judgment). The burnt shell gave off a perfume (propitiation).
- c) Galbanin - the fat of a plant showing prosperity and representing the resurrection of Christ.
- d) Frankincense - a white gum used in crowning kings - representing the session of Christ.

#### 17. THE ARK OF THE COVENANT AND MERCY SEAT (Exodus 25:10-22)

Located in the Holy of Holies the mercy seat was of gold. Over the seat were two golden cherubs which covered the mercy seat with their wings and looked down at the top of the mercy seat. In a box under the mercy seat were three objects representing sin, the tables of the law representing transgression against moral laws, the pot of manna showing rejection of provision and Aaron's rod that budded showing rejection of authority. This was the ark of the covenant. Once a year on the feast of the atonement, blood from a sacrifice at the brazen altar was brought into the Holy of Holies and sprinkled on the mercy seat. The blood from the brazen altar represents the death of Christ. The cherubs, one representing the righteousness of God, the other the Justice of God look down, see the blood and are satisfied. The sin of the human race is removed by the death of Christ.

## **PERFECT HAPPINESS**

Verse 4 is a very encouraging verse. Here we have perfect happiness. By cleansing things by fire, God will institute perfect and perpetual happiness. Each of these relates to an area of present life where happiness is limited or destroyed.

The Greek word "dakru" meaning "a tear" shows that God will wipe away each and every tear. Tears speak of pain, emotion, sorrow and unhappiness. Death removes loved ones and often brings fear to those who remain.

Mourning speaks of the inner agony of which crying is the expression. Of course pain can be physical, mental, or emotional. These are the things which limit happiness in time.

The Greek word for "passed away" is in the aorist tense which means that they are removed at that point in time and forever.

It is only in the eternal state that the effects of sin, physical and moral are completely removed. It is only on this earth that God can show His love and provision in the believer's life through testing and trials.

## **DESTINY OF BELIEVERS**

1. He who believes in Jesus Christ has eternal life now (1 John 5:11-13). He will never die (John 11:25,26, John 8:51)

2. Believers are said to "fall asleep" at their death (1 Thessalonians 4:14). The soul departs to be consciously present with Christ, but the body "sleeps" in the grave until the resurrection (2 Corinthians 5:6-8)

3. When Christ comes at the Rapture, the bodies of those in Christ shall be raised from the dead (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 1 Corinthians 15:20-23)

4. Our physical bodies will be replaced by immortal bodies (2 Corinthians 5:1-4) - conformed to the body of Christ (Philippians 3:20-21)

5. We shall be like him (1 John 3:2) seeing His glory and reflecting it in ourselves (Colossians 3:4, John 17:22).

6. We will be rewarded because of works of faith (Luke 19:12-19) which will vary in proportion to our faithfulness in serving God (Matthew 6:20, 1 Corinthians 3:11-15)

7. In the Millennial Kingdom, we shall reign with Christ as priests of God and Christ (Revelation 20:6).

8. To the overcomer (1 John 5:4-5) Christ will give to eat of the tree of life (Revelation 2:7) and shall not be hurt by the second death - the lake of fire (Revelation 2:11). He will be given authority to rule over nations (Revelation 2:26-27) Jesus will acknowledge the believer before God (Revelation 3:4-5) who will be made a pillar in the temple of God. (Revelation 3:12) and will be seated with Christ in His own throne. (Revelation 3:21)

9. God will wipe away all tears from his eyes; sorrow, crying, pain, and death shall be no more (Revelation 21:4)

10. We shall know all things perfectly (1 Corinthians 13:12)

11. We will receive an incorruptible inheritance. (1 Peter 1:3-5) kept by our all powerful God in heaven.

## **PERPETUAL NEWNESS**

God now says in verse 5 that He is going to make all things new. "I am making all things new" is in the present tense, speaking of an ongoing process. How often the joy of some possession is dampened when the shine wears off--the newness is gone This will never happen in heaven. As Paul says: "In the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ" Ephesians. 2:7. Or as David says, Psalm 16:11: "In Thy presence is fullness of joy; In Thy right hand there are pleasures forever."

God on the throne declares His will. The old order of things is not improved, nor in any sense imported into the eternal state, for such a condition demands a state of things in conformity with it. The word for "new" kainos means the same as it did in verse 1; that is, new in character. In the eternal state nothing will get old. "True and faithful" shows that God is guaranteeing the situation here. Everything is based on the absolute stability and character of God

## **THE INHERITANCE OF ETERNITY. (Verses. 6-8)**

**6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. 7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.**

Three things are restored here. The first two in verses 6-7 are given to believers; the last in verse 8 is the inheritance of the unsaved. "It is done" means that it has come to pass. This is in the perfect tense showing that it will always exist.

Christ is the "Alpha and Omega" Revelation 1:8. His promise to believers is the water of life. Eternity is an expression of God's character. The believer thirsts at the point he becomes aware of God and also thirsts at the point of hearing the gospel. The water of life is gospel hearing. People go into eternity through faith in Christ. Thus, the first promise is made of an abundance of water to the one who is thirsty. It refers to the abundant character of eternal life and the blessings that flow from it.

The inheritance of the saints is mentioned by Peter in 1 Peter 1:3-5. This inheritance is amplified as we go on. This verse speaks of eternal relationships. The overcomer of 1 John 5:4,5 inherits all things. This is the person who believes in the Lord Jesus Christ. In the previous verse we had the gospel, here we have the acceptance of the gospel. The relationship established in time will continue through to eternity.

The promises to the overcomer in chapters two and three had respect to special circumstances, and are in view of special rewards. But here the encouragement to persevere to the end in the general battle of life is greater; as the rewards are more full than those mentioned in the early chapters. Sonship, therefore, is an eternal relationship as the overcomer has God and God has the overcomer through the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ

## **FATHERHOOD OF GOD**

1. The Father over creation - all beings get their life and very existence from God. (Ephesians 3:14, James 1:17)

2. The Father of Israel. - Exodus 4:22 - Israel is my son - this is my firstborn. God has a special relationship with Israel,

3. protecting and caring for the nation. However, not all Jews are saved.

4. The Father of the Lord Jesus Christ - Ephesians 1:3.

a) This indicates the roles within the Trinity - the Father God in control, and the obedient Son Of God who obeyed the Father's plan and purpose.

b) It also shows the intimate relationship of love and dependence between the earthly Jesus and His true Father in heaven.

5. The Father of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 8:15, Galatians 4:6-7)

a) Only in Christ do we become brothers. (Galatians 3:27-29) This is the result of the Holy Spirit who baptizes us into the body of Christ and makes us a new creation in Him. (1 Corinthians 12:13, Ephesians 4:5)

b) God is not the spiritual father of the unregenerate man, they are His creation but not His children. (John 14:6) Before salvation we were sons of our sinful nature. (John 8:42-47, Ephesians 2:19)

**8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.**

The Greek word "meros" translated "part" can be translated part or division which means that each unbeliever will have a personal section of fire. Therefore given to the unsaved is their "part" or lot of inheritance which is a section of the Lake of Fire This is called the second or eternal death or eternal separation from God. Notice that the characteristics of verse 8 are all qualified by the word "unbelieving." Eternal judgement is based on rejection of Jesus Christ John. 3:16-19.

### **CATEGORIES OF UNBELIEVERS**

Six categories of unbeliever are given:-

[a] The abominable or polluted, these are the people seen in Revelation 17 and 18.

[b] Murderers are violent and lawless

[c] Whoremongers are pimps

[d] Sorcerers are people under the influence of drugs.

[e] Idolaters refers to the facade of religion

[f] Liars are the deceitful unbelievers, the hypocrite.

Here the unbeliever is categorised as a coward. It should be translated but the coward even the unbeliever. The unbeliever should be a coward when he thinks of the Lake of Fire. This is the unbeliever in eternity. Particular notice should be made to the text in that it does not say that anyone who has ever committed any of these sins will be excluded, but people whose lives are characterised in these ways. There is a difference, for instance, in ever telling a lie and being a liar as a habit of one's life. No true believer could be categorised by this list of sins.

### **NOT OF THIS WORLD**

1. The believer has a different position. (1 Corinthians 15:22). In Adam all die but in Christ shall all be made alive.

2. The believer has a different birth. (John 3:5-7, Titus 3:5). Natural generation versus regeneration. All are born into the world. Believers only are born again. This places one outside the framework of the devil's world.

3. The believer has a different service. The unbeliever serves his father the devil. (John 8:44) The believer serves Christ. (John 13:16, 15:20)

4. The believer has a different purpose. (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20, Romans 15:6). The unbeliever in the world system is seeking some form of self gratification. Believer is under the form of God glorification.

5. The believer has a different power. (Galatians 5:16). The energy of the flesh versus the power of the Spirit. The satanic doctrine versus the power of the Word of God.

6. Different way of life. (Ephesians 4:22, 2:13). The world's way of life is religion and legalism. The Christian way of life is supernatural.

7. A difference in destiny. (John 3:36, 3:18). The World is headed for the lake of fire prepared for the devil and his angels. The believer is headed for heaven.

### **THE NEW JERUSALEM AMPLIFIED - VERSES. 9-27**

9 And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. 10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, 11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; 12 And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: 13 On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. 15 And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. 16 And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. 17 And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel. 18 And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. 19 And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; 20 The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. 21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass. 21:22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. 23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. 24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. 25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. 26 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. 27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

**INTRODUCTION**

The city is now presented as "the bride, the Lamb's wife." We saw her previously in Revelation 19:7-9. This refers to the Church Ephesians. 5:32. This is important because the figures used to illustrate the city are speaking of the Church. Remember that every Christian is called a "living stone" of God's building 1 Peter. 2:5. so what we see here is spiritual, not physical, in nature. One more thing: In 1 Corinthians 3:11-15 the building materials of divine good are called "gold, silver, precious stones." These are said to stand forever.

In Revelation 19:7-8 the adorning of the bride is called "the righteous acts of the Saints." Therefore the city is presented in terms of these things because this is the Church in her eternal rewards. Every stone or precious metal in effect represents the divine good and consequent eternal reward of an individual believer.

John in verse 9 is now asked by one of the angels who poured out the bowl judgments to view the city in greater detail. Having seen the New Jerusalem he now seeks an amplified and detailed view of the city suspended over the earth.

Her glory is the reflected glory of Christ which we are told we will receive in passages such as Romans. 8:18 and 2 Corinthians 3:18, 4:17-18. The crystal clear jasper speaks of the purity of our holiness in Christ. Even now we are the "temple of God" 1 Corinthians. 3:16, 6:19. In heaven the Shekinah glory of God will be fully revealed in us. Here we have the New Jerusalem , Zechariah 2 and Ezekiel 42-48 describes the Millennial Jerusalem. The city arrives as a completed package. When something comes from God it comes completed. Adam and Eve had perfect environment, Satan was originally perfect.

**CONTRAST BETWEEN THE MILLENNIAL AND ETERNAL JERUSALEMS**

<b>MILLENNIAL JERUSALEM</b>	<b>ETERNAL JERUSALEM</b>
This city has natural light	This city has supernatural light
This city has no walls - Zechariah 2:4-5	This city has walls - Revelation 21:12
This city contains a Temple Ezekiel 40-48	This city has no Temple- Revelation 21:22
Animal sacrifices will operate in this city Ezekiel 47:1 ff	There will be no animal sacrifices in this city
Living water comes out of the Temple Ezekiel 47:1	Water comes out of the Throne Revelation 22:1
There are unsaved people in this city Zechariah 12:6	Only saved people in the city Revelation 21:24

The clause "having the glory of God" in verse 11 syntactically is related with verse 10. The perfect jasper stone is probably a diamond. The emphasis on the wealth of the New Jerusalem would remind the older Jewish readers of the glory of the Temple whose gates had been adorned with gold and silver. Isaiah 60:1-3

These hard and indestructible gems are fit emblems of permanence in the glorified state (I Corinthians. 15:50). Also, both stones are employed to set forth the glory and majesty of God on His throne Revelation. 4:3. Having the glory of God is therefore reflecting the glory of God.

The wall of the city is obviously not needed for protection in heaven. This wall represents two eternal realities: separation and security. These both come to us by faith. The wall of faith sets us apart from the rest of mankind where we are secure in God's grace. In this wall are gates of entry.

The gates bear the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. This is a memorial to Israel as the Covenant-people by whom Christ came Romans. 9:1-5. To them were given the four unconditional covenants of the Old Testament the Abrahamic, Palestinian, Davidic, and New Covenant.

These covenants all depend upon the Seed of Abraham in whom "all families of the earth shall be blessed" Genesis 12:3; Galatians 3:16. These covenants, and faith in the coming seed, once stood as a "wall of partition" between Jews and Gentiles Ephesians. 2:11-22. At the juncture of that wall of Israel and the Church is the Cornerstone, Jesus Christ 1 Peter. 2:6-10.

The new Jerusalem will have a great and high wall suggesting the security of the bride. In the wall are twelve gates with an angel at each one and the names of the twelve tribes of Israel inscribed on them. John does not reveal the name of each gate in contrast to the millennial scene in which Ezekiel gives the names of tribes of Israel as inscribed on the gates of the city at that time (cf. Ezekiel 48:31-35). The fact that the new Jerusalem will have gates implies that its citizens will have freedom to go in and out.

The three gates on each of the sides is in contrast with the Tabernacle where the entrance was in the east and those worshipping moved towards the west. The wise men came from the east to the west. Adam and his family were sent out to the east of Eden and came back to present their sacrifices by coming west.

The elders of Israel were condemned by the Lord for worshipping the rising sun with their backs to the Temple. We must always worship the Creator and not the created thing. Our church buildings should run from the east to the west with the entrance at the east rather than in the cases of most cathedrals entering from the west and moving east.

The foundation of the wall relates to our faith which must have a solid foundation. The foundation stones bear the names of the twelve Apostles of Christ. As Christians we are told in Jude 3 to defend the truth that was once and forever given to us by the apostles

This is the same truth taught in Ephesians. 2:20 which says: "Having been built on the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone ." The subject of that passage is the household of faith, made up of all who believe in Jesus Christ. The twelve apostles of the Lamb are the eleven plus Paul.

The fact that the names of the apostles are written on the foundations also recalls to mind the words of the apostle Paul as he wrote "built upon the foundation of the apostles" (Ephesians 2:12). Even in eternity Israel and the church are distinguished though both are included in God's redeemed people.

The golden reed in verse 15 is a measuring instrument as we saw previously in Revelation 11:1-2. The measuring rod comes from Ezekiel 40:3, the measurements of the city were to produce awe of God's great promises and thus repentance Ezekiel 40:4, 43:10-11 The angel that talked with John now measures the dimensions of the city. Using a golden reed (3 metres long) the angel finds that the city is square its length and breadth being equal, 12,000 furlongs (verse 16). A furlong is an eighth of a mile so the total distance would be equal to 2,500 kilometres. As this is a cube or foursquare shape the amount of space that will be occupied by the city is staggering.

It is of interest that 2 Chronicles 3:8 tells us the Holy of Holies in Solomon's Temple was a perfect cube, 20 cubits each way. In the ancient world the cube was the symbol of perfection. Its form was also used for the Brazen Altar and the breastplate of the High Priest Both the altar of burnt offering and the altar of incense

were of this form and so was the High Priest's breastplate cf. Exodus 27:1, 28:16, 30:2; 1 Kings. 6:20. The feature also reappears in Ezekiel's new city and temple (Ezekiel 41:21; 43:16; 45:1; 48:20). In ancient cities the foursquare form was not unusual.. As is well known, the rectangular tetragon was to Greek thinkers a symbol of perfection.

The cube or city however should be understood as a place where everyone will dwell throughout eternity. The saints will have access to and from it, The implications are however that there is an abundant amount of room for all, The cube or foursquare shape of the city reminds one of the fourfold dimensions given of the love of God (Ephesians. 3:18).

The measurement of the wall is 144,000 cubits. The number 144 is 12 squared .In regards to the number 12 it is of interest that there were twelve people anointed for government of various kinds with the first five being priests and the last seven being kings

It can be seen in the list below that Saul was the sixth anointed, six being the number of man and Saul being man's choice In contrast David was the seventh, seven being God's number and David being God's choice.

#### PRIESTS

Aaron	Exodus 29:7,9
Nadab	Exodus 29:7,9
Abihu	Exodus 29:7,9
Eleazar	Exodus 29:7,9
Ithamar	Exodus 29:7,9

#### KINGS

Saul	1 Samuel 10:1
David	1 Samuel 16:13
Absolom	2 Samuel 19:10
Solomon	1 Kings 1:39
Jehu	2 Kings 9:6
Joash	2 Kings 11:12
Jehoahaz	2 Kings 23:30

#### THE MATERIALS OF THE CITY

In verse 18 we are told of the material that the city was made of. Here again we see materials used elsewhere in Scripture. The jasper we saw in Verse. 11 is a picture of purity.

Pure gold throughout Scripture represents the Righteousness of God as in the articles of the Tabernacle. As gold like clear glass, the indwelling glory would shine out giving the "lustrous brilliance" of Verse. 11.

Man in his finite scientific knowledge has only been able to purify gold to a degree of opaqueness. But here, the infinite God of all science will present a city of transparent gold. Thus, in the divine righteousness of God, the believer is assured of not only complete justification but also complete glorification (cf. Romans 8:29-30).

The stones of verses 19-20 were used to make the breastplate of the High Priest. Each has its own beauty and glory as does every believer in Jesus Christ. Every one reflects God's grace, glory, and righteousness in a different way. We all have different spiritual gifts but we can all reflect the glory of God.

The foundation of the wall was adorned with these twelve precious stones The Greek word for garnished is "kosmeo" a word from which we derive the English word "cosmetics"

This spectrum of beauty reflects the beauty and glory of God.

The first layer of jasper is generally considered to have included several kinds of delicate translucent colours, blue, green, and rosy tints.

The second, sapphire; blue in colour.

The third foundation of chalcedony was sky blue with stripes of other colours running through it. The mines for chalcedony were found in Chalcedon near the Black Sea

The fourth, emerald; a bright green colour.

The fifth foundation the sardonyx has a red and white tone to it,

The sixth, a sardius stone is found in both red and honey colour (cf. Rev. 4~3).

The seventh, chrysolite, a transparent golden colour.

The eighth foundation, beryl is sea-green as to colour.  
The ninth topaz is a transparent stone of yellow-green colour.  
The tenth chrysolite, is generally described as green.  
The eleventh foundation, the jacinth is a violet colour.  
The last stone, the amethyst is purple. On top of this beautiful foundation stands the walls of jasper and the city of gold.

The Greek word for street in verse 21 is "plateia" which means a broad wide street. This is in contrast to "rhune" which is a narrow street or alley

The street which is in the singular, not "streets" was of pure transparent gold. If gold represents the righteousness of God here Psalm 19:10, and a street is the place of travel, then we have the saints walking in the perfect righteousness of God.

## THE GATES OF THE CITY

The gates are transparent pearls. The pearl was valued above all stones in the ancient world. Jesus spoke of the "pearl of great price" in Matthew. 13:46. This represents the incomparable value of entering the Kingdom of God, so much so that a man would sell all he owns to obtain it. Thus the gates of "access" through the "wall" of faith fit the figure of a single pearl.

Built in the walls are the twelve gates that John describes as each being made of one huge pearl. When one reflects as to the creation of a pearl in the depths of the sea, the irritation of a single grain of sand. Here a thing of beauty comes from adversity. It however pales into insignificance when paralleled with the sufferings of our Lord to produce gates such as these, gates of perfection with access for all believers.

In verse 22 we see that inside The City there is no need of a temple. John would have looked for this. In reality the entire city is the Holy of Holies indwelt by God Himself. Here we see the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We as believers will dwell intimately with God forever.

There is no need of sun or moon in the city. The city is illumined by God's glory. The fact that the nations walk by its light suggests two things. First, the city apparently orbits the new earth acting as the eternal sun. That God Himself is the light of the city is in keeping with many passages of Scripture (cf., John 1:7-9; 3:19; 8:12; 12:35).

## PROPHECY - PRESENTED WITH GIFTS

Scripture - Isaiah 60:1-6

1. Like many of the prophecies in the Scriptures, this prophecy has two fulfillments: one concerning the first advent as portrayed by the Magi, the other after the second advent at the end of the millennium.
2. Given in the reign of Hezekiah, this prophecy must have given comfort to the kingdom of Judah seeing that Israel or Samaria had been conquered and dispersed by Assyria only a few years previously and the Assyrian threat to Judah was ever present.

Fulfillment - Matthew 2:1,11 (4 BC): **'Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem. "And when they were come into the house they saw the young child with Mary his mother and fell down and worshipped him and when they had opened their treasures they presented unto him gifts: gold and frankincense and myrrh.'**

The wise men, the Magi, were Gentiles who came to worship Jesus Christ the King. The gifts brought by the Magi portrayed different facets of the humanity of Christ:

- (a) Gold - showing Jesus Christ the King.
- (b) Frankincense - Jesus Christ the Priest
- (c) Myrrh - Jesus Christ the Saviour.

It should be noted that the wise men came into the house and not the stable. The young child was about eighteen months old, as the Greek word for young child, "paidion", is used rather than that for a baby, "brephos".

Fulfillment - Revelation 21:23-26 (end of millennium): **And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.**

The second fulfillment shows the New Jerusalem with kings and Gentiles coming to bring honour to the Lord of all. They walk in his light and bring their glory and honour to him.

In verse 24 the city will be the place of worship to which the inhabitants of the nations will bring their honour and glory. Those of the nations reside, not in the city, but on the renovated earth.

## **RACE AND EQUALITY**

1. Many books of the Bible show the divine separation of mankind into races and nations. (Genesis. 10:25; Deuteronomy. 32:8) They were descended from Noah's three sons Ham, Shem and Japheth. (Genesis. 9:19)

2 In Israel it was forbidden to intermarry with other nations. (Deuteronomy. 7:1-3) and where such marriages occurred it brought the wrath of God. (Ezra 10:2,14)

(a) Solomon's union with foreign women was evil. (Nehemiah. 13:23-27)

(b) Abraham forbade Isaac to marry outside his people. (Genesis 28:1)

(c) Esau's marriage to Hittites brought grief (Genesis 26:34,35)

(d) Moses' marriage to an Ethiopian caused trouble. (Numbers 12:1)

3. Nations will continue into eternity (Revelation. 5:9, 21:24)

4. The threefold split of humanity appears in the book of Acts as examples of salvation.

(a) An Ethiopian (Hamitic) is saved in (Acts 10:1 -48)

(b) Saul (Semitic); is converted in (Acts 9:1-16)

(c) Cornelius (Japhetic) is regenerated in (Acts 10:1-48)

5. Whatever the differences the human race has many equalities:-

(a) We are all sinners (Romans 3:23)

(b) We all are converted in the same way - faith in Christ.

(c) In Christ all men are equal (Ephesians. 4:5)

(d) We are all baptised into the one body (Ephesians. 4:4)

(e) We have one Lord - Christ (Ephesians. 4:5)

Verse 25 says that the gates will never shut and there will be perpetual day. Like the gates of ancient cities the Temple gates in Old Jerusalem were closed at night. The city itself shall be one great body of light and glory. Thus, there is no night with its darkness its fears, and its terrors. The believer now enters upon an eternal day which he will know no setting sun. The statement "its gates shall never be closed" indicates that there will be continuous eternal activity by the saints, as their glorified bodies and will require no rest,

The glory of the nations go up to the New Jerusalem in verse 26 These are the eternal joys of the saved

## **NATIONS**

1. In the Scriptures there are four words used for the non-Jewish, non-church groups. They are nations, gentiles, people and heathen. They are distinguished from the Jews and Church (1 Corinthians 10:32).

2. There is a time of history called the times of the Gentiles.

(a) It began when God gave them world rulership (Daniel 2:38; Jeremiah 27:6,7).

(b) It is fulfilled when Christ returns (Luke 21:24).

(c) It ends when Christ sets up His kingdom (Daniel 2:44; Revelation 11:15).

It should not be confused with the Gentile or Family dispensation.

3. The destiny of nations is determined by their relationship:-

(a) their relationship to God (Psalm 33:12).

(b) to the law (Proverbs 14:34)

(c) to Satan (Isaiah 14:12,16)

- (d) to God's programme (Acts 15:14)
- (e) to the Jews (Genesis 12:3).

4. Prophetically, the destiny of nations is given as:

- (a) Distress will come to them (Matthew 24:12; Luke 21:25).
- (b) Many will be saved during the Tribulation (Revelation 7:9,14).
- (c) War, famine and disease will affect them (Matthew 24:7,22).
- (d) A world ruler will rule all nations (Revelation 13:7).
- (e) All nations gather at Armageddon (Zechariah 14:2; Revelation 16:13-16).
- [f] Christ will return in judgment (Revelation 19:11-21).
- [g] Righteous Gentiles will enter His kingdom (Matthew 25:31-34).
- [h] Nations will serve Him (Daniel 7:14).
- (i) They continue into eternity (Revelation 21:24-26).

Verse 27 clearly declares will not be enjoyed by any who reject Christ. cf. Revelation 13:8, 21:8 John closes the chapter with a solemn reminder that if they had not believed, they too would have been excluded from an eternal life of purity and bliss. That which defiles refers to the fallen angels or unbelievers which is contrasted with the believer whose name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

## **CONCLUSION**

Sin in every phase and vestige is completely excluded from this holy scene, (cf., Revelation. 20:7-10). The least spot or taint of evil could not stand the glare of the divine glory of God end the Lamb. Those who enter in are defined as the one's who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

## **CHAPTER TWENTY TWO**

Chapter 22 can be divided into three sections

[A] - Five Eternal Joys. [Verses 1-5]

[B] - Four Keys To Eternal Blessing. (Verses. 6-14)

[C] - God's Final Invitation. (Verses. 15-21)

### **A FIVE ETERNAL JOYS - VERSES 1-5)**

**1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. 2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: 4 And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. 5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.**

### **INTRODUCTION**

In this section we see the effects of the fall of Adam reversed, and through Jesus Christ, the last Adam (1 Corinthians 15:45-49), we have Paradise regained. It should be remembered in using these terms, however, that what we have in Christ is far superior to anything Adam had in the garden.

We have five eternal joys in this section,

A river of living water [verse 1],

The tree of life [verse 2],

The curse removed [verse 3],

Fellowship and Service [verse 3]

The eternal reign of Christ [verse 5]

In verse 1 we see the water of life. The Garden of Eden was watered by a river (Genesis. 2:10-14). In John 7:37-39 Jesus speaks of "rivers of living water" which John tells us anticipates the life-giving and sustaining ministry of the Holy Spirit. This being the case we see the full and unified working of the Trinity here, for the "living water" comes from the Throne of God and of the Lamb.

The "street" in verse 2 is singular as in 21:21. This street represents the "one way" into heaven which is through the Lord Jesus Christ John 14:6. In the middle of the street is the tree of life. Access to the tree was forfeited by Adam and Eve in their fall (Genesis 3:24). Here the tree is restored to the company of the saved.

The "healing of the nations" is an idea that comes from Ezekiel 47:12. The word "healing" is "therapeuo", from which get the word therapy can also refer to a state of healthy existence. God will perpetuate the Divine institution of nationalism forever as a memorial of Divine order and the diversity of His people.

The curse is removed in verse 3 . At the fall the human race came under the curse of sin and death. The consequences of sin affect every phase of life (cf. Gen. 2:17, 3:14-19; Hebrews. 2:14,15). The greatest part of this curse involved man's separation from his Creator. Now perfect fellowship is restored.

In this eternal state of restored fellowship the servants of God will serve Him. The word "latreuo" used here speaks of priestly service or worship. The service of this life will be amplified in eternity according to our faithfulness. The parable of the talents (Matthew. 25:14ff) suggests that our eternal service may even be of the same kind, i.e., continuation of spiritual gifts.

In verse 4 the Greek word "Horao" translated "see" means to have a panoramic view. They shall fully see the Lord and will be seen as His possession. In this service we "shall see His face" (cf. Matthew. 5:8) and bear His name on our forehead (cf. Revelation. 7:3, 9:4).

In verse 5 we see the everlasting reign of the Lord Jesus Christ. Again, at the fall, Adam lost the dominion God had given him (Genesis. 1:26), and the sceptre of world rule was usurped by Satan (2 Corinthians. 4:4). However under the illumination of God who is Light (1 John. 1:5) we "shall reign forever and ever." This fulfils the promise of Revelation . 2:26-27, 3:21.

## **B FOUR KEYS TO ETERNAL BLESSING. - VERSES. 6-14**

**6 And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done. 7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book. 8 And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. 9 Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God. 10 And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand. 11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. 12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. 13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. 14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.**

The four keys to eternal blessing are

The Word of God,

The worship of God,

The work of faith

Regeneration.

Repeatedly in the Word of God, and especially in the Revelation God gives the invitation to all to come to Christ and receive the gift of righteousness and life leading to eternal blessing. Here at the close of the book God repeats four aspects of the work of redeeming grace. Again the truth of God is affirmed. The certainty of these things rests on the "God who cannot lie" (Hebrews. 6:18-20).

The book of Revelation is in fact a text book and guide for life. It gives future hope while laying out for us the trends of evil developing in this age and how to overcome them. Every blessing in time and eternity comes first through a grasp of the Word of God.

Three times in this chapter in verses. 7,12 and 20 Jesus promises His return. Each time blessing is in view, but there is also warning to those who remain in unbelief. Here in verse 7 is the sixth blessing of the book. It promises eternal joy to those who heed the teachings of this book. No other New Testament book promises so much blessing to those who carefully study and understand it. This is a warning that the Second Advent is going to be on schedule and may unbelievers are going to be caught out by the Baptism of Fire.

For the second time John is overwhelmed in verse 8 with all he has seen and heard and attempts to worship the teaching angel (cf. 19:10). Again the angel rebukes him and identifies himself as a fellow-servant of the prophets.

Worship is in the aorist active imperative. The imperative mood shows that John is commanded by the angel to worship, active voice John has to do it himself. This is again the teaching angel with whom John is grateful and very impressed. The interpreting angel is the same as a prophet. The prophets however are seen as human as they are called John's brothers.

## **TRUE WORSHIP**

The Bible leads to true worship. True worship involves at least four ingredients:

- [a] Sacrifice (Genesis 22:5). In this passage the word "worship" first occurs in Scripture.
- [b] Separation (Psalm 29:2). Biblical separation is both negative (from sin) and positive (to God).
- [c] Divine provisions to make worship possible, worship in spirit and in truth. (John.4:24). True worship depends entirely on the provisions of God's Grace. These are two-fold. First, the ministry of the Holy Spirit within; secondly, the ministry of the Word of God without. Those who worship filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18) in the study of truth, will be sought out by God.
- [d] A way of life (Romans 12:1-2). Only when worship becomes a lifestyle do the blessing and benefits of worship become a reality in life.

In verse 10 in contrast to the book of Daniel (Daniel 8:26, 12:10), John is commanded not to seal the book. The "time" of its fulfillment is at hand. The book of the Revelation is an open book that is meant to be understood by believers. During history God has provided additional material in writing starting with Moses and the Pentateuch, the completion of the Old Testament Canon and in John's day the completion of the Bible with the Book of the Revelation. We have the whole realm of the Scriptures. The time is at hand means that the final countdown has started.

Verse 11 emphatically lays personal responsibility on each person for their response to this revelation. He that is filthy is a noun. The present active participle of the Greek word "adikeo" translated filthy shows that the person who is unjust wants to be so because he has rejected Christ. Here we have division in time again, unbeliever and believer.

The time will come when Jesus will shut the door (Matthew. 25:10; Luke. 13:25). Every person will forever be a product of their own decision regarding Christ. Bible doctrine can persuade but you cannot coerce. If the gospel does not change them they cannot be changed. He that is a believer in time retains that status in eternity.

The promise of reward for those who submit in faith is echoed throughout Scripture and again appears in verse 12. These are given by the Chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5:4). The phrase "what he has done" is literally, "as his work is." The work of God is to believe on Him whom He sent (John. 6:29). This again looks at the Second Advent of Christ and rewards that will be given at that stage.

Christ again is seen as eternal in verse 13 , He was before the beginning and will be there after the end of time. He is and always will be God. As God is everlasting and we are in Christ we have everlasting life. The Lord Jesus Christ is the beginning and the end.

The final blessing of the book is given in verse 14 where it proclaims the blessed state of those "washed" by faith. This is the same washing that Jesus spoke in John. 13:10, 15:3 and Titus 3:5. Earlier in Revelation 7:14 tells of those who "have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." This speaks of the cleansing of those who place their trust in the sacrificial work of Jesus Christ as their substitute on the Cross.

Because He was imputed with our sins, we can receive His righteousness as a gift (2 Corinthians. 5:21; Romans. 6:23). Remember that the book began, "from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the first born of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us, and released us from our sins by His blood" (Revelation 1:5).

### **GOD'S FINAL INVITATION. (VERSES. 15-21)**

**15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. 16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. 17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. 18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. 20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. 21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.**

Verse 15 reminds us again of the eternal outcasts, those who have rejected deliverance from sin and evil through Christ. Then based on this warning we have God's final invitation. Here we have the future of the unbeliever. Dogs represent unbelievers. Not everyone goes to heaven. Those who are not born again are condemned and will not enter into eternal bliss John 3:18

First Jesus Himself calls men to come to Him (cf. Matthew. 11:28-29). He is the "root", or origin, as well as the "offspring" of David. He is both David's Lord and David's Son which speaks firstly of His deity and then His humanity (Matthew. 22:43-45). He is the "Morning Star" (Numbers. 24:17; Luke. 1:78; 2 Peter. 1:19). In the darkest time of human history, the bright and morning star is a special light as the brightness of His person is contrasted with the decadence of man..

He will still shine as the promise of the rising of the "Sun of Righteousness" (Malachi. 4:2) It is to our advantage that the teaching angel taught John and through him, us. Revelation is meant to be understood and we as believers are meant to be blessed.

### **MESSIANIC TYPES**

In order for the Jews to keep the hope of the Messiah alive, many types and figures were used.

1. **IMMANUEL** - God with us. (Isaiah 7:14). He is further described in (Isaiah 9:6). "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given and the government shall be upon his shoulders and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.
2. **SUFFERING SERVANT** - The Redeemer. (Isaiah 42:1-4; 49:1-6; 50:4-9; 52:13-53:12).
3. **THE BRANCH** - in four forms.
  - (a) Branch of David. (Isaiah 11:1; Jeremiah 23:5; 33:15).
  - (b) Servant the Branch (Zechariah 3:8).
  - (c) Man whose name is the Branch. (Zechariah 6:12).
  - (d) Branch of the Lord (1 Samuel 4:2).
4. **SON OF MAN** (Daniel 7:13,14).

5. SON OF DAVID (Psalm 2:7; 2 Samuel 7:12,13).
6. STAR AND SCEPTRE - In the prophecy of Balaam in (Numbers 24:17) it states, "I shall see Him but not now. I shall behold Him but not nigh: There shall come a Star out of Jacob and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel. "  
 (a) THE STAR relates to kinship (Revelation 22:16)  
 (b) THE SCEPTRE relates to royalty. (Psalm 45:6; Amos 1:5,8).
7. SHILOH - In the prophecy of the tribes in (Genesis 49:10) "the Sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet until Shiloh come and unto Him shall the gathering of the people be. "  
 (a) SHILOH is the equivalent of the Prince of Peace.  
 (b) SHILOH was where Joshua erected the Tabernacle.  
 (c) SHILOH also has the meaning WHOSE IT IS - the rulership principle.
8. CORNERSTONE (Isaiah 28:16). The cornerstone is in sharp contrast to the Empires of the ancient world. (Daniel 2:34-44).  
 Jesus is shown as the rejected stone. (Psalm 118:22,23) as well as the headstone.  
 We are called 'living stones' (1 Peter 2:4-7).  
 It is on this cornerstone that Christ builds His church.
9. ANGEL OF JEHOVAH - many examples (Genesis 16; 18; 22; Exodus 3; Joshua 5; Judges 6).

The invitation is restated again by the Holy Spirit in verse 17. He says "Come!" Come is the Greek word "erchomai" which is in the present middle imperative, present tense - as long as a person is alive, middle voice - the person is benefited from coming, imperative mood - it is an order. The word translated freely is "dorean" Freely is the adverb of grace, it is without cost. God only works in grace free from man's works.

Grace is God's unmerited favour. As believers the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ is always with us.

This is the Holy Spirit saying come. No one can understand the gospel unless it is made clear in the soulish mind of the unbeliever. To the thirsty of soul, the call is "come" (cf. Isaiah. 51:1-5). Those who have heard are to come as are those who have a thirst for spiritual things.

### **EFFECTIVE CALLING**

1. Drawing (Gk. elkuo) means to draw, lead or impel. In this case the drawing or calling is in love. All the elect will freely respond to the work of the Holy Spirit. The drawing provides the motive to respond.
2. All people are called to repent, but only the elect are drawn. (John 3:16, 36, 12:32 16:8-11, 1 John 2:2)
3. Believers, Called Ones, Elect, are all names for the same person. God calls, the Holy Spirit works, we simply respond to the call of Love. (Jeremiah 31:3, John 3:16)
4. The calling provides the motivation for the expression of love in the unbeliever who is positive towards salvation. (Philippians 2:13)
5. God can thereby give His gift of salvation to the elect. (John 1:13, Romans 9:16 Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:5-6)
6. God therefore gets the glory for His work, we get the benefits (Jude 24-25)
  - (a) God planned it in eternity past.
  - (b) God provides it at the cross.
  - (c) God prepares for it in the life by conviction.
  - (d) God provides the motivation to accept the offer.
  - (e) God gives the gift of salvation to the elect.
  - (f) God gives the Holy Spirit to the new believer.
  - (g) God has prepared a new body for the believer.

In verses 18 and 19 we have John's warnings against any human tampering with the Revelation of God. [cf. Deuteronomy. 4:2]. The Word of God is perfect and anyone who tampers with it is judged in a most severe way.

The book concludes with the promise of the imminent return of our Lord, and the response of John is, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." In the meantime, we are to live by means of God's grace.

Paul writes to the Thessalonians (1 Thessalonians. 1:9-10) that as they anticipate Christ's return they are to "serve and wait." The Bible always gives balance to life.

## **CONCLUSION**

We live in this period in a very interesting and challenging era. My prayer is that each person who reads this study might enter into "the grace of the Lord Jesus" increasingly and that the blessings of this book will be yours in full measure as you travel as a pilgrim towards your destination - Amen