

THE COMING OF THE LORD

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IN MEMORIAM

* Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer who has gone to be with the Lord, will long be remembered for his teaching, preaching and writings. The last time the author of this book had seen Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer was when visiting him in his home while on furlough. As we bade farewell to each other and started off by car, I glanced back and waved good bye, and there I saw him standing on the side of the road looking in my direction and pointing towards the clouds.

It was a wonderful sight to behold and the memory of it has always been as vivid as the day I saw him standing there. A man of God who preached, taught and lived the Word of God. This book is fittingly sent forth for God's glory, in memory of Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer, the great Theologian, writer and Bible teacher.

Rev. Andrew J. Losier

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PART I

Introduction

THE COMING OF THE LORD

There has been much confusion and misunderstanding as well as misinterpretation concerning God's revelation of the Coming of the Son of God in the clouds and to the Earth. May we keep in mind that the Lord is coming for His Believers and He is coming with His Believers, or shall we say that the Lord Jesus Christ is coming in the clouds to take all who have trusted in Him, to Heaven and then He is coming back to earth with all Believers to reign 1,000 years. God often separates these two great truths in His Word by a mere period, so it is imperative that we study this important truth with great carefulness. We may do well to take heed to what is written in 2 Timothy 2:15. "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth."

When Jesus was brought before Caiaphas the High priest, and the Sanhedrin (Mark 14; 53-65; Matt. 26; 57-68) and was asked by the High priest, (Matt. 26: 63) "I adjure thee by the Living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.", Jesus' answer was very significant. (Matt. 26:64) "Jesus saith unto him, thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, hereafter shall ye see the **Son of Man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of Heaven.**" The first part of the statement of Jesus Christ perhaps was fulfilled when they stoned the first martyr of the Church whose name was Stephen. (Acts 7: 54-60) Stephen was God's witness who saw Jesus standing on the right hand of God waiting to receive his spirit when they stoned his body. The latter part of the verse concerning the coming of this same Lord Jesus Christ in the clouds of Heaven is yet a future event. Israel or the Jewish nation rejected Jesus as the Messiah and the Only Begotten Son of God, when they delivered Him to the Roman Government to be crucified. Now for nearly two thousand years they have been blinded through unbelief. Though many Jews accept Christ as their personal Saviour and become members of the living Church, yet as a nation they have not returned to God. Jesus has given them one important sign to look for and that is "Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of Heaven."

The Jews today, after being scattered for centuries, are returning to their own land and do have their own Government but they still reject God and His Son Jesus Christ. Some day they will be given the sign in the clouds when they shall see Jesus Christ standing on the clouds of Heaven calling all Believers of all ages to follow Him

to their Heavenly Home. This will be an astounding revelation to the Jewish nation, and it will mean that many will return to God and be His witnesses during the time of great trial and trouble in this world. (Rev. 4-18) This great revelation of the Son of God in the clouds will no doubt be similar to what the Centurion and those who were with him, witnessed when they beheld the crucifixion of our Lord. (Matt. 27: 52-54) "And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after His resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many. Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God."

To the Christian, this will be the greatest day in our lives when we shall see the Lord Jesus Christ in the clouds of Heaven. It will mean good bye to this old life when our vile bodies are changed, that they may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, and we shall see the Lord Jesus Christ face to face. (Philippians 3:21; 1 Cor. 13:12.) Bearing such vital truth in mind it is important that we learn the difference between the coming of the Lord in the clouds and the coming of the Lord to earth to rule for a thousand years.

First of all, let us examine the scripture which tells us of the coming of the Lord in the clouds. This truth is known to many Bible students as the Rapture. It has to do with the resurrection of all who have died in faith looking forward to the coming of the Messiah or Christ, as well as all who have died in faith trusting in the shed blood of Jesus Christ to take away their sins. It will also include all the living who have trusted in Christ as their personal saviour, who will be transformed and changed to His likeness. All the Old Testament Believers shall be raised from the dead to meet Christ in the air as well as all the New Testament Believers so it will be a grand gathering and it is very important that we thoroughly understand it in order that we are not deceived by false speculations. After our study of the Rapture or the coming of the Lord in the clouds of Heaven, we will turn our attention to the second great event and that is the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to establish His Kingdom on earth for one thousand years. This Kingdom is referred to as the Righteous Kingdom of God and Christ shall rule as with a "Rod of Iron". As we study these two comings of the Lord Jesus Christ, may we do so by constantly reading all the Bible verses as they are mentioned in this book, for otherwise we will miss much of the blessing. As we also study together, may we keep in mind the last promise and the last prayer of the Bible. (Rev. 22:20) "He which testifieth these things saith, surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so come, Lord Jesus."

Throughout the ages of man, God has had to choose men to protect and keep His testimony and Word for all mankind. (see chart)

He called Abraham to be the chosen lineage through whom He would send His Only Begotten Son. Satan has been fighting against God ever since his sin has been revealed. He deceived Eve, and has continued with his lie until now, setting himself up as the god of this world. Satan knows the Bible and is aware that God has said (Gen. 3:15,) "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." I am sure that no one will doubt that Satan is the god of this world, but if you do read 2 Cor. 4: 3-4; Mark. 4: 15; Luke 22: 31; Acts 5: 3; 2 Cor. 2: 11; 2 Cor. 11: 14; 1 Thess. 2: 18; 1 Tim 5: 15; Rev. 2: 9; 2 Tim. 2: 26; Heb. 2: 14; 1 Pet. 5: 8; Rev. 2: 10. As you read these scriptures you will discover that Satan is a powerful enemy, hindering the preaching of the Gospel, putting God's children in prison, he is as a roaring lion, he comes as an angel of light, he blinds the heathen so they won't see the light of the Gospel, he oppresses, he lays traps for God's children, and he deceives the nations. Satan has tried to hinder the coming of the Lord to earth from the time he put it in the heart of Cain to slay his brother Abel, until the day when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Today he is trying to deceive God's children with all kinds of lies about the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in the clouds to resurrect the dead in Christ and change the living in Christ. Satan attempts to put the Christians to sleep so we do not watch and wait for Christ to return. Satan keeps us busy making money, enjoying the pleasures of this world, fighting, and killing so we forget about the soon coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us take heed to what the Bible says. Rom. 16: 17-20. "Now I beseech you. brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple. For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil. And the God of peace shall BRUISE SATAN UNDER YOUR FEET SHORTLY. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen." Let us be obedient unto the Word of God and believe what God has said and make preparations for the soon return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

After Christ was raised from the dead and walked and talked with his Disciples for forty days, the disciples were still thinking of an earthly kingdom of the Jews. According to Acts. 1: 3, Christ had been speaking very much about the Kingdom of God, but there was one question which Christ avoided and that was asked by the disciples.

Acts 1:6, "When they therefore were come together, they asked of Him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" Through disobedience the Jews had been sent into captivity and were slaves of many nations because they forgot God. Jesus Christ the Son of God, came to earth to become the Saviour of the world through the Jewish nation, the seed of Abraham and David. The disciples had reason to wonder about the Kingdom of Israel because God had said, 2 Sam. 7; 15, 16; "But my mercy shall not depart away from him (King David), as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee. And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever." Read also 1 Chron. 17: 12, 14; Psalm 132: 12. The disciples knew from prophecy that God would again establish the Kingdom of Israel but they wanted to know when God was going to give the Jews the Kingdom which was taken from them for so many years. Although Jesus Christ had taught the disciples much about the Kingdom of God, he had never told them when God would establish it, and that was the big question which puzzled the disciples. Christ's answer is found in Acts 1: 7, "And He said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power." It wasn't long after this that Christ was lifted up into Heaven out of the disciples' sight and the first message from Heaven is very important. Acts 1: 10, 11; "And while they looked stedfastly 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." Whether people want to believe it or not that is nothing, for God has sent the message from Heaven that His Son is coming again and may we take what God has said and not what men think.

Now for the first event before the Kingdom of God comes to earth. At the time of the last days of Jesus Christ before He was crucified, we see Christ alone with his disciples in an upper room where he wants to tell them some very important news. He told them that He was about to die, and they would be scattered and very discouraged BUT it was all for the best. At the time, Jesus was only dwelling with them, but when He would become the sacrifice for their sins, He would then go to Heaven and make arrangements for the Holy Spirit to come to live in their hearts, Read the whole Chapter of John 14, and if you have already put trust in Jesus Christ who died to save you from your sins, then you can say, all that Christ has said in John chapter 14 is mine. There are many precious promises in this chapter but at this time I want to look at just one of them with you. Let us read John 14:3, "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." This truth has been hidden away in the heart of God and has never been mentioned until now. Read those precious words over and over again so you will have them in mind as we study about the return of Jesus Christ to take His people to Heaven. Let us turn to 1 Thess. 4: 13-18 and read this wonderful truth of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in the clouds of Heaven. "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. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 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. 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: 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. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

Chapter I

THE COMING OF THE LORD IN THE CLOUDS

Let us first think of the great event of the coming of Christ to meet all believers in the air. At the present time, as Christ is waiting to return, He is preparing us a place where we may dwell with Him during the time when God will pour out His wrath upon the world. Rev. 4-18; God is storing up His anger against all ungodly people and nations who are rejecting His love which is manifested in and through His Son Jesus Christ. The punishment upon the people of the world will be great and complete, revealing the Almighty power of God. Because I believe the Bible is the Word of God and never changes, I also know that this terrible time of tribulation is coming. I also know that it is not necessary for one soul to be swallowed up in such anger, IF they will accept Christ as the only Saviour from their sins. God always has a way of escape for those who will take heed to His Word. We feel sorry for those who will pass through those days of tribulation (see chart for the 70th week of the prophecy of Daniel, 7 yrs, of tribulation), but we are also glad that God has made a way of escape for all believers. Let us read Titus 2: 13; "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;" That day when Christ shall appear for all believers, will be the greatest event in history since the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Although Christ shall come quickly (Rev. 22: 12), yet the Bible tells us that every eye shall see Him. Rev.1 :7 "Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall

wail because of Him. Even so, Amen." As we study the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, may we keep in mind the last promise and the last prayer of the Bible. (Rev. 22: 20) "He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus." We cannot read the New Testament without seeing the importance of this event to the early Christians. Before Christ sent the Holy Spirit to dwell within the disciples and believers, their desire was to see Christ restore the earthly Kingdom of God but the truth which Christ spoke in the upper room has now been revealed to them through the teaching of the indwelling Holy Spirit. John 17: 14-17; "I have given them thy Word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy Word is truth." Again we see this truth emphasized when Paul wrote to the Philippian church. Phil. 3:20, 21; "For our conversation (citizenship) is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself." By this we see that God does not expect that the world will get better but on the contrary it will become worse. Jesus had also said when speaking of His coming to judge the world, Luke 18:8; "I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?"

We have already mentioned that Christ will be coming quickly. Just what does He mean by quickly? To us we would say quickly means as soon as possible, yet Christ has been waiting for nearly 2,000 years and He hasn't come. Why the delay? First, let us remember that, one day is with the Lord as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day." 2 Pet. 3: 8. Satan puts that question in our minds, "Where is the promise of His coming?" 2 Pet. 3: 4; but also remember, would you have had the opportunity to believe in Christ if He had come one thousand years ago? Read 2 Pet. 3: 9, "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." I believe that Christ has told us that He is coming quickly so we keep ourselves ready and fit to meet Him in the air. Read 1 John 3: 2, 3; Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." We need to constantly expect Him today so our hearts may be always kept clean and pure. The soap of God's Word that will wash your heart clean is 1 John 1.9, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." May we live each day of our life here on

earth as though it is the day before we shall see Christ in the clouds.

The Lord Jesus Christ also used another word in describing His coming in the clouds 1 Thess. 5: 2; "For yourself know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night." This is a strange way of telling us of His coming but it is very good. Why a thief? He did not say that He was a thief, for His coming is for His own and He is not coming to steal: May I ask you a question. If you knew a thief was coming to steal your cattle or goods would you be sleeping then? Of course not. Neither will we be sleeping, or living in sin if we know that Christ may come any time, for no one can know when a thief comes, neither do we know when Christ is coming. May we be ready to meet Him at any time. Read 1 Thess. 5: 4-6: "But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober." One more thing about the thief. When does he come? Yes, at night. He comes when everybody is sleeping and not watching, but since we are the children of day, and of light we will not have to fear the coming of the Lord in the clouds, If we are watching and are sober.

The very way that Christ will be coming, "quickly" and as a "thief", should reveal to us that many people and nations will be taken by surprise. The last days before Christ returns in the clouds will be very wicked days and there will be many who will turn away from God's Son as Saviour and go after false prophets and teachers. Let us read 2 Tim. 3: 1-5; "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." We cannot and must not think that our water baptism, Christian name, church offerings, good behavior, church attendance or anything like it will take the place of having our sins washed away by the blood of Jesus Christ through faith in the Son of God. There is a great warning recorded in the Word of God for those who just want to taste the Word of God with a pretending faith and think that God will let them slip by in the day of judgment. Read Heb. 6: 4-6; "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good Word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto

repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put Him to an open shame." Let us take heed, watch, confess, and be ready for the coming of the Son of Man, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, let us consider the coming of the Lord in the clouds as recorded in 1 Thess. 4: 13-18. As the Lord Jesus Christ breaks through the Heaven and appears in the clouds there will be a great shout from Heaven that will be heard around the world. The voice of the Archangel, and the trumpet of the Archangel, and the trumpet of God will sound forth the coming of the Lord Jesus. It will happen so quickly that all who are not ready will be too late even to believe. Read 1 Cor. 15: 51,52; "Behold I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." Every eye shall see the Lord Jesus Christ as He stands upon the clouds as "the King of kings and Lord of lords." We are reminded of the vision which John saw as he records it in Rev. 1: 8, 13-16; "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and His hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and His eyes were as a flame of fire; And His feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and His voice as the sound of many waters." What a glorious sight that will be when we stand gazing at our Saviour, beholding the earth and waters giving up the dead in Christ and feel our vile bodies change into the likeness of His glorified body, and in the same instant be caught up to meet Jesus Christ our Lord in the air. Hallelujah, praise the Lord, "Even so come Lord Jesus".

Let us read John 14: 1-3; "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 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, 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." These are comforting words and give us a better hope than anything this world can offer. If Christ's coming to earth was only to comfort us in this life, and teach us how to live better with each other, His mission to the world would have been in vain. Paul says in 1 Cor. 15: 19; "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." We needn't fear the coming events, the perilous days, the hatred the world has toward believers in Christ, for He is coming

again. He is the way the truth and the life so whom shall we fear? Christ's desire is to gather His sheep unto Himself and we shall see our Good Shepherd in the clouds and will be changed in a moment in the twinkling of an eye and will be caught up to meet Him in the air.

Chapter II

A. THOSE WHO WILL BE RAISED

"And the dead in Christ shall rise first"

The question has been asked throughout the ages, "Will the dead live again? We need not be in question concerning this for it is clearly stated in the Word of God. There was no question at all in Martha's mind that her brother Lazarus would live again. John 11: 23, 24; "Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. Martha saith unto Him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day." God is not the God of the dead but of the living and there must be a resurrection of the dead. Christ answers this question of the dead in Matt. 22: 31, 32; "But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living." The dry bones of Joseph were carried out of Egypt and placed in the land of his fathers as a testimony of Joseph's that he would some day be raised from the dead. Let us read this account of Joseph. Gen. 50: 24, 25; "And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die, and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he sware to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry my bones from hence." You remember that previously to the death of Joseph, his father Jacob was about to die and he took an oath from Joseph that he would not bury him in Egypt but would carry him back to his fathers. Gen. 47: 29-31; Gen. 49: 29-33; Gen. 50: 1-10; Now turn to Ezek. 37: 1-14; and there is definite proof that the graves will be opened and the dry bones shall live again. Read also Gen. 22: 5; Job. 19: 25-27; Isa. 26: 19.

"And the dead in Christ shall rise first", implies that the resurrection of the dead will be in two divisions, those "in Christ" and those out of Christ. As we search the scriptures we find this clarified and explained. John 5: 25-29; "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. For as the Father hath life in Himself; so hath He given to the Son to have life in Himself; and hath given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He

is the Son of man. Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." At the time Christ appears in the clouds, He appears for His own only, so those who will be raised "unto the resurrection of damnation" must be raised at another time, spoken of in Rev. 20: 5, 6; "But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 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." According to these Proofs from the Bible, the "dead in Christ" who are raised at the coming of Christ in the clouds, refers to the "resurrection of the just", Luke 14: 14; and the "resurrection of life" mentioned in John 5: 29.

Abraham was justified "by faith" before God and must be considered as having a part in the resurrection of the just, so faithful Abraham will be among the "dead in Christ" who are raised at the coming of the Lord in the clouds. If Abraham is among these raised in Christ then his faithful children will be there too, and we must also conclude that all the Old Testament saints are included in this resurrection along with the Christian church. Look on the chart and follow the red dotted line from Adam to the Cross and on until the completion of the church and we can see from where the "just" are raised, at the coming of Christ in the clouds. These are all included in the first resurrection. But before we pass on there is one more thing which must be mentioned in connection with the first resurrection and that is, the first resurrection is not complete until God claims the souls of those who were His witnesses during the 7 years of tribulation. These will be raised when Christ comes back to earth with His bride, the church, and Old Testament saints, and begins His reign of righteousness for the thousand years. Rev. 20: 4, 5; "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. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection." May we bear in mind that the complete first resurrection includes these martyrs spoken of here, but because they have been too late to believe in Christ when He comes in the clouds, they go through the tribulation

until they are killed because of their refusal to worship the beast or have his mark put on their foreheads or hands. It will be a wonderful sight to see the saints of all ages raised from the dead to ascend to the clouds and meet our Saviour in the air.

B. OUR GLORIFIED BODIES

Another question often arises and that is, What kind of a body will we have **when the present body is changed**? Here again we do not have to speculate but God has written concerning this in the Bible. Let us read Phil. 3: 20, 21; "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: **who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself.**" Do we need to worry about the kind of body we will have at the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ? Our body shall be changed and made like unto Christ's body after He was raised from the dead. Christ could pass through closed doors, John 20: 19; This glorified body can eat, John 21: 9, 12-14. Again Christ has promised that we will celebrate communion when we are taken up to heaven. Read Luke 22: 18; "For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the Kingdom of God shall come". Now turn to another precious scripture. 1 John 3: 2, 3; "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is." Can you imagine such creatures as you and me changed to be like the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ? I cannot understand why God would do such a thing to make us like His Son, but since God has said it, I believe it. Men who do not believe the Bible try to tell us that we are related to the animals and deny that we have a soul, but I for one will believe what God has written rather than what men say. The creation of man was not the same as the creation of animals. Read Gen. 1: 25-28; "And God made the beast of the earth **after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.** And God said, **Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.**" Doesn't it surprise you that we were originally created in the image of God? Why

have we lost the image of God? Because of sin and death that reigns over these bodies of ours. But a new day is coming for all who have put their trust in Christ, who will change these vile bodies of ours at His appearing in the clouds and we shall be like Him. Read also 2 Cor. 3:18.

The next great event the world will behold is the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in the clouds to awaken the "dead in Christ" and change the "living in Christ", and take us all out of this world to make way for the coming judgment of God as mentioned in Rev. 4-18. When the trumpet of God sounds forth, none will mistake the reason for it, because they will see the Son of God coming in Glory to meet His own. Christ is the first fruit of the resurrection and because He lives, we shall live also. This great company of those "IN CHRIST" are chosen out of the world because they trusted in the blood of Jesus Christ, which was poured out on Calvary's Cross to save us from the penalty of sin, the power of sin and the presence of sin. "Even so come Lord Jesus". Now remember that Christ is not coming at this time to set up His Kingdom of righteousness upon the earth, but He is taking us out of the world to save us from the wrath to come, in the following 7 years. Read 1 Thess. 1:10; "And to wait for His Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come." During this time that we will be caught up into heaven, we will be spared the terrible judgments which will come upon the earth. Someone may ask, "What will we be doing during this time, we are taken to Heaven?" This brings us to the next subject, of the events following the rapture.

Chapter III

THE EVENTS FOLLOWING THE RAPTURE

Nothing is revealed as to the manner of our ascending into heaven with Christ but God has revealed some of the events to take place in heaven during the 7 years Christ is waiting to return to the earth, with His bride and the friends of the bride. We are reminded, while waiting for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ to purify ourselves and be ready when He comes, John 3: 2, 3; This is significant for in 1 Cor. 11: 31, 32; we read, "For if we would judge our selves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world." Now we know that this self judgment is to take place before we take communion, but it is not to be limited to this time or for the sake of the communion only, but also that we might be kept pure and clean for His coming. In order to keep clean we confess our sins, 1 John 1: 9; and we judge ourselves in order that we are not judged later on by the Lord. Now the Lord Jesus Christ is very gracious with His own and

He is not desirous that we should be judged with the world in the last days before the **white throne judgment** so what has He prepared? He has prepared a judgment seat of His own for His own.

A. THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

In the first chapter of the book of Ephesians we see a picture of the many blessings the Christian has, and again in Romans chapter 8 verses 28 to 39 we see how secure we are in Christ. Also John 10: 27-30, we are secure in the hands of God. God has given us Eternal life and this can be best emphasized by the expression "HATH EVERLASTING LIFE". There are some people afraid of this truth and many say, "well, if it is all settled when I believed in Christ as my personal Saviour, I am at liberty to do as I please". Oh no you aren't for Paul in writing to the Romans in chapter 6: 1-3; said, "what shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. **HOW SHALL WE THAT ARE DEAD TO SIN, LIVE ANY LONGER THEREIN?** Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death?" We have a birthright which is based on the finished work of Christ and not upon our works or righteousness. We have come to Christ, desiring to be free from the burden of sin and a truly "Born Again One" cannot love to sin. Eph. 2: 8-10; "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." You may then ask, "What place do the good works of the Believer have in his salvation?" Our good works have nothing to do with our salvation, in adding to it or taking away from it, for our salvation is settled, **BUT**, our good works do have a **GREAT** and important place in what rewards we will receive from the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us search the scriptures and see what God has to say about this.

In 2 Cor. 5:10; we have a clear statement concerning this matter of our works. "For we must all appear before the Judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." When Christ returns for His own and takes them to heaven, there must be a cleansing of all our works and this will be done at the judgment seat of Christ. In order to cleanse away all our bad works, we must pass through the testing fire of the judgment seat of Christ. So, the first event to take place in heaven after the rapture, will be the giving out of rewards for faithfulness. Christ has said, Rev. 22:12; "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be". The method to be used in testing

every believer as to the reward he is to receive, will be by the use of fire. Let us turn to 1 Cor. 3: 12-15, "Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; every man's work shall be made manifest: for **THE DAY** shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built there-upon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: **BUT HE HIMSELF SHALL BE SAVED; YET SO AS BY FIRE,**" This is quite complete in itself, but let us just go over it hastily. The previous verse, verse 11, tells us that these who are building are those who have trusted in Christ who is the only foundation. This does not refer to those who will stand before the Great White Throne of God, for they are not to be tried by fire, but rather they will be cast into the lake of fire for ever. Here in 1 Cor. 3: 12-15, the believers' works are being tried as to whether they are wood, hay, or stubble, or gold, silver, or precious stones. Regardless of who you are, if you believe in Christ as your personal Saviour, you will be tested according to your own works. 1 Cor. 3: 8; "And every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour." For further reference concerning the rewards and judgment seat of Christ, read the Doctrine of rewards in "Bible Teachings", by the Author.

Brother in Christ, do not wait until the Lord returns to begin to think about good works, but begin to do good works now. We would not merely want to be saved "so as by fire", but rather we all desire to have our works stand the test of the fire. If your works are bad, they are the same as, wood, hay, and stubble, and we all know what fire will do to wood, hay, and stubble. If your works are good, they are like, gold, silver, and precious stones, and they will remain forever and will be your crown of rejoicing for eternity. After the Judgment seat of Christ, then what? We will come out of this fire, pure and clean with our rewards and gifts, ready for the marriage to the Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ.

B. THE MARRIAGE

After the church, or the Bride, and all the Old Testament Saints have received their rewards and are made ready for the marriage, the Heavenly host sounds forth with a great hallelujah chorus and praise to God and it is to be heard as John describes it in Rev. 19: 6; "And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunders, saying, Hallelujah: for the Lord God omnipotent (all powerful) reigneth." Following the praise to God in song, we have mention of the marriage of the Lamb of God. Rev. 19: 7-9; "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is

come, and His wife (the Bride, Rev. 21: 9;) hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God." Of necessity the judgment sent of Christ must precede the marriage supper, that the "Bride" may be made ready, clothed with the Righteousness of God, and her good works, shining as bright stars. This will be a glorious day for all the Believers who make up the church, as well as the friends of the Bride, who are the Old Testament saints. No doubt, after the marriage, and the supper, the "Bridgroom" will at this time break bread and give to all and likewise take the cup.

C. THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's supper will have a great significance to both the Bride or church, and the Friends of the Bride. The remembrance of the death of Christ, the Lamb of God, will be with the deepest love to God. To the Old Testament saints it will mean their sins which were covered for hundreds of years have been removed as far as the East is from the west through the Lamb of God. To the church or the Bride it will mean, a great price has been paid for her redemption by the Bridegroom who will carry the scars for eternity. To Christ it will mean the fulfilment of the vow He made to His disciples in the upper room. Luke 22: 15-18; "And He said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God, And He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come."

So in summing up the coming of the Lord in the clouds, we have seen that He is coming for His own to deliver them from the wrath to come as stated in Rev. 4:18. He is coming quickly as a thief does, when he is least expected. He is returning to Heaven both with the Old Testament saints and the Church. There will be the Judgment Seat of Christ, The Marriage of the Bride, and the Lord's Supper. The next great event will be the Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth, with His Bride, and the Old Testament saints, to set up the Earthly Kingdom for one thousand years.

PART II

Introduction

THE COMING OF THE THOUSAND YEAR KINGDOM OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

“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. 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. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called THE WORD OF GOD. And the armies which were in Heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. 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 wine press of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. 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; 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. 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. 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. 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.” Rev. 19: 11-21.

“And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. 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. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 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." Rev. 20: 1-6.

Let us review what has gone on before the events which we have just read. First of all, when Christ appears in the clouds, the archangel will shout announcing his appearing with the trumpet of God, the dead in Christ shall be raised from the dead to meet Him in the air, and we who are alive upon earth who have trusted in Christ as Saviour, shall have our bodies changed and go to meet Christ in the air. This is the beginning of the first resurrection, which shall be completed when Rev. 20: 4; is fulfilled. The great company which shall go to meet Christ in the air shall be taken to Heaven for cleansing (2 Cor 5: 10;), for the marriage of the Bride (the Church), witnessed by the friends of the Bridegroom (Rev. 19: 7-10; Matt. 25: 1-13; John 3: 29;), and that great feast with Christ (Luke 22: 14-18; Matt. 22: 1-14; Luke 14: 16-24;) During the time these events are taking place in heaven (a 7 year period known as the 70th week of Daniel), the nations of the world will be going through great troubles which are prophesied in Rev. 4-18. It is not until all this is fulfilled that the Heavens are opened and we have the events recorded in Rev. 19: 11-21; and Rev. 20-1-6; coming to pass. It will be a great and mighty time when the Heaven is opened. Christ appears riding a white horse, the armies of Heaven following Jesus Christ, and the wicked nations are destroyed, the beast and false prophet thrown into the lake of fire forever and Satan bound for a thousand years and cast into the bottomless pit.

As the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Heavenly clouds will not be mistaken nor done in secret, neither will the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords be hidden. In Rev. 19: 11, the Heavens are seen to open in a way that they have never opened before. All nations of the world will behold a marvellous sight of the coming of the King of Righteousness, the Son of God. It must have been a beautiful dream of Jacob's when he saw the angels of God walking up and down a great ladder which reached from earth to Heaven, and at the top of it stood the Lord God, talking to Jacob. Genesis 28: 11-19. But here in Rev. 19: 11-21; Rev. 20: 1-6; we have a marvellous sight of the Son of God going forth to war against the evil forces with His Redeemed of all ages. My aim in writing this booklet is to show that the Coming of Christ in the clouds for His own, is not one and the same event when Christ comes from Heaven with His own to destroy the wicked nations and set up His Righteous Kingdom for one thousand years, when He shall reign with His redeemed ones with a rod of iron.

Let us examine the scripture more carefully and compare it with other scriptures portraying the same events. God has revealed this truth hundreds of years ago and has told us of the condition of the world when He will send His Son, and He has also given us the reasons for sending His Son. So with this in view, let us divide and deal with this great event in 4 parts.

1. THE PROPHECY OF HIS COMING.
2. THE CONDITION OF THE WORLD AT HIS COMING.
3. THE REASON FOR HIS COMING.
4. THE DURATION OF HIS KINGDOM AND FINAL EVENTS TO FOLLOW.

There are other phases of this great event but we will limit our discussion to these four headings, as much as possible.

Chapter IV

THE PROPHECY OF HIS COMING.

There is much involved in accepting this truth of the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. There have been many great leaders in the world, many godly prophets and many wise teachers, but of none can it be said that, "he is like unto the Son of God", but Jesus Christ only. Nor can it be said that there was ever a promise that any of these great men had said, "I will come again", save Jesus Christ only. Nor can it be said of any of them that they have been raised from the dead. Nor can it be said of any other one that "in the beginning" they were without beginning or ending. But Jesus Christ claims all these and more, and has proved what He has said to be true by His works. He has claimed all this and more because it was written of Him in the Bible, the Incarnate One, who was sent by God, His Heavenly Father. 1 Tim. 6: 16.

Let us now consider what has been written concerning the coming of the Messiah and Kingdom of Heaven. The Jewish nation, through the faithfulness of Abraham was promised to be saved, freed from all her enemies, and though scattered to all parts of the world, would return and dwell safely in her own land. God had entrusted His word and message to the world to the Jews, and although they have gone far from God's will, yet they are to be brought back into His fellowship, after they have suffered much for their unbelief and sins. The very day when the Jews demanded a king like other nations, God was very angry with the Jews because He wanted them to accept

only God as their King. At such a time as this, God told His prophet to write Deuteronomy 18:18; "I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth: and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him." They were promised a Messiah whom God would send to teach them His righteousness. It is the coming of Christ that will bruise the head of Satan (Gen. 3: 15;). As the world today is looking for a Deliverer from its enemies, so Israel or the Jewish nation is looking for the Messiah, because God has promised to send Him. Let us read Deut. 30: 3-6; "That then the Lord thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return, and gather thee from all the nations, whither the Lord thy God hath scattered thee. If any of thine be driven out unto the outmost parts of heaven, from thence will the Lord thy God gather thee, and from thence will he fetch thee: And the Lord thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed and thou shalt possess it; and he will do thee good, and multiply thee above thy fathers. And the Lord thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live." This prophecy which we have just read is still future and was not fulfilled when Christ came as a babe but refers to the complete delivery of the Jewish nation when He comes as the King of kings and Lord of lords. The Nation Israel rejected Christ as their Saviour and their sorrows have been multiplied to them. The Jewish nation is compared as the wife of God the Father, and in her disobedience she has gone and become as a harlot. In spite of all this, God has not cast off Israel forever (Rom. 9-11), but has promised to bring her back in forgiveness to be as His wife once again. Isaiah 54: 5-8. When this regathering occurs, all will recognize an outstanding miracle of God. In connection with this, read Isaiah 11: 10; Isa. 40; Isa. 35; Isa. 54; Isa. 60; Jeremiah 31: 33-40; Jer. 32:36-44; Jer. 33: 12-26. Who can deny these promises of God? God has written this message hundreds of years before the coming of the Son of God to reign over the whole earth and it is true because God has promised it. Christ shall fulfil the prophecy written in 2 Samuel 7: 8-20, concerning the throne of David. Jesus Christ is the Incarnate One through the seed of David, sent down from His Father God to establish the throne of David forever. 2 Sam 7: 15, 16; "But my mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee. And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established forever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever." An everlasting kingdom and throne demands an everlasting king and that is met in Jesus Christ, the Eternal Son of God, and the son of David. Psalm 89: 18-37.

God had divided to Israel or the Jewish nation a portion of the world and that is established before God forever. It is true that today the Jewish people are scattered all over the world, and many are without a country because they always remain as Jews for God has

ordered it so. Let us read Deut. 32: 8,9; "When the Most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel. For the Lord's portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance." In other words, God gave His people their place and all other nations were to be blessed through the Jewish nation. This will be fulfilled in the Lord Jesus Christ who is the coming King to establish the Jews within their land and rule righteously with a rod of iron. During the "Times of the Gentiles", the Jews are scattered because of disobedience, Deut. 28: 15-68; but God has not cast them off but as has been pointed out through prophecy, they will be regathered and brought back into their land where Christ shall rule all nations in the Kingdom age.

There are many places in the Old Testament where the coming King and Messiah are mentioned but I will just mention one more before we turn to the New Testament. It is one which is often referred to at the time of Christmas and in connection with the birth of Jesus. Let us read it, Isaiah 9: 6,7; "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." This King is coming to establish His Kingdom on earth, "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in earth, and things under the earth: and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2: 9-11; Isa. 45: 23; Rom. 14: 11. No one can deny that the Kingdom mentioned in Isa. 9: 6,7; has not been established so far and it refers to a future time, and that time shall come when Christ Himself shall return and set up His kingdom. The coming King can only be Jesus Christ even as Mary the mother of Jesus was told by the angel of God. (Luke 1: 30-33.)

This brings us to the New Testament prophecies concerning the coming King. Because of the blindness of the rulers of Israel, they were not able to accept Jesus as the Messiah who would someday come as King. It is interesting to follow the genealogies set forth in the Book of Matthew and the Book of Luke. In the Book of Matthew Christ is set forth as the King and verse one of Matt. 1, states, "The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham." It follows the lineage of David as to his Kingly office and it mentions Abraham in his relationship to the Jewish nation, Trace through Matt. 1: 1-17; and you will discover that Jesus is the

rightful king to the throne. There is also another lineage mentioned in the Book of Luke chapter 3 verses 23 to 38. Here Jesus' lineage is traced all the way back to Adam, and God recorded all this that Jesus Christ is the promised King who will come to earth at God's appointed time when the Heavens are opened and the Son of God goes forth to war against all the wicked forces. Gen. 3: 15.

When the angel of God came and announced to the Virgin Mary that she would have a Son conceived by the Holy Spirit, what was she told? Let us read it. Luke 1: 28-33; "And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, **Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.**" This all points to a time when Jesus Christ will come, as the King and set up the eternal throne. All this would be impossible if Christ was as others who have seen corruption of their bodies, but, praise God, Christ was raised from the grave and is seated on the right hand of God the Father, waiting to return in the clouds for His own and after 7 years, lead forth His armies from Heaven to set up His rightful earthly Kingdom. In that great day, the apostles shall come with Him and be given thrones to sit upon and rule the twelve tribes of Israel. Matt. 19: 28. This Kingdom is a kingdom in reality, which is more real than anything in the whole world.

There may be some who will say, why did Christ say in Matt. 4: 17, though the kingdom has not come up to this present time, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven at hand"? It merely means that the kingdom of heaven was the next event to be looked for by the Jewish people, but Christ was rejected as king, Matt. 11: 2-19; Isa. 53: 3; Matt. 13: 54-58; Matt. 16: 1-4; Matt. 21: 1-17; Matt. 22: 15-46; Matt. 23: 1-39. The "mystery" of the Kingdom of heaven was preached by Christ which revealed the Bride of Christ or the church. It was the revelation of the change from the time of "law" to the time of "Grace". Though Christ was rejected, it has never made Him any less their King and unto this day David has never lacked a man to sit on his throne. Jeremiah 33: 17. To the very day that Christ stood before Pilate and was accused of many things the outstanding question was, "Art thou a king then?" "Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice." John 18: 37. After Christ said this, Pilate

went out to the Jews and said that he finds no fault with Jesus, (John 18: 38), why could he say such a thing when Caesar was king? Read verse 36 of John 18; "Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence." In other words, Christ's kingdom is from His Father in Heaven and not of the earthly kingdoms which shall all pass away. His kingdom is for ever and shall come down from Heaven, when the heavens open and usher in the kingdom of Righteousness.

Chapter V

THE CONDITION OF THE WORLD AT HIS COMING

Mankind has always asked for "signs" warning them of coming events, but we need not be in darkness concerning the coming Kingdom of God. The Disciples of Jesus Christ were anxious to know when Christ would restore the Kingdom to Israel, and as they sat upon the Mount of Olives they asked Jesus about it. Matt. 24: 3; "And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" (age) There are three questions asked by the disciples and we will deal with them in the same order as they were asked. The first question, "When shall these things be?" was asked after Christ was shown the temple by the disciples and He answered them, "There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down." For that answer we must turn to Luke 21: 20-24, where Christ foretells the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus in 70 A.D. when his armies compassed the city of Jerusalem and the prophecy of vengeance was fulfilled. (Hosea 9:7; and Isa. 65:12-15;) "And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh." Luke 21; 20. The final conflict over Jerusalem will be just before our Lord Jesus Christ appears from Glory. Matt. 24: 27-31; Mark. 13: 24-27; Rev. 19: 11-21. The "Times of the Gentiles" have been from the captivity of the Jews by the Babylonian Nation under Nebuchadnezzar and have run parallel with the age of Grace, which began with Calvary's Cross. A rejected King has meant a postponed kingdom.

The second and third questions are answered in Matt. 24: 4-33; (Dan. 9: 24-27; the last week of Daniel's 70 weeks) Rev. 4-18; Luke 21:25, 26; Luke 21:34-38; Matt. 24:37-51. This is not a picture of a converted world before the coming of the Lord but rather a world of turmoil and strife, wars, famines, earthquakes, pestilences, falling away, similar to the days of Noah, hatred, and sin running wild.

Before the false prophet and the beast are revealed, Christ will come on an urgent journey to deliver his "Bride", the church, from the 70th week of Daniel or 7 years of tribulation. Those 7 years when the wrath spoken of in Rev. 4-18, shall fall upon mankind, we who believe shall be safe with Jesus Christ, preparing for the conflict when Jerusalem shall be delivered through the battle recorded in Rev. 19: 11-21. The end of the age is not a very optimistic picture and we need to test the course we are setting, as to our aims in preparing for the coming of the Lord, 2 Thess. 2: 1-12; 2 Tim. 3: 1-17; 2 Pet. 3: 1-9.

Chapter VI

THE REASON FOR HIS COMING.

If we have thoroughly studied the conditions of the world when Christ will return we ought not to have to stop here and give one reason why Christ needs to return. The world today has no peace because it has rejected the Prince of Peace, the Lord Jesus Christ. We as a world are as guilty as the Jews are, as a nation. The Jews rejected Christ as the Messiah and have been suffering the consequences ever since. The world has rejected Christ and because of that, we are in a bad mix up with no hope of making lasting peace. We have been shedding blood in battle because we have rejected the shed blood of Calvary's cross as the answer to our problems. Very briefly, we can sum up why it is necessary for Christ to return and establish His Kingdom on earth. -

- A. To fulfil all prophecy.
- B. To defeat wickedness and cast Satan into the bottomless pit for a thousand years.
- C. To teach all nations the Righteousness of God.

Although there are many other ways of dealing with this subject, we will limit ourselves to these three headings and reasons.

A. TO FULFIL ALL PROPHECY.

God cannot deny Himself and in the Epistle of James, God is described as "the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" James 1:17. We are also told in Mark 13: 31; "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away." And again in Malachi 3:6; we read, "For I am the Lord, I change not." Then speaking of the Son of God, it is recorded "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." Heb. 13: 8. God had promised to send a Deliverer when Adam fell in sin, the Jews were promised a Messiah, Abraham was promised a land,

David was promised a Son to sit upon his throne forever, the disciples were promised to judge the 12 tribes of Israel, the saints of all ages have been promised to come with Christ in glory, and we have the promise of God that His Eternal Son will come so we need nothing else. "He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so come Lord Jesus." Rev. 22: 20.

Christ Jesus will come to rule this world because God has said it, and we need no other proof. "Thus saith the Lord" demands our approval and our "Amen". For further detail on the prophecies of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ as King of Kings and Lord of Lords I refer you back to our study of the prophecies of both the Old Testament and the New Testament. Also study the many parables of Christ dealing with the Kingdom of Heaven and in fulfilment of all which has been spoken on the Kingdom of Heaven, there is Only One who can fulfil it and He is the Lord Jesus Christ the Messiah of the world. Read Gen. 3: 15; Deut. 30: 3-6; Rom. 9-11; Isa. 54: 5-8; Isa. 11: 10; 40: 35; 54: 60; Jer. 23: 1-8; 31: 33-40; 32: 36-44; 33: 12-26; Ezek. 11: 17-21; Ezek. 16: 60-63; 28: 25-26; 34: 11-16; 36: 1-15; 37: 1-28; Hos. 3: 5; Joel. 3: 16; Micah 4.

B. TO DEFEAT WICKEDNESS AND CAST SATAN INTO THE BOTTOMLESS PIT FOR A THOUSAND YEARS.

The coming of the Son of God to earth the second time is quite different from His first coming. His first appearance was lowly and meek offering Grace and mercy to all. His second coming is best described in Rev. 19: 11-21; Rev. 20: 1-6; for here He appears as the Kings of kings and Lords of lords. He is called "Faithful" and "True" and judges and makes war in Righteousness. We are told in vs. 12 that His eyes were as a flame of fire, he was crowned with many crowns and had a name above every name. May we take heed to God's warning as recorded in Heb. 12: 25-29; "See that ye refuse not Him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused Him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from Him that speaketh from heaven: Whose voice then shook the earth: but now He hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: FOR OUR GOD IS A CONSUMING FIRE." It is perfectly clear that when Christ returns the second time He is coming to make war, for His eyes

are set in the righteous wrath of God against all wickedness. He comes with a Name which is above every name "That at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Phil. 2: 10, 11. In Isaiah 45: 23; & Rom. 14: 11; we have this same truth mentioned. "As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." Now we have the opportunity to trust in Christ as our Saviour, but then Christ will be the judge against all who have rejected His love.

In verse 13 of Rev. 19; we read that "he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood;". As the wicked kings and armies of the world array themselves against Him, He will pour out His wrath and vengeance upon them and consume them with His words, for He is called the Word of God. (John 1: 1-5). Verse 15 of Rev. 19 tells us that He shall smite the nations with the wrath of Almighty God, and rule them with a rod of iron. The coming of Christ will be at such a time when the remnant of the Jewish nation will be surrounded by the Gentile nations who will have the "beast" and "the false prophet" as their leaders. In order to understand the preparation for this final conflict with Christ when He comes, we must turn to the Book of Daniel as well as portions of the book of Rev. concerning the fulfilment of the 70th week of Daniel and the end of the age. The fourth kingdom mentioned in the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream was the Roman Empire which was cut off and the feet and the toes of mixture of iron and clay, (Dan. 2: 41-43;) will be the completion of the Roman rule of ten kings before the return of Christ as mentioned in Dan. 2:44,45. Christ is the stone mentioned here and referred to in Matt. 21:42-45, "And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder." In Dan. 7: 7, 8; it also mentions about the Roman Empire and mentions "the Beast" in particular. God is revealing to Daniel this great and terrible beast of ten horns and 3 of these horns become "a little horn", which is described in Dan. 8: 23-25 as a "king of fierce countenance", who shall go to war against the "Prince of princes", Jesus Christ. Read also Dan. 11:36-45. In these scriptures the beast establishes himself as a great king to make war against the Jews and the Most High God. Dan. 7: 20-25; this beast, or little horn conquers the saints of God until Dan. 7: 26-27; is fulfilled with the coming of Christ to make war against the beast. This beast is also called the "abomination" in Matt. 24: 15, and "the man of sin" in 2 Thess, 2: 4-8. The beast will work with the "false prophet" who is also called "Anti-christ". I John. 2: 18. Perhaps this anti-christ will set himself up before the Jews as the Messiah and between him and the beast, they will do wonderful things before the Jews and bring abominations to

Jerusalem, and shall make a false covenant with them. He is best described in 2 Thess. 2: 3, 4; "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God."

It is not a surprise then, that Christ will return to earth to make war against such, and deliver the Remnant of Israel from such wicked hands. "The Day of the Lord", when He comes in judgment will be terrible against all ungodly. When this day comes God will seek to destroy all nations that come against Jerusalem. Zech. 12: 9. As Christ comes with His own, He shall come as a "consuming fire" for the "Great Day". Let us read Rev. 16: 13-16; "And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon." This great battle is also prophesied in Zechariah 12: 1-9; and here it is revealed that Jerusalem will be sieged, and all who gather themselves against Jerusalem shall be cut to pieces, those riding horses shall go mad, and their horses shall become blind. As we read through the remainder of the book of Zechariah we learn that the Lord shall defend the remnant of the Jews, and change their hearts. In that day the Mouth of Olives shall split in two, east and west. Christ will smite all nations, as the stone the builders rejected, (1 Pet. 2: 7;) fulfilling Dan. 2: 35. As the kings and the beast gather against Christ (vs. 19, of Rev. 19) they are seized and cast alive into the lake of fire, vs. 20. The slaughter of the wicked armies will be so great that all the fowls of the air will be filled with their flesh, vs 21. As we read through the first 6 verses of Rev. 20, we behold an angel coming from heaven with the key to the bottomless pit and a chain, and Satan, the Devil, is bound and cast into the bottomless pit for a thousand years. Then the martyrs of the tribulation period are raised and we reign with Christ a thousand years. (For more information of the beast, read Dan. 7: 24-26; Dan. 9: 27; Matt. 24: 15; 2 Thess. 2: 4-8; Rev. 6:2; Dan. 7: 9-11; Rev. 13; according to Scofield's notes.) Read also Joel 2: 1-32.

C. TO TEACH ALL NATIONS THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD

This coming of Christ will not be for the Christians but rather with the Christians as well as the Old Testament saints of God. The

Lord will put a new heart in the remnant of the Jewish nation and so fulfil the prophecy of Jer. 31: 33, 34; "But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord; I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." The Lord shall come to reign in Jerusalem, with the O.T. Saints as well as the church, and the remnant of the Jews who have looked for the coming of the Messiah will recognize Him, and the Lord will put the law within their hearts, cleansing them for the thousand year Kingdom of righteousness. God compares the regathering of Israel as the gathering together of sheep. In Jer. 23: 1-8; God speaks of a restoration of Israel which has never been fulfilled; let us read it. "Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the Lord. Therefore thus saith the Lord God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the Lord. And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the Lord. Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that they shall no more say, The Lord liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; but, The Lord liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land." Notice in this portion of Scripture that God is called the Lord God of Israel, and the reason for this is that here God is dealing with the Israelites in restoring them to their land. We may think that this prophecy is being fulfilled now but at least 3 events are missing. The King whom God the Father will send is not there, Judah is not saved, and Israel is not dwelling in safety. This prophecy mentioned here points to the coming rule of Christ when He rules in righteousness. Please note that His name shall be, "THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS." This event of the coming of the Lord will be the greatest day for Israel and will be a greater miracle than God's delivery from Egypt. In Jeremiah chapter 30 we read of "the troubles of Jacob" or in other

words the time when Israel will be persecuted by the dragon the Devil, the man of sin, the antichrist, the beast, and the false prophet, plus the terrible days of the wrath of God. (Rev. 4-18;) It will be after "Jacob's Trouble" that God will restore Israel to the land in "Peace" and put a song in their hearts according to Jeremiah 31. God will give them one heart, one way, He will make an everlasting covenant, and the Davidic covenant and throne shall be forevermore. Jeremiah chapters 32, & 33.

God has also revealed this to the prophet Ezekiel, promising the complete and eternal restoration of Israel in her land. Ezek. 11: 17-21; Ezek. 16: 60-63; Ezek. 28: 25-26; Ezek. 34: 11-16; Ezek. 36: 1-15; Ezekiel also had a vision of the valley of dry bones, which came to life, (Ezek. 37: 1-28), which should be read carefully and it will be discovered that God will unite Israel under one Kingdom which cannot be said of any time in Israel's history from Ezekiel to now, so it too points to the righteous rule of the Lord Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The sons of Abraham shall have a definite part in this Kingdom under the complete restoration of Christ Jesus who took upon Himself the form of man, of the seed of David. From Chapter 40 of Ezekiel unto the end of the book (ch. 48.), God sets forth the measurements of the temple, the boundaries of the Tribes of Israel, the measurements of the city and last of all the name of the city is mentioned. Ezek. 48: 35; "And the name of the city from that day shall be, "The Lord is there". Israel will be the example to all the nations of the world and will dwell in a land which will be the centre of Righteousness and justice.

Turn now to the Book of Hosea and read what God says about the restoration of Israel to her land and to her Eternal King. Hosea 3: 5; "Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the Lord their God, and David their King; and shall fear the Lord and his goodness in the latter days." Christ shall rule in righteousness and all will see His goodness who are desiring to please God. Of course there will be many who will obey Christ because He shall rule with a rod of iron. Such as these shall be easy prey to Satan when he is loosed from the bottomless pit after a thousand years. There will be many who are lovers of darkness rather than light and as Satan goes about to deceive the nations, he will have no trouble getting his armies to fight against God. (Rev. 20: 7-9.)

In the Book of Joel chapter 3, Israel is restored in her land, the heathen nations are judged, and the Lord Himself utters His voice from Jerusalem. Joel 3: 16: "The Lord also shall roar out of Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the Lord will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel."

Every advantage will be given to Israel in the restored kingdom and the land will bring forth abundantly. (Amos 9: 11-15;) and Israel will be a great example to all nations. In the Book of Micah chapter 4: 2; many nations shall come to see the great things God is doing for Israel. "And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem." From this we see that the restoration of Israel is of great importance in teaching all nations the righteousness of God. It is for this reason that I have reviewed many of the scriptures referring to the restoration of Israel within their land. It is from Jerusalem that Christ will judge among many people. (Micah 4:3;) "And He shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." A condition will exist among nations which has never been seen from the beginning of nations. Not even a sword will be lifted up against another nation. This is only possible when the Son of God comes to rule the nations and teaches them the Righteousness of God.

It is true that the nations will go forth to defeat Christ at His coming as they are led by the beast and the false prophet (Rev. 16: 13-16; Rev. 19: 11-21; Zephaniah 3: 8;), but Christ also says, Zeph. 3: 9; "For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve him with one consent." At present our language is very corrupt and nations as well as organizations call the same thing by different names, and twist the language to suit their purpose, but then the Lord shall give a pure language, and then and then only can we hope in unity, "to serve Him with one consent".

The Lord Himself will turn the curse which Israel was among the heathen into a blessing and 10 men of other nations will take hold of one Jew because in that day they will know that God is with the Jew to teach the nations God's righteousness. Zech. 8: 13-23. No longer will Satan be the god of this world but we are told in Zech. 14: 9; "And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one." Jerusalem will be the centre of worship and all who refuse to come to worship the King shall be punished with drought and plagues. Zech. 14: 16-21.

As we turn to the New Testament for information concerning the Kingdom we discover that many of Christ's parables were kingdom truth. It is true that God's righteousness applies to all generations but where the difficulty arises is the lack of the Son of God to carry it out. Please note, that when Christ does come He

comes with a rod of iron and a threat of drought and plagues to all who refuse to obey. Take for instance, the "Sermon on the Mount" & "the Beatitudes" (Matt. 5: - 7: 6; Luke 6: 20-49;) which set forth the righteous Government for the earth. This is not of Grace but law, even as God's righteousness is law. Nevertheless, we as Christians should set our aim for such an ideal in our daily conduct. As Christ will teach all nations His righteousness, it will be based upon rewards. In that day men will be forgiven their trespasses according to how they forgive those who trespassed against them, no one can say that God forgives us today in such a manner. In that day, men will seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness before they seek anything else because in so doing, all things shall be added unto them. We could go right down the list and compare the Kingdom teachings with the Grace teachings and we would see that they have different basic rules. I do not say that the sermon on the mount has no bearing on Christians, but on the contrary we learn the righteousness of God through it, as well as the commandments, statutes, and ordinances. **These do not add to our salvation but they should influence our conduct.**

During this period when Christ shall rule the Kingdom of righteousness, the nations of the world will abide by the Kingdom teachings and not one sword shall be lifted up against another nation but peace shall reign. Satan will not be able to tempt the nations for he will be sealed until the kingdom rule comes to a new time period in history. The tribes of Israel will be the blessing of the nations and the reason for this is summed up best as recorded in Heb. 8:10-13; "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. In that He saith, a new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away."

Chapter VII

THE DURATION OF THE KINGDOM AND THE FINAL EVENTS TO FOLLOW A. THE THOUSAND YEARS

The duration of the Kingdom of righteousness has been hidden throughout the centuries past and revealed at an opportune time when reference is given to the chaining of Satan for one thousand

years. In Rev. 20 the thousand years is made reference to, six different times in the first 7 verses. Three references are to the duration of Satan's prison sentence before his final punishment, and three have reference to the duration of the kingdom, the saints, and the rest of the dead. If the time period had been revealed at an earlier time, there may have been room for misunderstanding of this kingdom of righteousness. God revealed the time period in His own time when it could best help the Believers to fit the prophetic program together.

Since we are interested mostly in the coming of Christ in the clouds and His second coming to earth we will hastily go over the events following the thousand year kingdom. We had already mentioned that Satan would be bound during the thousand years when Christ would reign on earth, and now immediately after the thousand years are finished we read, Rev. 20: 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." We would naturally think that when Satan was bound and cast into the bottomless pit that that would be the end, but not so. God's ways are not our ways, so let us read on and find out why Satan must be loosed for a season. Rev. 20: 7, 8; "And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, 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." This is an astonishing statement. After one thousand years of righteous teaching, the nations of the world are no better than they were before, but are willing to listen to Satan and his lies. Please notice that these who go forth to battle are as the sands of the sea in number. Satan has been the "Prince of the power of the air", "the god of this world", "as a lion" and all in all a powerful adversary of God. (See article in Bible Teachings on Satan, Pages 24, 25). The thousand years in the bottomless pit has not changed Satan and he is ready to muster all the world's forces to challenge God to a battle. Satan wanted the land of the saints, and the tribes of Israel so he deceived the nations into joining him. For a thousand years the nations have been going to Jerusalem to worship and learn God's righteousness and now they have joined with Satan to fight against God. We are not told much about this battle in the book of Revelation but we are given a name, "Gog and Magog" which has previously been mentioned in prophecy. Let us turn to this prophecy. (Ezek. 38, and 39:) Here the armies of the north led by Russia, with their allies from the East, inspired by Satan, surround the land of Jerusalem. God told Ezekiel to prophesy against them, Ezek. 38: 14-16; "Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord God; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it? And thou shalt come from

thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army: And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes." These mighty armies saw that Israel had been enjoying the safety and peace of God, and when deceived by Satan were ready to go and plunder their land of plenty. God allows them to come that He may pour out His wrath upon all the wicked forces and bring Satan to a final and eternal judgment. The Lord will fight this battle that they all may know that He is the Lord. (Ezek. 38: 23:) God's method of fighting this battle is briefly stated in Ezek. 38: 21, 22; "And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord God: every man's sword shall be against his brother. And I will plead against him with pestilence and blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstones." God destroys the enemy in six ways and any one of them would be sufficient to destroy them. The destruction will be so great that it will take 7 years to burn all the shields, bows, etc. (Ezek. 39: 9, 10:) It will take 7 months to bury all the dead. Ezek. 39: 11-15;) In the book of Revelation, God describes this whole victory in just a few words. Rev. 20: 9; "And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them."

B. THE END OF SATAN

At last we see in the great plan of God, the end of "Father Sin", Satan, the dragon, better known as the Devil. Rev. 20: 10; "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever." This is the eternal Word of God and Satan is doomed and his angels (Matt. 25: 41; Rev. 12: 9;) and God's creatures will be freed from sin for ever and ever. In closing let us read Isaiah 14: 12-15; "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit."

C. THE WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT

After the beast, the false prophet, and Satan are put into their eternal judgment of fire and brimstone, then God prepares His

WHITE THRONE for the last judgment of "the rest of the dead". Rev. 20: 11-15; "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. 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. 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. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Remember that this is not the judgment of Believers, but rather the rest of the dead who were not raised unto resurrection of life through accepting Christ as their Saviour. These who stood before the White throne were judged according to their works, and the Book of life was opened to verify that their names were not written in the book of life and their end was the eternal lake of fire. Rev. 21: 8.

D. THE NEW CREATION

In Rev. 21: 1-7; 21: 9-27; 22: 1-7; we have mention of seven new things which God creates. (1) New heaven Rev. 21: 1; (2) New earth Rev. 21: 1; (3) New people Rev. 21: 3-7; (4) New Jerusalem Rev. 21: 9-21; (5) The Eternal temple Rev. 21: 22; (6) The Eternal light Rev. 21: 23-27; (7) The new Paradise garden Rev. 22: 1-7; The old things are destroyed with fire and God creates a new and eternal order of all where sin can never again express itself, where life eternal is for all. The old will never again be remembered but will be blotted out of our memory forever. "He that testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come Lord Jesus." Rev. 22: 20.

This book has been written that you might prepare to meet the King of Kings and Lord of lords in the first resurrection and not the last. Rev. 20: 6. "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years." Jesus Christ is coming again so let us prepare to meet Him in the air by accepting God's gift of Eternal life through His Son who died on the cross to save us from sin. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." John 3. 36. The choice is yours, which will you have?

SUMMARY

The world is looking for a Deliverer and because they have failed to see that need met in The Lord Jesus Christ, their choice will be, "The Beast", "The False Prophet", and "The Man of Sin", all instructed by Satan. Because Israel rejected the "Lowly Jesus" as their Messiah and King, they are as sheep without a shepherd and the Kingdom is postponed until they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of Heaven. While Christ tarries, He is calling out believers from every nation to become His "Bride". When the church or Bride of Christ is completed, He will come for her in the clouds, and along with the Old Testament saints, lead us all to Heaven for a period of 7 years when seals of wrath shall be opened upon the world. This time is known as "the day of Christ". 1 Cor. 1:8. After which we shall come with Christ to make war upon the Beast and the False prophet and all nations which shall encompass Jerusalem. This event is known as "The Day of the Lord". Rev. 19: 15, 16. The beast and the false prophet shall be cast into the Eternal lake of fire, and Christ will set up His Kingdom of righteousness for a thousand years. During this time Satan will be chained and cast into the bottomless pit. At the close of the thousand years of righteousness, Satan will be loosed and again he will deceive the nations and through Gog and all his Satellites, they shall come against Jerusalem only to be destroyed by (1) pestilence, (2) blood, (3) an overflowing rain, (4) great hailstones, (5) fire, (6) brimstones, which the Lord will send against them. It will take 7 months to bury the great multitude of dead. Satan will be cast into the lake of fire for ever and ever, and the rest of the dead shall be raised from the grave to be judged for their sins before the White Throne of God. All whose names are not written in the Lamb's Book of life are cast into the lake of fire forever. After sin is done away with, God makes everything new and we who have been cleansed enter into the Paradise of God for ever and ever.

"He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen, Even so, come, Lord Jesus." Rev. 22: 20.