



**A STUDY
OF**

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

"There is a God in Heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come." Daniel 2 : 28

By
Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Losier
Not to be Sold

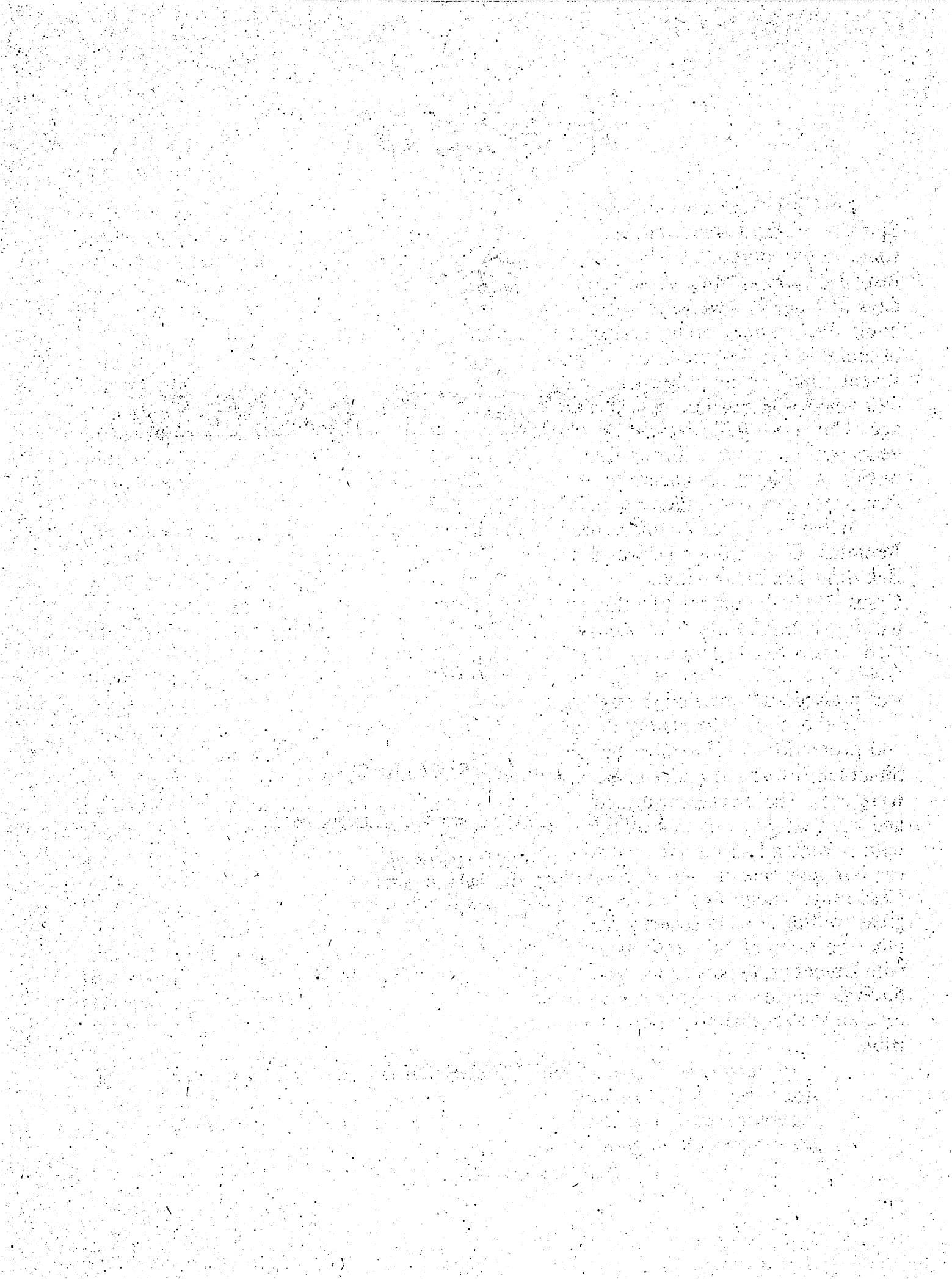
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CHRISTIAN LITERATURE AND BIBLE CENTER INC.,

NOT TO BE SOLD



PREFACE

This brief but concise study of the revelation given to Daniel by God the Holy Spirit is of great importance. It is a forerunner to the Book of Revelation predicting some very important events to take place during the Great Tribulation. It also shows the insight given to Daniel about some important Gentile Empires that would come after the days of Daniel. Several of those Empires have come and gone since Daniel wrote the book. With Israel being scattered for a period of 70 years and sent into captivity because of her waywardness, Daniel had received word through the Holy Spirit of a seventy times seven judgement, or the seventy week-years of Daniel. This judgement of 490 years was fulfilled all except 7 years, and then there was a break of the mystery age. This age, which we are in, was hidden for God's specific reasons. The last seven years will be fulfilled during the Great Tribulation. God in His omniscience worked all of this out literally, concerning the Sixty Nine weeks and we can rest assured that the final seven years will literally be fulfilled as well.

When Daniel wrote this book, Daniel was a Royal prisoner and contemporary with Jeremiah. Even though he was a prisoner, Daniel was protected by God in the land of Babylon. He lived a long life, ranging from the reign of Nebuchadnezzar to King Cyrus. He had a unique life along with the priests Ezekiel, Ezra, Zerubbabel and Jeshua the high priest of the restoration of Israel. During his life span, the Name of Almighty God, was better known as the God of heaven. Because of the miraculous deliverance of God's faithful and Daniel's interpretation of the king's dreams, "The God of Heaven" was praised and revealed throughout that great empire of Babylon.

God declared the history of nations before they were ever born! The mighty power and protection of God was manifested through Daniel in the lions' den and through Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego who survived the fiery furnace into which they were cast. The greatest testimony of all was when king Nebuchadnezzar was humbled and lived on grass like an ox for 7 years. His deliverance was spectacular and it ended with a tremendous decree sent forth to his vast domain. God has given this revelation for our admonition and encouragement, revealing to us that our God is the same Yesterday, Today and forever! May this study of the Book of Daniel be a source of great confidence and security from our Mighty Triune God. There will be references to other portions of Scripture as we study this Book of Daniel. We especially will deal with Daniel as the key to the Book of Revelation, and the Book of Revelation confirmed through Daniel. It is marvelous to see how God the Holy Spirit revealed separate revelations to various writers and there is no variableness in God's message in the Bible.

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (2 Tim.3:16)

Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Losier

DEDICATION

In the work of the Lord, it is of the utmost importance that the servant of the Lord has the right help mate. Marriage is an honorable and wonderful relationship, if the two are agreed and walk in the light of God's Word. It is like being together in God's inner circle of service unto the Lord. God has been very gracious unto me, He provided a loving and precious wife and an outstanding family of five boys and four girls. They were well trained by their loving mother. I thank God for the 54 years of being married to my precious Dorothy, who was a great inspiration to me, tolerating many years of toil, struggle and hardship. She is now safely in the presence of the Lord whom she loved dearly. Before she died, she gave her final testimony in song for the congress of the I.C.C.C. in Canada. She sang, "His Eye is on the Sparrow, and I know He watches me." When she finished, she received a standing ovation from a thousand saints of God who were there. She was God's provision for me and a help mate as I answered God's commission.

As my dear Dorothy lay dying of cancer, she was not concerned about herself, but rather about me. Dorothy asked Imogene Davidson, her dear close friend, "Who will look after my Andy, when I am gone?" Imogene herself, a precious saint of God, had struggled for years to faithfully care for her dear husband Ben Davidson, who suffered 7 strokes, before the Lord called him home. Dear Dorothy and Imogene Harper Davidson were as close as sisters to each other with an outstanding love for one another. I believe that this love for Imogene prompted my beloved Dorothy to ask that question of Imogene. God the Holy Spirit had to break through her resistance, when choosing lovely Imogene to be my precious help mate in these latter days of my life. Imogene's love, and patience and help is wonderful and more than I could ever have hoped for. She is a gift from God and I thank God for her as we continue the work of the Lord through our lives. God has done "exceedingly abundantly above all that I have asked or even thought of" and I wish to dedicate this Biblical textbook to Dorothy and to Imogene, two wonderful help mates whom God has provided.

"That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend, with all saints, what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God. Now unto Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." (Ephesians 3:17-21)

Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Losier

FOREWORD

As God's chosen vessel, being called of God as a teen-ager, I desire to let my life be a continual testimony to the saving grace of our loving Lord. I count it a great privilege to be an under shepherd, through the printed page, to hundreds of thousands of precious souls around the world. The understanding of prophecy has been a gift that God the Holy Spirit has given to me, to share with precious believers around the world. My Bible teaching cannot be purchased by any means and is as free as the Gospel. I desire to send forth these Biblical textbooks to many parts of the world. These textbooks are not to be sold under any circumstances, but I know that some of the National Christian leaders have taken advantage of my generosity and have made a profit from these books. God knows their hearts and when they stand before the Judgement Seat of Christ, their good works shall be revealed, and if their motives were selfish, their works will be burned as "Wood, Hay, and Stubble."

We are coming very close to the year 2,000 and the Rapture can take place any time before this date or after it. I have been a Christian for more than 75 years and God has blessed me with the best of health. I know what it means to have an abundance as well as to have very little. I have experienced discord among the brethren, and have been falsely accused of a variety of things many times.

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing." (Philippians 3:13-16)

With this book I am launching into a very important subject about the things to come. God has not left us in the dark as to His future plans and has used specific ways and means of relating these things to us. God the Holy Spirit had prepared chosen vessels down through the ages to declare the ultimate purpose and plan of God through a variety of writers. As we study the Book of Daniel, it is but a fragment of the overall revelation of God. The revelation given to Daniel was a forerunner to the final Book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ. In all of my teaching of the Word of God, I constantly remind my students that God has a final purpose in allowing sin to run it's course. That purpose was to totally eradicate sin from God's Domain forever and ever. That victory has already been won at the Cross of Calvary, where the Lamb of God paid the debt for the sins of the whole world. God will bring in everlasting righteousness in His own time. (*Daniel 9:24.*) My purpose in writing this study is to establish you in the most holy faith.

As you study the Book of Daniel, read carefully every reference which has been mentioned and always draw your conclusions according to "Thus Saith the Lord." As to

the history of the nations, you will find that the historical records of the nations prove what God foretold would happen. This is not fatalism but rather realism, under the omniscience of God. God never forces His way upon anyone, but gives every person who comes to the age of accountability, a chance to make a personal choice. There is nothing hidden from God, even to the thoughts and intent of the heart! God is sovereign over all and there may be a way that seemeth right unto man, including rebellion against God, but the end thereof is judgement and death. (*Proverbs 14:12*) As a student of the Word of God, you have much to learn about God from the Word of God. Your human viewpoint and traditions of life, must be laid aside so that you may learn the Divine view point from the Bible. God the Holy Spirit has revealed the truth to us through the Bible.

"If ye live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." (*Galatians 5:25*)

In order to live in the Spirit one must be born of the Spirit. (*John 3:3-7*) Being born of the Holy Spirit, we become new creatures and our whole pattern of life changes. Without God the Holy Spirit, you cannot understand these deep things of God's Word. As we are led by the Holy Spirit, we enjoy the sweet fellowship in the Lord as members of the royal family of God.

"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit ye are not under the law." (*Galatians 5:16-18*)

This does not mean that we can be lawless, but rather strengthened by the Holy Spirit as He guides you into all truth.

My final word to you as you begin this study of the Book of Daniel is:

1. Allow God the Holy Spirit to take full possession of your life. (*Ephesians 5:18*)
2. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit. (*Ephesians 4:30*)
3. Allow the Holy Spirit to teach you these things. (*John 16:13*)
4. Quench not the Holy Spirit's power in your life through a sinful life. (*1 Thessalonians 5:19*)
5. Keep in the right relationship with God by confessing your sins directly to the Triune God. (*1 John 1:19*)

Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Losier

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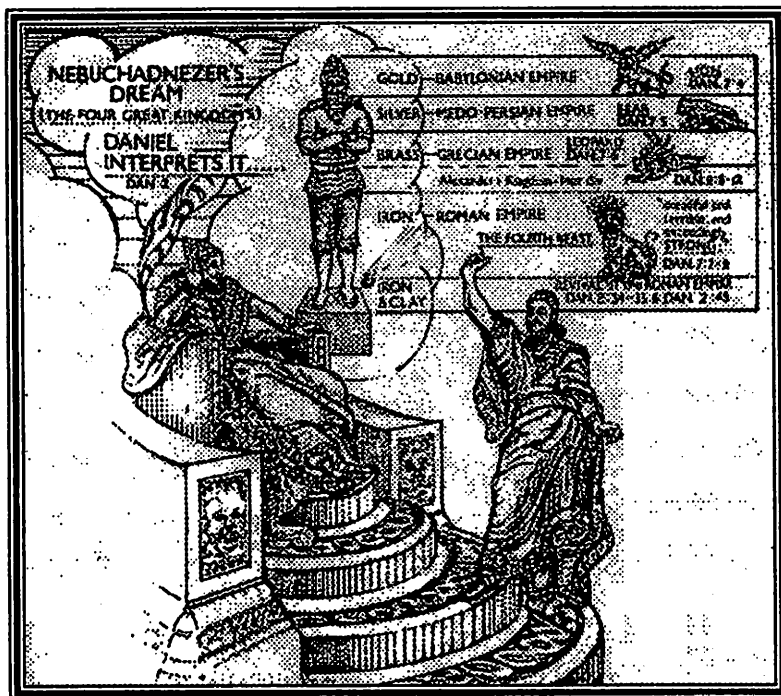
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CHAPTER ONE



INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF DANIEL

(DANIEL 1:1-5:31)

As we open the Book of Daniel in our studies, remember that God the Holy Spirit was the author of this tremendous revelation. We don't have to guess about the authorship, for we know that the book of Daniel is based upon the omniscience of the Triune God and was recorded by Daniel. God's choice of the writers of each book of scripture was flawless. He chose men of good character to be his messengers and prepared them in unique ways past our finding out. The convictions and testimonies of the faithful believers that we read about in the Book of Daniel should encourage us today, in our daily walk.

So often, it seems, the world environment was unusually harsh or severe when God revealed future events to His servants like Daniel, Ezekiel, and John. These chosen vessels of God were often prisoners in strange lands. God the Holy Spirit often revealed prophecies when it seemed, to the writers, that there was very little hope for their people to survive. Both Daniel and Ezekiel were given tremendous insight into future nations that would come into power, including visions of a coming Messiah who would rule an everlasting kingdom in great power.

Daniel was contemporary with Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Ezra, Zerubbabel and Jeshua, who was the high priest during the restoration of Jerusalem. Having been well trained

in the royal palace of Jerusalem, Daniel was taken to Babylon along with many other slaves, to serve their conquering king, Nebuchadnezzar. While serving the king, Daniel would become a God-fearing example to his people, for the glory of God. Through the Babylonian captivity, God was actually preserving the Messianic hope, through the tribe of Judah, while using Babylon to punish Israel for her wickedness.

In Daniel and Jeremiah, we find two different dates for the captivity of the tribe of Judah, but that can be explained.

*“The third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah”
(Daniel 1:1)*

and in Jeremiah it says,

“The Word of God came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim” (Jeremiah 25:1)

Let us not be overly concerned about these two dates, as they refer to two different invasions by Nebuchadnezzar. Jeremiah dates it from the first joint invasion when he broke the power of Egypt, (604 B.C.) and Daniel, refers to Nebuchadnezzar’s third year as sole ruler (603 B.C.) It is important to have the dates as correct as possible to answer the critics of the Bible, but the important issue is always the message.

Let us first look at some of these chosen vessels who were used by God. The book of Daniel must be studied together with the books of Ezekiel, Jeremiah and Ezra, who were Daniel’s contemporaries. The book of Revelation, written many years later, refers to many of the same events covered by the prophecies in Daniel. The messages of these other books were also from God the Holy Spirit and are all part of the Bible, the Holy Scriptures. We will not go into detail on those other Books, but we will occasionally take note of how the Holy Spirit used those other writers to reveal additional aspects of both their immediate situations and things yet to come. Our concentration, however, will primarily be on the contents of the book of Daniel.

I. GOD’S CHOSEN VESSELS IN THE BOOK OF DANIEL

Each of these men had certain outstanding talents or gifts, but first of all, let us observe the chosen writer of this prophetic Book.

A. PRINCE DANIEL. (God is my judge)

Prince Daniel was a very educated man from Israel, from the Royal household in Israel and was well chosen by the rulers of Babylon to serve in their kingdom. Daniel was examined carefully, both mentally and physically before he was picked to work in the Babylonian palace. (*Daniel 1:3-7*) Daniel was among the first four, and all four were given Chaldean names because they would be serving in the palace of king Nebuchadnezzar. God picked Daniel and these other chosen vessels to receive a very special revelation of things to come. Even Nebuchadnezzar was appointed by God for God’s particular purpose involving both the punishment and the preservation of the kingly tribe of Judah. God always has His chosen vessels

and frequently He even uses unbelieving nations to accomplish His special projects.

Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself, while living in a strange land. It required adjustments, and although Daniel was familiar with royal affairs, he had convictions and separated himself from things that would defile his body. He was no doubt the spokesman for Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, who were his close friends during their Babylonian captivity. They refused to eat the well prepared delicious food from the heathen king's table, choosing instead a common plain food. The word "Pulse" means seeded foods or vegetables. That does not mean that they became vegetarians, but rather that they ate plain vegetables along with any kosher meats that were available. They also refrained from drinking the king's wine.

"But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. Now God had brought Daniel into favor and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs." (Daniel 1:8-9)

God had a special purpose for Daniel as he purposed in his heart to be well pleasing before God. As the writer of the Book of Daniel, he was chosen to reveal prophecies of great things yet to come. The Book of Daniel is tremendous evidence of the wonder working power of Almighty God through His omniscient and omnipotent personality. It revealed empires that would be established for a period of time and then be destroyed forever. It is the key to understanding the Book of Revelation, and the revival of the Roman Empire in the latter days. It declares to all nations the mighty power of the Living God. Daniel was God's special vessel for these very special revelations. I believe that the Book of Daniel contains the key verse of the whole Bible, (*Daniel 9:24*) showing in just a few words, God's plan for dealing once and for all with the Sin question

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

God has offered Grace to sinful man, for Jesus Himself made the payment for our sins and has offered to us reconciliation with God. At the time of His choosing, He will put an end to sin, He will destroy all sin and punish all unbelievers. He will then create a new heaven and new earth. God's final aim is to eradicate sin forever from His new heavens and His new earth. That will be a glorious day for God's eternal domain.

The interpretation of the image which Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dreams was directly from God the Holy Spirit. To this present day, three fourths of that vision have been fulfilled, exactly as it was predicted. Now we are waiting for the fulfillment of the final portion, dealing with the Revival of the Roman Empire in the latter days. The signs of the times do indicate that we are coming close to the

end times, when the Rapture will take place. The clouds are forming and that trumpet of God could sound at any moment. We are to live each day with great expectation, but also with great evangelization. The fields are ripe unto harvest and the laborers are so few. May God send forth laborers into the fields to reap many precious souls for our soon coming Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

After God's revelation to Daniel of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, the king decided to unify the religion of the whole Babylonian Empire by setting up a "golden image." He recognized that Daniel's God was a God of gods.

"The king answered unto Daniel, and said, of a truth it is, that your God is a God of the gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret." (Daniel 2:47)

Please note however, that the king did not claim Daniel's God as his own, because of his proud nature. The king used the information of his dream to establish his sovereign rights throughout his great empire. This was the first world empire to unify their rule, after the attempt at the tower of Babel. At this point, Nebuchadnezzar, set himself up as the ruler of the whole known world. He also wanted to force all the people of his domain to bow down and worship the image which he had made.

"Therefore at the time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of musick, all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down and worshipped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up." (Daniel 3:7)

The various types of musical instruments revealed that all these nations and people would not necessarily use the same types of instruments. Nevertheless, when they heard the sound of the music, they would have to stop everything and bow down in the direction of his idol to worship. Rest assured, Daniel and his three Hebrew friends would not bow down to this idol. No one dared to accuse Daniel before the king, because of Daniel's high position, but that was not the case with his three friends.

B. FAITHFUL SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABED-NEGO.

These were three outstanding vessels, chosen by God. Their witness and testimony sparked off a world wide declaration, by the king, that their God was the one and only true and living God. As God preserved the Messianic hope in the land of Babylon, so He used Judah in captivity to proclaim the sovereignty of God to the nations.

When King Nebuchadnezzar set up his image for the world to worship, Daniel and his three friends did not bow down to it. That is when certain Chaldeans accused all of the Jews of not obeying his command, and singled out Daniel's three Jewish friends in particular. Because of their jealousy, they wanted these Hebrews removed from the king's service, so they reminded the king of his command,

"And whoso falleth not down and worshipping, that he should be cast

into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.” (Daniel 3:10-12)

This caused Nebuchadnezzar to become raging mad and they were brought before him.

“Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?” (Daniel 3:14)

It is amazing that the king was willing to give the Hebrews another chance to worship his gods, if they would worship his image. These three Jews, with one accord, gave a tremendous testimony.

“Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us out from thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.” (Daniel 3:16-18)

This caused the fury of the king to boil within himself, to think that anyone would dare to defy him and challenge his sovereignty. He commanded that the furnace be heated seven times hotter, and to make matters worse, he had his mighty men bind God’s three chosen men, and cast them into the fiery furnace. All their clothes were left on them to burn them even faster than otherwise, even including their hats! The fire was so intense that the guards were drawn into the fiery furnace and burned to death.

“Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counselors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, and walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.” (Daniel 3:24-25)

Under the protection of the Eternal Son of God, these three men were probably in no hurry to come out of the fiery furnace. They freely walk with the Son of God, in sweet fellowship with Him in spite of the circumstances. God created all the elements in the vast universe and He has power over them, as He showed in this case. This was one of the occasions when the eternal Son of God came to earth in the image of a man before He took upon Himself the human body in Bethlehem. Now the king was ready to acknowledge that God’s power was greater than his own.

“Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, ye

servants of the Most High God, come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, came forth of the midst of the fire." (Daniel 3:26)

This amazed all the counselors, to see these accused men alive and well without even the smell of fire upon them.

"Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, who hath sent His angel, and delivered His servants that trusted in Him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God." (Daniel 3:28)

This decree was then sent by King Nebuchadnezzar throughout the whole world.

"Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill, because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort." (Daniel 3:29)

This decree went throughout the whole world and you would have thought that all would have turned to the living God, but on the contrary, they continued in the worship of idols. At this point, Nebuchadnezzar was not willing to exclude his idol gods, for he still thought himself as supreme. God had to humble this mighty king, by making him dwell among the beasts of the field. Note the pride of this king, in spite of the vision and interpretation that was given. (Daniel 4:1-27) After twelve months here are the very words the king used:

"The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?" (Daniel 4:30)

God had to humiliate king Nebuchadnezzar, by making him temporarily insane, and removing him from his throne for seven years. The king was reduced to living on the grass of the field like an animal before he finally realized that there was a living and everlasting God over all! It was then that Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged that the God of Heaven was everlasting and over all including him. The king's whole domain was alerted to serve the living God, and they were without excuse when they reverted back to worshipping their dead idol gods. We are reminded of the total depravity of man in himself and the total righteousness of God by himself. The tree vision that Nebuchadnezzar had was the king's final vision. We have no further information through the Bible of king Nebuchadnezzar, but certainly he was greatly influenced by Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. The whole royal family should have turned to the Living God, but on the contrary, they ignored the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, returned to their heathen idols and set themselves up as supreme once more. God used another heathen king, King Cyrus, to punish the Babylonians and to return the Hebrews to their Promised Land.

C. KING CYRUS OF THE MEDES & PERSIANS

In the fifth chapter of Daniel, he relates the account of the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar named Belshazzar who was weighed in God's balances, and was found wanting. Belshazzar began to rule Babylon in BC 556, and was an irresponsible playboy in his entertainment and drinking parties. As a young ruler, he ignored the experiences of Nebuchadnezzar and was determined to do his own thing just like many of the young people of our day. During one of his lustful feasts, he ordered the sacred vessels from the Jerusalem temple to be brought out so that he could desecrate them in his drunken stupor. To ridicule the God of Heaven, he used the golden vessels from the temple of God to worship and praise the Babylonian idols which were made by the hands of his craftsmen. The temple vessels meant nothing to him, but it wasn't long until he learned differently, for God is not mocked. Unknown to Belshazzar, his enemies, the Medes and Persians were at the gates, ready to attack at that very moment.

"Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand. Belshazzar, while he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem: that the king, and his princes, his wives and his concubines might drink therein. Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which was at Jerusalem; And the king and his princes, his wives, and his concubines drank in them. They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone."

(Daniel 5:1-4)

As they were in their drunken condition God gave Belshazzar a message which made his arrogant attitude crumble and made his knees knock together in fright.

"In that same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaister of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. Then the king's countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another." (Daniel 5:5-6)

I imagine the shock, that came over his ungodly party, must have been very great.

A hand wrote this upon the wall:

**“MENE, MENE,
TEKEL,
UPHARSIN.”**



The Chaldean astrologers and the soothsayers were called in (*Daniel 5:7-8*), but they were unable to understand what was written. The queen remembered the prophet Daniel, that man of the living God, and he was summoned to come into that drunken party. King Belshazzar, then spoke unto Daniel and said,

“I have heard of thee, that the spirit of the gods is in thee, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom is found in thee.”
(*Daniel 5:14*)

The king offered Daniel all sorts of gifts for the interpretation, but Daniel wasn't interested in them. Daniel was God's man of the hour, and he reminded Belshazzar that it was God, whom he mocked, that had given the Babylonian empire to his grandfather, King Nebuchadnezzar.

“O thou king, the most high God gave Nebuchadnezzar thy father (grandfather) a kingdom, and majesty, and glory, and honour: And for the majesty that He gave him, all people, nations, and languages, trembled and feared before him; whom he would he slew; and whom he would he kept alive; and whom he would he set up: and whom he would he put down.” (*Daniel 5:18-19*)

God gave the interpretation of the handwriting on the wall to Daniel, condemning Belshazzar, who because he was drunk, paid very little attention to the warning in the message, but was pleased that it had finally being interpreted. God gave Belshazzar a verbal picture of justice, similar to the picture shown in many court rooms today of Justice holding a balance. In this verbal picture, however, it was God holding the balance of Justice, and King Belshazzar was the one weighed and found wanting.

“MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.”
(*Daniel 5:26-28*)

You would have thought that the king would place Daniel under arrest for such an interpretation, but instead he clothed him with royal robes. We then read of

Belshazzar's fate in just one brief sentence, for he did not see another sunrise.

"In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain."

(Daniel 5:30)

Babylon had failed to allow the Jews to return to their home land, and that is why the Medes and Persians, under God's sovereignty, were chosen to bring in the next mighty world empire. God foretold of His shepherd, King Cyrus before he was even born. It is of great interest to realize that this Gentile monarch was used of God to restore Israel to her land.

D. PRIEST EZEKIEL.

Ezekiel was a priest from Israel, taken into captivity to preside over the captives from Israel, along the river called Chebar. (*2 Kings 24:11-16*) He was specially appointed by God to remind Israel of the reason for their captivity. (*Ezekiel 14:23*) The hand of the Lord was upon his life as God revealed to him some outstanding visions. (*Ezekiel 1:3; 3:14,22; 8:1; 33:22; 37:1-39:29; 40:1*) God used Ezekiel to record prophetic truths about the end days, as well as spiritual admonition for all times. He was given some specific revelation concerning the final battles in the end times and also clear revelations about several nations. He was given insight into the characteristics and personality of Lucifer who became Satan. (*Ezekiel 28:12-19*) Ezekiel was also given a glimpse into the promise of the future kingdom of the Son of David. He related the restoration of Israel as a nation, and her resurrection like a valley of dry bones coming to life again. (*Ezekiel 37*) Another important subject of Ezekiel's writings was the invasion by the armies of the north, following the regathering of Israel back in her land. He wrote that temple worship would be restored and the glory of the Lord would fill the temple with His Shekinah glory. Reference, indirectly, was made to the triumphant entrance of Christ into Jerusalem, and to the fact that the golden gate would be closed and sealed forever. (*Ezekiel 44:1-2*) He was also used to preserve in writing the various tribes of Israel and their God-given portions of the promised land.

May we now gather facts as to what the Bible says about the restoration of Israel to the Promised land.

II. THE RESTORATION OF ISRAEL.

Since the King of Babylon refused to allow the Tribe of Judah to return to the promised land, God took the world empire away from Belshazzar and placed it in the hands of King Cyrus, under the joint effort of the Medes and Persians. Following this, the Persians were blessed of God for some 2,500 years for restoring Israel as a nation. This restoration was a forerunner to that final regathering of Israel for her harshest punishment which will take place during the Great Tribulation. Let us now see what revelation was given to Jeremiah, concerning Israel's punishment.

A. PROPHET JEREMIAH PROCLAIMED THEIR RETURN

Daniel was aware of the writings of Jeremiah and as he studied the scroll written by Jeremiah, he discovered that Judah would be in captivity for 70 years. Jeremiah proclaimed,

“Surely as a wife treacherously departeth from her husband, so have ye dealt treacherously with me, O house of Israel, saith the Lord. A voice was heard upon the high places, weeping and supplications of the children of Israel: for they have perverted their way, and they have forgotten the Lord their God. Return, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backsliding. Behold, we come unto thee; for thou art the Lord our God.” (Jeremiah 3:20-22)

Israel was compared to an unfaithful wife who had departed from God the Father. It is interesting that the church is called the bride of Christ to be united at a great wedding feast after the Rapture. Because Israel had transgressed against God, we have on record that Israel would remain in captivity for 70 years. Daniel knew this from reading what the Holy Spirit revealed to Jeremiah.

“Therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts; Because ye have not heard my words, Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the Lord, and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and a hissing, and perpetual desolations. ... And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the Lord, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations.” (Jeremiah 25:8-12)

As we study about Daniel and his 70 years in Babylon, we will observe that Jeremiah’s prophecies came to pass just as he predicted. Daniel had kept track of the years of captivity and began to pray to the Lord for that deliverance. It was only then, that God revealed to Daniel that they would be under Gentile rule for 70 times 7 years, or a total of 490 years. It was also recorded by Jeremiah that the Great Tribulation would be “Jacob’s Trouble.”

“Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of “Jacob’s Trouble,” but he shall be saved out of it.” (Jeremiah 30:7)

You may be wondering just what does Jeremiah have to do with this study of the Book of Daniel. Well, it has very much to do with Daniel, especially concerning the completion of their Babylonian captivity, which also corresponded

to Daniel's visions. Daniel calculated this time period and then was given the further revelation of "Jacob's Trouble" or the Great Tribulation. God did not add or postpone anything, but was revealing other things. It is true, Jeremiah's writings preceded Daniel's revelation, but it all was in perfect timing by God the Holy Spirit. I am sure that Ezekiel and Daniel talked over many of these mysteries of God, and were encouraged by God to continue in the work of the Lord, in spite of the circumstances. Israel has been scattered and persecuted severely in the past, but the height of "Jacob's Trouble" is still in the future. Christ confirmed what the Holy Spirit revealed to Daniel for in Matthew it says,

"When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)" (Matthew 24:15)

The Lord also placed this Great Tribulation at a future date.

*"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be."
(Matthew 24:21)*

One only needs to study about the coming Great Tribulation, to realize how divesting the world wide persecution of Jews will be. It will happen after the Rapture of the saints occurs. There will be a billion people slain at one time during those terrible days. Praise God, we who are believers will be caught up out from the wrath to come. (1 Thessalonians 1:10)

B. THE DECREES OF ISRAEL'S RESTORATION

1. CYRUS GOD'S ANOINTED DECREED THEIR RETURN

Although we deal directly with Darius the son or grandson of Ahasuerus. (Daniel 9:1) our main interest is in King Cyrus. Why? Well, God's Word gives us the answer. The exact strategy spoken by the prophet Isaiah, was used by the Medes and Persians to defeat the Babylonian Empire. It happened just as God said, and was prophesied by the prophet before Cyrus was even born.

"That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid. Thus saith the Lord to His anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut;" (Isaiah 44:28 & 45:1)

As Belshazzar was having his drunken party and desecrating the vessels of the temple of Jerusalem, God was directing the Medes and the Persians for the secret attack via the Euphrates river, which they diverted, so that their armies could invade Babylon through the dry Euphrates river bed. They were then able to open the draw bridges and take the city in the simplest way.

These are all preliminary to the other tremendous teaching of the Book of Daniel. God allowed the vision of the image to be given to Nebuchadnezzar, but the interpretation of it through the prophet Daniel. During the restoration of Israel to the promised land, God used Ezra, Nehemiah, and Zerubbabel to prepare Israel for the coming of the Messiah. Israel however, was looking for a different kind of Messiah than Jesus, and God in His omniscience was aware that Israel would reject the Messiah, and even crucify him. The establishing of the kingdom of righteousness which the Jews hoped for will not occur until after the Great Tribulation. The old city of Jerusalem in which Jesus lived and died was again destroyed in 70 A.D. by Titus from Rome.

The recent restoration of Israel, after being scattered these many years began in 1930. Great progress has already been made in restoring that promised land to Israel. Israel was re-instated as a nation in April 1948, under a great struggle. When the Rapture of the true church takes place, then Israel will have a seven year covenant with the evil Dictator of the world, only to have the covenant broken in the middle of the seven years.

"And he (The Dictator) shall confirm the covenant with many for one week (7 years): and in the midst of the week (3 1/2 years) he (the Dictator) shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease (temple worship), and for the overspreading of Abomination he (the Dictator) shall make it Desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the Desolate." (Daniel 9:27)

The regathering of Israel is for their final punishment from God, during the Great Tribulation. There will be a great revival among all nations during that 7 year period and countless numbers shall seal their faith by being martyred for Jesus Christ their newfound savior. (Revelation 7:9-14)

2. DANIEL FORETOLD TIME OF CRUCIFIXION AND RESTORATION

In the Bible, a very important "appointed time," was the exact timing of the crucifixion of the Messiah. Jewish scholars should have been aware of the timing and the rulers of Israel should have considered it, but they ignored it and completely rejected the Lord Jesus Christ as their Messiah.

"Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. And after threescore and two weeks shall the Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince (The Dictator) that shall come shall destroy the city (Jerusalem) and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with

a flood, and unto the end of the war Desolations are determined.” (Daniel 9:25-26)

There is much that is involved concerning these two verses as to the decrees concerning the restoration of the temple and Jerusalem. First of all, we are interested in the proclamation of the decree concerning the crucifixion of the Messiah. In B.C.536 Cyrus sent forth a decree for the restoration of the temple in Jerusalem.

“Now the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the Lord God of heaven given me; and He hath charged me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all His people? The Lord his God be with him, and let him go.”
(2 Chronicles 36:22-23)

“Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The Lord God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and He hath charged me to build Him an house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all His people? His God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the Lord God of Israel, (He is the God) which is in Jerusalem. And whosoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the freewill-offering for the house of God that is in Jerusalem.”
(Ezra 1:1-4)

This is an amazing declaration from God’s anointed Gentile ruler. It was Cyrus’ decree to rebuild the temple which began the exact timing for when the Eternal Son of God would go to the Cross. God had so ordered the decree to be sent forth 483 years before the crucifixion would take place. The number 483 years is derived from (*Daniel 9:25*). 7 weeks (sevens) of years plus threescore and two weeks, or 62 weeks (sevens) of years, adds up to the total of 69 weeks (sevens), or 483 years (69x7) years. There is nothing too hard for God, who has an eternal plan that needs no alterations. He is immutable and never has to change his timing.

3. DARIUS CONFIRMS CYRUS' DECREE FOR THEIR RETURN

Darius was the ruling factor, under Cyrus (521-486 B.C.), and he confirmed the decree of king Cyrus to build the temple, and he even gave funds from Persian revenues to the Jewish builders. The temple vessels were returned to Jerusalem as well. Beasts of burden were given to the Jews to haul building materials, and also to be used for sacrifices upon the altar of the temple. It was forbidden for anyone in the Persian empire to hinder the building of the temple in any way, and if they did, they were to be hung and their houses destroyed. (*Ezra 6:1-12*)

It is marvelous to see the provision that the Living God made for the restoration of the temple, so that the temple and the walls of Jerusalem would be built when the Roman Government would rule the world. It was also essential that there be a temple in Jerusalem for the Messiah's earthly ministry. He offered himself to Israel, as their king, but was rejected. There is absolutely nothing hidden from God, and He knows the end from the beginning.

4. ARTAXERXES DECREES THAT EZRA GO TO JERUSALEM

Artaxerxes was that great persian king who was the third son of Xerxes, under whom Ezra and Nehemiah served as court officials. (465-422 B C) These men were all in God's plan to return the tribe of Judah to the promised land. God's timing is absolutely perfect with no need of alteration. King Artaxerxes ruled the Medes and Persians and under him, Darius ruled the former land of Babylon which was conquered by the Medes and Persians. (*Daniel 5:31; 6:1-27; 9:1*) Darius was probably a commanding general when Babylon was taken. He was the son of Ahasuerus and was made king over the Chaldeans. It is amazing how God used a Gentile power to return the tribe of Judah to Israel. God had His servants in the right places at the right times.

C. PEOPLE INVOLVED IN FIRST RESTORATION OF TEMPLE.

1. EZRA, NEHEMIAH AND ZERUBBABEL (*Ezra 4:1-3*)

In approximately B.C. 458 King Artaxerxes ruled the Medes and Persians and Ezra was a Jewish official who served in his court. The King granted permission to Ezra the priest, to return to the promised land as a scribe, to restore the law of Moses. There were some Jews, who because they were prospering among the Medes and Persians, did not want to return to their land. They preferred to remain in Babylon and Persia for material gain. However, there was a remnant that chose to return to their land under Ezra's leadership, in spite of the hardships they knew they would face. Perhaps we

would call them orthodox Jews. They had a strong desire to return to their land and to re-possess it.

King Artaxerxes gave Ezra a letter confirming his decree for Israel. He decreed that all who wished to return to their home land, of their own free will, could do so. Ezra was sent with funds from the king and his seven counsellors, to purchase animals to be sacrificed in the temple, and to purchase building materials. This remnant of Israel was to have freedom within the land and were not to be taxed, so that they could freely perform the temple worship. The priests were to have freedom in teaching the laws of God, and Ezra was to appoint magistrates and judges. He was given great power as he returned to Jerusalem. (*Ezra 7:11-28*) Remember, that even though King Artaxerxes was supporting the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem, he still considered the God of the Jews to be mainly the God of Jerusalem, and the God of heaven, rather than the only true and living God. He continued to believe in many gods.

Whenever the work of the Lord is prospering, rest assured that there will be adversaries who because of their jealousy and envy, will attempt to hinder it. When the local people saw that the foundation of the temple was finished and all the people were rejoicing, they wanted a part in it as well. So they approached Zerubbabel and wanted to build with the remnant that came with Ezra. They were refused, for evidently God revealed to Ezra and his leaders that they wanted to spoil the work or perhaps they wanted to profit from the persian wealth given for construction of the temple.

We must remember that several of the earlier invasions of Jerusalem happened because certain jewish leaders had rebelled against Babylonian control. The city of Jerusalem had been left in a desolate condition during those 70 years spoken of by the prophet Jeremiah. Now construction was begun in preparation for the massive temple building project of Herod, which took 46 years to build. (*John 2:20*) This was all to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. (*Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:4; Revelation 13:14-25; 11:2*)

2. ADVERSARIES THAT HINDERED REBUILDING THE TEMPLE

When the help of the people of the land was refused, they began to trouble the Jews. (*Ezra 4:4*) They hired counsellors against them, to frustrate their purpose. This continued through the reign of Cyrus and Darius. (*Ezra 4:5*) Now when Ahasuerus began to reign they made their complaints to him. Finally they wrote to Artaxerxes, the king of Persia, who caused the work to cease. (*Ezra 4:6-24*) This brought chaos to the work until the prophets Haggai and Zechariah encourage the builders. Zerubbabel and Jeshua arose and caused the work to begin again. (*Ezra 5:1-3*) The adversaries were angry and wrote to Darius the king and records of King Cyrus were brought forth and read,

confirming that they had a right to build the temple. (*Ezra 5:7-6:14*) The temple was then completed with great rejoicing. However, the rebuilt temple did not compare to Solomon's original temple, nor did either of those temples compare to the future temple that the Lord will have constructed, when He comes for the Millennial kingdom of righteousness for the thousand years.

3. JESHUA THE HIGH PRIEST OF THE RESTORATION. (*Ezra 3:9-11*)

The temple was completed in the sixth year of the reign of king Darius. When the house of the Lord was dedicated, one hundred bullocks, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs were offered upon the altar. As a sin offering for all of Israel, they offered twelve male goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel. (*Ezra 6:16-18*) Jeshua the high priest was used by the Lord to offer these sacrifices and offerings to encouraging the people in further restoration of the city of Jerusalem. The building of the temple was preliminary to Nehemiah's burden to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

Fourteen years after the return of Ezra to Jerusalem, Nehemiah was given permission in 444 B.C. to lead a company of Jews to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Nehemiah was Artaxerxes' cup bearer and after he became burdened to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, he asked the king for a leave of absence to supervise the rebuilding of the walls. Nehemiah's prayers to God were answered, because king Artaxerxes not only gave him leave, but also gave him letters of authority and permits to buy timber and other materials needed to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Nehemiah was also given an escort of soldiers to go with him. Sanballat and Tobiah were not happy to see Nehemiah arrive in Jerusalem with great authority and the protection of the Persian king.

Nehemiah investigated the rubble of the wall at night, unknown to all. Then the children of Israel took courage, when they heard of his plans and straightway began to build the wall. Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem laughed at their mammoth undertaking, hoping all along that they would fail. They did not know that Nehemiah had authority from king Artaxerxes. Nehemiah replied to their scoffing,

*"Then answered I them, and said unto them, The God of heaven, He will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build: but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem." (*Nehemiah 2:20*)*

The building of the wall was continued under the high priest Eliashib and his fellow priests. As they would finish each portion of the wall, they would stop and sanctify it to the Lord. (*Nehemiah 3:1-32*) This brought added opposition from Sanballat and Tobiah who ridiculed them. (*Nehemiah 4:1-3*)

But praise God, Nehemiah prayed and set a watch day and night to protect the work and the workers until the walls were finished. (*Nehemiah 6:15-19*) This of course infuriated Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem, for they did not want Israel to be re-established in their land. The restoration of the temple and the worship of God was essential in their continued efforts. It was an enormous project, because all of the rubble from the previously destroyed walls had to be removed before the restoration of the walls or the gates could take place. Throughout the ages, we can see the evil forces constantly at work trying to stop the worship of Almighty God. Not only did Satan and his followers oppose God in the time of Daniel and his contemporaries, but they have continued to resist God to this present day.

This first chapter introducing the book of Daniel prepares us for consideration of the prophecies of Daniel by first showing us the mighty workings of our true and living God. We must thoroughly study the Books of Ezra, Jeremiah, and Nehemiah to understand the restoration of Jerusalem. Daniel got his figures for the total number of years of captivity from reading what Jeremiah wrote, which triggered his further insight about the 70 times 7, and some other insights about King Nebuchadnezzar. Let us just refer to some very important revelation which Jeremiah was given.

*“And command them to say unto their masters, Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Thus shall ye say unto your masters; I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are upon the ground, by my great power and by my outstretched arm, and have given it unto whom it seemed meet unto me. And now have I given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant; and the beasts of the field have I given him also to serve him. And all nations shall serve him, and his son, and his son’s son, until the very time of his land come: and then many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of him. And it shall come to pass, that the nation and kingdom which will not serve the same Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, and that will not put their neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, that nation will I punish, saith the Lord, with the swords, and with the famine, and with pestilence, until I have consumed them by his hand.”
(*Jeremiah 27:4-8*)*

God chose King Nebuchadnezzar to both punish the Jews and to protect the remnant of the Jews, and especially the tribe of Judah, through whom God would send His son, the Messiah. King Nebuchadnezzar became proud and egotistical, and God had to humble him, so that the whole known world would learn through him of the true and living God. It is essential that we review some of these facts before we begin the great revelation which God declared to the prophet Daniel. This gives us a background and preparation to the

study of the visions which Daniel had of the coming great empires, and also the revival of the Roman empire. Only God in His omniscience could give a preview of the great things to come. The important part of God's great revelation to Daniel is yet to come. You will have to read carefully the accounts of Ezra, Nehemiah, Jeremiah, and Esther to understand some of the background to the restoration of Jerusalem and the regathering of Israel.

God also gave a warning those nations which refused to submit to the power of king Nebuchadnezzar. It was God who punished any nation that revolted against Nebuchadnezzar. Why was this? The reason was, to preserve the tribe of Judah, until it was time for her to return to the land of Judea. Babylon was God's instrument to both punish Israel, and to protect Israel until the time was right. God always had a reason for protecting His chosen race of people, in spite of their rebellion or waywardness. Israel rebuilt the temple and the city of Jerusalem before the time of Christ, but after their rejection of Jesus, their Messiah, Jerusalem and the Herod's temple, were again destroyed and the Jews were again scattered throughout the world.

III. THE FINAL RESTORATION OF ISRAEL.

Rest assured that the temple in Jerusalem will be rebuilt once more, and the Jews will return to the promised land from all over the globe. This final regathering has already started. Israel was re-instated as a nation in 1948, even though the neighboring nations opposed it and many of them still oppose it. Satan is doing his utmost to keep Israel out of the promised land, but he will ultimately fail. Wherever you find Jewish settlements, the land blooms and the waste land is made to prosper. It is true that today, Israel is going back to her land in unbelief, still rejecting the Lord Jesus Christ, their Messiah, but eventually her eyes will be opened.

There are several reasons why God drew the Jews back into their land in Daniel's time and now once again in our time. The Messianic hope was protected many times before Jesus finally came, often in strange ways past our finding out. For example, God's anointed, king Cyrus, the king of a heathen nation, was used to restore Israel to her land following her punishment in Babylon. I always marvel when I realize that God knows all about each of us, even before we are born. God plans and nothing can overpower His mighty hands! King Cyrus was named long before his birth, and in the sovereignty of God, king Cyrus was appointed to a great domain which restored Israel so that Jesus could come to earth in the land promised to Abraham. As God preserved His chosen race of people in strange lands on several different occasions, so God appointed a time for their return to the promised land. Let's consider some of the reasons for God's restoration of Israel both then and now.

IV. GOD'S REASONS FOR THE RESTORATION OF ISRAEL.

1. To fulfill many prophecies. (*Deuteronomy 30:1-3; Ezekiel 11:17; 37;*

Isaiah 54:7; Jeremiah 23:3; 31:10)

2. The Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, must enter this earth as the Incarnate one, from Bethlehem of Judea. (*Micah 5:2*)
3. The Messiah was born in Bethlehem of Judea, exactly as predicted. (*Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 2:1-5*)
4. Israel would be under the rule of the Roman Government, according to the revelation of the golden Image of Daniel. This was true at the time of Christ and will be true again in the end times when the Roman Empire returns to power.
5. To receive her final judgement from God for rejecting the Messiah. (*Zechariah 12:1-3; Revelation 6-18*)
6. For the 144,000 young Jews to be a witness during that great tribulation. (*Revelation 7 & 14*)
7. In preparation for the coming of the Lord for the battle of Armageddon. (*Zechariah 12:4-8; Revelation 19:17-21*)
8. The preparation for the Millennial reign of Christ with the saints of all generations. (*Revelation 5:8-10*)
9. The reign of the Messiah in righteousness, promised to Israel, will begin after many believing Jews flee to the hills at the end of the great tribulation. (*Matthew 24:15-21*)

As a brief introduction to the Book of Daniel, may this chapter be helpful to each student of the Bible as we continue to study this key to the Book of Revelation. I am purposely not going into great detail in this study, but I encourage each of you to study using commentaries on the whole Bible. The importance of the Book of Daniel shows the mighty sovereignty of God as He sets up and removes kingdom after kingdom.

“Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are His: And He changeth the times and the seasons: He removeth kings, and setteth up kings: He giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: He revealeth the deep and secret things: He knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with Him.”

(Daniel 2:19-22)

With this background of information, concerning the Book of Daniel, may we understand God's dealing with the nations. God knows every thought and intention of His creatures. We may deceive our fellow man about our intentions, but nothing is

hidden from God. God knows your motive for every action whether it be good or evil. May our motive always be to glorify our Lord Jesus Christ in this life. May He always have the preeminent place in our lives. Remember,

"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." (2 Corinthians 4:6-7)

In order for a student of the Bible to fully understand prophecy, or any portion of God's Word, he must first be a child of God, a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, and then be fully yielded to God the Holy Spirit, allowing Him to keep on filling his life. (Ephesians 5:18)

God has always had His chosen vessels, down through these many years. We must not try to put ourselves into places of authority, but allow God to choose us according to our faithfulness. If you scheme or practice craftiness to force your way into higher positions, you endanger God's perfect will for your lives. You may get what you want for your life but miss what God wants for your life and the happiness that goes with it.

"And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable and perfect will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." (Romans 12:2-3)

Do you want to be used by God to glorify His name? Use (1 John 1:9) and confess your sins to God frequently and do not try to hide your sins from God. (Psalm 66:18) Then, you will be able to talk with God in confidence.

"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." (Jeremiah 33:3)

If you are willing to be faithful to the Lord, He will show you these great and mighty things and use you to His glory and honor. You can be God's choice if you take heed to God's voice! Jesus said,

"So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many are called but few chosen." (Matthew 20:16)

In other words, many are called, but few are God's choice.

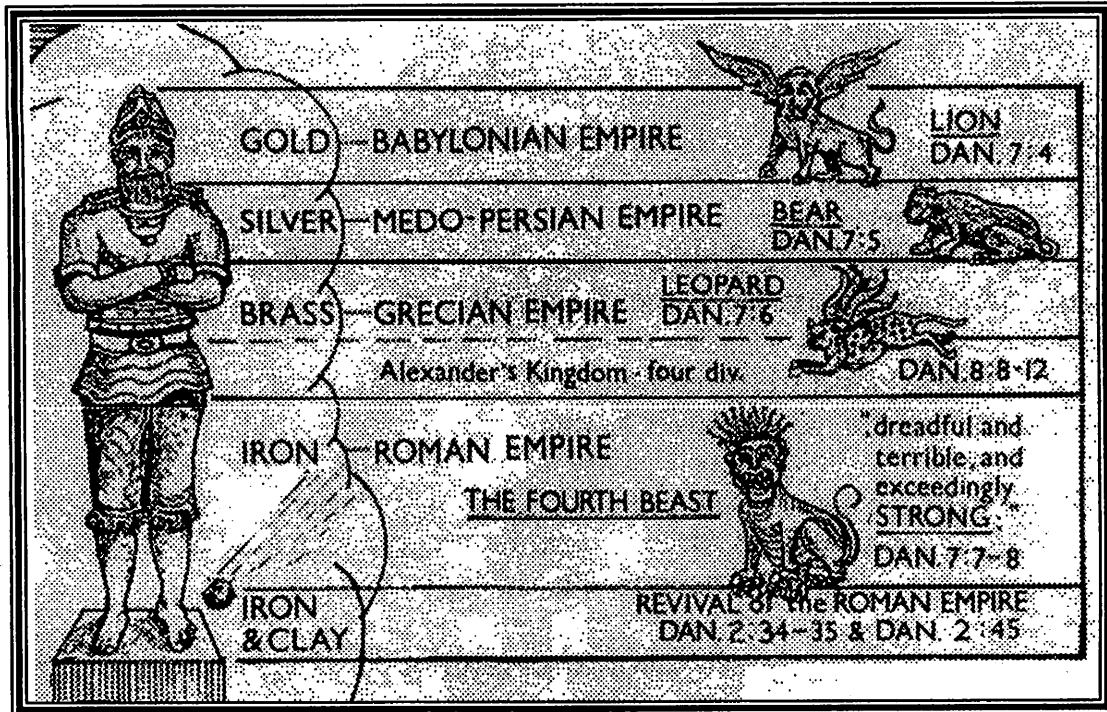
"Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; Distributing to the necessity of the saints; given to hospitality. Bless them which persecute you; bless and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one toward

*another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate.
Be not wise in your own conceits.” (Romans 12:9-16)*

QUESTIONS ABOUT CHAPTER ONE.

1. Give me your opinion as to whether God still has chosen vessels to perform His work. Scripture please.
2. In God’s omniscience, is God always prepared for every occasion? Give some examples from the Bible. (Example- Israel & her regathering).
3. In God’s service, should we be content with good plain food? Give some reasons for your answer to this question.
4. What lessons do we learn from Daniel about his private worship of God and his ignoring the heathen rights? Does it remind us not to try to hold on to heathen customs, when we become Christians? Please explain.
5. Write an essay on what we can learn from faithful Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.
6. Why did God separate the tribes of Judah and Benjamin from the other ten tribes, sent into Syria?
7. Why did God choose Gentiles by the names of Nebuchadnezzar and Cyrus, after the Jews was scattered due to their disobedience?
8. What is important about God’s revelation to Jeremiah in chapter Twenty Five?
9. Why is it important for a Bible student to study Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther in the study of the Book of Daniel?
10. Give a detail account of the three important decrees that Cyrus, Darius and Artaxerxes proclaimed.
11. Why did Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem try to stop the rebuilding of the temple and the walls of Jerusalem?
12. Give some important information about Jeshua the high priest and Zerubbabel.

CHAPTER TWO



THE FOUR GREAT EMPIRES REVEALED

(DANIEL 2:1-4:37)

In this chapter we want to return to Daniel chapter two and discuss the vision of King Nebuchadnezzar which Daniel interpreted. We will see how the vision predicted four great empires, known as the times of the Gentiles. These visions will take us through history from the time of King Nebuchadnezzar to the end times when the Revival of the Roman Empire will occur. Those four great empires were Babylon, Media - Persia, Greece and Rome

The book of Daniel is similar to the book of Revelation, where the prophetic element refers to the past, the present and the future, and sometimes it interweaves all three. Knowing this helps keep the student of the Bible alert about God's eternal plan, as he attempts to rightly divide the Word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15) God's dealings with mankind of different ages, shows different styles, but always the same objective. Regardless of the age or period in history, the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ is the only cleansing power for the sins of mankind.

Most of what we are about to study has already become history, but the most important events are still future events. As I have said, previously, I believe the key verse of all Scripture is (Daniel 9:24). God works in mysterious ways, but also in marvelous ways! The Bible is both a revelation of the character of God and

prophetically a declaration from God of future events. About half of the prophecies are yet to be fulfilled, so we are reminded that the Word of God is very much alive and it applies to every moment of history.

I. THE VISION OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR, (Daniel 2:1-49)

It is a source of encouragement as you study God's Word, that the sovereignty of God is always at work in our universe. God purposely gave Nebuchadnezzar a very important revelation through this great image of his dreams. The dream troubled him very much. We read however, that Nebuchadnezzar had forgotten his dream, so he wanted his soothsayers and sorcerers to give him both the dream and its interpretation. Of course they could not do this impossible thing and they begged the king to tell them the dream.

"The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill." (Daniel 2:5)

This was a strong indictment, which meant that all the counselors would be slain, including Daniel and his Hebrew friends. Satan and his evil forces would have loved to have stopped God's plan, or the revelation of His plan, but remember that the sovereignty of God is always in control.

Whether these astrologers, soothsayers, magicians, and wise men were possessed of demons at various times, we do not know. We know that at times, Satan would use such vessels to his advantage. Nevertheless they were faking their way through to the king for the benefits that they would receive. This was a great opportunity for God to show His omniscience as the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last. God did just that, by revealing to Daniel not only the interpretation of the dream, but the dream itself. He also used King Nebuchadnezzar as His servant, to spread the news of the true and only God throughout the world. Years later, He anointed King Cyrus to be another of His vessels, to send forth a decree to the whole world, that the tribe of Judah should return to her land unopposed. That decree of Cyrus' would also begin the precise count down of the 483 years before the Messiah would be cut off. (Crucified)

God gave Nebuchadnezzar this experience in order to prove to him that Daniel's God was supreme and the only living God, with no beginning and no ending. Now let us examine a very important characteristic of the Triune God, namely His absolute sovereignty and almighty power over all. Without the knowledge of the sovereignty of God, one could become depressed and discouraged because the evil forces seem to be in control of our world. Let us briefly look at the sovereignty of God and the final results.

A. THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD.

God's servants must always wait for God's timing and rest assured that He will bring His will into every situation. God chose Daniel and his three companions to

proclaim His sovereignty among all nations, and He also chose King Nebuchadnezzar and King Cyrus to declare His great power and to preserve the Messianic hope. God chooses and uses vessels for His eternal plan. The great Babylonian Empire came into existence by God's mighty hand and it accomplished God's purpose. When the Babylonians failed to accept Him as the only true and living God, they were also judged by God who caused another great empire to rise up. May we see what the Word says about king Nebuchadnezzar, who was a servant of God from among the Gentiles.

At this same time in history, the ten tribes of Israel were also being punished because of their disobedience and wicked ways. Remember that the Jewish nation had split into two kingdoms, the northern kingdom, Israel, and the southern kingdom, Judah. Israel was enslaved under the Syrian nation, while the southern kingdom, which had the tribes of Judah and Benjamin were captured and preserved by the Babylonian Empire. God was preserving the Messianic hope that would come through the tribe of Judah. God did this because of His unconditional covenants with Abraham and King David. God is always alert to every situation without exception! The whole world of mankind is without an excuse before Almighty God and everyone must give an account to God as individuals. God always abides His time, but He will bring His sovereign will to pass.

B. THE SERVANT OF GOD

There is no question about it, God had to humiliate this great king, Nebuchadnezzar, before he would eventually proclaim to the world that there was but one God who was the Creator of all and over all. Whenever anyone proved helpful to Nebuchadnezzar, he generously rewarded that person. However, if anyone failed to measure up to his standards, they were ruthlessly punished, regardless of who they were. This king did as he pleased, until he himself was degraded by God to the level of an animal. He finally recognized that he was not dealing with the dead and dumb idols which his people worshiped, but with the Almighty true and living God, the God who existed from eternity past and would exist into eternity future! God had to give king Nebuchadnezzar 7 years of severe punishment before he finally yielded to the Supreme and only God. Nebuchadnezzar became an outstanding servant of God, after his chastisement by Almighty God.

May we remember that in God's sovereignty, nations are set up and nations are removed. Before God removed Babylon, He used that great nation to bring recognition, glory and honor to His name. The true God used king Nebuchadnezzar's great proclamation to send out news of Daniel's God to the whole known world. Let us examine just how God accomplished this world wide witness, proclaiming Himself as the only true and living God.

C. THE REVELATION OF GOD. (*Daniel 2:1-13*)

Nebuchadnezzar had a series of dreams and they troubled him greatly and nothing could help him sleep until he knew the meaning of the dreams. He asked all of his wise men to tell him, not only interpretation of the dreams but to tell him the dreams themselves. The demon world would have loved to have used these fakers, but God in His sovereignty had withheld it from them, so that one of the greatest revelations concerning four great Empires of the future would be revealed. Daniel's revelation would not only be for the immediate present, but also for his future and the distant future. His revelation helps us to understand the end times and gives us confidence that when the Bible says, "Thus Saith The Lord," it will be done.

Daniel saved the day and prevented the slaughter of all the king's wise men. They should have rejoiced and accepted Daniel's God, but on the contrary they continued to follow their evil practices, under the control of the demons. It is obvious that these wise men did not consult Daniel in this affair, perhaps out of jealousy, or because Daniel was a Jew of the tribe of Judah. Daniel, on his own, had to approach the captain of the guard, Arioch, who was ready to slay Daniel, and all the other wise men.

"He answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, Why is the decree so hasty from the king? Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel." (Daniel 2:15)

Daniel went boldly before the king, confident that he would be able to reveal and interpret the king's dreams, with the help of the living God of heaven. This was a terrific act of faith, by God's chosen vessels. They may have also consulted Ezekiel in this matter of prayer. Only God could reveal both the dream and its interpretation. Only God could look down the corridors of time and pre-televisive what the future holds. These saints of God knew the power of prayer and immediately they spent time talking to the God of heaven.

Daniel returned to his house and called in Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. They knew that they too would be slain along with the others, unless God intervened.

"That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are His: And He changeth the times and the seasons: He removeth kings, and setteth up kings: He giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: He revealeth the deep and secret things: He knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with Him. I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me

wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou has made known unto us the king's matter.”
(Daniel 2:18-23)

Daniel was back in personal contact with “The God of his fathers” and no longer called Him, “The God of heaven.” Arioch was now able to refrain from killing the wise men and brought Daniel to the king. The king was amazed that Daniel could not only tell him the interpretation of his dream, but he could tell him the dream itself. Daniel did not take the credit for this wisdom but said,

“But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days.”
(Daniel 2:28a)

Daniel also said,

“But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thine heart.” (Daniel 2:30)

This is far different from those of our day who try to impress others of special powers which they have, rather than giving God the glory. As with John on the Isle of Patmos, God revealed to Daniel a complete picture, pre-televised to him of great empires to come down through thousands of years, including the revival of the Roman Empire, which is yet to come. Let us now take note of this great image with a head of gold. The prophecy of this image is very important to us today, so that we may know the actual past fulfillment, as well as that which is yet to come. Let us therefore, study the interpretation of this golden image, which has been recorded by God the Holy Spirit for our help and admonition.

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

II. THE IMAGE OF GOLD. (Daniel 3:1-30)

“This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.” (Daniel 2:32-33)

This is an amazing image which Nebuchadnezzar saw, with the various empires indicated with precious metals, and finally with a mixture of clay and iron, referring to a confederation of 10 nations, which dissolve into 7 nations. Again, those four great empires were: Babylon, the head of gold; Media - Persia, the breast & arms of silver; Greece, the belly and thighs of brass; and Rome, the legs of iron and the feet of iron and clay. This quick insight that Daniel gave was for the purpose of Nebuchadnezzar recalling his dreams. Daniel even gave the king the rest of the vision, which he saw of the image standing until it was destroyed by a single stone, cut out by God. The stone smote the feet of the image, causing it to crumble into chaff, which the wind blew away.

“Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.” (Daniel 2:34-35)

Daniel saw the complete vision which Nebuchadnezzar saw with the interpretation of the vision indicating individual great empires. Daniel was given the complete secret dream with the firm interpretation of each element, which we will consider. Daniel recognized that the God of heaven had placed Nebuchadnezzar in a very important place, to look after the tribe of Judah for the Messianic hope.

“Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory.” (Daniel 2:37)

Nebuchadnezzar was king of Babylon which was the head of gold, the first empire depicted in the dream. Instead of Nebuchadnezzar recognizing that God had placed him in his kingdom, the king now wanted the Empire to worship his own image, rather than worship Daniel’s God. God will not have any graven images before Him and God had to show Nebuchadnezzar His mighty power through His faithful witnesses. Daniel was promoted, but Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego were now to be used to glorify God’s name, and reveal the Eternal Son of God. In (*Jeremiah 27:4-7*); we read that Nebuchadnezzar was given his kingdom by God for a season and for a purpose. That purpose was to not only to punish and protect the backslidden tribes of Israel, but to spread the news to all the nations of the world about the true and living God of the universe.

“I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are upon the ground, by my great power and by my outstretched arm, and have given it unto whom it seemed meet unto me. And now have I given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant; and the beasts of the field have I given him also to serve him. And all nations shall serve him, and his son, and his son’s son, until the very time of his land come: and then many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of him.” (Jeremiah 27:5-7)

This is an outstanding proclamation from God, through Jeremiah. As great as King Nebuchadnezzar was, his kingdom did come to an end and other nations took over just as Jeremiah predicted. We can well afford to listen to God’s Word, realizing that no other writings can compare to what the Bible reveals. That is why it is very essential that all of us wherever we are, spend time daily in God’s precious Book.

A. THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD.

A short while after Daniel had been made ruler of the affairs in Babylon, and his three friends had been elevated in the Babylonian government, the king forgot

about the God of Daniel. He remembered though that Daniel had declared Nebuchadnezzar to be the greatest of all the kings. Nebuchadnezzar became very proud and arrogant and had an enormous image built of Gold to be worshiped by his entire kingdom. This great image was approximately 90 feet tall and 9 feet wide. It was overlaid with gold, and was placed in the plain of Dura, separate from everything else, so that it was visible from a long way off. As impressive as it was, it was but one more lifeless and worthless idol in his vast domain. Yet, the king had his idol dedicated and gave specific instructions for all of his subjects to bow down and worship it when they heard specific music played. The king had another lesson to learn from God, namely, that the word of the mightiest king of the world was nothing compared to the sovereignty of God. Remember what Nebuchadnezzar had said after Daniel gave the dream and its interpretation.

"The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret." (Daniel 2:47)

What happened to the mind of king Nebuchadnezzar? Perhaps it was many years later, but the king now commanded that this image be built as his personal idol god? It was satanic and a distraction from God, and similar to what the Egyptians worshiped in the time of Moses. You will also remember that the children of Israel after coming out from Egypt made a golden calf to worship, even after seeing the mighty hand of God deliver them from the angry Egyptians.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego were now going to be tested for their faithfulness to God, and Nebuchadnezzar was going to be reminded again of the mighty power of the only living God. Nebuchadnezzar had all of his counselors gather together for the dedication of this idol of gold, and then he made a decree.

"Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded. O people, nations, and languages, That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up: And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace." (Daniel 3:4-6)

I suspect Satan had something to do with this decree. Had this worked, it would have been one way to destroy the tribe of Judah and the Messianic hope forever. It reminds one of what happened in Queen Esther's day and how God reversed that decree. Well, the decree stood and God showed himself faithful to those who trusted Him. It is strange that Daniel was not brought into this accusation as well, but those certain Chaldeans only reported three men, perhaps because they wanted them removed from authority. Nebuchadnezzar tried to give them another chance to worship the image, which shows that he did not want to throw them into the fiery furnace. Nebuchadnezzar offered them a chance to bow down, but said that if they did not bow down, their God was not able to deliver them out of his hands. In

his arrogance he was challenging the power of God, and he indeed, had a lot to learn.

“Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up? Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?” (Daniel 3:14-15)

The three men gave a tremendous answer of faith knowing that they might have to die for their faith. Almighty God, in His faithfulness to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, would answer the king's question very thoroughly.

“Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.” (Daniel 3:16-18)

This infuriated Nebuchadnezzar and he must have burned with anger! He commanded that they be bound with all of their clothes on and cast into the extremely hot furnace. The furnace was so hot that the three mighty guards were sucked into the fire and burned, but Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego were unaffected by the flames. The ropes burned loose and they got up and walked around in the midst of that fire. Nebuchadnezzar's eyes were then opened to a power greater than his. Their God was indeed able to deliver them out of his hands!

“Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counselors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king. True, O king. He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt: and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.” (Daniel 3:24-25)

This reminded Nebuchadnezzar of the Most High God, whom Daniel had revealed to him earlier. He was humiliated, but truthful before all of his counselors.

“Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, ye servants of the Most High God, come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, came forth of the midst of the fire.” (Daniel 3:26)

This great king had to submit to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego's God. He still did not claim the living God as his own God, but had the idea that there were many gods and that each person should have his own god or gods as he pleased. This is Satan's way of deceiving individuals into thinking they can specialize in their own type of worship, and that it will all work out. However, the Bible says,

"For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." (1 Timothy 2:5)

All other gods are man made and are dumb idols, under the control of Satan and his demons, or they are just a figment of man's imagination. Jesus Christ said,

"Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:5)

There is no other name by which we can approach God the Father but by the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. The God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego is the only one who can forgive you and keep you on that day of judgement.

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)

B. THE PRESENCE OF GOD.

The presence of the Eternal Son of God was evident to all who watched. He was the "ever present help" to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, even in the fiery furnace. He took upon himself a temporary form similar to a man yet distinctly different. It was different enough that the king commented that he looked like the son of God. Because of their faithful service to God, the whole world learned of God's power and a decree was sent out for all the world to worship the true and living God. This again was another opportunity for the world to turn to the Living God. It reminds us of what the Holy Spirit revealed to Paul in the Book of Romans.

"They are all without excuse." (Romans 1:18-20)

This wonderful presence of the Lord Jesus Christ with these three men in the fiery furnace, before his incarnation, is a marvelous deliverance by God in person. Let us quote the proclamation of Nebuchadnezzar to his vast domain. As we review this great method of God to let the whole world know that there is a "Living God." It may have taken sometime to get this proclamation read throughout that great empire, but it eventually was. The God of heaven was also the God with power over this earth. This one and only God will someday establish His kingdom of righteousness in that Holy City of Jerusalem. God is alive and sovereign over all. I praise God for the wonderful relationship that we have with Him, through the Incarnate Lord Jesus Christ. He is our ever presence help, and is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Before the entire Bible was written to be proclaimed throughout the whole world, God used such miracles to inform the world of His Almighty power over all. We who are living in these last days have all of this

evidence and substance, in order to establish us in God's Word.

"Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil."

(Hebrews 6:19)

The Lord Jesus Christ became our great High Priest and made possible our access into the very Holy of Hollies in heaven. God had allowed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to go through the fiery furnace, that the whole world would hear about the mighty deliverance by the true and Living God. Let us review that great proclamation that went throughout the known world.

C. THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD.

These counselors were amazed at this mighty deliverance for these three men, and perhaps could have feared as to what would happen to them, since they reported them to Nebuchadnezzar.

"And the princes, governors, and captains, and the kings counsellors, being gathered together, saw these three men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them."

(Daniel 3:27)

Now concerning that great proclamation from the king of Babylon, who sent forth a great witness throughout his great empire.

"Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, who hath sent His angel, and delivered His servants that trusted in Him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God. Therefore I make a decree,

That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort."

(Daniel 3:28-29)

III. THE KING'S HUMILIATION PREDICTED.

I want you to notice that Nebuchadnezzar has not yielded completely to the Living God, even though he has experience two miracles from the God of Israel. Yes, the whole world heard about this miracle of the true and Living God, but, they continued to serve their dumb idols. We are again reminded of the Scriptures.

"But if our Gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost; In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ, who is the image

of God, should shine unto them.” (2 Corinthians 4:3-4)

God was not through with Nebuchadnezzar, who was put into power by God for a supreme purpose. That purpose was to declare the living and Almighty God to the whole world that He is the True and only God in the whole universe. The king's domain had witnessed two examples of the awesome power of Almighty God, but that final proclamation was still to come. It involved the personal testimony of Nebuchadnezzar. Being the powerful king that God made him, now he needed to realize that God is sovereign over all, including him. No human being could approach this king so it took the very God of all to humiliate the king and proclaim it to the whole world.

This will be the final dealings that we will see with king Nebuchadnezzar, with a 7 year punishment from the Almighty God. The Lord again is giving the nations of the world the opportunity to turn from their dumb idols and the kingdom of darkness, to the only true God and His powerful light. The results of this great proclamation may have been only short lived, and the deception of Satan again became a ruling factor. But their judgement day is set by God, for they are all without excuse.

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them. For the invisible things of Him from creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse; Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.” (Romans 1:18-21)

A. NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S GIANT TREE VISION.

“Nebuchadnezzar, the king, unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you. I thought it good to show the signs and wonders that the High God hath wrought toward me. How great are His signs! And how mighty are His wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and His dominion is from generation to generation. I Nebuchadnezzar was at rest in mine house, and flourishing in my palace. I saw a dream which made me afraid, and the thoughts upon my bed and the visions of my head troubled me. Therefore made I a decree to bring in all the wise men of Babylon before me, that they might make known unto

me the interpretation of the dream. Then came in the magicians, the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers; and I told the dream before them; but they did not make known unto me the interpretation thereof. But at the last Daniel came in before me, whose name was Belshazzar, according to the name of my god, and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods; and before him I told the dream, saying. O Belshazzar, master of the magicians, because I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in thee, and no secret troubleth thee, tell me the visions of my dream that I have seen, and the interpretation thereof. Thus were the visions of mine head in my bed; I saw, and behold a tree in the midst of the earth, and the height thereof was great. The tree grew, and was strong, and the height thereof reached unto heaven, and the sight thereof to the end of all the earth: I saw in the visions of my head upon my bed, and, behold, a watcher and an holy one came down from heaven; He cried aloud, and said thus, Hew down the tree, and cut off his branches, shake off his leaves, and scatter his fruit: let the beasts get away from under it, and the fowls from his branches: Nevertheless leave the stump of his roots in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth: Let his heart be changed from man's, and let a beast's heart be given unto him; and let seven times pass over him. This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will, and setteth up over it the basest of men. This dream I king Nebuchadnezzar have seen. Now thou, O Belshazzar, declare the interpretation thereof, forasmuch as all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make known unto me the interpretation: but thou art able; for the spirit of the holy gods is in thee." (Daniel 4:1-18)

Daniel was called in to interpret this vision, and all of the wise men of the world's system were pushed to the side. It was difficult for Daniel to reveal to king Nebuchadnezzar what his dream was all about, for he saw the great humiliation that would occur to the king. He also saw that the King's enemies would rejoice in what was about to happen. (Daniel 4:19-27) Daniel desired the king to repent and get right with the Living God. Here is the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's vision against himself. This vision was given to Nebuchadnezzar and interpreted, but the king showed no repentance for one year before the judgement fell upon the king. Daniel was given the

interpretation from God, but hesitated to give the interpretation, because of his great love for the king. The great empire of Nebuchadnezzar was cut down for some 7 years by Almighty God. The stump of the tree was left and not destroyed, with a band of iron and of brass placed around it, by the Lord himself.

Nebuchadnezzar was at rest in his palace and enjoying the luxury of his great empire, when this fearful dream came upon him. As usual he called in all of his wise men of Babylon, but they could not explain this dream to him.

“But at the last Daniel came in before me, whose name was Belshazzar, according to the name of my god, and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods: and before him I told the dream, saying” (Daniel 4:8)

The dream was told to Daniel and God gave Daniel the interpretation of that great tree that was cut down, and a band of iron and brass placed around the stump.

B. DANIEL’S INTERPRETATION OF THE TREE VISION.

- a. King Nebuchadnezzar was that great and mighty tree.
- b. The watcher from heaven sent by the Most High God has ordered the tree cut down.
- c. Your rulers shall drive you from men into the fields with the beasts.
- d. Nebuchadnezzar shall have a heart of a beast and eat grass like oxen.
- e. Seven times shall pass over you, or a period of seven years punishment.
- f. Nebuchadnezzar’s kingdom shall be kept for him so that he can finally declare that the God of the heavens rules over all.

IV. THE HUMILITY FROM GOD. (Daniel 4:1-6:28)

In God’s grace, Nebuchadnezzar was given a year to acknowledge his errors, but as a 12 month period elapsed, he no doubt thought God had forgotten, or that Daniel made some errors in his calculations. Daniel had attempted to show to Nebuchadnezzar this was real.

*“Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by showing mercy to the poor; if it may be lengthening of thy tranquillity.”
(Daniel 4:27)*

Daniel was an outstanding witness for God, not only to the known world of his day, but throughout the world during some 2,000 years. The revelation which Daniel had, reaches out to the Revival of the Roman Empire of the last days before God will set up the Millennial kingdom of righteousness. Both the Book of Daniel and the Book of Revelation are so unified, even though hundreds of years separate these great revelations. It proves what a Mighty God we serve!

Nebuchadnezzar was a mighty ruler of a great empire, and did not know humility. He was a proud ruler and separated his gods from Daniel's God. He admired Daniel for his great wisdom and knowledge, far above the wise men of Babylon. Daniel was always a great help to Nebuchadnezzar, but the pride of that great king was too much for him to humble himself before Daniel's God. God was going to use this event to, once more, spread His declaration around the known world. God waited a full 12 months before humiliating Nebuchadnezzar. God's mill of judgement grinds slowly, but exceedingly fine!

God has granted to both the angels and all mankind a "Freedom of Choice," which makes each of us a free moral agent. God never puts pressure upon anyone, and therefore the individual decisions we make will be individually judged. We have a magnificent example of faithfulness to God from Joshua, that great man of faith who came out of Egypt with Moses. Joshua stated his intentions this way,

"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve;.....but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15)

God is willing to accept you by grace through our loving Lord. It is up to each individual to make his or her choice by accepting Christ as their personal Savior.

A. THE PROUD HUMILIATED.

Nebuchadnezzar had forgotten God's judgement upon him as he continued to enjoy his great empire, thinking that it all came about by his great wisdom and skill.

"All this came upon the king Nebuchadnezzar. at the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon. The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?" (Daniel 4:28-30)

The king was claiming that his success was due to his own strategy and wisdom, and he completely left the God of heaven out of the picture. We must remember that Nebuchadnezzar had not accepted Daniel's God up to this point, but merely proclaimed that the God of heaven was superior. The only God of heaven, the God of the heavens and the earth, was about to speak directly to king Nebuchadnezzar.

"While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee. And they shall drive thee from men,

and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will.” (Daniel 4:31-32)

This needed no interpretations and within that very hour, Nebuchadnezzar was completely changed and became as an animal.

“The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles’ feathers, and his nails like birds claws.” (Daniel 4: 33)

This was the height of humiliation for one who ruled over such a vast domain. But this time Nebuchadnezzar heard the voice from heaven directly to him, and he now knew of the only true God. He had 7 years of humiliation to suffer. However his kingdom was preserved by God, as indicated.

“And whereas they commanded to leave the stump of the tree roots; thy kingdom shall be sure unto thee, after that thou shalt have known that the heavens do rule.” (Daniel 4:26)

Nebuchadnezzar did not take heed to Daniel’s pleading, for the punishment could have been averted. How often do we as Christians neglect to use (1 John 1:9). By neglecting to confess our sins to God, we then have to suffer the consequences.

It is amazing that Nebuchadnezzar’s enemies did not step in and take over that great empire. However there is a silence of seven years, as the King was driven from the palace and lived in the open fields for those long seven years. It took seven years of humiliation for Nebuchadnezzar to be brought to his senses. God reserved the kingdom for the king, but had to deal sharply with him, to bring him to acknowledge the only True God, both of heaven and of earth. God humbled the king in such a drastic way to bring him to a point where he would make a declaration for God and pave the way for the return of the Jews to the promised land. This is what Nebuchadnezzar finally declared:

“At the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and my understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the Most High, and I praised and honoured Him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom is from generation to generation: And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: And He doeth according to His will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay His hand, or say unto Him, What doest thou? At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me. Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of Heaven, all whose works are truth, and His ways judgement: and those that walk in pride He is

able to abase.” (Daniel 4:34-37)

This proclamation went throughout the mighty kingdom of Babylon and using these seven years of judgement upon the great king to proclaim God’s sovereignty over all. This great testimony went everywhere, but the total depravity of man refused to give up his self righteousness and his idols for the True and Living God. They will someday stand before the great white throne and receive their judgement and to be cast into the Lake of Fire and brimstone. There will be no escape route, and the self righteous and ungodly will remain under the wrath of God forever and ever. All the present punishments are but for a moment as compared to being eternally separated from God, in the Lake of Fire and Brimstone, under the eternal wrath of God.

“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.” (Galatians 6:7-8)

You may be able to deceive your fellow Christians, but God is aware of every thought, word, and deed, and all will be awarded accordingly. Do not try to cover over your short comings, but confess them before God. (1 John 1:9)

B. THE UNGODLY CAST DOWN. (Daniel 5:1 - 6:28)

You would have thought that the next king in line for the Babylonian throne, Belshazzar, would have learned something from his father’s punishment. If nothing else, he should have learned to pay attention to the wisdom of Daniel and to fear Daniel’s God. But alas, he did not. Daniel was getting old by then, and was on the retirement list as far as active government was concerned. However, Daniel was God’s chosen vessel for such a time as this. Belshazzar had so forgotten Daniel and his God that when he needed a wise man’s help, the queen of Babylon had to remind him of “that man of God,” Daniel.

Since we have already considered the account of the hand writing on the wall which caused Belshazzar’s great fear, we will merely discuss his downfall and the downfall of Babylon. This was the first empire depicted as the head of gold in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream. The warning from God written on the wall came after Belshazzar defiled the temple vessels from Jerusalem. God had kept those temple vessels safe in Babylon, so that they could eventually be returned to the rebuilt temple in Jerusalem. Had they been left in Jerusalem, they might have been melted for the value of the gold and silver.

God’s wrath was poured out upon Belshazzar and his thousand princes and their wives and others. This was their choice and God in His omniscience was prepared to pour out His wrath upon them, as phase two of prophecy was about to begin. Yes, God allows the freedom of choice, but with it comes the ultimate consequences. Babylon as a great empire was about to fall. You may ask, “Is this Babylon the same as we read about in the Book of Revelation?” No, the one in

Revelation is "Mystery Babylon" or the religious element of the Revival of the Roman Empire, which we will deal with later. Let us search the Scriptures briefly, as to God's references to Babylon. There are many references from (2 Kings 17:24) through Revelation, which deals with both the kingdom of Babylon as well as the Babylonian religion, which will be adopted in the revival of the Roman empire. For the present, we are dealing with that great empire of Babylon, set up by king Nebuchadnezzar. This great empire was a symbol of corruption and was a fore-runner of the mystery Babylon spoken of in the Book of Revelation. Religion began at the tower of Babel and will end with the mystery Babylon spoken of in Revelation. This has been dealt with in greater detail in my Biblical textbook on the Book of Revelation . Let us now deal with fallen Babylon.

You may remember as you have previously studied about Babylon, it was where under the wife of Nimrod, Simaramis' religion first started at the "Tower of Babel." It was also where the first divisions of nation started by God, as He confused their languages. At this stage of our study, we are not considering "Old Babylon" under Nimrod but the Babylon which this wicked king Belshazzar had inherited by a multiple of deaths to gain control. As Daniel was called in to interpret this hand writing on the wall, he was led by God to reprimand the king, who was drunk and shaking in fear.

"Then Daniel answered and said before the king, Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to another; yet I will read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation. O thou king, the Most High God gave Nebuchadnezzar thy father a kingdom, and majesty, and glory, and honour: And for the majesty that He gave him, all people, nations, and languages, trembled and feared before him: whom he would he slew; and whom he would he kept alive; and whom he would he set up: and whom he would he put down." (Daniel 5:17-19)

We have quoted this previously to the fall, but I just want to emphasize the importance of the sovereignty of God. Belshazzar was aware what happened to Nebuchadnezzar, but was indifferent and of course living in gross sin. Darius and his armies were at the very gates to his stronghold and nothing could stop him. This would set up the second empire predicted in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, the Media - Persian empire. Those four great empires were Babylon, Media - Persia, Greece and Rome

It is of great interest that God had predicted the very method of how Darius, under the Kingship of Cyrus defeated the Babylonian empire and set up the empire of the Meds and Persians. Here are the references (Isaiah 44:28-45:1) But, prior to this, God stopped this drunken party of Belshazzar with the hand writing upon the wall.

"And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL UPHARSIN. This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. TEKEL; Thou art weighed

in the balances, and art found wanting. PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.” (Daniel 5:25-28)

Daniel’s interpretation was accepted, the man of God who had been forgotten, but finally called to reveal God’s secret. Strangely enough, Belshazzar, who was in a drunken stupor, gave an award to Daniel even though Daniel’s news was of the king’s defeat.

“Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and put a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom. In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain.” (Daniel 5:29)

According to the description in Isaiah, so Babylon was taken by Darius, the son of Ahasuerus, under the command of Cyrus.

“Thus saith the Lord to His anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings. to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut.” (Isaiah 45:1)

As they were all drunken and the gates were not shut, it was easy for the Medes and Persians to enter, having changed the course of the Euphrates, and entered in to open the draw bridges, without a struggle. The Babylonian empire fell like a ripe fig into the hands of the Medes and Persians under the guiding hand of king Cyrus. Now we leave the Babylonian Empire and explore a new government, under that chosen vessel of Cyrus who was God’s anointed one. (Isaiah 45:1) However, the enemies of God’s chosen race of people, through whom the Messiah was to come, were busy with their scheming, attempting to thwart God’s plans.

There are many reasons why God had to cause Babylon to fall and the Medes and Persians were picked by God to deliver Judah, and return them to the promised land. God had appointed Cyrus as His anointed for the very task of having Judah return to Jerusalem. Cyrus made that decree under the sovereignty of God, and nothing or no one could change it. The laws of the Medes and Persians were final and could not be changed in any way, and God used those laws to confirm the return of Judah to her land. God who is immutable has laws also, and there is no turning about with God’s laws, but all will come to pass as James said,

“Thus saith the Lord.” (James 1:17)

V. THE DELIVERANCE BY GOD.

As usual the faithful and true princes were sought out by Darius. Under the guidance of the true and living God, the sovereignty of God was maintained.

“It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom. And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first; that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage. Then

this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.” (Daniel 6:1-3)

A. DANIEL’S FAITH TESTED.

It always amazes me to see the wonder working power of God in all of these affairs! However, a joint jealousy was set up among most of the elected princes, of which God was fully aware. Under the kingdom of the Medes and Persians, God was going to have a world wide declaration made, glorifying His name again. As usual, God allows the enemies to go so far and then proves His mighty power.

“Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.” (Daniel 6:4)

Rest assured, that they placed many traps before Daniel and watched him very closely. This should be a lesson to each of us who call ourselves Christians. Do we avoid all appearances of evil? When we walk circumspectly before God and man, we will be criticized and sometimes ostracized for our righteous stand for the Lord. Daniel was loyal to God, and the princes and presidents found a difference in Daniel as to their laws and the laws of Daniel’s God. Satan was trying his best to destroy the tribe of Judah, for he was aware that the Messiah was to come through that tribe. Always remember, that Satan is acquainted with the Bible and is attempting to prove God to be wrong. Let us consider Daniel as God’s messenger and chosen vessel for yet another test to the power of Almighty God. We must remember that Daniel was old now, but God equipped him with an unusual wisdom, regardless of age.

B. DANIEL CAST INTO THE LIONS DEN.

These wicked men kept on spying on Daniel and found him to have a strong devotion to His God.

“Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God. Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live forever. All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and princes, the counselors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.” (Daniel 6:5-7)

By saying that “they had all consulted together,” they lied to the King, for Daniel was not consulted, and the king Darius did not know that. They also were very

clever to exalt the King, and claimed the law of the Medes and Persians.

"Now O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not. Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree." (Daniel 6:8-9)

This decree was sent throughout the vast domain of the Medes and Persians and Daniel found out about it. He did not go and complain to king Darius, stating that he did not have a part in this, but note what Daniel did.

"Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime"
(Daniel 6:10-11)

Daniel did not hide to pray, but in true faith, gave thanks to God, as he had always done, with his windows open. As these wicked counsellors spied on Daniel, they were swift to go to king Darius and demand that the judgement be carried out against Daniel. The king, realizing the trap that he was in, tried every way possible to prevent Daniel from being cast into the den of lions.

"Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him. Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed. Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, He will deliver thee." (Daniel 6:14-16)

There was no escape for Daniel and these enemies of Daniel made sure that the den was completely sealed.

"And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel."
(Daniel 6:17)

C. DANIEL DELIVERED BY GOD.

The enemies of God thought that they had this thorn in their flesh removed, having claimed the laws of the Medes and Persians. But God, was about to have another decree sent forth throughout the whole empire of the Medes and Persians. Even, king Darius let it be known that he was not pleased with this situation and that the royal court was in mourning. (Daniel 6:18)

"Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions. And when he came to the den, he cried with a

lamentable voice unto Daniel: O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions? Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever. My God hath sent His angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before Him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt. Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God." (Daniel 6:19-23)

From the words of Darius, it is obvious that Daniel had testified to him about the living God. Against the laws of nature, the king saw that the living God had protected Daniel through the night. Now the king was free to make another decree according to the laws of the Medes and Persians.

In every age, God has His way of proclaiming the truth, and as the Bible says, "*For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even the eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.*" (Romans 1:20)

If anyone views God's creation around them and reacts in a positive way to the Creator, God will give them more information, until they either accept or reject God's gift to mankind. That supreme gift was Jesus Christ's self sacrifice for the sin of every human that ever lived or ever will live. When you see the glories of the vast universe around you, use your mental and spiritual abilities to seek after the Creator of all things, who has revealed Himself to us in the Bible. God richly rewards those who believe His Word, and justly punishes those who spurn His love. The wrath of God will finally fall upon all those who reject His provision, through the Lord Jesus Christ.

D. DANIEL'S ACCUSERS EXECUTED.

So often in the Bible we read of reversed judgements. The king is about to reverse the punishment Daniel went through and place it on his accusers. It reminds me of another reversal of judgement which I want to mention. That is from the Book of Esther during the reign of king Ahasuerus. The tribe of Judah was to be destroyed completely, BUT GOD provided a way of escape through Queen Esther, from Haman the accuser. Haman himself was hanged from the gallows he built for the Jew Mordecia. So with Darius, He showed no mercy upon those wicked counsellors who tricked him into throwing Daniel into the den of lions.

"And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and

brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den.” (Daniel 6:24)

The whole known world got the message and is forever without excuse. God the Creator of all things also controls all things!

E. DANIEL’S GOD EXALTED.

I am sure that Darius was raging angry with all of those wicked rulers, who lied and caused him to sign such a decree. Now it was king Darius’ turn to write.

“Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you; I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for He is the living God, and steadfast for ever, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and His dominion shall be even unto the end. He delivereth and rescueth and He worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.” (Daniel 6:25-27)

This decree went throughout the whole world, and again, all nations and people were told of the only true and living God and they all were without excuse. The decree went forth to the whole domain, with the account of the terrible punishment against those wicked rulers.

As for those jealous counsellors and presidents, their fate was extreme, causing total loss because of their deceit and pride. This terrible punishment was also heard throughout that great empire. There had to be a change of leadership in Darius’ government, and rest assured that Daniel was his number one counsellor.

“So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.” (Daniel 6:28)

As we are faithful to the Lord, regardless of the circumstances, the Lord richly rewards. It is not always manifested in one’s life time upon this earth, but God has stored up eternal rewards for the ages to come.

The scene then changed, with Daniel in a high position in the Media - Persian government. As God used Daniel as His chosen vessel during the Babylonian empire, to interpret dreams and vision, now God was going to speak directly through Daniel to enlarge upon Nebuchadnezzar’s dreams. This started during the first year reign of Belshazzar, according to (Daniel 7:1). Satan tried to destroy the Messianic lineage many times, BUT GOD was always mindful of the wiles of the devil, and God was victorious.

F. DANIEL’S EXAMPLE TO BE FOLLOWED.

In concluding this chapter, let us learn something very important.

“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations: Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let

patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him.” (James 1:2-5)

All of us, as Christians, continually fall short of the glory of God. In this present life, no one can claim sinless perfection, but we can have the victory over sin.

“If we say that we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:8-9)

Take God at His Word, for God is mindful of you and desires to lead you into all truth, through God the Holy Spirit.

May I also add, that we as Christians need to make our stand before this sinful world, based upon God’s Word. Our foundation is the Lord Jesus Christ, for no other foundation will stand the judgement of God. As Peter wrote, being led by the Holy Spirit.

“Ye also, as living stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the Scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on Him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believeth He is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the Stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner. And a Stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the Word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people;” (1 Peter 2:5-9a)

The Old Testament saints, including Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, did not have the complete revelation as we have, but were led by the Holy Spirit who would come down upon them in a mighty way! We are reminded ,

“Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.” (Zechariah 4:6b)

God has always had His faithful witnesses down through the ages, and He continually seeks out those who will be obedient and faithful today. Will you as a student of God’s Word be faithful to the Lord? God has given His all that you might share in the glory of God.

“But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.” (Romans 5:8-9)

From the Book of Daniel, we have added examples of God’s ever present help to His faithful witnesses. We not only have great amounts of prophecy revealed, but we also have a revelation of God’s continual care over His own. That great

eternal plan of God will be completed according to the sovereignty of God. The Bible consists of all that God wishes us to know, but is not the sum total of the knowledge of God. One half of the prophecies declared in the Bible are still to be completed. That is why, we as students of the Bible must learn to rightly divide the Word of truth, being thoroughly established in the will of God. Our primary responsibility, as Christians, is to know the perfect will of God, and live according to the Divine viewpoint.

“For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.” (Romans 8:5-6)

This portion of the Book of Daniel is of great importance to each of us as Believers, for it reminds us that we must remain true to God, regardless of circumstances. We need always to remember that our lives are in the hands of God and no harm can befall us, without the sovereignty of God permitting it.

“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world. They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.” (1 John 4:4-6)

There are times when God’s children need to be humiliated in order that God’s perfect will may be done in their lives. Sometimes it is in the form of suffering and sometimes in the form of setting one aside, until one realizes that utter dependence upon God is necessary. Sometimes believers are corrected because they become conformed to this world system and consequently, they lose out on the perfect will of God for their lives.

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.” (Romans 12:2-3)

Our faith and salvation is all by the grace of God and there is no self merit that we earn anything before God. We have seen the results of pride and jealousy and we have seen examples of humility and perfect trust in God. God has loved us with an everlasting love, and may we love Him in perfect love, which casteth out fear.

“Herein is love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgement: because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love Him, because He first loved us.” (1 John 4:17-19)

This is a secret to perfect obedience which brings perfect love. God had used Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, to evangelize the whole world under these Gentile nations. This glorified God and defeated the tools of Satan, through these wise men, magicians, the astrologers, the Chaldeans and the soothsayers were put to open shame. May God grant that our studies thus far have encouraged each of you to stand firmly on the solid rock Christ Jesus!

"If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him: if we deny Him, He also will deny us:" (2 Timothy 2:12)

You may think that God has lost control of this world. Immorality seems to be taking over the whole world, but God is sovereign and only allows the evil forces to go so far. We are free moral agents and can choose to go our own way, but when we do, we will suffer the chastisement of Almighty God. However, we can rejoice in the Lord for God's correction as we live in this present world. There are lessons to be learned, and God's Word helps us to understand the ways of God. We should learn many lessons from the past revelations in the Bible.

It is amazing how God through the writers of the Bible foretold of those four great empires, Babylon, Media - Persia, Greece and Rome. These revelations should strengthen our faith in the Bible. Our generation, more than any other, is without excuse before God, because we have the complete Word of God to study, and the help of the Holy Spirit to understand what we read. Critics of the Bible are absolutely brain washed by the evil one who is the god of this world system. Since they know nothing about being born of God the Holy Spirit, they cannot discern the things of God. You and I who have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit are able to discern the Divine viewpoint and understand these mysteries of God.

As we have dealt with these four great empires, we now will be studying about the final future empire which is going to take over the vast world on a greater scale than all these other kingdoms combined. It will be the Revival of the Roman Empire, in which Satan and his entire evil force will empower the beast and the false prophet with all spiritual wickedness in one last attempt to maintain power and influence in this present world. The signs of the time reveal to us the nearness of the Rapture and the beginning of the great tribulation. The revival of this Roman Empire will be dealt with in the next chapter.

God has a time period for the revelation of His plans and nothing can force God to make a change or nothing can defeat God's final purpose. We can praise God that we have our names written in the Lamb's Book of life and have already passed from a living death to an eternal life. As God predicted these great events through Daniel and they came to pass, so we can depend upon God to fulfill His precious promises to all who believe.

"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forebearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity," (Colossians 3:12-14a)

One must remember that our God is the same, yesterday, today and forever and never needs to change. The wicked of today are not given their final judgement immediately, but in God's time they shall be rewarded for their evil deeds and eventually cast into the eternal Lake of Fire and Brimstone. This will take place at the second resurrection and will be the second living death which is an eternal state of dying. The writer of Hebrews asks:

"How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?"

(Heb 2: 3)

"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."

(Revelation 20:12-15)

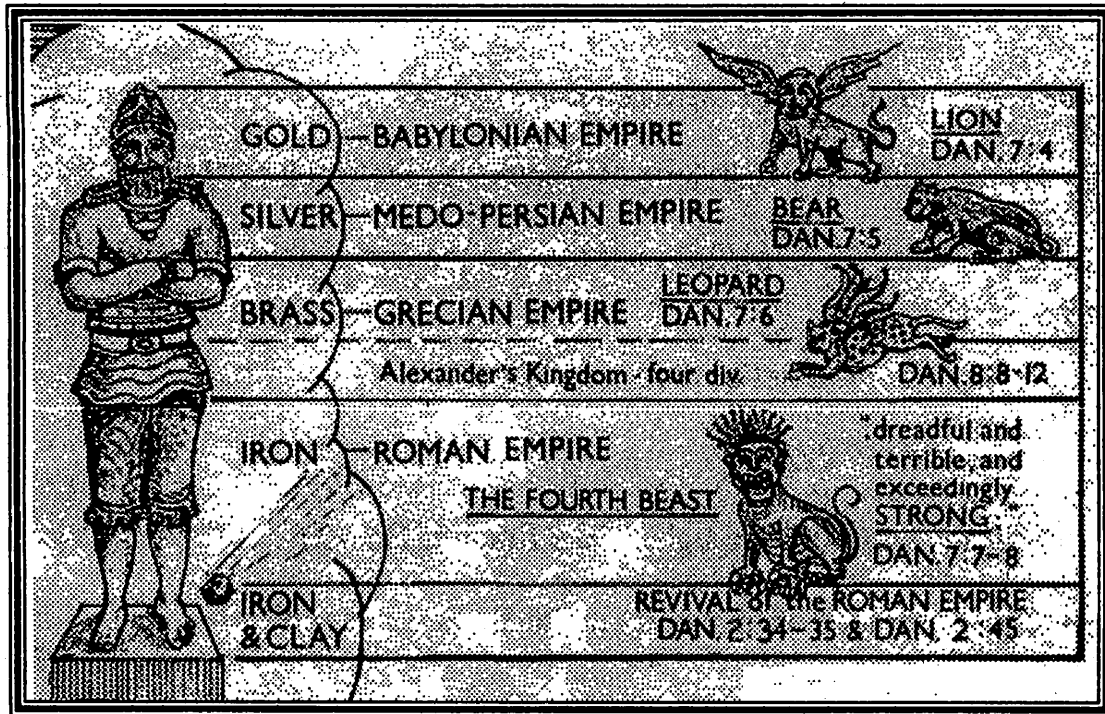
There will be no escape route for those who reject the Lord Jesus Christ. The self righteous and the ungodly shall all receive their just reward from God without an exception! Yes, God is patient and manifests His marvelous grace through Jesus Christ, but if ignored or rejected, then there is no other remedy or redeemer for their souls. The rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God will not be forgiven. Salvation cannot be earned or bought, and only comes as a free gift from God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

QUESTIONS ABOUT CHAPTER TWO.

1. Name and describe the 4 great empires of (*Daniel 2:1-4:37*).
2. Why was king Nebuchadnezzar desperate in desiring to recall his dreams?
3. Why must we, as believers, be patient and use faith in God in a lifestyle which is sometimes called "Faith Rest?"
4. Why did God separate the tribe of Judah from the other tribes?
5. Explain how king Nebuchadnezzar became a servant of the true God?
6. Explain (*Daniel 2:1-13*).
7. Explain (*Daniel 2:18-23*).
8. Write an essay on "The Prayer of Wisdom." (*Daniel 2:14-18*).
9. When will the Stone mentioned in (*Daniel 2:34-35*) (*Jeremiah 27:14-18*) smash all these Gentile empires and set up the Millennial kingdom?
10. Explain king Nebuchadnezzar's idea about various gods. (*Daniel 2:47*)
11. Write an essay on "The Fiery Furnace." (*Daniel 3:14-18*)
12. Explain (*1 Timothy 2:5*).
13. Write an essay on, "The Ever Present Help of God."
14. How did God evangelize the world through the miracles recorded in the Book of Daniel?
15. Why are all nations, tribes and languages without excuse?
16. When king Nebuchadnezzar declared (*Daniel 3:28-29*); did he give up his private gods?
17. When did king Nebuchadnezzar finally accept the God of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? (*Daniel 4:1-18*)
18. Give in your words the interpretation of the "Tree Vision." (*Daniel 4:4-27*)

19. How was "The Tree Vision" fulfilled? (*Daniel 4:28-37*)
20. Explain (*Daniel 4:34-37*).
21. Compare (*Daniel 5:1-6:28*) with (*Esther 7:1-10*).
22. Explain the two different Babylons of Daniel and the Book of Revelation.
23. Why is it necessary for Christians not to have the appearance of evil?
(*Daniel 6:4*)
24. Write an essay on , "Daniel In the Lion's Den."
25. Explain (*Daniel 6:25-27*).
26. Explain (*James 1:2-5*); in the light of the Book of Daniel.
27. What is the importance of this study in the Book of Daniel?
(*Romans 8:5-6*)
28. Explain (*1 John 4:4-6*).
29. Can we apply the sovereignty of God to our personal life as Christians? Please explain.
30. Does God have to humiliate us as believers at various times? Give some reasons for your answer.

CHAPTER THREE



THE REVIVAL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

(Daniel 7:1-9:27)

The decrees about the true and living God had gone forth in the reigns of Nebuchadnezzar and Darius and without a shadow of doubt, all the known world had heard those great declarations. However, the majority of people continued to worship idols, which were private lifeless objects, made by their own hands. Incredibly, this heathenism has continued throughout the world to this very day. God knew that this would happen because of the hardness of men's hearts which are blinded by the god of this world system. That is why, God, had to preserve both Israel and the promised land, as part and parcel of His eternal plan of salvation.

Daniel was getting up in years, BUT GOD, was using him as a chosen vessel to relate in prophecy, kingdoms to come, and His Divine purpose. Daniel had access to Jeremiah's writings as well as Ezekiel, Nehemiah, Ezra, and the early writings concerning the promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Let us study these next three chapters of Daniel and glean from them both past history of nations and also that which the Scripture relates concerning the Revival of the Roman Empire.

I. THE FOUR GREAT EMPIRES - (BEASTS). (*Daniel 7:1-28*)

Daniel had this dream and vision during the first year of Belshazzar's rein under the Babylonian Empire. He took time to write it down, perhaps with the help of a group of scribes. He was living under the times of the Gentiles and was anxious for Israel to return to the promised land. The seventy years of captivity mentioned in (*Jeremiah 25:11*). were coming to a close, BUT GOD, had to reveal more details to him as to the kingdoms to follow.

The four great beasts of Daniel's dream represented four great nations. Now we will have more specific information about these Empires, which precede the establishment of the millennial kingdom, the thousand year reign of Jesus. Each of these four Empires were given a type of beast as their emblem. Daniel did not keep this vision to himself, but he shared it with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed nego. Perhaps Ezekiel was also called to discuss this great revelation

"Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another."
(*Daniel 7:2-3*)

In the first 6 chapters of the Book of Daniel, we were dealing with Daniel's personal responsibilities with two great Empires, namely Babylon, and Media - Persia. Now we will be dealing with Daniel's visions in prophecy. It involves the last 7 years of the 70 time 7, which concerns the revival of the Roman Empire and those two beasts of Revelation chapter 13.

Here is a list of these four great Empires:

1. The World Empire of Babylon. - Like a Lion. (*Daniel 2:37,38*)
2. The World Empire of Media / Persia - Like a Bear. (*Daniel 2:39*)
3. The World Empire of Greece - Like a Leopard.
(*Daniel 2:39; 8:20-22; 11:2-4*)
4. The World Empire of Rome - Like a ten horned Beast
(*Daniel 7:23-24; 2:40-43*)

Let us examine these nations, according to the Word of God. In addition to the Word of God, there is sufficient evidence in secular history to confirm the rise and fall of these empires exactly as God the Holy Spirit predicted.

An important statement made in (*Daniel 7:2*) concerning The Four Winds, was also used in (*Revelation 7:1-2*).

"Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea." (*Daniel 7:2*)

"And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four

corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and sea. Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.” (Revelation 7:1-2)

Two prophecies, made hundreds of years apart, used the expression “Four Winds.” They refer to different times, but are the same four winds of heavenly influence, being used during the times of the Gentiles. The sea in prophetic terms refers to the masses of people. God in His sovereignty often uses the heavenly elements to control earthly elements until certain actions are performed.

We are reminded that these great Empires which we are about to study surround “The Great Sea” or, “The Great Mediterranean Sea.” This land surrounding the Great Sea was once, and will be again, the center of world government, because of its great wealth and its central location. Biblical directions are given with reference to the land of Palestine. It is the pivotal point from which we get the Biblical position.

May we now consider the prophetic element which God revealed to Daniel over a period of time. It will fill in for us, the details concerning these kingdoms, and will conclude beyond the revival of the Roman Empire. It will take us through the kingdom of righteousness and on into the eternal kingdom of God where sin will be no more. The final beast and the false prophet will be dealt with as described in the prophecies of the Book of Revelation.

A. THE BABYLON EMPIRE, (THE LION). (*Daniel 2:37-38*)

We have already study concerning the Babylonian Empire, as it affected Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed nego, but there is an additional portion of information concerning this great Empire which we need to consider. We have seen that the image of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, placed his Empire at the top of the list as “The Head of Gold.” Daniel was now to receive added information about these four nations. The prophecies of three of these nations have been fulfilled, but the prophecies of the fourth nation, known as the Revival of the Roman Empire, are still future events.

“The first was like a lion, and had eagle’s wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man’s heart was given to it.” (Daniel 7:4)

Babylon as the supreme Empire was described as the king of the beasts. This short description of that great kingdom of Babylon, compared it to the swiftness of an eagle and the strength of a lion. The City of Babylon became the envy of all, but with the pride of Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar, the kingdom was lost and brought down like a great eagle whose wings were plucked and a powerful lion

who was changed back into a weak man.

God used that great king's humiliation to give the people of the world the message, that He alone is the true and living God. Nebuchadnezzar, as ruler over all, was used by God to proclaim God's message to all, but the world preferred darkness rather than light, and continued to worship idols. The Babylonian power was lost on the day when Belshazzar and his princes, in a drunken stupor, desecrated the vessels of the Temple of God from Jerusalem. Babylon was "Weighed and Found Wanting." However God had used the Babylonian Empire to proclaim His message to the whole known world.

B. THE MEDIA - PERSIAN EMPIRE, (THE BEAR). (*Daniel 2:39; 7:5*)

The first important truth that we get from this second Gentile world Empire is the authority coming from the heavenly watchers. (*Daniel 4:17*) The "THEY" in Daniel indicates the sovereignty of God, who commands the setting up and the pulling down of nations in this world.

"This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men."
(*Daniel 4: 17*)

The Medes and Persians, being a divided Empire, were not as powerful as Babylon and therefore they were described as a "Bear," which is powerful but not as powerful as the lion, the king of the beasts. The interpretation of such a kingdom was in few words.

"And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee."
(*Daniel 2:39a*)

The bear caught hold of three nations (three ribs) which tried to destroy the Medes and Persians but failed. They are Libya, Egypt and Babylon. Libya and Egypt came to help Babylon push back the Medes and Persians, but they were unsuccessful.

God raised up king Cyrus for a specific purpose, to rebuild Jerusalem. (*Ezra 1:1-11*) What God was doing in this great Empire was returning power to the Mediterranean in preparation for the next great Gentile nation, namely Greece. Now our Sovereign God was moving His people and the center of power, westward.

The importance of the ruling Medes and Persians is more than merely a great empire, but God's great purpose for them was to preserve the nation of Israel. King Cyrus was appointed by God as His anointed one for this great task of rebuilding Jerusalem as well as returning the kingly tribe of Judah to her promised land. God's Messianic promise was in jeopardy and God's mighty power was necessary! God always has an insight into the future and is totally in control as the Sovereign God.

C. THE GRECIAN EMPIRE, (THE LEOPARD), UNDER ALEXANDER THE GREAT. (*Daniel 2:39; 7:6; 8:20; 11:2-4*)

The young nation of Greece was as swift as a leopard and could move quickly in any area of its vast domain. Alexander the Great was a young emperor who moved quickly to conquer the world. He defeated the Persians and marched approximately 11,000 miles to conquer not only Egypt to the west, but India to the east. Alexander was young in spirit but careless with his youth. He chose Babylon as the capital of his empire and set himself up as a god to be worshiped by his subjects. Shortly after returning from his conquest of India, he became seriously ill with a fever. He did not live very long to enjoy his world conquest because he was weakened by his careless lifestyle and many war wounds. Alexander III died of a fever at age 32. After his death, his kingdom was divided into four sections by four generals from his army.

"After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl: the beast also had four heads: and dominion was given it." (Daniel 7:6)

Because the Grecian power was divided into four, its power became less than that of an eagle but was sufficient to be classified as a fowl. After Alexander's death, there became four heads, four powerful empires, namely Macedonia, Syria, Egypt and Thrace. All of this troubled Daniel as recorded.

"I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me. I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things." (Daniel 7:15-16)

This is quite interesting to know that God has already revealed some of His overall plan to His holy angels. They were able to give Daniel a clue to it all.

"These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth." (Daniel 7:17)

Then the Holy angels skipped some great events and added,

"But the saints of the Most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever." (Daniel 7:18)

Later on, we will study the elements of these great Empires and the kingdom of the Saints which will follow the four great kingdoms. It is amazing how God gave Daniel the details of these future events as though they had already past. There is indeed no one else other than God, to whom we can go to for guidance on the future?

D. THE ROMAN EMPIRE, (THE TEN HORNED BEAST) (*Daniel 2:40; 7:7; 23*)

Now we are coming to a historical time which puzzled Daniel deeply. He had visions that referred to a soon to be Roman Empire, and others that referred to a

distant Revival of the Roman Empire, and still others that referred to a kingdom of the saints which would be an everlasting kingdom.

“After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with feet of it; and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.” (Daniel 7:7)

Here is where Daniel was confused as to the division of this terrible Empire. The past Roman Government was very powerful and very organized, but one of the worst things for which they will be remembered, is the form of execution they used. It was the most cruel form of execution known to man, crucifixion. God the Father chose the time when that government was in power to send His Eternal Son into this world to take away total sin, as the sacrificial Lamb of God. We do not know why God chose that time in history, but it may have been to emphasize to us the terribleness of sin. By allowing His Son to suffer death under that most ruthless Roman empire, God showed to the world how much He abhors sin.

“And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.” (Daniel 2:40)

The governmental power continued to shift to the west, as the Macedonian wing became more powerful than the feuding Egyptian and Syrian remnants of Alexander the Great's empire. Egypt and Syria were referred to as the Kings of the South and the Kings of the North in Daniel 11. They would fight and feud for many years as predicted in Daniel 11, and each time they went to war, they would have to go through the land of Israel. They would make treaties only to break them until finally the Syrian king marched south to fight Egypt only to find a Roman army had come to help Egypt. They came in ships from Cyprus, and fought the Syrians and sent them back north in a rage.

“For the ships of Chittim shall come against him: therefore he shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant.” (Daniel 11:30)

That was the beginning of the great Roman Empire which was the world power when Jesus came to earth the first time. Daniel's vision showed this fourth beast (empire) as having ten horns. The ten horns are still in the future, and they will be ten ruling nations, including England and nine European nations.

Daniel was a little confused as to this revelation and rightly so. There was a “Mystery Age” or the “Church Age,” which was secluded or hidden away between the Roman Empire of Jesus' day and the future revived Roman Empire with ten horns. Why was there a mysterious “Church Age”? Because God planned to present the Messiah to Israel at that time.

(*Malachi 3:1*) refers to messengers from God preparing the way for Jesus to come to earth. The Messiah's first coming to earth was heralded by John the

Baptist, and his second coming will be heralded by Elijah.

"He (John) said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias."

(John 1:23) "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." (Isaiah 40:3)

God knew that Israel would reject their Messiah at His first coming. They were looking for a conquering king, but Jesus came as a humble servant and a sacrificial lamb. When he comes again the second time, Jesus will come as the King of kings, and Lord of lords. He will conquer the world and rule with complete power and justice for 1,000 years. There will be no evil influences from Satan and his demons during that time, for they will be locked up for 1,000 years.

Elijah will return to earth in the last half of the tribulation to announce the millennial kingdom of Jesus Christ. (*Malachi 4:5*) Moses will also come back prior to the Millennium. (*Revelation 11:3-12*) This will be during the last 42 months of the Great Tribulation, which is called "*The Abomination of Desolation.*" (*Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15*)

Today, we are drawing near to the end of this "Mystery Age" or the "Church Age." God has been calling out members of the body of Christ for nearly 2,000 years now. In our day, the signs of the times, that this age is nearing its end, are evident all around us. Here is a list of some of the more important signs:

- 1. Israel is re-gathering back in her promised land. (*Deuteronomy 30:1-3; Ezekiel 11:17; 37; Isaiah 43:5; 54:7; Jeremiah 23:3; 31:10; Nehemiah 1:9*)**
- 2. In Europe the formation of the Common market with at least ten major nations is happening. These are identified as the ten toes of the vision that Nebuchadnezzar had. (*Daniel 2:31-35*) Daniel's vision of the ten horned beast also predicted the ten nation alliance. (*Daniel 7:7*) This will become the Revival of the Roman Empire.**
- 3. Perilous times will come, in fact, they are already here during this age of Grace. (*2 Timothy 3:1-5*)**
- 4. Many believers are being added to the body of Christ daily. As this present age draws to a close and all of the members of the body of Christ are completed, then the Rapture will take place to remove us out from the wrath to come. The wrath to come is the Great Tribulation that will take place upon this earth, and it is also referred to as "Jacob's Trouble" (*Jeremiah 30:7; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; John 14:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-57*)**

5. We are living in a computer age, which makes the world very small. Today, information about individuals, from all over the world, can be collected by computers and stored in a space not much bigger than one room. This is a prerequisite for the future dictator of the world, who will be able to control all commodities, so that no one can buy or sell without his permission, or his mark. (*Revelation 13:17*)

I think we are living in the last days as the date approaches 2,000 AD. We are not sure how God will count the years, but it is certain that we are drawing very near to the end of this age. When the signs begin to happen, God has told us to look up and be ready for His coming.

"And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." (Luke 21 : 28)

No one but God the Father knows when that trumpet will sound and that "Great Air Lift" will take place, but we need to be ready. (*John 14:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-57*)

"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." (1 Corinthians 15:57-58)

It is wonderful to know that it is well with our souls and that we can trust the Lord to bring to pass, all that He has promised.

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is long suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)

II. THE FINAL LITTLE HORN OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE.

A. THE LITTLE HORN VISION (*Daniel 8 : 9*)

This portion of the visions really puzzled Daniel also. The little horn empire was separate and different from the three Empires that it uprooted. That "Little Horn," and the mixture of iron and clay were understandably confusing to Daniel, for he had only a portion of the Bible, but today we have the complete Bible to compare Daniel's visions with John's visions in the book of Revelations.

"And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not

cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.”
(Daniel 2:41-43)

This Empire, the fourth beast, was different from the other three, in that it will eventually develop into a cooperative rule of ten kings, “Ten Horns.” Then the vision becomes more difficult, because a “Little Horn” appears, and three of the ten horns disappear.

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

Now, we are seeing an altogether different revelation, and if we did not have the Book of Revelation, it would be difficult to understand. From the book of Revelations we see that this “Little Horn” is none other than the Beast coming up from the sea of (*Revelation 13:1-10*). He will have power to absorb three of the ten nations, leaving seven nations as his great power bloc. This vision was reserved for future Israel. It will directly affect them, as they will have to go through the Great Tribulation. Fortunately for us, Daniel wanted to know more about the fourth beast.

“Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast.....And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell: even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows. I beheld, the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them: Until the Ancient of Days came, and judgement was given to the saints of the Most High: and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom. Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. And he shall speak great words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and dividing of time. But the judgement shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and destroy it unto the end. And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.” (Daniel 7:19-27)

These few verses of Scripture covers a multitude of events of the future. We would know little about these if we did not have the Book of Revelation.

Briefly, I want to list the references of these future events:

1. The ten horns are the initial ten rulers within the future, Revived Roman Empire. (*Daniel 7:17*)
2. The other horn, known as "The Little Horn," will absorb three of the ten horns leaving but seven. (*Daniel 7:8,24; Revelation 13:1*)
3. The coming "Little Horn" dictator of the world will speak great things, being empowered by Satan. (*Daniel 7:25; Revelation 13:5*)
4. This Dictator, the Beast coming up from the sea, will be possessed by demons. (*Daniel 8:23-24; Revelation 13:1-2*)
5. These beasts of Revelation, one from out of the sea and one from out of the earth, will trample down the saints for 42 months. (*Daniel 7:25; Revelation 12:3-12*)
6. The phrase "mingled with the seed of men" deals with the demon possession of the beasts during the coming Great Tribulation.
7. The Ancient of Days will come, to fight the Battle of Armageddon. (*Daniel 7:9-11; Revelation 19:11-21*)
8. The coming kingdom of righteousness will be given to the saints. (*Daniel 7:27; Revelation 5:10*)
9. God's kingdom is everlasting. Beginning with the Millenium, there will be no more human Kings or kingdoms. (*Daniel 7:27; Revelation 11:15; 22:5; Daniel 9:24.*)

B. THE RAM AND THE ROUGH GOAT VISION. (*Daniel 8:1-27*)

Daniel had this vision in Babylon, during the third year of king Belshazzar's reign, before the invasion of the Medes and Persians. The vision portrays in a different way the invasions of the Medes and Persians, (the ram with two horns) and the Greeks; (the Rough Goat). The rough goat had one horn between his eyes and that represented Alexander the Great. The four horns that replaced the one horn represented the four generals that replaced Alexander when he died. The early years of the fourth beast with ten horns was then skipped and the vision moves to the tribulation years. The stern-faced king that replaces the four horns is the same king as the beast of the tribulation age or the "little horn" king.

Daniel wanted to know more about the fourth beast, which we know refers to the Revival of the Roman Empire. These visions, which are previews of the visions that would be given to John, revealed a small part of that great conflict that will take place during the Great Tribulation. Daniel didn't have the Biblical information that we have, so it greatly puzzled him. We have the comparison of this little horn with the beasts of the Book of Revelation. Those two beasts of Revelation will be greatly empowered by Satan. This will occur when Michael the Arch angel and his armies cast Satan and all of his fallen angels out of heaven. (*Revelation 12:7-12*) Satan will be cast down to this earth in the middle of the great tribulation, which will activate the period known as "The Abomination of Desolation." (*Daniel 9:27*)

That "Little Horn" king will be demon possessed and become very powerful, during the latter part of the Great Tribulation. Satan, referred to as the dragon, and all his demons will make their last stand against God upon planet earth. Satan and his demons will persecute and kill thousands of descendants of Israel and many converted tribulation saints. BUT GOD will have that city of refuge ready to protect Israel, when they are attacked by satan.

"And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman (Israel) which brought forth the man child. And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time (3 1/2 years), from the face of the serpent. And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth." (*Revelation 12:13-16*)

Many of Israel will be safely protected in their city of refuge. (*Matthew 24:15-22*) It will happen just as God says. Those days will be terrible, and will constitute the last half of that great tribulation.

Satan with the help of the two beasts, of the Revived Roman Empire, will then persecute those who do not flee to the hills, but remain scattered throughout many parts of the world. That will include the 144,000 Jewish young people who will be sent forth to preach the kingdom.

"And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." (*Revelation 12:17*)

This wrath of the dragon will take place during the last half of the Great Tribulation, which is called "The Abomination of Desolation" In Revelations it is spelled out exactly in days and months. (*1,260 days = 42 months = 3 1/2 years*).

"And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days." (*Revelation 12:6*) "And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and

power was given unto him to continue forty and two months."

(Revelations 13:5)

This future time will be a dreadful time on earth, worse than any time in the history of the earth, and it will occur after the Old Testament saints and New Testament saint have been raptured to the mansions above. (*John 14:1-6*) No doubt many unbelievers will be astounded by the disappearance of millions of christians at the rapture, and many will become christians themselves in the early part of tribulation. Some of them will be killed for their faith. The Lord Jesus said:

"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."
(Matthew 24:21-22)

C. DANIEL'S REACTIONS TO THE 70 YEARS OF JEREMIAH

(Jeremiah 5:11)

We come to a very important issue which caused Daniel to ponder, and to calculate. Since Daniel had the writings of Jeremiah, he knew that Israel, because of her sins, would be scattered for 70 years.

"And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment: and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the Lord, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolation." (Jeremiah 25:11-12)

1. DANIEL'S DESIRE FOR ISRAEL

From God's Word, Daniel calculated the 70 years were nearly complete and that Judah would not be punished any longer. Daniel's calculations, however, were not entirely correct. God had more punishment and testing planned for the children of Israel. In Daniel's hope, he spent much time in prayer, fasting and even put on sack cloth and covered himself with ashes. Recorded in (*Daniel 9:3-19*); Daniel's prayer is an example of his great devotion to Almighty God. Let's look for a moment at Daniel's prayer.

The seventy years of captivity in Babylon were about to be completed, but that was only the beginning of Israel's sorrows. God had planned to chastise them even more for their wickedness. God advised them through Jeremiah to settle down in their captivity.

“Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, unto all that are carried away captives, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem to Babylon; Build ye your houses, and dwell in them; and plant gardens, and eat the fruit of them; Take ye wives, and beget sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; that ye may be increased there, and not diminished. And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the Lord for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace. For thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Let not your prophets and your diviners, that be in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed. For they prophecy falsely unto you in my name: I have not sent them, saith the Lord. For thus saith the Lord, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place.” (Jeremiah 29:4-10)

You can easily see why Daniel was preparing to return to Jerusalem hoping that prosperity and a blessing would return to the children of Israel. The children of Israel did return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple and the city walls, but Israel's domination, in the city of David, was still thousands of years away.

The first coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ was to take upon himself the punishment for the sins of the world, and to offer to “whosoever will” the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. This present age, known as the “times of the Gentiles” or the “church age,” must be complete before the rapture of the church occurs and Jacob's troubles begin. After Jacob's trouble or the tribulation years are over, Jesus will again return to earth to set up his perfect kingdom. The second coming of Jesus Christ will be to rule the world from Jerusalem for 1000 years.

Daniel did not know about the delay between their returning to Jerusalem and the millennial kingdom of Jesus Christ. Even so, what a wonderful prayer Daniel prayed to God. He humbly submitted to the living God, and took his place with wayward Israel. Here is a brief look at some of the elements of that prayer.

2. DANIEL'S PRAYER (Daniel 9:3-19)

- a. He set his face unto the Lord, praying and fasting. He was clothed with sackcloth, and covered with ashes. (Daniel 9 : 3)

- b. Daniel made his confessions before the Lord. (*Daniel 9 : 4*)
- c. Daniel identified himself with the sins of Israel. (*Daniel 9 : 5*)
- d. Daniel acknowledged that all of Israel did not listen to the prophets sent from God. (*Daniel 9 : 6*)
- e. Daniel acknowledged that righteousness belongs to God, and confusion belonged to Israel. (*Daniel 9 : 7-8*)
- f. He stated that the Lord God gives mercy and forgiveness by grace. (*Daniel 9 : 9*)
- g. Daniel said, "We all have disobeyed the Lord our God." (*Daniel 9 : 11-12*)
- h. Daniel knew that God had established His Word and desired that all should understand the truth. That is why God put His Word into writing so that all could clearly understand it. (*Daniel 9 : 12-13*)
- i. Daniel remembered that God's watchful eye was upon His people Israel, whom He brought out of Egypt with His mighty power. (*Daniel 9 : 14-15*)
- j. Daniel interceded for his people, Israel, and for the Holy City of Jerusalem. (*Daniel 9 : 16*)
- k. Daniel pleaded with God to hear his prayer. (*Daniel 9 : 17*)
- l. Daniel based his prayer upon the great mercies of God for the sake of Jerusalem, which is called by His name. (*Daniel 9 : 18*)
- m. Finally, Daniel pleaded for God to hear, to forgive, and to hearken for both the Holy City and His people. (*Daniel 9 : 19*)

This is a heart searching prayer, to our life giving God. Daniel knew that the 70 year punishment was completed, and he waited for God to give him the answer.

"And whiles I was yet speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God for the holy mountain of my God: Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the

vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation.

(Daniel 9:20-21)

God heard Daniel's prayers from the very beginning, and Gabriel that great angelic Bible teacher was sent to not only Daniel but to all of the saints. Why do I say this? Because we are about to discover what I believe is the key verse in all of the Scripture, and also to envision several judgements that will take place in the end time. These 70 years under Babylon did terminate, but now there were 490 years to be reckoned with. We will examine this key verse of the Bible separately, but for the time being let's consider briefly some of the judgements of God, some past, some present and some future.

D. THE JUDGEMENTS OF GOD CONSIDERED.

The Word of God is confirmed and is accurate. God has been judging individuals, families, tribes and nations down through the years, but we have some very specific judgements to consider.

"Before the Lord: for He cometh, for He cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with His truth." (Psalm 96:13)

God has an appointed time for each judgement, based upon the Word of God. The sum total of all of the judgements of God are based upon the judgement at the Cross. His Beloved Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who is our Great High Priest went to the cross to pay the penalty for total sin. It was God's way of dealing with total sin, once and forever!

"So Christ was once offered to bear sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation." (Hebrews 9:28)

1. The judgement of Christ upon the Cross. (John 9:39; Romans 2:2-5; 5:9; 8:1; Hebrews 9:27)
2. Self Judgement of the saints. (1 John 1:5-9)
3. God's chastening and judgement of the saints (Hebrews 12:5-11)
4. Judgement of the nations. (Isaiah 34:1-2; Joel 3:11-16; Deuteronomy 9:28; Isaiah 19:22)
5. The judgement of the fallen angelic host. (Jude 6)

6. The judgement seat of Christ when believers are rewarded.
(1 Corinthians 3:12-17; 2 Corinthians 5:10)
7. The judgement of the beast and false prophet.
(Revelation 19:20)
8. The judgement of the devil and his fallen angels
(Revelation 20:10)
9. The great white throne judgement for all unbelievers.
(Revelation 20:11-15)

E. MESSIANIC TIME TABLE REVEALED TO DANIEL.

Here are a few important things to come, which were made known to Daniel:

1. THE KINGDOM WITHOUT END REVEALED.

The third vision which Daniel saw was for his encouragement, before that message from Gabriel. It took him, and us, down the corridors of time to when the Lord will take us all into His Eternal kingdom of righteousness.

"I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought Him near before Him. And there was given Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed." (Daniel 7:13-14)

This speaks of the final and ultimate establishment of God's Eternal kingdom in the New Heavens and the New Earth. Before that, there will be the kingdom of righteousness for one thousand years, called the Millennium, which will be the last kingdom of this old world.

2. THE LITTLE HORN REVEALED.

May we consider briefly and compare what Daniel saw with what the Holy Spirit revealed to John on the Isle of Patmos.

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

stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things. (Daniel 7 : 7-8)

The "Little Horn" of the great tribulation will appear with great power, which will be given to him by the devil, but as a man, he will speak great words of deceit. (Rev.13:1-10)

"And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him power, and his seat, and great authority."

(Revelation 13:1-2)

As you compare these two separate revelations you are immediately aware of their similarities. This "little horn" of Daniel is described as a combination of body parts of the previous three beasts, It will be the beast of the Revival of the Roman Empire. The dragon, who is satan, the devil, will give him special power during the Great Tribulation known as "The Abomination of Desolation." This special power will be for the last 3 1/2 years of the Great Tribulation. (Revelation 12:6; 13:5) This beast will set himself up to be worshipped by all the ungodly.

"And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, and His tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

(Revelation 13:1-8)

Now let us again return to Daniel and find it's counter part and likeness.

"And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall subdue three kings. And he shall speak great words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and dividing of time. (3 1/2 years) But the judgement shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end." (Daniel 7:24-26)

These cross references are of great importance if you desire to rightly divide the Word of truth. It is marvelous how the Holy Spirit used various chosen vessels, even angels from heaven, to declare the things of the past, present and future. The "Little Horn" represents someone who will appear during the Great Tribulation. That is why we need to study both Daniel and Revelation which have parallel messages from God. Although the dictator is not called the "Little Horn" in the Revelation account, nevertheless, the person and the events are the same. In other words, the context is the same. The "Little Horn" ruler and the Beast out of the sea with 7 heads, 10 horns and 10 crowns represent the same ruling power.

3. SEVENTY WEEKS BEYOND THE SEVENTY YEARS REVEALED

(Daniel 8:23-25; 9:20-27)

Gabriel's instruction to Daniel, gives us some insight into what will take place, under the Roman Empire and later under the Revival of the Roman Empire. Gabriel said,

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

As predicted by Jeremiah, the 70 years of Babylonian punishment had been completed, but Gabriel told Daniel that there remained 70 weeks of years before the "Most Holy" would be anointed. In the Hebrew language, the word "weeks" that Gabriel used, can be interpreted as "sevens." That's seventy sevens of years or 490 years until the Messiah would return in power to rule in the Millennial Kingdom. Gabriel also said:

"Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem, unto the Messiah the Prince, shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again,

and the wall, even in troublous times.” (Daniel 9:25)

That verse mentions 69 weeks (sevens) or 483 years until the Messiah would come (first coming). Four hundred and eighty three years were completed when Jesus came and was crucified, and there remain 7 years of the 490 years until he comes again (second coming). There is obviously a gap between Jesus’ first coming and his second coming. We now know that those years are the mystery years of the Church Age. When the Church Age ends, the countdown will continue with 7 years of Tribulation. How did scholars determine that Gabriel’s weeks referred to seven years? Well, there are several reasons why we know this.

- a. History revealed that from the time that king Cyrus made his decree to allow Israel to return to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem until the Messiah was cut off (crucified) was 483 years. That agrees with Gabriel’s prediction. (69 times 7 is 483 years.)**
- b. The last week of Jewish domination by “Gentile” powers or the 70th. week of Daniel, amounts to 7 years. In the Book of Revelation, John refers very specifically to half of the Tribulation in months and in days. (The latter half of the 7 years amounts to 42 months.) (*Revelation 11:1-3*) (Half of the Tribulation period is also spelled out in days, 1,260 days.)**
- c. We learn that time (1yr) times (2yrs) and half time (1/2yr) amounts to 3 1/2 years, which is spelled out in 1,260 days or 42 months. (*Revelation 11:1-3*) That amounted to the last part of the Great Tribulation, which is also called “The Abomination of Desolation.”**
- d. As mentioned earlier, the Hebrew word for Weeks is “heptads,” which means “sevens.”**

4. THE TRIBULATION BEAST REVEALED.

Daniel’s prayer to Almighty God for Israel, and God’s answer to that prayer are as important to us today as they were to Daniel in his day. Gabriel’s revelation was God’s answer and it gives us the key to understanding God’s dealings with mankind and particularly to the enormous sin question. It also predicted some very violent years in the future, when sin will be at it’s worst. It is very unfortunate that Satan and so many of his followers have used their freedom of choice to pursue selfish and evil ways instead of God’s way. God will let sin run it’s

course, but He provided a way for us to escape sin's judgement, by paying for that sin, with the death of Jesus Christ, on the cross.

*"How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation;"
(Hebrews 2 : 3)*

Gabriel began by telling Daniel about the ram and the rough goat empires which preceded the Roman Empire. Now he informs Daniel about the end times, when a king, of fierce countenance, would persecute God's people, until Jesus Christ returns, at the end of the Tribulation to defeat him. The king of fierce countenance is also referred to by other names like the "Little Horn," the "horn with eyes and a mouth," and the "beast out of the sea."

*"And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people. And through his policy also shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand."
(Daniel 8:23-25)*

Daniel was in a quandary about the "Little Horn," the fourth beast. Daniel was coming to the end of the Babylonian Empire, depicted as the first beast, the lion, and these next three beasts were puzzling him, especially the "Little Horn" which would develop from the fourth beast.

"Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet; And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows. I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; Until the Ancient of days came, and judgement was given to the saints of the Most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom." (Daniel 7 : 19-22) But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever. (Daniel 7:18)

Daniel knew that eventually the Messiah, with the saints of God, would be victorious and He would set up the final empire on earth, which would never be defeated. The type of Messiah that Daniel and the rest of

the Jewish nation, were anticipating, was a victorious and powerful Messiah not a loving, humble and kind servant like Jesus Christ. They did not accept their Messiah, when He came to earth the first time, because He did not fit their mold. When He came the first time, Jesus came as the Lamb of God, to take away the sins of the world, but when He comes to earth the second time, He will come as the victorious King of kings and Lord of lords. Those that believe in Him, and look for His coming, will be severely persecuted, but they will not be disappointed when they rule and reign with Jesus in the Millennial Kingdom.

Just prior to that millennial kingdom, the fourth beast will wear out the saints during the Great Tribulation, also known as the Revival of the Roman Empire. (*Daniel 7:25*) That "Little Horn" ruler will reach his peak of power during the last part of the Great Tribulation referred to as "The Abomination of Desolation." The full thrust of the demonic world will be present upon the earth during those last 3 1/2 years.

At the beginning of the Great Tribulation, this beast will make a 7 year covenant with Israel, (*Daniel 9:27*) but that covenant or treaty will be broken in the middle of the 7 year period. At that time, the beast will no longer need to appease Israel with a treaty, because the whole demonic world, under Satan, will become his source of power. Remember, that Satan and all of his demons will be cast out of heaven in the middle of the tribulation, and their fury will be directed toward the Jews and toward new believers in God. That is why Daniel recorded about the dictator,

"And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power." (Daniel 8:24a)

There will be a terrible slaughter of God's people during the latter part of the Great Tribulation. No wonder Daniel fainted after receiving such information. He was hoping for Jerusalem to be elevated to a position of world leadership again, not trodden underfoot. Daniel prayed and asked that Israel be restored, and that Jerusalem be glorified with the Shekinah glory from on high.

After Daniel's humble prayer to the Lord, it was a shock to him to realize that another 490 years of Gentile rule and persecution were in store for his people. Daniel was told, eventually, everlasting righteousness would come, when sin would be no more. (*Daniel 9:24*) The difficult part of Gabriel's explanation was what would happen after the total of 69 weeks or 483 years. He learned that at the end of that period, the Messiah would be cut off. (*Daniel 9:26*) What was not obvious was the "Church Age," for this had to be a mystery age or a hidden age, until Israel exercised her choice of accepting or rejecting the Messiah. Yes, they rejected their Messiah and the kingdom of righteousness was postponed, as I have mentioned before. Therefore, that final week, of the seventy times seven, could not be clearly seen, unless God revealed it. All that

Daniel had at this point was,

“And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.” (Daniel 9:26)

If we did not have the book of Revelation, we would never be able to fully understand this truth. Praise God, we do have the answer to this dilemma that Daniel was in.

One of the most important chapters in the Book of Daniel is chapter nine. It also contains statements that give us insights to God’s purpose for all eternity to come. It came to Daniel during the first year after the Medes had conquered Babylon (538 B.C.). Darius was the king over the Chaldeans, under king Cyrus. Daniel was confused about the sequence of events that had been revealed to him in his dreams, namely the Ram and rough goat, and the “little horn.” However, Daniel was ready to listen to what Gabriel had to tell him about the seventy weeks of years. He had prayed to the God of Israel and now God revealed some of the future events to Daniel. That great tribulation which is yet in the future, will be the final earthly judgement before all things are made new. God has finalized the teaching of the Bible with the Book of Revelation. God’s wisdom and knowledge go far beyond what we as human beings can understand. As in the days of Jeremiah, so today, we have many false prophets and diviners, who use partial truths to present their lies in order to gain your time and money. Let the Bible speak to your souls to establish your life in God’s Word and in the admonition of the Lord.

5. THE TREATY OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION BROKEN .

We must understand the setting for the terrible reign of the “Little Horn” dictator in the Tribulation years. God’s Word refers to the Great Tribulation as “*Jacob’s Trouble*.” (*Jeremiah 30:7*) The true church only had it’s beginning at Pentecost, and God will deliver us, the true church, “out from” this wrath to come. (*1 Thessalonians 1:10*) This Great Tribulation cannot begin until the true church is “taken out of the way!” There will however, be a revival after the rapture of the church, and new converts will spread throughout the world.

In order to understand this dreadful fourth beast of Daniel’s vision, one must also read the book of Revelation to find out what the Holy Spirit revealed to John on the Isle of Patmos. We find that the Great Tribulation will be the last 7 years of 490 years (the 70 times 7) of Daniel. We also read that two beasts of the Great Tribulation will wear out the saints. The exception will be those saints who will flee to the hills,

as Christ taught during His earthly ministry. (*Matthew 14:15-22; Mark 13:14-23*) There they will find a city of refuge for protection.

May I remind you of one more very important event that will take place in the middle of the Great Tribulation. The second beast, the beast's assistant, which is known as the false prophet, will come from one of the tribes of Israel, most likely from the tribe of Dan. The beast out of the sea will be very subtle, when he sets up his authority throughout the world. He will promise peace, and even grant freedom of worship, until the middle of those seven years. Why the change in the middle of the Tribulation? That is when Satan and the entire demonic world will be cast out of heaven and they will join forces with the wicked beast. This will take place when the fifth trumpet of Revelation is blown. (*Revelation 9:1-12; 12:7-12*)

*"And the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary: and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abomination he shall make it desolate even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate." (*Daniel 9:26b.-27*)*

We are aware of the fact that this "Abomination of Desolation" will take place during the latter part of the Great Tribulation. In the first half of "Jacob's Trouble" there will be some religious freedom given by the dictator of the world, in order to claim world wide power. However, when Michael the arch angel and his army cast Satan out of heaven, to planet earth (*Revelation 12:7-17*), then the dictator of the world will have complete power over the entire world. With the additional power from Satan and his demons, the dictator will break that treaty with Israel. The evil forces will then be in complete charge, and no one will be able to resist. Some will try to resist and many will seal their faith in God with their deaths. Those that resist will be believers who are converted as a result of a great revival that will take place during the Tribulation. (*Revelation 7:9-14*) I recommend that you study carefully the Book of Revelation, using a good commentary that is pre-tribulation and pre-millennial. This will substantiate your belief in a literal fulfillment of both the book of Daniel and the book of Revelation.

III. THE CULMINATION OF THE PLAN OF THE TRIUNE GOD.

Now, we are coming to the climax and purpose of this study in the Book of Daniel. We will review important Biblical events from the past, the present, and the future

which indicate an overall plan of God. We can see basic issues in God's eternal plan, when we see God's consistent dealings with mankind and with sin throughout the Bible.

First, may I remind you that God had a supreme purpose in giving both the angels and mankind the freedom of choice. He did not want mechanical robots to do His will by force, but rather He desired beings with a free will to love and serve Him. Of course many will exercise their free will foolishly, and will have to pay the price in the end.

Each of us has all the necessary information from God's Word that we need and God has given us clarity of thought, therefore, whoever you are, you have the responsibility to choose life or death for yourself. God gave His Son to die in your place that you might have life through His Son, by His grace. God will not force you to accept His provision, but has allowed the decision to be yours. You are a free moral agent and the choice is yours. This does not involve fatalism in any degree, for each of us individually must make our own choice.

A. THE SACRIFICE PREPARED.

In order for the Triune God to deal eternally with the issue of sin, there had to be a sacrifice to satisfy the Divine laws. The Old Testament gives us a tremendous understanding of the need of the supreme sacrifice, for the sum total of all these animal sacrifices merely covered the sin problem on a temporary basis, only until the permanent sacrifice could be offered, removing the sin question forever.

"For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. Wherefore when He cometh into the world, He saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: In burnt-offerings and sacrifices for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; Then said He, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that He may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once and for all." (Hebrews 10:4-10)

All would be useless, if the barrier of sin could not be removed, but praise God, by the grace of God, total sin was removed, when Christ gave himself a ransom for many.

*"Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour."
(Ephesians 5:1-2)*

This marvelous love that God had for us, dates back before the foundation of the world, for He created a human body for His Son before the foundation of the world.

"According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in

love:" (Ephesians 1:4)

The words of that old hymn, At Calvary, explain it best.

At Calvary

*"Oh the love that drew salvation's plan,
Oh the grace that brought it down to man,
Oh the mighty gulf that God did span at Calvary!"*

Daniel did not understand God's entire plan to remove the barrier of sin, but he was acquainted with the Old Testament sacrifices. Furthermore, the "Mystery Age" was hidden away until the day of Pentecost, so that Israel would have absolute freedom of choice, to accept or reject the Lord Jesus, as their Messiah.

B. THE MYSTERY AGE CONCEALED

During the Lord Jesus Christ's ministry on earth, and after His resurrection, the Lord taught concerning the kingdom to come. His teaching about the kingdom was only introduced after the Lord ask the disciples who Israel thought He, Jesus, was.

"And they said, some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets, He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?" (Matthew 16:14-15)

Peter quickly gave the answer.

"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Matthew 16:16b)

It was then that Christ introduced them to what He was about to do.

"Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16 18b)

This mystery was not understood by the disciples until after the day of Pentecost. It was then that (Joel 2:28) was fulfilled, namely the out pouring of the Holy Spirit.

I have dealt with this subject before, and I will only say that the church had to be a mystery age, hidden away until the children of Israel made their decision to accept or reject Christ as the Messiah. They of course, rejected Christ, as God knew they would. In the fore-knowledge of God, He was aware of their decision and the kingdom age was assigned to follow this mystery age, and the Great Tribulation. God sent the spirit of Elijah through John the Baptist as predicted in (Malachi 3:1) to herald Jesus at his first coming. Elijah himself, will appear to herald the Messiah and his kingdom before the second coming of Jesus. (Malachi 4:5) This is also confirmed in Revelation. (Revelation 11:3-12)

Daniel knew nothing about this mystery age. He was sent to proclaim the punishment that his people would suffer during the Great Tribulation, and to declare that the Ancient of Days, would come to this earth to set up His kingdom. He also related to us Gabriel's explanation of things to come, resulting in a verse

that sums up God's dealings with the sin question, and what I believe is the key verse to the whole Bible. (*Daniel 9:24*)

This mystery age deals with both the Gentiles and the Jews, as God is calling out the members of the body of Christ. From the day of Pentecost until the Rapture, anyone, Jew or Gentile, who believes in the Lord Jesus Christ and accepts Him as their Savior, becomes a member of the true church. (*John 14:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-57*) These members will some day be the "Bride of Christ." The friends of the Bridegroom will be the Old Testament saints, who also will take part in 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."
(*Revelation 20:6*)

The prince of the power of the air tried to prevent Gabriel from coming to Daniel, and for 3 weeks, he succeeded until Michael the arch angel came to help Gabriel get through to Daniel. Daniel's message was primarily for Israel, but since we live in the church age, I have included this brief discussion of the church, with a few references from the Epistles and the Book of Revelation. We have studied the church doctrine in previous teachings, but I just wanted to place it in its rightful place before we bring these studies to a conclusion. The church was not a concern of Daniel, and the Holy Spirit did not give him any revelation concerning the church. Church doctrine was kept a mystery until after the day of Pentecost, for God the Holy Spirit had to reveal it first to chosen vessels among the disciples. What concerned the remnant of Israel was the setting up of the kingdom age, which Daniel addressed.

C. THE KINGDOM AGE TO COME. (*Daniel 7:9,13-14;10:4-12*)

Both the Book of Daniel and the Book of Revelation must be studied to grasp the complete plan of God, otherwise you will not be able to understand these great prophecies. We do not have many details of this kingdom age from the Book of Daniel, but the Epistles and the Book of Revelation fill in some of the details.

*"I beheld till thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head like pure wool: His throne was like the fiery flame, and His wheels as burning fire." (*Daniel 7:9*)*

We want to compare this with what is recorded in the Book of Revelation.

*"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 a sound of many waters." (*Revelation 1:13-15*)*

“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.” (Revelation 19:11-12)

One can see the similarity in these passages and both refer to the establishing of the kingdom of God. God the Holy Spirit then reveals to Daniel a marvelous revelation of the future.

“And I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, came to the Ancient of days, and they brought Him near before Him. And there was given Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.” (Daniel 7:13-14)

Now let us refer to the Book of Revelation again for another comparison.

“And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign forever and ever.” (Revelation 11:15)

The Bible gives us sufficient information about the coming kingdom of a thousand years of righteousness, just before the eternal kingdom of God is established forever and ever. May we briefly review some of the Millennial kingdom circumstances and principles in which we will take part. All the saints of God will rule and reign with the Lord during those thousand years upon this present earth.

“And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on earth.” (Revelation 5:10)

For one thousand years we shall be upon this earth in our glorified bodies, ruling and reigning with Christ. Then the beatitudes of Christ will come into full use and we will be sent to every part of this world to teach the kingdom of righteousness. No religious cults or isms will be permitted and we shall teach God's Word in great power, bringing glory and honor of our ruling King of kings and Lord of lords. The Lord will give us responsibility over much or little, depending on our faithfulness in this present life. This will all be determined when we stand before the judgement seat of Christ to receive our rewards for faithfulness. (1 Corinthians 3:12-16; 5:10) The judgements of Christ, for believers, will take place in heaven after the rapture and the marriage celebrations. The judgement seat of Christ will happen at the same time as the Tribulation. When the Tribulation ends, we will return to earth with Jesus to rule and reign with Him. On the next few pages are some principles that will be in effect during the Kingdom Age.

1. PRINCIPLES OF THE KINGDOM AGE OF ONE THOUSAND YEARS.

- a. Unified worship - All false religions will disappear and only God shall be worshipped. (*Revelation 20:1-3; Isaiah 45:23; 52:1-10; 66:17-23; Zechariah 13:2; 14:16; 8:23; 9:7; Zephaniah 3:9; Malachi 1:11; Revelation 5:9-14*)
- b. There will be a great spiritual awakening among the earthly people, and holiness will exist. (*Joel 2:28; 3:21; Isaiah 1:26-27; 4:3-4; 29:18-23; Isaiah 31:6-7; 35:8-9; 52:1; 60:21; 61:10; 65:24; Zechariah 8:3; 13:1-2; Zechariah 14:16-21; Ezekiel 36:24-31; 37:23-24; 43:7-12; 45:1; Zephaniah 3:11-13*)
- c. Israel will be restored within her land. (*Isaiah 35:3-10; 65:19; Zechariah 8:20-23*)
- d. There will be no wars during those thousand years and peace will reign throughout the whole world. (*Isaiah 2:4; 9:4-7; 11:6-9; 32:17-18; 33:5-6; Isaiah 54:13; 55:12; 60:18; 65:25; 66:12; Ezekiel 28:26; 34:25-28; Hosea 2:18; Micah 4:2-3; Zechariah 9:10*)
- e. Everything will prosper during those years and there will be no poverty. (*Isaiah 4:1; 30:23-25; 35:1-7; 62:8-9; 65:21-23; Psalm 72:7,16; Jeremiah 31:5,12; Ezekiel 34:26; 36:29-30; Micah 4:1-4; Joel 2:21-27; Amos 9:13-14; Zechariah 8:11-12*)
- f. There will be a universal knowledge of the true and living God, for all will be reached with God's Word. (*Isaiah 11:1-2,9; 41:19-20; 54:13; Habakkuk 2:14*)
- g. There will be a perfect government under Christ, as He rules from Jerusalem. "Justice for all" will prevail. (*Zechariah 14:9; Isaiah 9:7; Isaiah 11:1-5; 32:16; 42:1-4; 65:21-23; Psalm 72; Jeremiah 23:5; 31:23-30*)
- h. Nature will be completely restored and everything will flourish. and all conditions will be perfect, with sin's curse removed. (*Romans 8:19-22; Isaiah 11:6-9; 35:1-9; 65:25*)
- i. All the courts throughout the world will administer perfect justice. (*Isaiah 11:3,7; Psalm 72:12-14*)

- j. Christ will separate the unbelievers at the very beginning of the kingdom. (*Ezekiel 20; Matthew 3:11, 13, 24; 25:1-13; Luke 3:16*)
- k. The earthly people will live hundreds of years because there will be no disease during the Millennium. (*Isaiah 11:3-4; 33:24; 65:20; Jeremiah 30:17; Ezekiel 34:16*)
- l. The resurrected saints will rule and reign with the Lord, teaching the righteousness of God to the nations. (*Revelation 5:10*)
- m. There will be a continual and great joy throughout the whole world. (*Isaiah 9:3-4; 12:3-6; 14:7-8; 25:8-9; 30:29; 42:1,10-12; 52:9; 60:15; Isaiah 61:7,10; 65:18-19; 66:10-14; Jeremiah 30:18-19; 31:13-14; Zephaniah 3:14-17; Zechariah 8:18-19; 10:6-7.*)
- n. The Eternal Son of God will reign in all His Glory. (*Isaiah 4:2; 24:23; 35:2; Isaiah 40:5; 60:1-9*)
- o. There will be instructions by those saints in their glorified bodies throughout the whole world. (*Isaiah 2:2-3; 12:3-6; 25:9; 29:17-24; Isaiah 30:20-21; 32:3-4; 49:10; 52:8; Jeremiah 3:14-15; 23:1-4; Micah 4:2*)
- p. There will be a continual comfort throughout the whole world, under the commanding righteousness of Christ. (*Isaiah 12:1-2; 29:22-23; 30:26; Isaiah 40:1-2; 49:13; 51:3; 61:3-7; 66:13-14; Jeremiah 31:23-25; Zephaniah 3:18-20; Zechariah 9:11-12; Revelation 21:4*)
- q. There will be rapid healing in case of accidents or deformity. (*Isaiah 29:17-19; 35:3-6; 61:1-2; Jeremiah 31:8; Micah 4:6-7; Zephaniah 3:19*)
- r. The righteous will be thoroughly protected and defended at all times. (*Isaiah 41:8-14; 62:8-9; Jeremiah 23:6; 32:27; Ezekiel 34:27; Joel 3:16-17; Amos 9:15; Zechariah 8:14-15; 9:8; 14:1-11*)
- s. There will be freedom from oppression. (*Isaiah 14:3-6; 42:6-7; 49:8-9; Zechariah 9:11-12*)
- t. Since nature will be restored there will be a continual maturity among the kingdom families. (*Isaiah 65:20*)

- u. During the kingdom age there will be a tremendous production of all of the necessities of life. (*Jeremiah 30:20; 31:29; Ezekiel 47:22; Zechariah 10:8*)
- v. There will be no labor strikes, for all work will be accomplished under the best conditions. (*Isaiah 62:8-9; 65:21-23; Jeremiah 31:5; Ezekiel 48:18-19*)
- w. The whole world will have an increase of light and a good climate. (*Isaiah 4:5; 30:26; 60:19-20; Zechariah 2:5*)
- x. There will be a unified language throughout the whole world, as it was in the beginning before the tower of Babel. (*Zephaniah 3:9*)
- y. God will be present as Immanuel, God with us. (*Ezekiel 37:27-28; Zechariah 2:2,10-13; Revelation 21:3*)
- z. The Saints of all generations shall be in their glorified bodies, and the Holy Spirit shall prevail. (*Isaiah 32:13-15; 41:1; Isaiah 44:3; 59:19-21; 61:1; Ezekiel 11:19-20; 36:26-27; 37:14; 39:29; Joel 2:28-29*)

2. PRINCIPLES OF JERUSALEM AND THE TEMPLE IN THE KINGDOM.

- a. The land of Promise will be fully developed. (*Isaiah 26:15; Obadiah 1:17-21; Ezekiel 47:8-12; Joel 3:18; Zechariah 14:4-10*)
- b. Jerusalem will be the capital of the world, as well as the worship center of the world. (*Micah 4:1; Isaiah 2:2-3; Ezekiel 45:35; 48:35; Zechariah 14:10*)
- c. Israel will have her complete land restored to her, as God promised. (*Deuteronomy 27:9; 30:1-3; 32:8; Zechariah 12:1-3*)

D. THE BIBLICAL KEY TO GOD'S ULTIMATE GOAL.

As we close this chapter, we need to give special attention to (*Daniel 9 : 24*) which I believe is the key verse of the whole Bible. Gabriel spoke it to Daniel when he was beginning his explanation of various revelations and visions given to Daniel. He said:

"Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting

righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy and to anoint the most Holy.” (Daniel 9:24)

These tremendous statements, given to Daniel concerned Israel in particular, but they go far beyond merely Israel, to the completion of all prophecy. It doesn't stop with the Messiah chastising Israel, but goes on to the end of sin and to the bringing in of everlasting righteousness. It encompasses one of the widest ranges of any verse in the Bible. It addresses the massive sin question that was introduced into our world by Adam and Eve. It refers to the reconciliation for sin which was accomplished at the Cross. It tells us that sin will run its course before it is ultimately eliminated. Finally it refers to the end times when God will reign in everlasting righteousness in a new and sinless universe.

The Millennial kingdom will start in Jerusalem and from there God will establish eternal righteousness, defeating and removing Satan and his demons for ever.

“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. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.” (Revelation 20:7-9)

This will occur at the end of the Millennial kingdom of a thousand years. It will be the last stand that the evil forces will make against the true and Living God. Their destiny will be the Lake of Fire and Brimstone, where they will remain forever and ever.

“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 forever and ever.” (Revelation 20:10)

God's ultimate goal is to do away with sin and the ungodly forever! The freedom of choice has been God's means of forever separating total sin and the ungodly from the Holy angels and the saints of God. Those that remain faithful will be there by choice not by force.

In the next chapter we will consider events from the past, the present and the future which are part of the plan of God. This will include some of the events mentioned in the Book of Daniel, as well as events from other books of the Bible, which relate to God's ultimate aim. Keep in mind the chronology of the events, as we try to “Rightly Divide the Word of Truth.” The Rapture of the saints is the next great event to take place. Both living saints and resurrected saints will spend 7 years in the mansions of God, while this earth is experiencing 7 years of unparalleled Tribulation. It will be the final judgement of the Jewish nation. It will be the most terrible punishment imaginable, brought to the Jewish nation by Gentile dictators who will be empowered by Satan and his demons. It will be allowed by God, but only for seven years. Praise God, we will be safely “Air

Lifted" into heaven. (*1 Thessalonians 1:10; 4:13-18*)

The Great Tribulation will engulf the whole world and Israel will receive her last chastisement from God. Then, the Lord himself will come to fight the battle of Armageddon, and following that, He will establish His kingdom of righteousness for a thousand years. The battle of Armageddon, which is described in (*Revelations 16*), will be fought after the great tribulation, and before the kingdom of a thousand years is established.

E. THE TWO KINGDOMS OF THE LORD.

There are two different Kingdoms of the Lord to consider. The first is His earthly kingdom of righteousness which will last for 1,000 years. The second is the Eternal Kingdom of God which will be set up in the new universe following the Millennium and after the Great White Throne Judgement.

There will be plenty of clean up work to be done in the first kingdom, when the Lord will restore law and order to this earth. At that time, nobody will be able to blame the Devil for anything, because for one thousand years, Satan and his demons will be in chains and falling within the bottomless pit. With nature restored, and with the absence of evil forces, mankind will have only himself to blame for any unbelief. Under these most perfect conditions, totally depraved men will still have to make their choice, whether to accept God's righteousness or to go their own way. Unbelievably, at the end of that kingdom, many will be deceived again and their end will be swift and complete.

That 1,000 year Kingdom of Righteousness, obviously is not the Eternal Kingdom of the Lord, but it is preliminary to it. Satan will be loosed from the bottomless pit for a season, and by his deception, he will gather many nations together in an attempt to overthrow Jerusalem, but he will fail.

"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. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. 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." (Revelation 20:7-10)

God will have full control of both heaven and earth, as the Bible teaches. There will then be the final resurrection to take place among the ungodly of all ages. At that time, every unbeliever that has ever lived will be resurrected to be Judged by God. The Bible calls that judgement "The Great White Throne Judgement." (*Revelation 20:11-15*) This old creation will then be destroyed with fervent heat before the new heavens and the new earth are created. (*2 Peter 3:12*) Then we can

look for that Eternal Kingdom of God where sin will never occur again. (*Daniel 9:24*)

“The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ; and He shall reign forever and ever.”
(*Revelation 11:15b*)

You are correct, there are a few important events to take place before the eternal kingdom is set up. We need not be ignorant of the things to come, for God has given us sufficient information. You must search the Scriptures for your clues, and by faith, be convinced that God will bring them to pass.

“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power.” (*Ephesians 1:17-19*)

Search out God’s Word and be thoroughly established in these Bible teachings, so that you can share God’s Word with your fellow men. The end of this age is drawing very close, and may we be found faithful to the Lord, whom we serve.

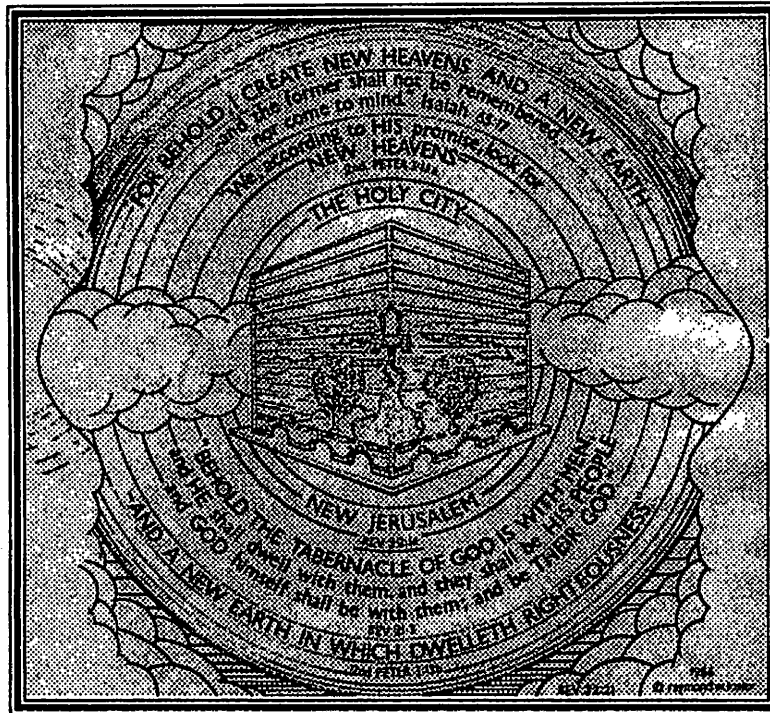
QUESTIONS ABOUT CHAPTER THREE.

1. What are some of the Biblical writings which Daniel had available to read?
2. Why do you think God gave Daniel additional visions after he had interpreted the image of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream?
3. Compare the beast of (*Revelation 13:1-10*), with the “Little Horn” beast of (*Daniel 7:8*).
4. Give in your words the descriptions of the four beasts of Daniel. (*Daniel 7:4-7*)
5. Explain the expression “Four Winds” of (*Daniel 7:2*); and (*Revelation 7:1-2*).
6. In the time of Babylon, how did God reveal himself to the nations of the world?
7. Explain how God humbled Nebuchadnezzar.
8. What importance was king Cyrus of Persia to Israel?
(*Isaiah 44:28; 45:1*)
9. What are the “Four Heads” and the “Four Wings” of the Grecian Empire? Name them.

10. When will the saints take the kingdom? (*Daniel 7:18*).
11. What is the importance of (*Daniel 7:7-8*) ?
12. When will the "Little Horn" take over the world empire? What kind of help will he have? (*Daniel 7:8,11; Revelation 13:1-10*)
13. Give at least four signs of the time that show us that we are approaching the Rapture of the saints.
14. Explain (*Daniel 2:41-43; 7:8*).
15. Explain (*Daniel 7:19-27*).
16. Give 8 future events of the Revived Roman Empire. Scripture please.
17. Explain "Time, Times, and half time" (*Daniel 7:25; Revelation 12:13-16*)
18. When and why will the saints flee to the hills? (*Matthew 24:15-22*)
19. Explain (*Revelation 12:13-16*).
20. According to (*Jeremiah 25:11-12*); why was Daniel looking forward to the return to Jerusalem?
21. Explain (*Jeremiah 29:4-10*).
22. How can we as Christians benefit from Daniel's prayer? (*Daniel 9:3-19*)
23. How long did it take Gabriel to get through to Daniel after Daniel prayed? (*Daniel 9:20-21; 10:2,7-14*) Explain from Scripture.
24. What does (*Psalms 96:13*) refer to? (*Psalms 66:18*) ?
25. Name nine Judgements of God from the judgement on the Cross onward. Give Scripture please.
26. Explain (*Daniel 7:13-14*).
27. Compare (*Daniel 7:8*); and (*Revelation 13:1-2*).
28. When will the "Little Horn" come into existence? Scripture.

29. Explain (*Daniel 8:23-25*).
30. Explain (*Daniel 9:25-26*); "From the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem until the Messiah is "cut off."
(seven weeks and sixty two weeks = 483 years. What happened at the end of these years?) (*Ezra 1:1-11*)
31. Why is (*Daniel 9:24*) the key verse in the Bible?
32. Explain the Great Tribulation in the light of (*Daniel 9:26b-27*).
33. Why did God give the angels and mankind the freedom of choice?
34. Explain (*Hebrews 10:4-10*); and (*Ephesians 5:1-2*).
35. How could God choose us in Christ Jesus before the foundation of the world?
(*Ephesians 1:4*)
36. Why did God hide the "Mystery Age" of the church until after Pentecost?
37. Is Christ building His church, today, upon Peter, or upon what Peter said?
(*Matthew 16:15-18*)
38. Who will be raised in the first resurrection? (*Revelation 20:6*)
39. Explain (*Daniel 7:9,13-14*); and (*Revelation 11:5; 19:11-12*).
40. Write 12 characteristics of the Millennium with Scripture verses.
41. When will sin come to an end? (*Daniel 9:24*).
42. Explain (*Revelation 20:7-10*).
43. Differentiate between the thousand year kingdom and the eternal kingdoms of our Lord Jesus Christ.
44. Give the sequence of events from the Rapture until the eternal kingdoms of the Lord.
45. How can you best understand the Book of Daniel?

CHAPTER FOUR



EVENTS- PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE EXPLAINED

(Daniel 10:1-12:13)

As in the book of Revelation, so with the book of Daniel, you cannot place each event in the order it appears. They are not introduced in chronological order, so you must constantly refer to your knowledge of the plan of God for all ages. In this chapter we will look at Gabriel's explanation to Daniel and attempt to arranged some of the events and visions of Daniel in the order of past, present and future.

I. PAST EVENTS FROM DANIEL'S TIME TO THE PRESENT.

A. DANIEL'S LAST VISION.

Daniel's vision of the glory of God was received in the third year of the reign of king Cyrus. (*Daniel 10:1*) This is the last vision that Daniel received, he was now an old man over 90 years of age. By this time many of the Jews had returned to Jerusalem, while others remained for personal wealth. But God had Daniel stay for this final revelation, as he served under the protection of king Cyrus. This king was God's special shepherd, anointed by God for the preservation of the Messianic hope. Daniel had been praying for three weeks and mourning for the sake of Israel. (*Daniel 10:2-3*)

1. DANIEL'S VISION OF GOD THE SON.

One day as Daniel walked by the river Hiddekel which we know today as the river Tigris, God showed to Daniel a little of the heavenly glory.

"Then I lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a certain man clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with fine gold of Uphaz: His body also was like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightening, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like the colour to polished brass, the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude." (Daniel 10:5-6)

This description is of such a one as the Incarnate one of (Revelation 1:9-18). The appearances of God in the Old Testament had to be the second Person of the Trinity. This was a personal appearance for Daniel, as with Saul on the road to Damascus. (Acts 9:3-19) Joshua had the same experience as he was ready to enter the promised land. (Joshua 5:13-15)

"And I Daniel alone saw the vision: for the men that were with me saw not the vision: and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength. Yet heard I the voice of His words: and when I heard the voice of His words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground." (Daniel 10:7-9)

2. DANIEL TOUCHED BY THE HAND OF AN ANGEL.

The scene changes, and now we have the presence of Gabriel, who first came to Daniel. (Daniel 8:15-19) This angel could be none other than Gabriel, for we have these previous references. (Daniel 8:16; 9:21)

"And, behold, an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my hands. And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling. Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia. Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days." (Daniel 10:10-14)

Daniel became very weak as he was in the presence of not only Gabriel but also in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. Gabriel, who was to review with Daniel the things that would come, had been hindered by Satan for 21 days Perhaps that also explains the presence of the Lord as well. For us, as we look back, these four great Empires have run their course and we are now waiting for the Revival of the Roman Empire. However, let us review these past events which Daniel was desirous to know more about. They are of great importance to us, as we study the Bible and see the evidence of the sovereign hand of God in the history of mankind.

B. PAST EVENTS EXPLAINED BY GABRIEL.

Gabriel was aware of the faithfulness of Daniel to Almighty God and three times Daniel is called "Greatly Beloved." Again we are reminded of God's earlier revelations to Daniel, and now we have it clearly interpreted by the angel Gabriel who was delayed by Satan for 3 weeks. The "prince of Persia" refers to Satan, the prince of the power of the air. Satan was hindering Gabriel from getting through to Daniel for 21 days and Michael had to come with his armies to break through that evil spirit barrier. (*Ephesians 2:2; 6:12*) Under the sovereignty of God, Satan is taking advantage of every opportunity to hinder or destroy the work of God. God had removed Satan and his demonic army from being a border guard, but He has not taken away his power. Here are a few references for you to study. (*Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11; Jude 9*) May we now consider what Gabriel had to say to Daniel, especially concerning his people, Israel. Gabriel had to strengthen Daniel, so that he was able to get the message.

"And said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak: for thou hast strengthened me. Then said he, Knowest thou wherefore I come unto thee? and now will I return to fight with the prince of Persia:(the devil) and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come. But I will show thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince."
(Daniel 10:19-21)

Daniel was very concerned about that "Little Horn," but in order for Daniel to understand him, Gabriel had to place the emphasis upon the man of sin. We must not underestimate the power of Satan, that devil and serpent, for although his position, as chief among the angels, was taken away from him, he, nevertheless, has retained his great power, which is tolerated under the sovereignty of God. Let us review these four great kingdom which have existed, before the coming of the revival of the Roman Empire. This is all essential for us to understand the background and existence of these Gentile nations.

1. BABYLON FALLEN.

Babylon the great has been well established in history and Because Israel worshipped false gods, she was scattered throughout Assyria and Babylon. Daniel served under Nebuchadnezzar and lived to a ripe old age to serve under Darius and Cyrus of the Medes and Persians. God preserved the tribe of Judah under the Babylonian Empire. This Gentile nation was supposed to help them to return to Jerusalem, but failed to do so. God had His anointed shepherd called Cyrus, ready to fulfill God's will for Judah. Babylon was defeated by Cyrus, and whether it will ever be built again is not the issue. Babylon of the past was the beginning of the false religion under the rule of Nimrod whose wife Simaramis, started this counterfeit religion under the power of Satan. That religious power remained, after Babylon had fallen and spread to Rome as "Mystery Babylon." Here again, we must refer to the Book of Revelation, in order to fully understand why it is called "Mystery Babylon." "Mystery Babylon" will also fall as the Babylonian Empire has fallen, according to the Book of Revelation. (*Revelation 17 and 18*).

We have the record within the Word of how Babylon fell under the king Belshazzar, when he was drunk and desecrated the temple vessels of Jerusalem. In God's omnipotence the Medes and Persians entered the gates of the city of Babylon, and took the city. (*Daniel 5 and 6, also Isaiah 44:28; Isaiah 45:1*) Daniel and the Remnant of the Jews were kindly regarded by the armies of the Medes and Persians, under the sovereignty of God. Daniel found favor with king Darius and Cyrus whom God had sent to deliver the tribe of Judah from slavery in Babylon. King Cyrus' decree was the turning point, in the history of Israel, as the tribe of Judah was permitted to return to Jerusalem.

God, in His Omniscience, used the great Gentile nation of the Medes and Persians and their king, Cyrus, to return Israel back into her promised land. This was an amazing provision by Almighty God, to both preserve the Messianic hope, as well as to prepare them for the coming of their Messiah. Their Messiah did come many years later, when the Romans ruled the world, and because Israel rejected Jesus Christ, their Messiah, God promised a 7 year period of judgement for Israel. That judgement will come in the Tribulation years under the Revival of the Roman Government. So, because Babylon neglected to return Israel to her promised land, God used another nation, the Medes and Persians, to do so, under God's anointed, king Cyrus.

2. MEDIA - PERSIA DEFEATED.

The first three rulers of the Medes and Persians were consistent in their rule, but a change took place under the fourth king. The fourth king stirred up his people against a small country called Grecia (Greece), and got into a war

with them. A bright young general named Alexander was eager to try out his ideas of making war and he began his rapid conquest of the world by defeating the Medes and Persians. This began the Grecian empire.

"And now I will show you the truth. Behold there shall stand up yet three kings in Persia; and the fourth shall be far richer than they all: and by his strength through his riches he shall stir up all against the realm of Grecia. And a mighty king shall stand up, that shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will." (Daniel 11:2-3)

Alexander the great, as he became known, moved quickly to conquer the world, as far west as Egypt and as far east as India. He made Babylon the capitol city for his world empire. But this Alexander who lived a wicked life only lived for a short time. As predicted, upon his death, the Empire was divided into four parts and given to four Generals. God knows the end from the beginning, He knows the future so nothing is hidden from Him.

This vision was given to Daniel earlier, but Daniel did not understand it. *(Daniel 8:22)* The three kings that stood up according to this prophecy were Ahasuerus, Artaxerxes, and Darius. *(Ezra 4:1-24)* Xerxes was the son of Darius and very wealthy and as he built a great army, thought he could defeat Greece, but was defeated in 480 B. C. Alexander the Great with his armies took over the vast domain and only ruled for some 13 years. (336 B.C. to 323 B.C.) This was but another step in the transfer of power from the far east to the west. God is in control and allows governments to be set up and governments to be overthrown. We need never be in doubt if we take heed to God's Word. The transfer of power from the East to the West was part of God's overall plan. Let us believe God's revelation and beware of man's manipulation. God in His omniscience knows every thought and intent of the heart and mind.

3. GREECE DIVIDED.

As mentioned, Alexander the Great only ruled for a short time. In that short time though, one of the improvements that he introduced to the world was the greek language which was very precise in its meanings. It is interesting to note that the new testament was written in that Greek language. After Alexander's death four of his generals took over the territories.

"And when he shall stand up, his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be divided toward the four winds of heaven; and not to his posterity, nor according to his dominion which he ruled: for his kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others beside those."
(Daniel 11:4)

Here are the names of these generals, and places given to them: Cassander for Macedonia, Lysimachus for Thrace, Seleucus for Syria and Ptolemy for

Egypt. From this point we are especially interested in the two nations on either side of Jerusalem.

"And the king of the south shall be strong, and one of his princes; and he shall be strong above him, and have dominion; his dominion shall be a great dominion. And in the end of years they shall join themselves together; for the king's daughter of the south shall come to the king of the north to make an agreement: but she shall not retain the power of the arm; neither shall he stand, nor his arm: but she shall be given up, and they that brought her, and he that begat her, and he that strengthened her in these times." (Daniel 11:5-6)

This can be traced in the history of Syria and Egypt. Bernice the daughter of Ptolemy of Egypt was given to the king of Syria to make peace between the two nations. Bernice had a large dowry and this was to help make peace, with one condition that the king of Syria put away his former wife Laodice, but she was aware of their plot, so she poisoned Antiochus Theos, because she wanted the kingdom for her own son. God who knows the end from the beginning had Gabriel relate all of this to Daniel. Of course this was difficult for Daniel to understand these issues and names of the future nations, and they did puzzle him. However they were also written for our admonition, and to establish our confidence in the Bible as the Word of God. Seleucus Callinicus who took over the Syrian kingdom was persuaded by Laodice to have Bernice and her child and others killed, so that brought war between Syria and Egypt.

"But out of a branch of her roots shall one stand up in his estate, which shall come with an army, and shall enter into the fortress of the king of the north, (Syria) and shall deal against them, and shall prevail: And shall also carry captives into Egypt their gods, with their princes, and silver and gold; and he shall continue more years than the king of the north. So the king of the south shall come into his kingdom, and shall return unto his own land." (Daniel 11:8 - 9)

We must remember that what the Bible reports actually happened after it was predicted, for God reveals the future as though it were in the past or present. The brother of Bernice of Egypt, Ptolemy Euergetes gathered the Egyptian armies and went into Syria, trying to save his sister but got there too late. In his anger he put to death Laodice and captured Seleucus Callinicus. He was about to take the whole Syrian empire, but had to hasten back to Egypt to put down an insurrection. As he did return he carried with him much wealth from Syria. Egypt would have taken all of Syria and held on to the land of Palestine, had this insurrection not taken place. He was greatly honored by the Egyptian priests which gave Ptolemy the name "Euergetes," which means great benefactor.

However the sons of the king of Syria (north) became very angry and muster up a great army to drive the Egyptian armies back, taking over Palestine by Antiochus of Assyria. This happened in 218 B.C. and made the Egyptian king Ptolemy very angry so he mustered up a great army against the king of the north and in 217 B.C. he defeated the Syrian king at Raphia near Gaza. This caused him to be lifted up, and began to celebrate before the final victory and although he defeated king Antiochus, he did not take the world Empire. God in His Omniscience knew all this before hand and therefore you do not see Egypt listed as one of those four great empires. The following is how God through Gabriel prophesied that third empire would fall. God indeed knows the end from the beginning.

"But his sons shall be stirred up, and shall assemble a multitude of great forces: and one shall certainly come, and overflow, and pass through; then shall he return, and be stirred up, even to his fortress. And the king of the south shall be moved with choler, and shall come forth and fight with him, even with the king of the north: and he shall set forth a great multitude; but the multitude shall be given into his hand. And when he hath taken away the multitude, his heart shall be lifted up; and he shall cast down many ten thousands: but he shall not be strengthened by it. For the king of the north shall return, and shall set forth a multitude greater than the former, and shall certainly come after certain years with a great army and with much riches. And in those times there shall many stand up against the king of the south: also the robbers of thy people shall exalt themselves to establish the vision; but they shall fall. So the king of the north shall come, and cast up a mount, and take the most fenced cities: and the arms of the south shall not withstand, neither his chosen people, neither shall there be any strength to withstand."

(Daniel 11:10-15)

As the power politics was moving north west with the fourth empire, the Roman forces being in a great position, while this struggle was going on with Egypt and Syria. The Syrian armies were greatly helped by King Philip of the Macedon power bloc. Egypt had internal problems and that did not help them. The robbers mentioned in this Scripture, were the ungodly Jews who wished to gain profit, and that angered the Gentiles and caused the people of Daniel to suffer.

"But he that cometh against him shall do according to his own will, and none shall stand in the glorious land, which by his hand shall be consumed. He shall also set his face to enter with strength of his whole kingdom, and upright ones with him: thus shall he do: and he shall give him the daughter of women, corrupting her: but she shall not stand on his side, neither be for

him. After this shall he turn his face unto the isles, and shall take many: but a prince (Scipio Asiaticus) for his own behalf shall cause the reproach offered by him to cease; without his own reproach he shall cause it to turn upon him. Then he shall turn his face toward the fort of his own land: but he shall stumble and fall, and not be found.” (Daniel 11:16-19)

We are purposely separating these various verses of prophecy given to Daniel by Gabriel. They are an amazing revelation by the Holy Spirit through Gabriel. God’s Glorious land of Palestine was caught in between these two enemies, and would finally be conquered by the Roman Empire. The land of Israel was under the power of the king of the south, Ptolemy Epiphanies. The armies of the north had to invade Israel to reach Egypt. The General Scopas of Egypt retreated to Sidon that fortified city. Antiochus of Syria finally defeated the Egyptians at Sidon. This gave him full control of Palestine. His next battle would be directly against Egypt, and the Egyptians were aware of that coming battle. That fourth kingdom of King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream and Daniel’s visions was now coming into a powerful world wide position. Egypt sent her S.O.S. to Rome for help against Syria, which also meant that Rome would have Egypt’s help against Syria for her own gain. King Antiochus of Syria now tried counter using an act of friendship through marriage. He had a daughter named Cleopatra who was offered to be espoused to the young son (seven years old) of the king of Egypt named Ptolemy Epiphanies. The marriage took place approximately 193 B.C. Cleopatra was a young girl and that is why we read, “daughter of women.” This was a scheme to use her as a spy, “corrupting her.” It did not work with Cleopatra, because she was faithful to her husband and loved the royalty of Egypt. She even praised the Roman Empire for its victories over her land of Syria. This made her father furious and he attempted to conquer both the Roman Empire and Egypt.

Antiochus prepared his 300 sea worthy vessels to attack Rome. But at Magnesia in 190 B.C. he was defeated by Scipio Asiaticus. He returned to Syria and asked for peace. It cost him dearly, losing all his Asia Minor territories, he had to surrender all but ten of his ships and pay 15,000. talents. Because of his great loss in personal wealth, he attempted to rob the temple of their god Bel, at Elymais. The people were so angry over this attempt that with one accord they killed him. “He stumbled and fell and was no more!” Antiochus was succeeded by his son Seleucus Philopater, and the empire was so poor that he had to raise taxes.

“Then shall stand up in his estate a raiser of taxes in the glory of the kingdom: but within few days he shall be destroyed, neither in anger, nor in battle.” (Daniel 11:20)

The sequence of events went like this is, he not only raised taxes and was hated, but he sent to Jerusalem to steal the temple vessels of gold and silver to

gain wealth and mysteriously he was poisoned, after reigning for only 12 years. This was all under the sovereignty of God in preparation for the Roman Government, the fourth beast. It is not that God condones what these national rulers do, but that He has a knowledge of their every thought, word and deed. He allows them to go so far with their evil thoughts and purposes and no further!

4. THE ROMAN EMPIRE TO BE EXTENDED.

Although this does not follow in Gabriel's revelation to Daniel, yet it does come into the fore ground, because of the coming of the Messiah toward the end of the rule of the Roman Empire over Jerusalem. God in His Omniscience knew exactly the time and Gabriel even related to Daniel and to all, the exact time when the Lord Jesus Christ would be crucified. It was exactly 483 years after the decree of King Cyrus to allow Jerusalem to be rebuilt. (*2 Chronicles 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-11*) God was mindful of His people, though they were under discipline. It is a warning to each of us to guard our fellowship with Almighty God, and keep short accounts with God. (*1 John 1:9*) If we confess our shortcomings, it will avoid the chastening by our Lord. Yes, we are of the Royal family of God, but God does chastening His own sons when discipline is necessary.

We have already mentioned the extent of the Roman Empire. (*Daniel 7:7,15-28*) Because it was divided into two different periods with the mystery age in between, this fourth kingdom confused Daniel very much.

"Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet;" (*Daniel 7:19*)

These two feet of the beast puzzled Daniel, which of course, refers to the Revival of the Roman Empire. That is why Daniel made enquiries concerning the "Little Horn."

"And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows." (*Daniel 7:20*)

Here is where Daniel was confused in the revelation given to him by the Holy Spirit. It was that "Little Horn" that cause Daniel to wonder. Sometimes God uses parables or types to explain difficult subjects. God used a "type," in the case of the "Little Horn" of the Tribulation. Let's look at the Scriptures and learn of this type of the Little Horn so that we will understand more about the one that is to come during the Great Tribulation. God's Word is so wonderful and precious, when one not only has knowledge about it, but also lives according to it! Now let us look at this type of the "Little Horn" that is yet to

come. We now must also go back in history, concerning the nations of the past.

a. THE TYPE OF THE "LITTLE HORN"

The Syrian domination of the middle East is not entirely dead. The satanic power is present in this world, attempting to destroy God's plan, at all cost. The evil forces are constantly at work in the form of

"Principalities and powers, rulers of darkness and spiritual wickedness in high places. (Ephesians 6:12) Satan is going to continue his evil activity wherever and whenever he can, seeking permission under the sovereignty of God, as he had to do with Job. (Job 1:6-12)

We are about to study the forerunner of the Anti-christ, who will emerge during the Revival of the Roman Empire of the future. We may call him one of the Antichrists which the Holy Spirit has warned us would come. In fact the Bible tells us that many anti-Christs will come.

*"Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that anti-Christ shall come, even now are there many antiChrists; whereby we know that it is the last time."
(1 John 2:18)*

Already, there have been over 50 anti-Christ's which have appeared over this past century. We know that there will be a particular antichrist, who will no doubt come from the tribe of Dan, who is also called a false prophet, who will deceive many in Jerusalem and cause them to make that seven year covenant with the Dictator who is the beast coming up from the sea. (International figure). All those who reject the Lord are listed in the Word of God as antichrist.

*"Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ?
He is antiChrist, that denieth the Father and the Son."
(1 John 2:22)*

May we divert our attention to another very wicked ruler who was a forerunner of the coming beast which will be present upon this earth during the Great Tribulation. This ruler was a wicked ruler from Syria, from where Herod the great came.

b. ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANIES B.C.175

This Syrian king of the north came into power and being controlled by Satan, deceived the Jews with smooth negotiations and then profaned the temple and persecuted the Jews. This is history now and as mentioned before, he was a forerunner of the antichrist who will be set up during the Great Tribulation. He will be of the nation Israel according to this.

"He shall enter peaceably even upon the fattest places of the province; and he shall do that which his fathers have not done nor his fathers' fathers; he shall scatter among them the prey, and spoil, the riches: yea, and he shall forecast his devices against the strongholds, even for a time."

(Daniel 11:24)

This past Antiochus Epiphanies and the false prophet coming out of Jerusalem during the Great Tribulation are very similar, but their destruction is different. This Syrian Antiochus was wicked and cruel and he lived an immoral life on a very low plain. He did not get the honor of the kingdom. *(Daniel 11:21)* Antiochus' nephew Demetrius was to be king. But this Antiochus Epiphanes had great ability and was very convincing, even to the point of convincing the Roman Government. He gained riches wherever he went and coming from Egypt he learned that he was pronounced dead, which made those in Jerusalem rejoice. He then attacked Jerusalem and murdered 40,000 Jews and others he sold as slaves. He plundered Jerusalem and gained much, which inspired him to battle again against Egypt. Rome came to their refuge and drove him back in 168 B.C. This made him very angry and turned to weak Jerusalem and murdered and took many slaves to be sold. He took over the temple worship, setting up an idol altar and sacrificed swine upon it. This was an abomination, but merely a forerunner to what will happen when the Abomination of Desolation takes place during the last part of the seven years of Great Tribulation. Antiochus Epiphanies continued his plunder, but with a Maccabean revolt in Jerusalem, they defeated him and he died in 164 B.C. in Tabae.

This Antiochus Epiphanies can be confusing with the Little Horn that will appear during the Great Tribulation. They are not one and the same person. This Syrian is as a shadow of the one to come during the Great Tribulation. These battles and plunders mentioned in *(Daniel 11:20-33)*; have already taken place and are history. Some of the Jews actually forsook the Living God to worship the idols of this wicked ruler. God did have his faithful remnant during these persecutions as well as Satan had his wicked ones who forsook the Lord.

"And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits." *(Daniel 11:32)*

These that obeyed their God were protected and did exploits. The Maccabees of the Levitical order under Mattathias fought faithfully, but was driven to the mountains. The guerilla skirmishes continued from 166 B.C. to 47 B.C. After Mattathias died his son called "Hammer" led the warfare, and was killed in battle 160 B.C. But before he was killed he took Jerusalem and cleansed the temple. His younger brother Jonathan,

then took over with a continual resistance 160 B.C. onward, while Syria had civil war within her own borders. As the civil war of Syria continued, this gave Israel some peace within her borders, and Jonathan confided with Rome, which eventually was to control the Middle East. However Jonathan was killed by a Syrian general in 143 B.C. His brother Simon became the priest, being the last of the sons of Mattathias. Simon had two sons and he and one of his sons were slain by his son-in-law in 135 B.C. The other son, John Hyrcanus escaped and later became the high priest of Israel and had a prosperous reign. Others of the Maccabeans followed him, but eventually the people of Israel rejected them and chose to be led by the Idumaeans or Edomites. Antipater 47 B.C., became the ruler until he was murdered in 43 B.C. History has recorded that Marc Antony visited Syria and found two of Antiper's sons, Phasaelus and Herod, and Herod the great reigned as king of Israel from 37 B.C. until 4 B.C. (Reference Daniel by Oliver Green)

God in His mighty and powerful plan for all ages, brings us to this very important point in history.

"But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." (Galatians 4:4-5)

When all seemed hopeless and without a solution, God is always there to do exceeding abundantly, fulfilling His eternal plan. There was but a brief period of quietness and then God's plans come to life! We praise God that the Messiah has come and we look forward to the time when that Great Shepherd will come in the clouds to take the saints into heaven.

c. THE MESSIAH HAS COME.

The lull before the entrance of the Messiah into this world was for a short time, but God always had His faithful who were awaiting for the Messiah.

"And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Spirit, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for Him after the custom of the law. Then took He up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou servant depart in peace, according to Thy Word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before

the face of all the people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.” (Luke 2:25-32)

“And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of Him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.” (Luke 2:36-38)

These were but two of God’s remnant, after those terrible years of struggle that Israel had from being scattered into Syria and Babylon.

We understand from the Scripture concerning that wicked Herod who lived in a time when he was both a tool of Satan, and of the Roman Government. This counterfeit king was under the protection of Rome and lived luxuriously. He was evil and was upheld by that powerful nation of Rome, for their advantage over the Jews. The Roman Empire was that fourth beast of Daniel, and God appointed His Eternal Son to come into this world under the Roman Empire, which had the most cruel form of death by crucifixion. God chose this very time for His Son to be crucified, in order to show to mankind the awfulness of sin.

History has revealed those silent years when Israel was scattered before Christ, and from Israel’s rejection of the Messiah until April 1948, they were scattered throughout the whole world, without a national identity. Their persecution has been great, culminating in the gas chambers of the German Nazis. But God has always kept a remnant, as with Simeon and Anna, who bore witness to the unconditional covenants, made with Abraham and with king David. There was that struggle during the Maccabean revolt, but Jerusalem finally fell to the fourth beast of Daniel, “The Roman Empire.”

d. JERUSALEM HAS FALLEN.

As the Roman Empire ruled over a vast domain, any revolt was handled very cruelly. Israel rejected the Messiah and as predicted by Daniel, Christ was “Cut Off.” (Daniel 9:26) This was definitely predicted to be by crucifixion, as foretold. (Psalm 22) The sacrificial death of the Messiah is also recorded in (Isaiah 53:3-11). Christ also related to the disciples and rulers of Israel that their temple would be completely destroyed and every stone cast down. (Matthew 24:1-2; Mark 13:1-2; Luke 21:5-6) (Forty years after their rejection of the Messiah, Titus

from Rome came in 70 A.D. to that Holy City of Jerusalem and order it to be completely burned. Even this was reveal through Gabriel.

“And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days.” (Daniel 11:33)

As stated, it was also predicted by Christ at the end of His earthly ministry.

“And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and His disciples came to Him for to show Him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? Verily I say unto you, There shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.” (Matthew 24:1-2)

This happened when Titus burned Jerusalem and the temple in 70 A.D. The golden dome of the temple melted and ran down between the stones. The soldiers and perhaps others had to remove the stones in order to retrieve the gold, fulfilling the very words of the Lord Jesus Christ. This was but a forerunner of what will come again during the Great Tribulation.

“And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them that are in Judea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter there into. For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! For there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.” (Luke 21:20-24)

The Jewish race has been scattered these many years from the time which Christ predicted this, and will be persecuted after the Rapture, as they are being gathered back in their land for their final punishment. May we now study the present signs of the times, concerning the Rapture of the True church along with the Old Testament saints, and the regathering of Israel back in her land.

II. PRESENT EVENTS AND THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

I have divided this topic into three phases, as we deal with what will take place before the Rapture. First, the regathering of Israel, then the formation of the revived Roman empire, and finally the completion of the mystery age. Some events must be

completed prior to the Rapture of the church. Perhaps the first sign of the times is the people of Israel returning in large numbers to their land of promise.

A. ISRAEL REGATHERING.

In April 1948 Israel was re-instated as a nation and given a small part of her land. The United Nations hoped that they would satisfy the extremists, with that legislation. But this was just the beginning of God's regathering of Israel back in her land in preparation for her final chastisement for rejecting the Messiah and to fulfill the prophecies of Daniel's 70th. week. The Zionist movement as well as other repatriating efforts have been very successful in spite of the ever present Moslem opposition. The opposition of today is not much different from the opposition of Sanballat, Tobiah and the Arabians of Nehemiah's day. Ever since the children of Israel began developing and reclaiming their land, they have been at war, and there is no end of hostilities in sight. Nothing, however, will stop Israel, even if all the nations in the world turn against her.

"And in that day will I make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it." (Zechariah 12:2-3)

The regathering of Israel has been promised by God, and this process is continuing in our day and will continue until the Rapture of all the saints. (Deuteronomy 30:1-3; Ezekiel 11:17; 37; Isaiah 43:5; 54:7; Nehemiah 1:9; Jeremiah 31:10) Early in the process, the British Government tried to limit the migration of Jews to Israel, and often tried to repatriate ships loaded with Jews attempting to settle in Palestine. The British government utterly failed in their attempt to limit migration, and the process continues.

To this very day, Israel has been deprived of Jerusalem as her capital because of the Moslem influence and their oil monopoly. We are aware of the boundaries that God has set for Israel to occupy. (Genesis 15:1-18; Deuteronomy 32:8)

God has taken the greatest interest in, and has given His personal care to, the faithful remnant of the Hebrews. Note what the Word says.

"And it shall come to pass. when all these things are come upon thee, the blessings and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind among all the nations, whither the Lord God hath driven thee, And shall return unto the Lord thy God, and shall obey His voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul; That then the Lord thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gathered thee from all the nations, whither the Lord thy God hath scattered thee. If any of thine be driven out

unto the utmost 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.” (Deuteronomy 30:1-5)

God is already in the process of re-gathering Israel in the promised land under difficult circumstances. It is happening now, and we can praise the Lord for being faithful to His promises. Unfortunately, the most difficult of times for the Jewish nation are still ahead of them.

We are reminded of the iron and clay feet of that great image of Nebuchadnezzar, which refer to a Gentile empire of the future. We have studied the four parts of the image and the four beasts, but now let's turn to the Revival of the Roman Empire, part of the fourth beast. History has revealed the great power of the Roman Government, especially during the earthly ministry of the Lord. The revival of the fourth empire will produce a dictator unsurpassed in his fierceness. So, now, we turn our attention to the feet of Nebuchadnezzar's image.

B. REVIVAL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE.

The United Nations and the Common market of Europe are transferring the power bloc in the world back to Europe and the Middle East. This may not seem to be of any great importance, but on the contrary it is very important. Gabriel gave Daniel some insight to the end times and we need to study these important issues, having to do with “The Little Horn” which Daniel saw in his dream. The visions which Daniel had and the interpretation by Gabriel deal with the Revival of the Roman Empire. It is forming right now through the common market of Europe. The “Little Horn” dictator will be the same as the beast of Revelation who will arise from the sea. (*Revelation 13:1-10*) He will not be just another king but will be the final king controlling the ten kingdoms and eventually dissolving three of those kingdoms.

“And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: (The Abomination of Desolation) for that is determined shall be done. Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all. But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things. Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain.”
(Daniel 11:36-39)

This "little horn" of the fourth beast, which represents the Roman Empire will be the final empire in this world, before the millennium. It will be the ruling world empire during the Great Tribulation, and its final destruction will be at the battle of Armageddon. (*Revelation 19:17-21*) This "Little Horn" dictator will control the whole world, under the demonic power of Satan. He will have everything he wants and women will not be an issue with him as he will have whatever he wants, whenever he wants it. This one, who will be the dictator of the world, will have to be a Jew, perhaps a German Jew of the Tribe of Dan, as I have previously written concerning the "False Prophet." Both beasts will be controlled by the demonic world. (*Revelation 13:2b,11b*) We will enlarge upon these issues as we deal with the Great Tribulation. This "Little Horn" of Daniel will have a vast domain and no nation will be able to make war against him. (*Revelation 13:4*) However, he will make war with the Tribulation saints. (*Revelation 12:17; 13:7*) Why will he make war with them? Because the remnant of the Jews will refuse to take the mark of the beast. So, as we watch the political power of the world forming and shifting to the east, we should look for the rapture to occur soon. The political situation is developing and will soon be in place for that "Little Horn" dictator.

C. THE MYSTERY AGE BEING COMPLETED. (*Ephesians 3:9-11*)

Daniel was not given a revelation of the mystery age of the true church, sometimes referred to as the church age. It was an unseen period of time that was in between the past Roman Empire and the future Revived Roman Empire. In fact, the Lord himself only spoke of His church as in the future. (*Matthew 16:18;18:17*) In God's omniscience, God knew that Israel would reject the Messiah. He prepared to insert the church age, and made provision for His Eternal Son to receive His bride, the Church. For almost 2,000 years members of the body of Christ have been gathered from all nations, races, languages and people, to the glory of God. The Lord is building His Church upon that statement which Peter made.

"And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God." (*Matthew 16:16*)

The complete Bible has been written and it is filled with the 'principles of justification by Faith, by the grace of God, to whosoever believeth in the Lord Jesus Christ as Redeemer. Amidst all of the trials and tribulations in this world, with wars and rumors of wars, we who are Christians are a peculiar people. We are so-journeying through this present time, waiting for the coming of the Lord in the clouds. Our destination is that Heavenly Paradise, and we are waiting for that trumpet to sound, to be "Caught Up" and taken to those mansions of Christ's Father. (*John 14:1-6*)

Before we discuss the future revelation according to the Bible, we need to realize our marvelous relationship with our heavenly Father through the Lord Jesus Christ. I want to list some of these blessings, which cannot be thoroughly understood during our present life.

However, we have this assurance from God:

"For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as I am known."

(1 Corinthians 13:12)

Here is the partial listing of the believer's blessings during this mystery age of the church.

All born again believers:

1. Have a new spiritual birth by God the Holy Spirit. *(John 3:3-7)*
2. Are indwelt by God the Holy Spirit forever. *(John 14:16-17)*
3. Have been baptized by God the Holy Spirit. *(1 Corinthians 12:13)*
4. Have been given gifts by God the Holy Spirit. *(1 Corinthians 12:11)*
5. Are provided with power by God the Holy Spirit. *(Zechariah 4:6; Galatians 3:1-5)*
6. Are taught and directed by God the Holy Spirit in the Bible. *(John 16:13; Isaiah 48:16; Romans 8:14)*
7. Are constantly prayed for by Christ and God the Holy Spirit. *(John 17:9-17; Romans 8:26)*
8. Are convicted of sin by God the Holy Spirit. *(John 16:8)*
9. Are comforted by God the Holy Spirit in our times of need. *(John 14:26)*
10. Are members of the body of Christ. *(1 Corinthians 6:15; 12:12-27)*
11. Are "Joint Heirs" with Christ Jesus. *(Romans 8:17)*
12. Are the future bride of Christ, with a heavenly marriage arranged. *(Revelation 19:7-9)*
13. Are already blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. *(Ephesians 1:3-12)*
14. Have the eternal seal of God the Holy Spirit placed upon us as Christians. *(Ephesians 1:13-14)*

15. **Cannot** be demon possessed, because of the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit. (*John 14:16-17*)
16. Will be presented to God the Father as blameless. (*1 Corinthians 1:8; Philipians 2:15; 3:6; 2 Peter 3:14*)
17. Will rule and reign with Christ. (*Revelation 5:10*)
18. Will receive special rewards for being faithful in this life. (*1 Corinthians 3:12-15, 2 Corinthians 5:10*)
19. Have bodies which are the temple of God. (*1 Corinthians 3:16-17*)
20. Have been commissioned by Christ to be His ambassadors, preaching the Gospel to the whole world. (*2 Corinthians 5:20; John 17:18; Matthew 28:18-20*)
21. Have been admonished to pray for one another, as members of the body of Christ. (*1 Timothy 2:1-5; 1 Peter 3:7; James 5:15-16*)
22. Can understand the Divine viewpoint from the Bible, because God the Holy Spirit is dwelling within us, leading us and guiding us. (*Galatians 5:18; Romans 8:14; Galatians 5:16,18*)
23. Are to keep on being filled by God the Holy Spirit, as He gets "all" of us. (*Ephesians 5:18*)
24. Have glorified bodies reserved in heaven for each of us, which will be like the glorified body of Christ. (*1 John 3:1-3*)
25. Are new creatures in Christ Jesus. (*2 Corinthians 5:17*)

In this mystery age of the true church, we, as the body of Christ, have an absolutely new relationship with our Creator. From that day of Pentecost until the Rapture takes place, God is calling out a very special group of believers, born of God the Holy Spirit. The Old Testament saints have been promised to receive a new heart in the future, according to (*Joel 2:28*). We have received God the Holy Spirit now and have been made new creatures in Christ Jesus. (*2 Corinthians 5:17*) The Old Testament saints had their sins covered by animal sacrifices only as a temporary measure. The Old Testament saints will get a new heart, based upon the finished work of Christ, the Messiah. We as New Testament believers have now had our sins removed forever through the precious blood of Christ our Redeemer. (*Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14; Hebrews 1:3; 10:12-26; 1 Peter 2:24*)

We can have confidence as we approach God, for we come in the merits of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is well pleasing in the sight of God the Father. We, as those of the mystery age, are very special in God's sight, for we are being called together as the body of Christ from all nations, tongues and kindred. A special "Bridal Chamber" is being prepared for us in the Mansions of God the Father.

"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife 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 the saints." (Revelation 19:7-8)

We are drawing very near to these end times. As we see the signs of fulfilled prophecies, let us look to the clouds that are forming, for that is where we will meet our Savior when the trumpet sounds. Daniel and the Jewish nation were kept from seeing the mystery age, for God wanted Israel to have freedom of choice in her acceptance or rejection of her Messiah. God was aware of her decision, and made the mystery age provision! The plans of God never had to be revised or changed concerning this issue or any issue, because He knows the end from the beginning. Although the angels and mankind have the freedom of choice, God is aware of our choice, before we even think it! His ways are past finding out!

III. FUTURE EVENTS. TO BE FULFILLED.

There is a large number of future events which remain to be fulfilled. Many of them overlap, so I have grouped them by time and location. Some events will take place before the Millennium and some during the Millennium and some after the Millennium. Some will take place in Heaven and some will take place on Earth.

A. IN HEAVEN BEFORE THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM.

First we will look at the good news. The following events will take place in heaven before the Millennium and at the same time as the Tribulation:

1. THE SAVIOR RETURNS IN THE AIR - THE RAPTURE OF THE TRUE CHURCH

The rapture of the church is the next event that we are looking for, and it will take place when the mystery age is complete. Daniel knew nothing about this hidden age or the rapture of Christians for that matter. The church age began at Pentecost, after Israel rejected her Messiah, and it has continued until now. For nearly 2,000 years, God has been calling out special saints from all over the world. During this time, Israel has been scattered because of her rejection of the Messiah. Now the signs of the times show Israel returning to the promised land, in spite of extreme difficulties. Rest assured, Satan and his demons will do everything possible to prevent this. However, these demons

can only act as God, in His sovereignty, gives them permission.

At present, there is nothing hindering the Rapture from taking place. The only one who knows the exact date is God the Father. He will, "In the Fullness of Time" have that trumpet blown, and when He directs the trumpet to be blown, the Lord Jesus Christ will come back to raise all believers from the grave and, along with them, to take all living believers to be with him in Heaven. No one but the Father, can know the exact time, so it is our business to be ready to meet our Savior in the air, at any moment.

*"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Therefore**, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." (1 Corinthians 15:55-58)*

That great "Air Lift" will soon take place, as those in Christ will be "Caught Up" to meet the Lord in the air. That will be the fulfillment of the Lord's promise through Paul:

"When He shall come to be glorified in His saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day." (2 Thessalonians 1:10) "And to wait for His Son from heaven....which delivered us from the wrath to come." (1 Thessalonians 1:10)

2. THE BELIEVERS RESURRECTED - PART OF THE RAPTURE.

Daniel was not told specifically about everyone who would be included in the coming resurrection. He was limited to some general, prophetic truths, from the complete plan of God. Daniel was to write all that Gabriel had interpreted, plus his vision, but then God said.

"But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." (Daniel 12:4)

Here is all that Daniel had concerning the resurrection.

"And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." (Daniel 12:2-3)

Daniel was given general terms about the two resurrections. All of the Old Testament saints believed that there would be a resurrection. That is why they never cremated the bodies of their loved ones. They knew that even though the bodies would see corruption, they would be resurrected. (Ezekiel 37)

God's Word is definite on the existence of two resurrections.

"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." (Revelation 20:6)

Here is a list of several phases of the first resurrection, the largest part to take place just prior to the Tribulation:

- a. Christ is the first fruits of all the resurrected. (2 Corinthians 15:20)
- b. The Old Testament saints and New Testament saints, will be raised from the grave when the Rapture takes place. (John 14:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-54; Luke 14:13-14)
- c. Tribulation saints will be raised from the dead at the end of the Tribulation era. (Revelation 7:9-14; 20:4-6)
- d. Millennial saints will be resurrected at the end of the Millennial era. (Revelation 20:5)

The second resurrection will be after the Millennium, and include all of the ungodly of all ages, who will be raised from the dead, to stand before the Great White Throne for judgement. (Revelation 20:11-15)

In his time, Daniel was aware that there would be a resurrection and that there would be a separation of the wicked unbelievers from the redeemed saints of God.

At the time of Jesus' earthly ministry, there were two predominant schools of thought, among the Jews, about the resurrection. First there were the Pharisees, who believed in a general resurrection. Then there were the Sadducees who did not believe in any resurrection, therefore they were "Sad you see!" A small pun, to show that they were well named, and to help you remember what the Sadducees believed.

It is amazing how Paul used the two groups against each other, when he stood before the Jewish Sanhedrin as a prisoner. At that hearing, he was being accused by both Pharisees and Sadducees, and by bringing up the issue of the resurrection, he made them more angry at each other than they were at him.

"But when Paul perceived that the one part were sadducees, and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question. And when he had so said, there arose a dissension between the Pharisees and the Sadducees; and the multitude was divided. For the Sadducees

say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both. And there arose a great cry; and the scribes that were of the Pharisees' part arose, and strove, saying, We find no evil in this man: But if a spirit or an angel hath spoken unto him, let us not fight against God. And there arose a great dissension, the chief captain, fearing lest Paul should have been pulled in pieces of them, commanded the soldiers to go down, and to take him by force from among them, and to bring him into the castle.” (Acts 23:6-10)

The inclusion of these records in the Bible, should give us an idea of the great importance of the teaching of the resurrection from the dead. This message on the resurrection was exactly what the Holy Spirit wanted proclaimed. We too would be sad and without hope, if there was no resurrection. But God even used Paul's arrest and court trial to present key issues of doctrine. Paul was a prisoner for the Lord Jesus Christ, rather than a prisoner of the Roman Government.

“And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.” (Acts 23:11)

From God's completed Word, the Bible, we can take great comfort in the future. Daniel received only limited knowledge about the coming Gentile nations and the Great Tribulation, but there was a great mystery gap in between which he knew nothing about.

3. THE JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST - BELIEVERS REWARDED.

Even though some of the following events were a mystery to Daniel, I want to mention them in the context of things yet to be fulfilled. One of the things that will happen in Heaven while Israel is suffering on Earth, is the Judgement Seat of Christ. It will be a different judgement than the Great White Throne Judgement of the unsaved.

The Judgement Seat of Christ will be for believers only and it will have nothing to do with judgement for sin. Remember, sin has already been judged at the Cross of Christ, and if anyone accepts the free gift of Jesus' payment for their sin, then sin is no longer the issue. The Judgement Seat of Christ will be to reward believers for services done while on earth.

Service done in this life, with selfish motives, will be classified as wood hay and stubble, and will be burned, but service done unto God, with right motives, will be classified as gold, silver and precious stones, and will be rewarded. (1 Cor 3 : 12-15) It is not as important how big or small your service appears to men, but how faithful and humble to God you are while doing all that God calls you to do.

Part of our rewards will be received when we return to earth to rule and reign with Jesus for 1,000 years. If we use our spiritual gifts well in the service of the Lord, then He will reward us more, and also give us more responsibility in His millennium kingdom.

4. THE MARRIAGE FEAST IN HEAVEN - BELIEVERS CELEBRATE

Another mystery to Daniel, the church, is called the Bride of Christ in the Bible. Another event that will take place in heaven during the seven years of Jacob's Trouble, is the Marriage of the Lamb and following it will be the festive marriage feast and all of the celebrations that go with it. It will be a joyful occasion for all believers of the church age, and it will be witnessed by the angels and the Old Testament saints who are referred to as the friends of the bridegroom.

"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife 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." (Rev 19:7-9)

5. THE DEVIL AND HIS DEMONS EXPELLED FROM HEAVEN

As I mentioned earlier, Satan and the entire demonic world will be cast out of heaven and they will join forces with the wicked "beast" dictator in the middle of the tribulation. We often forget that Satan still has access to parts of heaven where he is constantly pointing out, to God, the faults of Christians. It appears that Satan wants to remind God about the sins of others, and especially the sins of those who call themselves Christians. In any case, Satan's expulsion from heaven with his followers, will take place when the fifth trumpet of Revelation is blown. We, as believers, will be there to watch it happen. (*Revelation 9:1-12; 12:7-12*)

6. THE MESSIAH RETURNS TO JERUSALEM - BELIEVERS UTILIZED

There will obviously be more that happens in Heaven during those Tribulation years, but the last thing I want to mention is the Second coming of Jesus Christ to planet earth, to set up His kingdom in Jerusalem.

The rock cut out of the mountain, mentioned in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, will be none other than Jesus Christ returning to earth as the conquering Messiah. He will break the last Gentile world empire into pieces. (*Dan 2 : 44-45*) Accompanying Him from heaven, will be the church. (*Rev 19 : 11-16*)

The church and the holy angels will watch as the King of kings and Lord of lords fights the battle of Armageddon, to end the Tribulation. We will look into this a little further at the end of the next section which has to do with events that happen on earth before the Millennium.

B. ON EARTH BEFORE THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

Now we go back to the time of the Rapture, to consider what will happen on earth, immediately following the Rapture. The bad news on earth is that evil forces will come to a climax when the world dictator will rule the world in tyranny for seven years and in the middle of his reign, he will accept the help of Satan and his demons. His oppression and persecution of the Jewish nation will be worse than anything ever experienced on this earth.

1. THE GREAT TRIBULATION.

The Great Tribulation will occur right after the rapture. When speaking about the rapture, Jesus said the following words, as recorded in the book of Luke:

“Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.” (Luke 17 : 35 & 36)

What a surprise the rapture will be to the unbelievers of this world, when millions of people disappear in an instant. What chaos it will cause when people at the controls of heavy machinery are suddenly taken, leaving the machinery to flounder and crash. It may cause many unbelievers to reconsider the words of the Bible and to believe them.

The majority in Israel, though, will return to their traditions but continue to disbelieve God’s word, and continue to reject Jesus Christ as their Messiah. They will even go back to sacrificing animals in the temple, not realizing that Jesus’ death on the cross ended any further need to sacrifice animals to cover their sin. In any case, that is how the Great Tribulation will begin, following the rapture.

We now return to the Book of Daniel, to consider the “Little Horn” that will arise when the Old and New Testament saints are “Caught Up” from the wrath to come. (*1 Thessalonians 1:10*) Frequently in prophetic writings, we are faced with a combination of events which are out of sequence, or refer to different times in history.

“And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow”

and pass over. He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon. He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape. But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps. But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many. And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.” (Daniel 11:40-45)

These portions of Scripture would be very difficult to understand, if we did not have other Biblical references to clarify them. We know from Daniel that the fourth beast, different from the other three, will represent both the Roman Empire, and the Revival of the Roman Empire. These times in history are separated by at least 2,000 years. At the beginning of the Revived Roman Empire, the Beast will have ten horns (ten kingdoms) and then one kingdom, the little horn, will destroy three of the other kingdoms. (Daniel 7:24)

In Israel, a 7 year treaty with the Beast will be signed, which will allow the Jews to practice their religious rituals. The beast, however, will break the treaty after only 3 1/2 years and will restrict their religious freedoms. This will take place after Michael and his army of holy angels throw the Devil and his fallen angels out of heaven. (Revelation 12:7-12)

When Satan is cast down to the earth, the wicked beast will break the 7 year covenant with Israel, and Satan and his armies will vent their anger on the Jews. (Daniel 9:27) That is why the suffering will be worse than any experienced in the history of planet earth.

During the last 3 1/2 years, known as the “Abomination of Desolation.” the beast will mercilessly persecute, both the tribulation saints, and the nation of Israel. (Daniel 7:25) During that time he will have superhuman power because he will combine forces with Satan and his demons. Read the book of Revelations to discover all the suffering that they will endure. According to the book of Revelation,

“And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.” (Revelation 17:12-13)

The world will turn on the Jewish nation in anger and attack Jerusalem. The Euphrates will dry up, when the sixth angel of Revelations pours out his bowl, making it easier for the hordes of the east to approach Jerusalem from the east.

“And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.” (Revelation 16:12)

The book of Revelations support the prophecies of Daniel and Ezekiel, foretelling future plans of the armies of the north, and of the east to come down upon Israel. God will deal with Gog and Magog of Russia as they sweep down upon Israel, together with the hordes from the East. (Ezekiel 38:2-23)

“The burden of the word of the Lord for Israel, saith the Lord, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him. Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces..... In that day, saith the Lord, I will smite every horse with astonishment, and his rider with madness: and I will open mine eyes upon the house of Judah, and will smite every horse of the people with blindness.” (Zechariah 12:1-4)

The siege of Jerusalem will precede the battle of Armageddon, when the Lord will return to establish the Millennium. Note also what Zechariah said:

“In that day, shall there be a great mourning of Hadadrimmon (A city in the valley) in the valley of Megiddon.” (Zechariah 12:11)

Yes, there will be great mourning among the Jews, as they see the Lord Jesus Christ, whom they rejected. (Zechariah 12:10)

“And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.” (Daniel 12:1)

As we have mentioned before, a great number of tribulation saints will be slain during the 7 years of the Tribulation called, “Jacob’s Trouble.” (Jeremiah 30:7) Christ himself mentioned that the time of the “Abomination of Desolation” will be the most terrible time ever experienced upon the face of the earth. (Matthew 24:21) For the full details of the Great Tribulation, you must thoroughly study the Book of Revelation. I will not go into detail in this book, because that should be studied when the book of Revelation is the main focus. The good news is that Jesus Christ the Messiah will come at the end of 7 years and terminate the control of the Gentile dictators.

2. THE TEMPLE SACRIFICES TAKEN AWAY BY THE BEAST.

During the Great Tribulation, the beast will make a 7 year covenant with Israel. The remnant of Israel will think that they are highly favored, but, when the dragon is thrown out of heaven to this earth, things will change, because the beast will then have invincible, demonic, power and nothing will stand in his way. During the first part of the Great Tribulation, Israel will reinstate her daily sacrifices with his permission, but that will change after 3 1/2 years. (In the middle of the seven years.)

So long ago, between 530-600 BC, God revealed the tribulation covenant to Daniel.

"And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week; and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abomination he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate." (Daniel 9:27)

We further read, in the Book of Revelation,

"And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent." (Revelation 12:13-14)

This will be the beginning of "the Abomination of Desolation," which is measured out to be 42 months or 1 260 days. (Revelation 11:2-3) There can be no mistake about the duration of time, for God's Word clearly states the time. The 42 months will begin with the breaking of the covenant and during this time the beast under the power of the serpent, will set up idol worship within the temple at Jerusalem.

"And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast; and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? and there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, and His tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven." (Revelation 13:4-6)

All the ungodly will worship this beast and the false prophet who will come from Israel. Together they will deceive the people with miracles, even bringing fire down from the sky.

"And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles

which he had power to do it, in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.”
(Revelation 13:14-15)

Many of the tribulation saints will be killed, perhaps all of the 144,000 witnesses, plus others, so great in number that they will not be able to be counted. (Revelation 7:9-14) Satan, the dragon, will be furious, when he is limited to using his evil power nowhere but upon this earth. He will begin his ruthless persecution of the Jewish nation. After the covenant is broken, we read in Daniel.

“And from the time when the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there will be a thousand two hundred and ninety days. Blessed is he that waiteth and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.” (Daniel 12:11-12)

In Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, he saw THE STONE that smote the image on the feet of clay and iron (including 10 toes like the 10 horns of the beast). This Stone is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. He will destroy the kingdoms of this world, which are under the domination of the devil, and establish an everlasting kingdom of righteousness. (Daniel 2:35;44,45) The second coming of Jesus to this earth, at the battle of Armageddon, will end the tribulation. He will first cleanse the earth of external evil influences and set up His Kingdom in Jerusalem.

Now let’s clear up three sets of numbers involved in counting the days of the abomination of desolation. We know that the Abomination of Desolation will be 1,260 days or 42 months exactly. There is also no problem with the complete length of time of the Great Tribulation, 7 years. There are, however, two other counts, the one with 30 days added to the 42 months and the other with 75 days added to the 42 months. God does not always give us all of the details and specific reasons for some of these statements. We must apply our knowledge of the plan of God and the character of God, and many of these apparent inconsistencies will become clear. Admittedly, the different number of days used to describe the “Abomination of Desolation,” are a little confusing, but they are not unsurmountable.

The days mentioned refer to the number of days between the breaking the covenant with Israel, and the victory at the battle Armageddon. The number of days mentioned vary between 1,260, 1,290 and 1,335.

The 1260 days number involves the Armageddon victory, the 1290 and 1335 days numbers involve cleansing from evil after the battle is won. The different number of days used, are not a big problem, because it will probably

take several weeks to cleanse the temple and the land, after the battle of Armageddon. Here are some issues to consider:

- i. From the breaking of the covenant to the destruction of the beast and his armies = 1,260 days.
(Daniel 7:25; 12:7; Revelation 13:5; 19:19-20)
- ii. The cleansing after the battle of Armageddon will take time which by all probabilities will be about 30 days. If this time is added on to 1,260 days it equals 1,290 days.
- iii. The number 1335 days is used in (Daniel 12 : 12). We must remember that before the kingdom of righteousness is set up, the temple must also be cleansed, along with the whole land, and this will take time. The final figure of 75 days added, could apply to the cleansing of the temple and the land.

*"Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days."
(Daniel 12:12)*

This is an additional 45 days which will complete the cleansing of all evil from the presence of Christ, the Victor.

*"And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the dragon, and out 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 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 gathereth them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon."
(Revelation 16:13-16)*

3. THE SAINTS ENDURE - WAITING UPON ALMIGHTY GOD.

The saints that endure the tribulation and remain faithful to God, until Jesus returns, will receive a special blessing from God.

*"Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days."
(Daniel 12:12)*

The tribulation saints who endure the tribulation persecution, will receive a special blessing when they enter the millennial kingdom with the Lord. They will be treated as a special group because of the incredible devotion they showed toward God. The martyred believers of the tribulation will also be

raised from the dead, at the end of the Tribulation era, to join their brothers and sisters and the raptured saints. (*Revelation 7:9-14; 20:4-6*)

There was much that God could not reveal to Daniel, especially about the mystery age from Pentecost until the Rapture. He was told that he would rest by ending his days upon this earth, but he would "Stand Up" at the end of those days.

Yes, the Old Testament saints will be raised incorruptible along with the body of Christ, which is being formed during this mystery age. (*1 Corinthians 15:51-53*) It will be a glorious day when the saints of all generations receive their glorified bodies. There are mighty battles to be fought by the Lord and He will obtain the victory that was already won through the Cross of Calvary.

May I close this brief portion by quoting the words from the Battle Hymn of the Republic:

BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC.

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord,

He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;

He hath loosed the fate-ful lightening of His terrible swift sword,

His truth is marching on.

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never sound retreat,

He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgement seat;

O be swift, my soul, to answer Him! be jubilant, my feet!

Our God is marching on.

Glory! glory, hallelujah! Glory! glory, hallelujah!

Glory! glory, hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

4. THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON.

The battle that will bring the Tribulation to an end is that great battle of Armageddon, which will be fought in the valley of Esdrelion called Megiddon. God the Holy Spirit revealed this great future battle to John on the Isle of Patmos.

"And I saw heaven open 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 winepress 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." (Revelation 19:11-16)

Saints from the Old Testament, the New Testament, and the Tribulation eras will be on hand to watch this battle being fought. We will be in our glorified bodies and will be able to travel through space effortlessly. The Lord will go forth to battle and we will all be observers along with the Holy angels of heaven. Satan together with all of his demons and the armies of the ungodly will be ready to fight the Lord at His coming. An angel standing in the sun will summon all the flesh eating birds to go to the valley of Armageddon, for there will be thousands of slain bodies to be eaten. (Revelation 19:17-18) This will happen at the end of the Tribulation.

The gathering together of the ungodly and the demonic world, to battle the Lord and His angels will take place after the Rapture of the saints and after the Great Tribulation, but before the establishment of the kingdom of righteousness. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18) There will be 7 years for the evil forces to prepare for this great battle. It will be Satan's second last battle. The armies of the beast and Satan will be ready to meet the Lord as He descends from heaven. The evil forces, with their latest nuclear weapons, will believe that they can destroy Christ and His army from heaven, but they will be wrong.

"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." (Revelation 19:19)

There is not much to say about the battle itself, for it will be short lived as Christ will speak the Word, and the battle will be over.

“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 the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of Him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceedeth out of His mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.”
(Revelation 19:20-21)

That battle will not take long and none of the spectators will even have their white robes of linen soiled in any way! All of the evil armies will be slain and their souls will have to wait for their bodies to be resurrected, along with the rest of the ungodly, to receive their final judgement. At that time, they will see the KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS, seated at the Great White Throne. Before they are sentenced, they will bow their knees before Him, and confess with their tongues, that He is Lord to the glory of God the Father. ***(Philippians 2:9-11)*** This will be the final judgement for all of the ungodly, ***before*** God creates all things new.

5. THE BEAST AND FALSE PROPHET DESTROYED.

The last 3 1/2 years of the tribulation will be the final onslaught of the beast and the false prophet against the authority of God. They will rely heavily on Satan, and Satan will use all of his power to defend his last domain on this earth. Against the power of his Creator, Satan's power will be insignificant, and he will be defeated in an instant. The battle of Armageddon, will take place ***before*** the kingdom age begins, and ***then*** Satan will be held prisoner for one thousand years. With the exception of the beast and the false prophet, the slain followers of Satan will have to wait until the Great White Throne for their final judgement. ***(Revelation 20:10)***

Regardless of what the popular opinion is at the time, these last tyrants of the earth, will be judged separately and immediately for their rebellion against the Living God. They will not appear at the Great White Throne judgement of Christ, but will pass immediately into the Lake of fire, alive, and will be completely burned, and their spirits or souls will be tormented forever and ever. They will be the first to be cast into the Lake of Fire and brimstone. They are well identified in the Bible, as “The Beast out of the sea,” and “The False Prophet.” Other names for the Beast out of the sea are: “The Little Horn,” “The beast with a fatal head wound that healed” and “The Man of Sin.” The False Prophet is also referred to as “The Beast out of the earth.”

The evil forces of this world will culminate at the end of the seven years of tribulation. It is then that the Lord of all will descend with a vast army of angels. Along with Him will be innumerable Old and New Testament saints, and Tribulation saints. It will be a tremendous display of the power, as the

Eternal Son of God, personally, comes to deal with the ungodly of both heaven and earth.

"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."

(Revelation 19:19-20)

We can better understand the "Little Horn" beast of (*Daniel 7:24-26*); when we study his future activities, in the Book of Revelation. He is "The Man of Sin". (*2 Thessalonians 2:4-8*) He is also the counterfeit rider of the white horse. (*Revelation 6:2*) This beast is the dictator who will be in power during the Revival of the Roman Empire, according the image which Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream. (*Daniel 2:31-43*)

"And the toes and the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay."

(Daniel 2:42-43)

This is certainly a reference to the political powers of the Great Tribulation. Regardless of their differences, they will join together to rebel against God's righteousness. There will be a mixed seed, meaning men indwelt by demons. They will deceive mankind into thinking they can defeat their very Creator! Satan, who is now the god of this world system, will strengthen his control of the world religions with an ecumenical movement, and will promise them peace and religious freedom. This idolatry will finally end with absolute destruction of these false religions and cults. (*Daniel 7:9-11; Revelation 17-18*) In those last days, the nations will bow down before Satan, in the same way that Satan wanted Christ to bow down to him. Satan tempted Jesus Christ, during Christ's earthly ministry, asking Jesus to bow down before him, in exchange for the kingdoms of this world. (*Matthew 4:8-9; Revelation 13:4*)

6. THE DEVIL BOUND FOR 1,000 YEARS.

As great as Satan's power on this earth will be, it will be short lived. He will enjoy the power for a brief moment, then he and his demons will be defeated at the battle of Armageddon, and Satan will be placed in prison for 1,000 years.

"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 of the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.” (Revelation 20:1-3)

We are not sure just where the demons will be placed in prison, but when their leader is cast into the bottomless pit for a thousand years, they will be helpless, awaiting their final judgement. There will be no bottom to Satan’s prison, but Satan will drop into nothing for a thousand years, helpless and powerless.

7. THE BOTTOMLESS PIT OPENED FOR THE DEVIL.

When Satan is cast into the bottomless pit, the evil forces of this world will be rounded up by the Holy angels and removed from the earth. Their evil will not be felt for the duration of the millennial kingdom of righteousness. After one thousand years, however, the pit will be reopened and Satan will be released for the last time.

During the Kingdom age under the most favorable conditions, mankind will not be tempted by Satan or his demons. Men will be without excuse because they will have absolutely the most perfect conditions to live under. People born during those 1,000 years will still have one weakness, a human nature. They will continue to be totally depraved, and that will cause them to submit to Satan when the thousand years are ended, just as their ancestors did before them.

In the next section, we will briefly look at the kingdom age. Daniel knew that there would be a kingdom age according to the following Scriptures: (Isaiah 11; 35:3-10; Psalm 72; Isaiah 65; and Ezekiel 20) Daniel was also aware that eventually God was going to establish everlasting righteousness, where sin would be no more. (Daniel 9:24) But the “Mystery Age” was a secret to Daniel, it would come before the kingdom age. God did not reveal the “Mystery age,” or “The Age of Grace,” to the Old Testament saints. We have discussed the reason why God kept the church age a secret until Israel made her choice, to accept, or to reject, the Lord Jesus Christ as her Messiah.

C. ON EARTH, DURING THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

1. THE STONE THAT WAS IGNORED.

As mentioned earlier, the battle of Armageddon will happen at the second advent of the Lord Jesus Christ. He will return to earth to claim His title deed to this realm which Satan has usurped. Christ, the Eternal Son of God, is that

STONE that the builders rejected.

"Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the Scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes? Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder." (Matthew 21:42-44)

What Jesus said, came true, even though the scribes and pharisees did not like it. Eventually their authority was taken away from them and given to the faithful remnant of Israel and to the Gentiles. The mystery age of the Church thus began.

The Revival of the Roman Empire, with its world dictator, will take place according to God's time, and for a period of 7 years he will rule in ruthless power. But, when the Lord returns to this earth, the beast and the false prophet will both be cast into the Lake of Fire. (*Revelation 19:20*) The Kingdom of righteousness will then be set up and the Lord Jesus Christ will reign in righteous judgement.

"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and it break in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the Great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure." (Daniel 2:44-45)

2. THE KINGDOM AGE - 1,000 YEARS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

We have described this kingdom age which is in the future, but we need to repeat some of the conditions which will exist during those thousand years of righteousness upon planet earth.

"And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." (Daniel 12:3)

Daniel wasn't given a complete picture of this kingdom of righteousness, directly, but he did have the writings of Isaiah the prophet to read and study.

"And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nations shall not lift up sword

against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

(Isaiah 2:4)

Daniel, as well as the remnant of Israel, was looking forward to the time when Israel would return to her land, a time when the Messiah would rule in righteousness. Those that studied the prophetic scrolls of their time, knew that such a reign was in the future.

"But with righteousness shall He judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth; and He shall smite the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips shall He slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of His loins, and faithfulness the girdle of His reins. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them..... They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.:

(Isaiah 11:4-9)

The Lord, during His earthly ministry, taught some of the kingdom principles. During the coming kingdom age, however, Jesus will reign over the whole world in righteousness, and those principles will not only be taught, but practiced throughout the world. The saints of God in their glorified bodies will go forth to every place upon the face of the earth, teaching the righteousness of God. All the schools of learning will be indoctrinated with the Word of God.

"Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else." (Isaiah 45:22)

It will be a glorious day when Israel will inherit Jerusalem, under the righteousness of the Messiah.

"And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: And the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed." (Isaiah 65:19-20)

This passage declares the longevity of life for both the righteous man and the sinner. This infers that there will be a choice to be made by these earthly people, but the sinners will be judged.

During the kingdom age there will be many children born, because there will be no diseases and the people will be prolific. Although, people, who enter the kingdom of righteousness, will be righteous, chosen as sheep, and separated from the goats, (Matthew 25:31-46) their children will be sinners and in need of God. Children born during those thousand years will have to

make their own choice of either accepting the righteousness of God or yielding to their sinful desires. There will be countless children, born during the kingdom age, and many will kick against the restraints of God's righteousness. They will eventually be ready tools for Satan's use, when Satan is released from his bottomless prison.

"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." (Revelation 20:7-8)

We know that Satan will have some time to deceive the nations, with the help of billions of his demons. The Scripture says he will be loosed for a season. (Revelation 20:3) This does reveal to us that Satan will still maintain his power after he is released from the bottomless pit.

Daniel did not see all these details, but he was made aware that there would be the reign of Righteousness upon the face of the earth. It will be when the Messiah comes to set up His kingdom, replacing the ruthless reign of the beast. Daniel had a glimpse of this in his vision, when he saw "The Stone," cut out of the mountain without hands, break the last human empire into pieces. (Daniel 2:44-45; Matthew 3:2) God the Holy Spirit, through the prophets, had established a hope of this, in the lives of the Old Testament saints. There were, however, some things hidden from them, as a mystery, which were revealed after Pentecost.

Since God's intended revelation has been completed, we should not neglect the study of God's Word, but rather, as faithful workers for the Lord, let us rightly divide the Word of God. (2 Timothy 2:15) God has given to us the complete Bible, which is the extent that God wants us to know during our earthly habitation. Truly, the Bible, which is beyond our complete understanding, is but a fraction of the total knowledge of God, but it is sufficient for all of our needs.

a.. THE PURPOSE OF THE KINGDOM AGE.

You may ask, "What is the purpose of the kingdom age?" God's kingdom of righteousness will be set up upon this planet earth. There are several reasons why there will be an earthly kingdom of righteousness for one thousand years. Let me list some of these reasons.

The primary purpose of the kingdom age is to give mankind the final test as to his capability, apart from God's intervention and provision, to be well pleasing in the sight of God. It will be thoroughly proven that under the most favorable conditions, mankind with his totally depraved nature cannot live a life well pleasing to God. All of natural man's excuses will come to naught, under the perfect conditions existing during the kingdom age. Under those

most favorable conditions, there will be no excuse whatsoever for natural man's rebellion against God. The natural man, being totally depraved, will again fall short of the glory of God.

God has promised a kingdom age of righteousness, under His supervision and as the Lord taught His disciples, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done," so it shall be during the Millennium, but Christ will rule with a rod of iron. (*Psalm 2:9; Revelation 2:27; 12:5*) Since Satan will be bound and in the bottomless pit, man will have no reason to blame his sin on Satan.

Here is a list of some of the reasons for, and some of the purposes of the coming kingdom age:

- i. To fulfill the unconditional covenant that God made with Abraham. (*Genesis 12:1-3; 13:14-17; 15:1-21; 17:1-13; 18:21; 22:17-18; Hebrews 6:16-17*)
- ii. To fulfill the unconditional covenant that God made with King David. (*1 Chronicles 17:11-13; 2 Chronicles 13:5; Isaiah 42:6; 2 Samuel 7:12-16,24; 2 Samuel 23:5; 1 Kings 8:23; 9:25*)
- iii. To fulfill a new Covenant with Israel. (*Jeremiah 31:31-34; Isaiah 42:6; Hebrews 8:7-12*)
- iv. To test mankind under the most favorable conditions, proving his hopelessness, and total depravity. (*Isaiah 2:2-4; 25:18; 35:1,8,10; 65:20,25; Revelation 20:7-8*)
- v. To evangelize the whole world under the most favorable conditions. (*Romans 8:19-22; Matthew 19:28; Luke 22:30; Revelation 5:10; 20:4*)
- vi. To send forth the saints to the whole world, teaching the kingdom principles, the sermon on the mount, the model prayer and the Beatitudes. (*Matthew 6:9-13; Matthew 6-11*)
- vii. To gather, by the grace of God, kingdom saints for His eternal purpose.
- viii. To establish Jerusalem, the Mountain of God. (*Isaiah 2:2-4*)
- ix. To Glorify Jerusalem, the Mountain of God. (*Isaiah 25:3, 6*)
- x. To restore the promised land to a fertile land, and cause all nature to blossom once more. (*Isaiah 35:1-10*)
- xi. To extend man's life span again. (*Isaiah 65:20-25*)

- xii. To reward the saints, of all ages, by allowing them to reign with Christ. (*Psalm 58:1; Isaiah 40:10; Proverbs 11:18; Matthew 16:27; Revelation 22:12*)
- xiii. To fulfill the "Model Prayer," taught to the disciples. (*Matthew 6:9-13*)
- xiv. To restore the original creation, for God's final evaluation. Nature will be restored, and the earth will enjoy prosperity. (*Romans 8:19-22*)

b. BIBLICAL REFERENCES ABOUT THE KINGDOM AGE:

- i. "The Kingdom of Heaven," manifested upon the earth. (*Matthew 5:10*)
- ii. "The Kingdom of God," Christ reigning upon this earth. (*Mark 1:14*)
- iii. "The Day of Christ," glorifying God's Son. (*1 Corinthians 1:8; 5:5; 2 Corinthians 1:14; Philippians 1:6; 2:16*)
- iv. "The World To Come," manifesting God's kingdom to come. (*Hebrews 2:5*)
- v. "The Last Day," signifying that it will occur at the end of time. (*John 6:4*)
- vi. "The Generation when the Son of Man shall sit upon His Throne." (*Matthew 19:28*)
- vii. "The Times of Refreshing shall Come in the Presence of the Lord." (*Acts 3:19*)
- viii. "The Times of Restitution of All Things." (*Acts 3:21*)
- ix. "The Kingdom of Righteousness." (*Isaiah 32:1; Jeremiah 23:6; Matthew 6:38*)
- x. "The Saints Shall Reign with Him for a Thousand Years" which will be known as "The Kingdom Age" (*Revelation 20:6*)

3. THE DEVIL TEMPORARILY RELEASED, ALL EVIL ENDED.

At the end of the Millennium, just before the Great White Throne Judgement, Satan will be set free from his prison, the bottomless pit. He will have a great army following him, and he will again deceive all of the nations of the world. For the last time, God in His sovereignty, will allow Satan to test the people born in the kingdom age. They will have to choose either to follow God or to follow Satan. Incredibly, in spite of their 1,000 years of experiencing ideal conditions, many will reject God. The Bible says that the number of those who will reject God will be as the sands of the seas.

“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. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.”

(Revelation 20:9)

When the Devil and all his followers surround Jerusalem to challenge the authority of Jesus, fire will come down from heaven and consume them. The doom of Satan and all wickedness will be as simple as that! Satan and all the demons shall be cast immediately into the Lake of Fire and Brimstone. *(Revelation 20:10)* That will be the end of all spiritual wickedness for ever and ever! It will be the final stand of both the evil angelic forces and all ungodly men.

The first death of the ungodly, is only preliminary to their final judgement. After death, they temporarily wait in hell for the time when they will rise from the dead to stand before the Great White Throne. There they will receive their punishment for rejecting Jesus. Their punishment will be the second death, an everlasting separation from God. Christ will be seated upon this throne, and all of the ungodly of all ages will appear before the Lord and look at the one whom they rejected. This will be their final judgement before they enter into the Lake of Fire and Brimstone, where God will forever pour out His wrath upon those who have rejected His Eternal Son.

D. IN HEAVEN AFTER THE MILLENNIUM

1. THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGEMENT, FOR ALL UNGODLY.

The second resurrection will happen at the end of the millennium. It will be the resurrection of all the dead unbelievers including those that die trying to overthrow the kingdom of Jesus Christ. They will be raised to face judgement by God. The Great White Throne Judgement will be the last judgement in the old universe before the new creation of both heaven and

earth. It will be a judgement of the ungodly men of every generation from Cain on through to those who will join Satan in that final attempt to overthrow their Creator. This final judgement will not be to separate believers from unbelievers, as a shepherd separates sheep from goats, but rather it will be a judgement of only unbelievers, and all will be condemned for their unbelief. No one will escape this judgement, as the book of life and the books of works are opened. It will be the second resurrection and ultimately the second death. It should not be confused with the first resurrection, which is for believers. The last believers to be raised in the first resurrection will be those who die after exercising their faith in Jesus Christ during the kingdom age. They will be raised, at the close of the kingdom age, to eternal life.

"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."

(Revelation 20:5-6)

"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 on the Book of life was cast into the lake of fire." (Revelation 20:11-15)

The Second resurrection will be for judgement of unbelievers, and the punishment will be the second death. It will take place after Satan's final battle against God, at the end of the Millennium. It will be a resurrection of all unbelievers to face their judge and to go to their eternal death. John on the Isle of Patmos saw these things as though they were already completed. It was a preview that God gave to him, and to us, that we might know the final destiny of all ungodliness and total sin. However, before all the unbelievers of Christ are cast into the lake of fire, they must confess to God that they were wrong about Jesus.

"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." (Philippians 2:10-11)

Christ is the only way, the only truth, and the only life. Through him

only can mankind be redeemed from the penalty of sin, and be brought into eternal life. We who have accepted Christ as our personal Savior have already bowed our knees before Him, and confessed Him as Redeemer, Lord and Master. We will either be part of the first resurrection, or we will be "Caught Up" alive when the Rapture takes place.

Daniel was aware of the coming of the Lord in glory as well as the coming of the Lord to sit upon the throne of glory. Gabriel did not tell him all the details involved, but Daniel was able to write:

"I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of Days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head like the pure wool: His throne was like the fiery flame, and His wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him; thousand thousands ministered unto Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him: the judgement was set, and the books were opened." (Daniel 7:9-10)

2. THE JUDGEMENT BY JESUS CHRIST, THE FINAL JUDGE.

The Bible informs us that everyone will face judgement after death.

"And it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgement." (Hebrews 9:27)

The Bible leaves no question as to who will be the judge at that final judgement of all the ungodly. Christ himself will sit upon the throne and every knee will bow before Him, and every tongue will acknowledge Him as the Lord of Lords, to the glory and honor of God the Father. (Philippians 2:9-11) Christ was given the right to judge all, by God the Father.

"For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgement unto the Son." (John 5:22)

"And He commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is He which was ordained of God to be the judge of quick and dead." (Acts 10:42)

God the Holy Spirit used Paul as His spokesman when he wrote to Timothy;

"I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom." (2 Timothy 4:1)

The Lord himself will sit upon that Great White Throne. There is no escape from this judgement, except to believe in, and to receive the Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ who bore our sins on the Cross.

"So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many;" (Hebrews 9:28a)

Because they have rejected the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, billions will go out into eternity, separated forever from the love of God.

"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)

Christ paid the debt of sin that "Whosoever Believeth," should not be condemned. (John 3:18)

3. THE BOOKS OF WORKS VERSUS THE BOOK OF LIFE.

You may ask, "Why will books be opened at the Great White Throne Judgement?" The Bible mentions two books to be opened, the Book of Life, and The Book of Works. The Book of Life is the most important book that will be opened, in a search for the names of those being judged. Unfortunately, not one name will be found, because everyone standing in this judgement will be an unbeliever. Each will claim self righteousness, ignorance of God's word, or any number of other excuses. Nonetheless, their rejection of God's Word and God's Gift, will keep their names out of the Book of Life. The Book of Life will only have the names of those who have accepted Christ as their personal Savior.

"Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His Cross;" (Colossians 2:14)

Here are some references to the Book of life.

(Exodus 32:32-33; Psalm 69:28; Daniel 12:1; Philippians 4:3; Revelation 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:12-15; Revelation 21:27; 22:19)

None of those who will stand before the Great White Throne will have their names recorded in the Book of Life.

The Books of Works will then be opened and because unbelievers have rejected the righteousness of Christ, their own works will be revealed. This process of checking both books, will perhaps be simultaneous, and Jesus Christ will reveal to each one his or her self righteousness. Those works will get the acid test, and when compared to God's righteousness, all will fall short of God's requirements. It is impossible to live a perfect life and anything less than perfection is not good enough for God. We must accept Christ's perfection and that way we will be acceptable to God.

"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.” (Revelation 20:11-15)

There will be no pardon for anyone judged at the Great White Throne Judgement, but all of them will spend eternity in torment, each receiving the full wrath of God. Remember, after you die, there will be no escape route whatsoever! Today may be your last chance for salvation. None of us knows what will happen next year, next month, next week, or even in the next minute. As you read this, you may be one heartbeat away from death, so don't postpone your decision to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. He loved you so much that He came to earth, took upon Himself a human body, and paid the penalty for your sins. He died for your sins, and took upon Himself the wrath of God the Father in your place. All you must do is receive Him and His free gift of forgiveness. All mankind is without excuse and those that reject Christ, regardless of their reasons, will spend eternity in torment, separated from the love of God.

4. THE ETERNAL LAKE OF FIRE AND BRIMSTONE.

The Lake of Fire will be the final judgement upon all fallen angels as well as all ungodly humans. The first ones who will be cast into the Lake of Fire will be the two beasts of (Revelation 13:1-8), also referred to as the beast and the False prophet, both human political and religious figures.

“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.” (Revelation 19:20)

Prior to the Great White Throne, the beast and the false prophet will be cast alive into the Lake of Fire and Brimstone. They will be judged separately and alive before all of the ungodly are judged. This will happen when Satan is taken, bound and cast into the bottomless pit for the duration of the thousand year kingdom age.

5. JUDGEMENT, OF ALL SIN AND DEATH

Along with Satan, the fallen angels, and all unbelievers, God's final judgement and wrath will be poured out upon all sin. It is true that total sin was judged upon the Cross of Calvary, but the total sentence of sin will be at that Great White Throne Judgement. Death and Sin and even Hell, will be cast into the Lake of Fire.

“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 on the Book of life was cast into the lake of fire." (Revelation 20:11-15)

E. IN THE NEW HEAVEN AND THE NEW EARTH

1. THE ETERNITY TO COME.

In the Old Testament, God the Holy Spirit has given us sufficient evidence that all things will become new. Since sin has contaminated God's first creation, all things must become new.

*"For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered nor come into mind."
(Isaiah 65:17)*

This is something that should excite every Christian, as we fulfill the great commission and wait for that trumpet to sound, and the heavens to send forth the Shekinah glory, at the return of Jesus Christ in the air. It will be a glorious experience to be "Caught Up" and taken out from God's wrath to come upon this earth. (1 Thessalonians 1:10) When the Rapture takes place, we will know that the count down has begun, with some 1,007 years remaining before the new heavens and the new earth will be created. This old creation will pass away with fervent heat, just prior to that. (2 Peter 3:10)

"Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness. Looking for and hastening unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of Him in peace, without spot, and blameless." (2 Peter 3:11-14)

Just as Daniel did not know about this mystery age of the church, so we do not know much, about the new heavens and the new earth. Like Daniel, we may not know much about the future, but we do know the

God who controls the future. God's love toward us is an everlasting love, so there is nothing for us to fear.

This present order of creation will all pass away before all things become new, as we are reminded from the Scripture.

"And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree." (Isaiah 34:4)

As God the Father has placed all authority in the hands of His Eternal Son, we know that through Him, the old order of creation shall pass away. He is the Creator of all, and has complete power over all!

"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." (Revelation 20:11)

These events will all precede the creation of the New Heavens and the New Earth.

2. THE NEW HEAVEN AND THE NEW EARTH.

We have seen some of the marvels of our Living God in this present creation, in spite of the curse of sin upon it. The new heavens and the new earth, we are told by the Scriptures that they shall be permanent and remain before God forever.

"For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the Lord, so shall your seed and your name remain." (Isaiah 66:22)

That is a two fold statement from the Lord, both for His new creation and also for Israel. May we always remember that God has not forsaken Israel, but rather Israel has forsaken God. Both Israel and God's creation shall be cleansed and purged, and will remain forever and ever!

"For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind." (Isaiah 65:17)

From this statement, we can be assured that when God creates all things new, they will be the greatest of His creation, and we can say, "The Best is yet to come!" These present things are only temporary, and we need to constantly remind ourselves of this fact.

"Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness. Looking for and hastening unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new

heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."
(2 Peter 3:11-12)

We must realize that although the kingdom age will be a kingdom of righteousness, nevertheless, the earthly people who enter into this kingdom will still have their sin cursed bodies. The kingdom age of one thousand years will be the last of the old order, and mankind under the most favorable conditions will fail. God himself must provide our all in all by grace principles alone! This will all be made clear to us, when we receive our glorified bodies by the grace of God. We do not understand all that God is planning for the future, but we can rest assured that it will be totally wonderful. In the New Jerusalem, which will be built by God on the new Earth, there will be an absence of all the things we hate, and there will be an abundance of all the things we value. It will be more pleasant than we can even imagine. Most important we will be in the family of God and share in that most wonderful fellowship with God and with each other. Life will be great!

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." (Rev 21:4) (The city) "Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal" (Rev. 21:11) "And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. " (Rev. 21:18-21)

Because we have believed what the Lord has said and have placed our trust in Him, we shall inherit the riches of eternity as "Joint Heirs" with Christ. (Romans 8:17) God will do all this for His obedient creatures.

"He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us." (Ephesians 3:20) "That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus." (Ephesians 2:7)

What can we expect, when all things are created new? If God was willing to save us when we were dead in trespasses and sins, much more, being made alive in Christ, we can expect God's very best.

3. ETERNAL GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Since God has loved us with an everlasting love, we can be assured that He will continue to love us in and through His dear Son in whom He is well pleased.

"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him. But God hath revealed them to us by His Spirit; for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God."

(1 Corinthians 2:9-10)

How wonderful it is to enter into God's "Faith Rest!" (*Hebrews 4:1,9,10*) This faith rest comes directly from God, as "His Rest."

*"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light." (*Matthew 11:28-30*)*

If we have been offered Christ's rest in this present life, how much more we can expect to enjoy His rest throughout eternity.

4. ALL THINGS TO BECOME NEW.

John on the Isle of Patmos, saw some beautiful sights as well as terrible ones. God the Holy Spirit gave John an insight into those things to come, so that he could share them with the saints of the ages to come.

*"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea." (*Revelation 21:1*)*

God pre-televised to John what will be created more than 3,000 years into the future. We still have more than 1,000 years to wait for God's new creation. Daniel and some of the prophets were allowed to get a glimpse of many events to precede this new and eternal creation. Isaiah got a glimpse of it, but the details are hidden away in the mind of God. John saw the new heaven and the new earth, but no doubt was not allowed to write all that he saw. (*Revelation 10:4*) As we study the principles of the Kingdom age, we get a little insight as to what to expect for eternity. God's laws never change!

This earth will be different, as we read that there will not be any seas. Our present seas are God's method of separating the nations. It also is important that God placed these seas in order to separate Israel.

"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" (Deuteronomy 30:8-9)

God had to keep the races separate, by changing their languages, for one very important reason. The Messianic lineage had to be separated and protected. This will not be necessary in the new heavens and the new earth. There will be absolute harmony throughout eternity, for the sum total of sin and evil will remain in the Lake of Fire, and burn forever! There will be no escape route whatsoever! God's plans are immutable as well as eternal. They will last forever and ever! Amen! In God's eternity to come, there will be absolute and perfect harmony.

5. NEW JERUSALEM, THE HOLY CITY,

Jerusalem of this present day is down trodden and stolen from it's rightful owner, "Israel," but during the Millennium, it shall become the capital of Israel as well as the capital of the whole world. That will be preliminary to "The Holy City," "The New Jerusalem," coming down from God. It is difficult for us to fully understand the terminology, as God the Holy Spirit compares it's preparation to "a bride adorned for her husband." Let us ponder a moment or two upon this short, but wonderful and sweet revelation.

"And I John saw the holy city new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God."

(Revelation 21:2-3)

The saints of God can shout, Hallelujah, Immanuel, God with us!

The present Jerusalem, which is a burden to the whole world will be ruled by Christ, after the battle of Armageddon, but only for the thousand years prior to the New heavens and the new earth. Then, we shall see the most wonderful City in all of God's creation, when He shall make all things new.

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And He that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And He said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And He said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the

fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.” (Revelation 21:4-7)

The saints of all ages have a glorious future ahead, and we can thank God for allowing us to look into the future, encouraging us not to become weary in serving the Lord. Yes, there are trials and temptations to overcome, and suffering to endure, but the victory is sure! Christ has accomplished the victory for us, and will be coming in the clouds to take us to the present Paradise, within the mansions of God the Father. To us who are of the future bride of Christ, we will have a special place in these mansions, and we can identify them as “The Bridal Chamber.” Our special fine and white clothing made of the finest linen will be provided for each of us. These clothes will represent the righteousness of the saints. (Revelations 19:8) Now let us look at the eternal Paradise, which will be that final Paradise prepared for those bought with the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

6. ETERNAL PARADISE AND WATER OF LIFE.

All life depends upon “Water,” and the Lord Jesus Christ is our source of this living water.

“And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse; but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and His servants shall serve Him; and they shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light; and they shall reign forever and ever.”
(Revelation 22:1-5)

This is but a short preview of the new Paradise which will be made ready by God for the New heavens and earth.

“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth His handy work.” (Psalm 19:1)

If the present heaven and earth show forth the glory of God, how much greater will be God’s glory in the new heavens and the new earth? The glory of God will be shared with the saints of God from all generations, but the wicked and ungodly shall be tormented day and night by the wrath of God.

"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the Lake of Fire." (Revelation 20:15)

There will be an eternal separation of the ungodly from the saints of God.

"And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever."

(Daniel 12:2-3)

The new Paradise which God will create will be God's way of sharing His eternal glory with His creation.

IV. DANIEL'S BOOK SEALED UNTIL THE END.

With the Book of Revelation we can understand the Book of Daniel, which was sealed until the end. The Book of Daniel was not thoroughly understood until the Book of Revelation became the key to this great treasure of information.

"But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." (Daniel 12:4)

This puzzled Daniel greatly, as he waited for further information about these end times. Then God shifted Daniel's attention to "A Scene by the river"

"Then I Daniel looked, and behold, there stood other two, the one on this side of the bank of the river, and the other on that side of the bank of the river. The one said to the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, How long shall it be to the end of these wonders? And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him that liveth forever that it shall be for a time, times, and a half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished. And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things? And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand." (Daniel 12:5-10)

Here are a few things that we can glean from this portion of what God had revealed to Daniel, through His agent. We must realize that Daniel did not have the whole Bible as we have today, but had to depend upon these special revelations. Here are a few truths to be considered, concerning our study of Daniel. God's plans never have to be altered or changed in any fashion. God knows every intent and thought throughout His whole creation.

A. DANIEL'S SEALED BOOK UNDERSTOOD.

1. The revelation to Daniel was to be sealed until the end times. (*Daniel 12:4*)
2. There will be a long time until some of these things are completed. (1/2 of prophecy yet to be fulfilled)
3. The end times would be the latter part of the Great Tribulation which is to be called, "The Abomination of Desolation," which shall be for 3 1/2 years, or the last half of the 70th. week of Daniel. (*Revelation 11*)
4. Many have been purified during this mystery age of some two thousand years. (From Pentecost until the Rapture.)
5. The holy people Israel have been scattered before that Great Tribulation.
6. The Book of Daniel is the key to the Book of Revelation.
7. The Revival of the Roman Empire confirmed.

B. DANIEL'S LAST REVELATION.

As we close our lessons on the Book of Daniel, may we realize that some of this revelation could not be thoroughly understood, until the Book of Revelation was delivered to John on the Isle of Patmos. That is why Daniel was told.

"But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end:" (Daniel 12:4a)

It is therefore evident that these previews were for some other time than in Daniel's day. They are evidence and substance upon which we who live in these latter days can base our "Faith." God's ways and Divine viewpoint can only be understood, by the teaching of God the Holy Spirit. Daniel's time of the end begins when the prince of this world is manifested. (*Daniel 8:17-19; 9:26-27; 11:35-38; Matthew 24:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:4; Revelation 13*) We have not reached that stage of wickedness, but perilous times are here and the end time is drawing near! (*2 Timothy 3:1-7*)

C. A HEAVENLY CONVERSATION.

Here is an unusual revelation from God, that Daniel was allowed to listen in to a heavenly discussion.

"Then I Daniel looked, and, behold, there stood other two, the one on this side of the bank of the river, and the other on that side of the bank of the river. And one said to the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, How long shall it be to the end of these wonders? And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by him that liveth forever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished." (Daniel 12:6-7)

We who understand the Book of Revelation are aware that this is speaking about "The Abomination of Desolation," which shall be in the latter part of the Great Tribulation. However, Daniel did not understand what was revealed to him, but he wrote it for our admonition.

"And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things? And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end." (Daniel 12 8-9)

We are living in these end times and have been given the full account of all things necessary for us to know. We must search the Scriptures and rightly divide them so that we might be ready to meet the Lord in the air, when the Rapture takes place. We are to fulfill that great command and commission that the Lord has given us to go into all the earth and preach the gospel. (Matt 28: 19-20)

D. THE ETERNAL SEPARATION.

Since the Lord Jesus Christ died for total sin, all creation is without excuse. Each individual who has arrived at the age of accountability, however, must make his own decision about Jesus Christ. God is going to separate the wicked unbelievers of all ages, from the believing saints of all ages. He will separate those who have rejected Jesus from those who have placed their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

"Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand." (Daniel 12:10)

At the Great White Throne judgement, the wicked will stand before God for the last time, and all will be condemned to the eternal Lake of Fire and Brimstone. The wicked which have no desire to repent and acknowledge Jesus, are destined to an eternal separation from God.

"He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: And he which is filthy let him be filthy still: And he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: And he that is holy, let him be holy still." (Revelation 22:11)

God has been calling out believers down through the ages. After death, these believers have been separated from the wicked. They have been waiting upon the end time when the Rapture will take place. It will be a glorious day for them to be caught up from the wrath to come. (1 Thessalonians 1:10)

"And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. And the Spirit and the bride say, come. And let him that heareth say, come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." (Revelation 22:12-17)

As we conclude the Book of Daniel in relation to the Book of Revelation, we have discovered how each are totally dependent upon each other for a clearer view of the end times and eternity to come. There are many events still in the future but the future is all in the Sovereignty of God.

V. CONCLUSION.

In concluding this short study of the Book of Daniel, may I state that what I have briefly taught here is just a beginning for your individual study of the whole Bible. As you do study the whole Bible, keep in mind the overall plan of God, as He deals with His creation and with total sin. Student of the Bible whoever you are and wherever you may be, do not try to understand what the Bible teaches without help from God the Holy Spirit. I can lay down certain principles and guidelines, but God the Holy Spirit must teach you from the Divine view point.

As we approach the year 2,000, may each of us examine ourselves and allow God the Holy Spirit to bring conviction, where it is necessary. God has richly blessed us by allowing us to be born at such a time as this. We are approaching the end of the age and the Rapture could take place at any moment. As those who are born again and as students of the Bible, may we acknowledge God in all of our ways, and He has promised to direct our paths. (Proverbs 3:6) As you read and study the Bible, let the Holy Spirit lead you into all truth.

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report;

if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think of these things. (Phil. 4:8)

The book of Daniel gives us prophetic insight into the future and helps us unlock prophetic mysteries from other books of the Bible, primarily the book of Revelation. By comparing the prophetic books, we gain a wider view of future events. One Book will often hold the key to understanding another. Daniel was a contemporary of Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Ezra, Zerubbabel, and Jeshua. He had access to the old Testament scrolls, and they influenced his expectations for deliverance from captivity. Other important books of the Bible that you might want to study, in relation to Daniel, are Esther, Nehemiah, and Ruth. These will give you insights into God's method of preserving the Messianic lineage. In Daniel, we also see God's unique way of evangelizing the whole world using such anointed ones as king Nebuchadnezzar and king Cyrus, both Gentile kings.

Most of the events that we read about in Daniel were future events for Daniel and the Jewish nation, and many are still future events for us today. Briefly, here is a list of some events to come in the master plan of the Triune God. It is important to understand the sequence of future events, and with a lot of study under the direction of God the Holy Spirit, you will understand many of them.

PROPHETIC EVENTS TO LOOK FOR IN THESE LAST DAYS.

- 1. The times of the Gentiles.**
- 2. Sin eradicated and the key to the whole Bible (*Daniel 9:24*)**
- 3. The coming Empires, under Gentile rule. (Revival of the Roman Empire.)**
- 4. The man of sin, shadowed in the past by Antiochus Epiphanes.**
- 5. The man of sin as the "Little Horn."**
- 6. The seven year covenant which will be made with Israel by the beast of (*Revelation 13*).**
- 7. Daniel gives us the first division of The Great Tribulation. (*Daniel 7:25*)**
- 8. The Great Tribulation and especially "The Abomination of Desolation."**
- 9. The middle of the Tribulation. (*Daniel 9:25-26*)**
- 10. The mighty protection given to God's faithful.**
- 11. "The Ancient of Days" and the coming of the Son of man in glory. (*Daniel 7:9-14; Revelation 19:11-21*)**

12. Christ "The Stone" that shall break in pieces all other rule, and establish an eternal kingdom. (*Daniel 2:44-45*)
13. The Messianic kingdom proclaimed. (*Daniel 7:9-14*)
14. The resurrection. (*Daniel 12:2-3*)

A sign that we are in the last days is that there are numerous strange cults and false religions dominating the world opinion today.

"Knowing first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the Word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgement and perdition of ungodly men. But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:3-9)

In closing this study on the Book of Daniel, I wish to encourage each of you to be careful in your teaching ministry. Try to back up all your biblical teaching with verses of Scripture. Your ministry, as National Christian leaders, is of great importance as you prepare young believers to face these last days. We all need to be led by the Holy Spirit, who must keep on filling our lives with Himself. To be an affective minister for the Lord you must be willing to place the Lord first in your life. Start the day and end the day, talking to God the Father. Don't let anything interfere with your private prayer life.

*"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me."
(Psalm 66:18)*

QUESTIONS ABOUT CHAPTER FOUR.

1. Why is it necessary to study both Daniel and Revelation together?
2. What does (*Daniel 10:5-6*); describe?
3. Explain (*Daniel 10:10-14*).
4. Do angels know things of the future? Explain.
5. Why was Daniel concerned about "The Little Horn?"
6. Explain the difference between "Babylon" and "Mystery Babylon."
7. Name the four great empires revealed through the image which Nebuchadnezzar dreamed about.
8. Who among the rulers of the Medes and Persians was God's anointed one? Scripture please.
9. Why and how was the Grecian Empire divided? Name the divisions.
10. Explain (*Daniel 11:10-15*).
11. Explain (*Daniel 11:16-19*).
12. According to (*Daniel 9:25-26*). What is meant by, "Messiah be cut off; but not for himself?"
13. Who is the shadow or type of the little horn in the Book of Daniel
14. Explain (*Daniel 11:24*).
15. Write an essay on (*Luke 2:25-38*).
16. Compare the following Scriptures. (*Daniel 11:33; Matthew 24:1-2; Luke 21:20-24*)
17. Name as many signs of the time, leading up to the Rapture that you are able. Give Scripture if possible.
18. When will the Revival of the Roman Empire take place?
19. Explain (*Ephesians 3:9-11*); and (*Matthew 16:16*).

20. Name at least 20 things that takes place when one becomes a Christian.
21. Explain the Rapture of the saints of God. Scripture please.
22. Write five phases of the resurrection.
23. Explain (*Daniel 11:40-45*).
24. Explain (*Revelation 16:12*).
25. Write an Essay on, "The Great Tribulation". Use Scripture.
26. Write an essay on, "The Battle of Armageddon". Use Scripture.
27. According to (*Revelation 19:20*); what will happen to the beast and false prophet?
28. Give us some information concerning "The Bottomless Pit" with Scripture.
29. Explain (*Revelation 20:1-3*).
30. What will the kingdom age be like? According to the Scriptures.
31. What is God's purpose of the kingdom age of one thousand years, according to the Bible?
32. Explain according to the Scriptures, "The Great White Throne". (*Revelation 20:11-15*.)
33. What will those books contain, which will be opened at the Great White Throne.
34. Explain (*Daniel 7:9-10*).
35. In the final judgements upon this earth, who will be the final judge? Give Scripture proof.
36. Explain (*Revelation 20:1-3*).
37. Give some reasons for the kingdom of a thousand years before the eternal kingdom of God.
38. Why were the things of the end of the age sealed in the Book of Daniel?

39. Write an essay on, "The Stone That was Ignored". Give Scripture references. (*Daniel 2:44-45*).
40. Write an essay on, "The New Heavens and the New Earth". Give Scripture references as well.
41. What is our great expectation as Christians in these latter days? Give Scripture references with your answers.
42. After reading Revelation chapter 22, what are your thoughts about "The Eternal Paradise"
43. Name as many prophetic issues as possible, that were presented to Daniel.
44. Explain why there is a difference in the number of days recorded in (*Daniel 12:11-12*).
45. Explain the meaning of (*Daniel 12:10*).

GLOSSARY

1. **THE RAPTURE** of Old Testament and New Testament saints. (*1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-53; Hebrews 9:24-28; John 14:1-6; Revelation 4:1*) (The Old Testament saints must be raised with the New Testament saints in order to attend the Bridal wedding as friends of the Bridegroom.)
2. **THE GREAT TRIBULATION** - (*Daniel 9:24-27; 12:1; Isaiah 2:19; Isaiah 13:6-11; 14:12-14; 24:1,19-20; 34:2-4; 63:3-6; Jeremiah 25:32-33; Joel 2:1-2; Zephaniah 1:14-15; Matthew 24:7-22,32-34; 1 Thessalonians 5:2-3; Revelation 6-18*)
3. **THE HEAVENLY BATTLE** - Michael the arch angel and his army cast Satan and his demons down to earth. (*Revelation 9:1-21; 12:7-12; Isaiah 14:12-17*)
4. **THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION** - This begins when Satan and his demons are cast out of heaven to the earth in the middle of the Tribulation. (*Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15; Revelation 11:3-14;12:6; 13:4-8*)
5. **THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON** - Battle between Jesus and the armies of the Beast. (*Revelation 14:14-20; 16:16; Revelation 19:11-21; Revelation 14:14-20; Psalm 2:1-5,9; Isaiah 34:1-6; 63:3-6; Joel 3:2,9-16; Zechariah 12:2; 14:2-3,12*)
6. **THE BEAST AND FALSE PROPHET CAST ALIVE INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE.** - (*Revelation 19:20*)
7. **SATAN AND THE DEMONS WILL BE CAST INTO THE BOTTOMLESS PIT FOR ONE THOUSAND YEARS.** (*Revelation 2:1-3*)
8. **THE SHEEP ARE SEPARATED FROM THE GOATS IN PREPARATION OF THE KINGDOM AGE.** (*Matthew 25:31-46*)
9. **THE CLEANSING OF THE WORLD AND THE TEMPLE OF JERUSALEM.** (*Daniel 12:10-12*)
10. **THE MILLENNIUM** - The Kingdom of Righteousness for one thousand years. (*Isaiah 2:2-4; 25:18; 35:1,8,10; 65:20,25; Acts 3:21; Revelation 20:4-6*)
11. **SATAN'S FINAL BATTLE AGAINST GOD** - Battle for control of Jerusalem and the world at the end of the Millennium. (*Revelation 20:7-10*)

12. **THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGEMENT** - Jesus will judge all unbelievers who rejected His gift and rely on their own merits. (*Revelation 20:11-15*)
13. **THE DISSOLVING OF THE PRESENT HEAVEN AND EARTH** - Fire will burn up the present universe. (*Matthew 24:35; Hebrews 1:10-12; 2 Peter 3:3-12*)
14. **THE CREATION OF THE NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH.** - God created all things once and He will do it again. (*Isaiah 65:17; 66:22; 2 Peter 3:13-14; Revelation 21:1*)
15. **THE NEW PARADISE.** - There will be a new heaven, new earth and a new Jerusalem, all built by God. (*Revelation 22:1-5*)
16. **ETERNITY TO COME.** - "*But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.*" (*1 Corinthians 2:9-10*) (*Daniel 9:24; Ephesians 2:7*)

BENEDICTION

We conclude our brief study of the Book of Daniel with one desire, and that is to help each student of the Bible, not only to have knowledge of the Bible, but also to live an exemplary life, well pleasing to our soon coming Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Be a faithful steward unto the Lord doing your work as unto the Lord rather than for profit or the praises of men. Do your work as unto the Lord rather than to be seen of men and wait for their praise. God knows our every thought, word, and deed, and is a rewarder of those who diligently seek to do His will.

It is a pleasure and privilege of mine to hold forth God's Word, to those who are hungry to be fed the manna come down from heaven. I have been a Christian for more than 75 years and had dedicated my life to the Lord, after being called by God to go to Africa with the Gospel message. I heard the voice of God within my life and it has kept me in the service of the Lord, regardless of circumstances. I have experienced "discord among the brethren" which grieved me tremendously, BUT GOD, brought me through it all, praising His name. What ever amount of days that I have left in this life, I desire to devote to Almighty God. My wife Imogene and I have chosen Jeremiah 33:3 as our life verse.

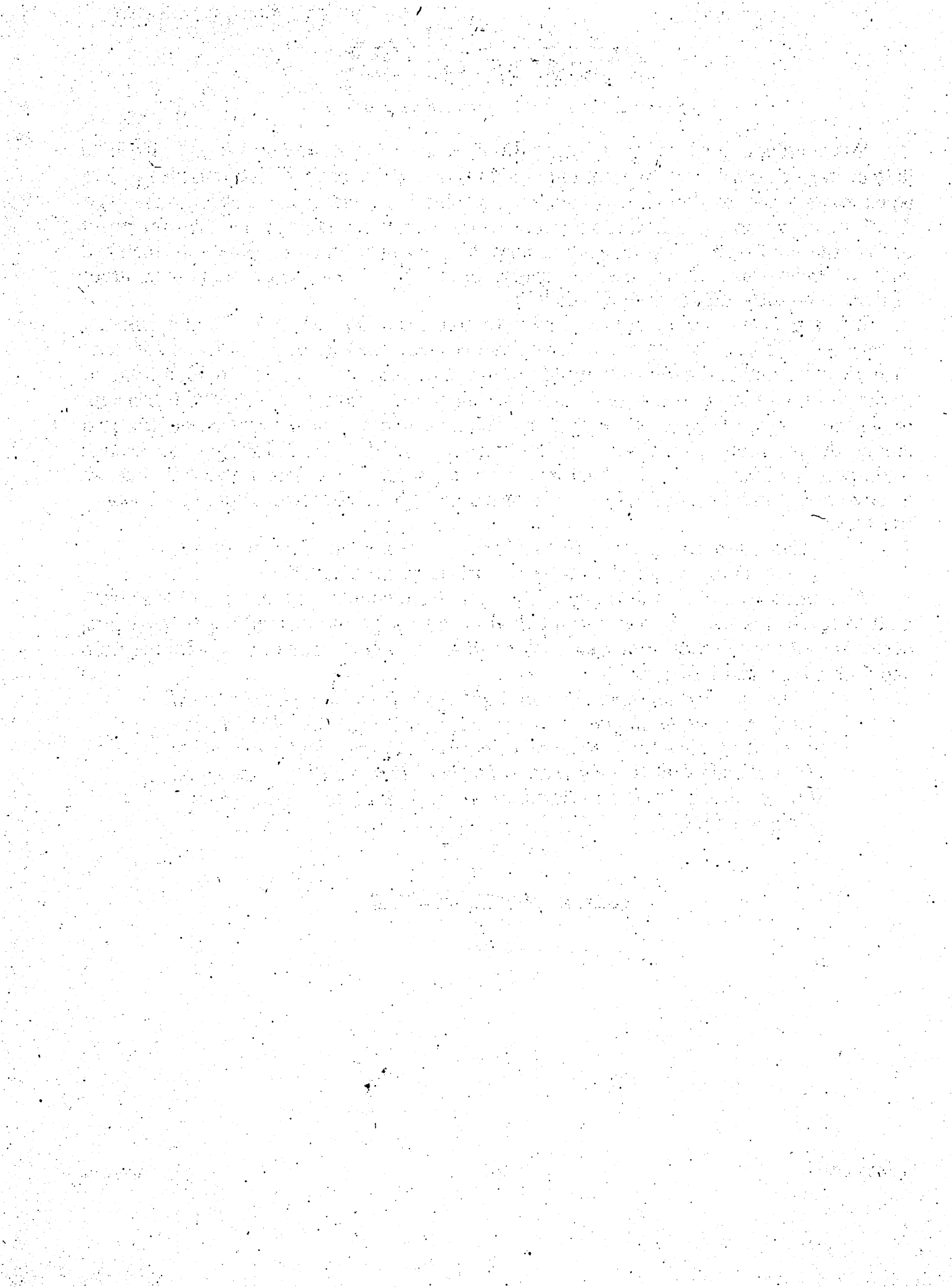
"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not." (Jeremiah 33:3)

As I bring to a close this study of Daniel, I have counted it a great privilege from God to teach this revelation to tens of thousands through the printed page. My hearts desire is to let my life tell for Jesus, looking forward to going home to be with the Lord and with the saints of all ages.

"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen." (Hebrews 13:20-21)

Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Losier

.....



In the beginning

Was the Word, and the Word was with GOD
and the Word was GOD
JOHN 1:1

Eternity Past

THE ABSOLUTE GOD
THE ABSOLUTE PLAN
DAN. 9:24

GOD - THE FATHER planned it,
JOHN 10:15-18 ; HEB. 10:36

GOD - THE SON provided it,
JOHN 10:17

GOD - THE HOLY SPIRIT proved it.
1 COR. 12:13

THE ABSOLUTE BLUEPRINT
to achieve a PERFECT
ETERNAL PARADISE-
FREE FROM EVIL
throughout Eternity to come,
based on the Word of GOD

GOD created the
Heaven and the
Earth
GEN. 1:1 ; PSALM 19:1

The creation of the Angels

and the realm of their habitation

LUCIFER (Highest Position) ISA. 14:12; EZEK. 28:12-5
MICHAEL (Arch Angel)
GABRIEL (Mighty Angel) well informed

CELESTIAL CREATURES
endowed with a choice

- CHERUBIM (Defenders)
- SERAPHIM (Worship)
- LIVING CREATURES
(Glorious Majesty)
- ANGELIC HOST
(Innumerable)

GEN. 1:3
Restored Earth
Six day creation

GARDEN
OF EDEN

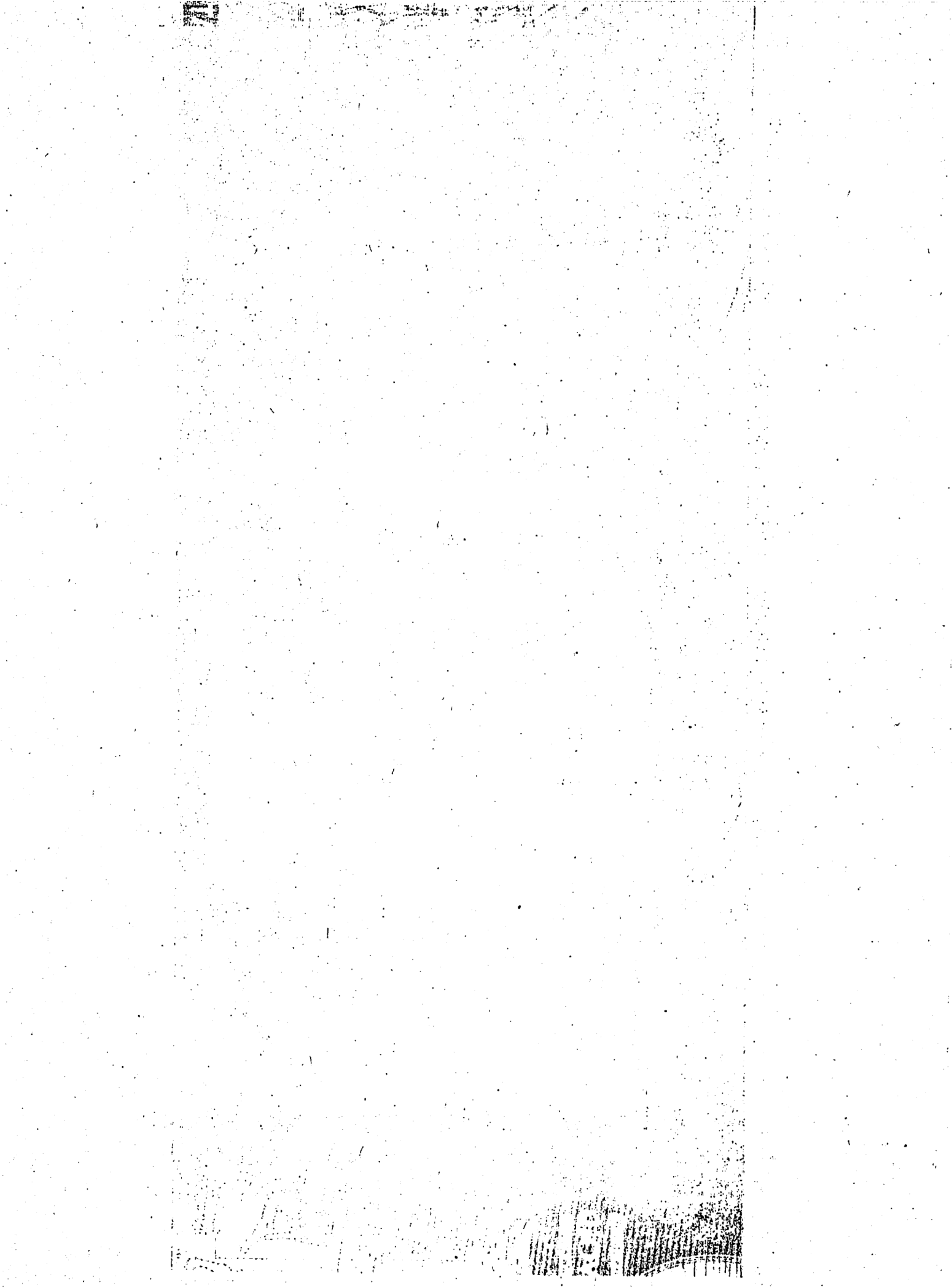


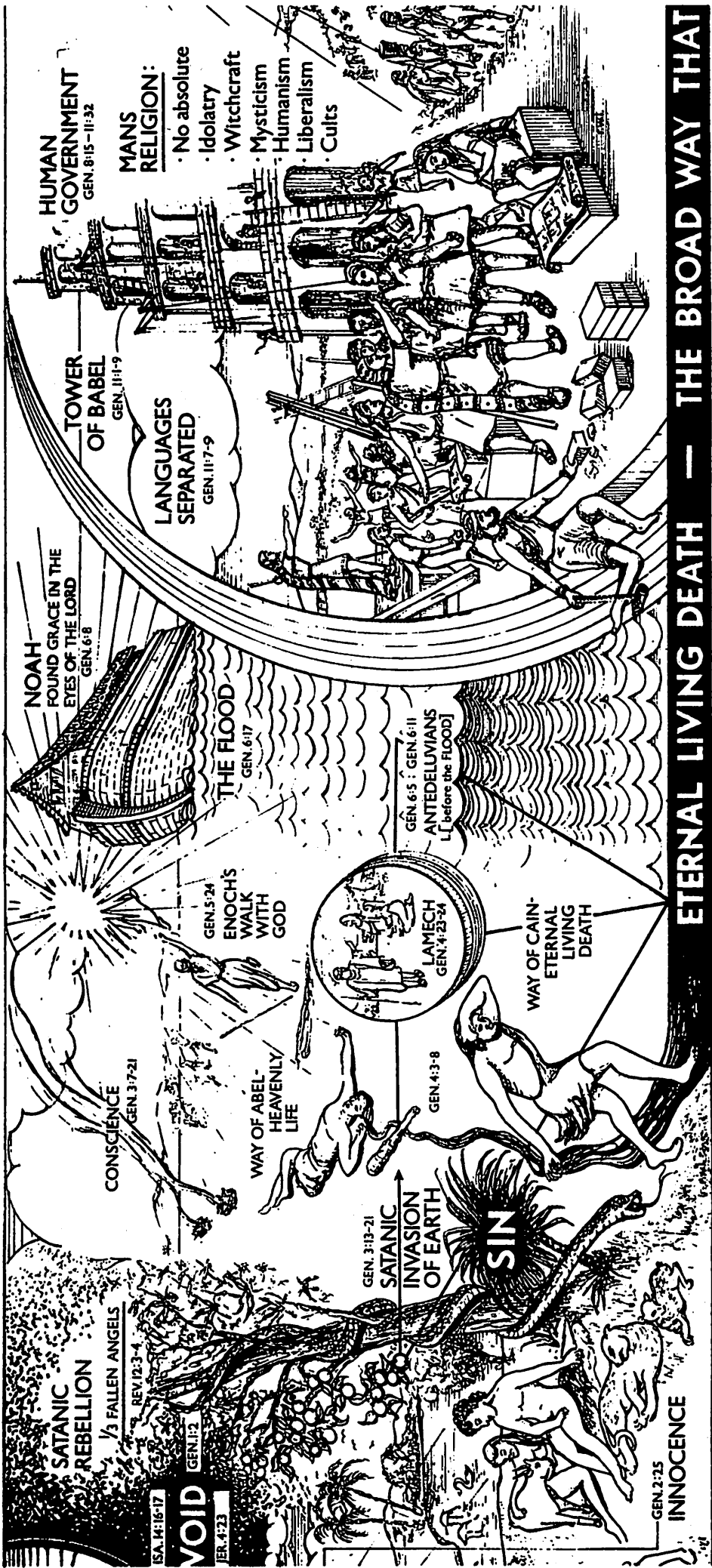
GOD'S PLAN OF ALL AGES
by REV. DR. ANDREW J. LOSIER
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The following pages have been perforated and printed on one side only for those who wish to remove the God's Plan of All Ages Chart and assemble it on a wall or into a scroll.

NOT TO BE SOLD





HUMAN GOVERNMENT
GEN. 8:15 - 11:32

MANS RELIGION:

- No absolute
- Idolatry
- Witchcraft
- Mysticism
- Humanism
- Liberalism
- Cults

TOWER OF BABEL
GEN. 11:1-9

LANGUAGES SEPARATED
GEN. 11:7-9

NOAH FOUND GRACE IN THE EYES OF THE LORD
GEN. 6:8

THE FLOOD
GEN. 6:17

GEN. 6:5 : GEN. 6:11 ANTEDELUVIANS
[before the FLOOD]

GEN. 5:24 ENOCHS WALK WITH GOD

LAMECH
GEN. 4:23-24

WAY OF CAIN- ETERNAL LIVING DEATH

CONSCIENCE
GEN. 3:7-21

WAY OF ABEL- HEAVENLY LIFE

GEN. 4:3-8

GEN. 3:13-21 SATANIC INVASION OF EARTH

SIN

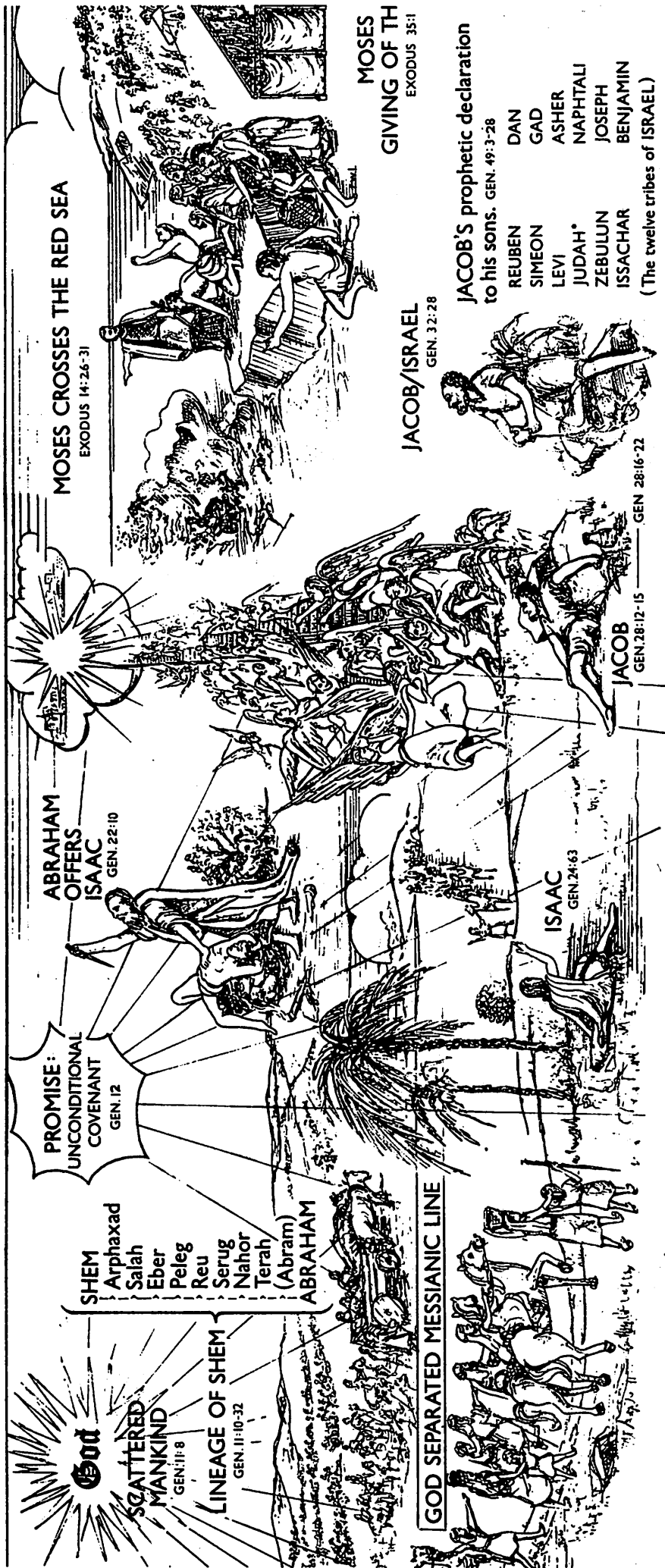
SATANIC REBELLION
1/3 FALLEN ANGELS
REV. 12:3-4

VOID
ISA. 1:16-17
JER. 4:23

GEN. 2:25 INNOCENCE

ETERNAL LIVING DEATH — THE BROAD WAY THAT





MOSES CROSSES THE RED SEA
EXODUS 14:26-31

ABRAHAM OFFERS ISAAC
GEN. 22:10

PROMISE: UNCONDITIONAL COVENANT
GEN. 12

- SHEM**
- Arphaxad
 - Salah
 - Eber
 - Peleg
 - Reu
 - Serug
 - Nahor
 - Terah
 - (Abram)
 - ABRAHAM**

SCATTERED MANKIND
GEN. 11:8

LINEAGE OF SHEM
GEN. 11:10-32

GOD SEPARATED MESSIANIC LINE

MOSES GIVING OF THE
EXODUS 35:1

JACOB/ISRAEL
GEN. 32:28



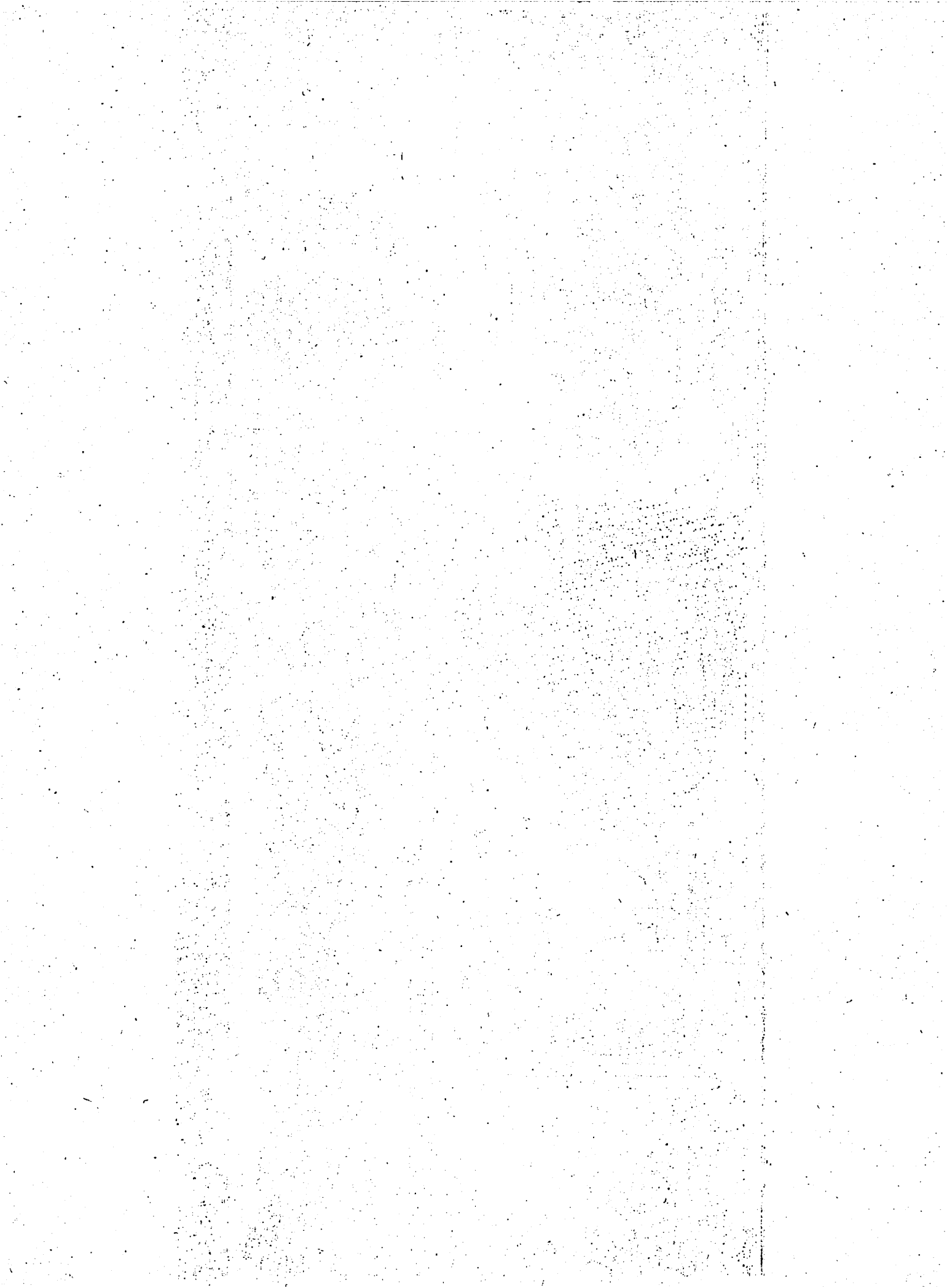
JACOB'S prophetic declaration to his sons. GEN. 49:3-28

- REUBEN
 - SIMEON
 - LEVI
 - JUDAH*
 - ZEBULUN
 - ISSACHAR
 - DAN
 - GAD
 - ASHER
 - NAPHTALI
 - JOSEPH
 - BENJAMIN
- (The twelve tribes of ISRAEL)

JACOB
GEN. 28:12-15

ISAAC
GEN. 24:63

LEADS TO DESTRUCTION GAL. 5:19-21; ADULTERY, FORNICATION, UNCLEANNESS



TABERNACLE OF THE WILDERNESS

HOLY OF HOLIES
ARK
OUTER SANCTUARY
CANDLESTICK
SHOWBREAD
LAYER
ALTER OF SACRIFICES

GOD'S SANCTUARY - ALL PORTABLE AS RECORDED IN EXODUS 35-40

DAVID INSTRUCTS SOLOMON - PERTAINING TO ERECTION OF THE TEMPLE

1st. CHRON. 28:11-19

E LAW

ELIJAH ASCENDING TO HEAVEN
2nd. KINGS 2:11-11

GOD SENDS PROPHETS DANIEL & EZEKIEL

SOLOMON'S TEMPLE
1st. KINGS 5-6

SOLOMON IN ALL HIS GLORY
2nd. CHRON. 9:1-28

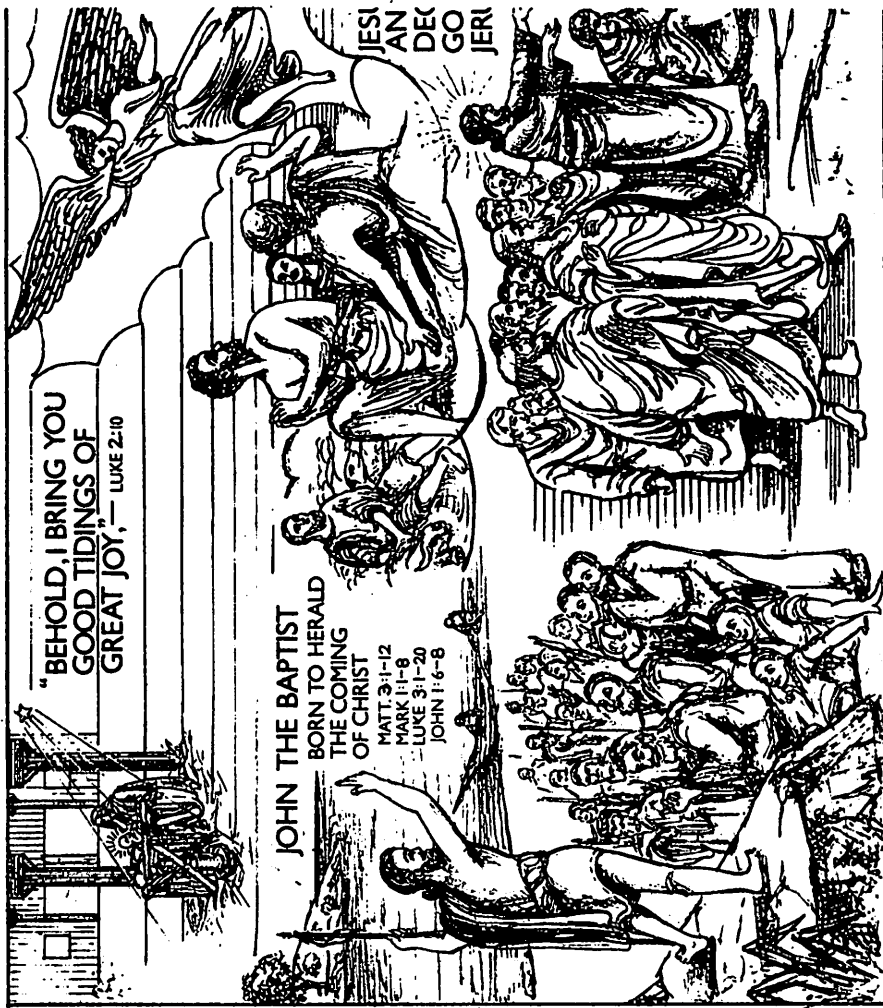
MESIANIC HOPE MAINTAINED - (VIA) JUDAH AND BENJAMIN... the 2 TRIBES EXILE

GEN. 49:22-27

FOR 70 YEARS

ESS, LASCIVIOUSNESS, IDOLATRY, SORCERY, HATRED, STRIFE, JEALOUSY,





"BEHOLD, I BRING YOU
GOOD TIDINGS OF
GREAT JOY," — LUKE 2:10

JOHN THE BAPTIST
BORN TO HERALD
THE COMING
OF CHRIST

MATT. 3:1-12
MARK. 1:1-8
LUKE. 3:1-20
JOHN. 1:6-8

JESI
AN
DEC
GO
JER!

NEBACHADNEZER'S DREAM
(THE FOUR GREAT KINGDOMS)
DAN. 2

DANIEL INTERPRETS IT.
DAN. 2

GOLD — BABYLONIAN EMPIRE
DAN. 7:4

SILVER — MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE
DAN. 7:5

BRASS — GRECIAN EMPIRE
Alexander's Kingdom - four div.
DAN. 8:8-12

IRON — ROMAN EMPIRE
THE FOURTH BEAST
DAN. 7:7-8

IRON & CLAY
REVIVAL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE
DAN. 2:34-35 & DAN. 2:45

LION
DAN. 7:4

BEAR
DAN. 7:5

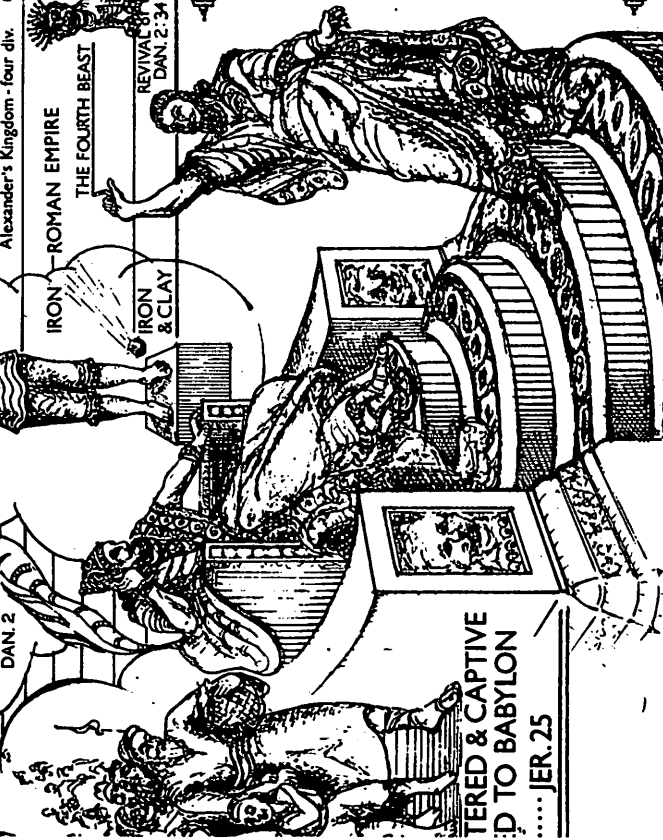
LEOPARD
DAN. 7:6

"dreadful and terrible, and exceedingly STRONG."
DAN. 7:7-8

DANIEL'S PRAYER

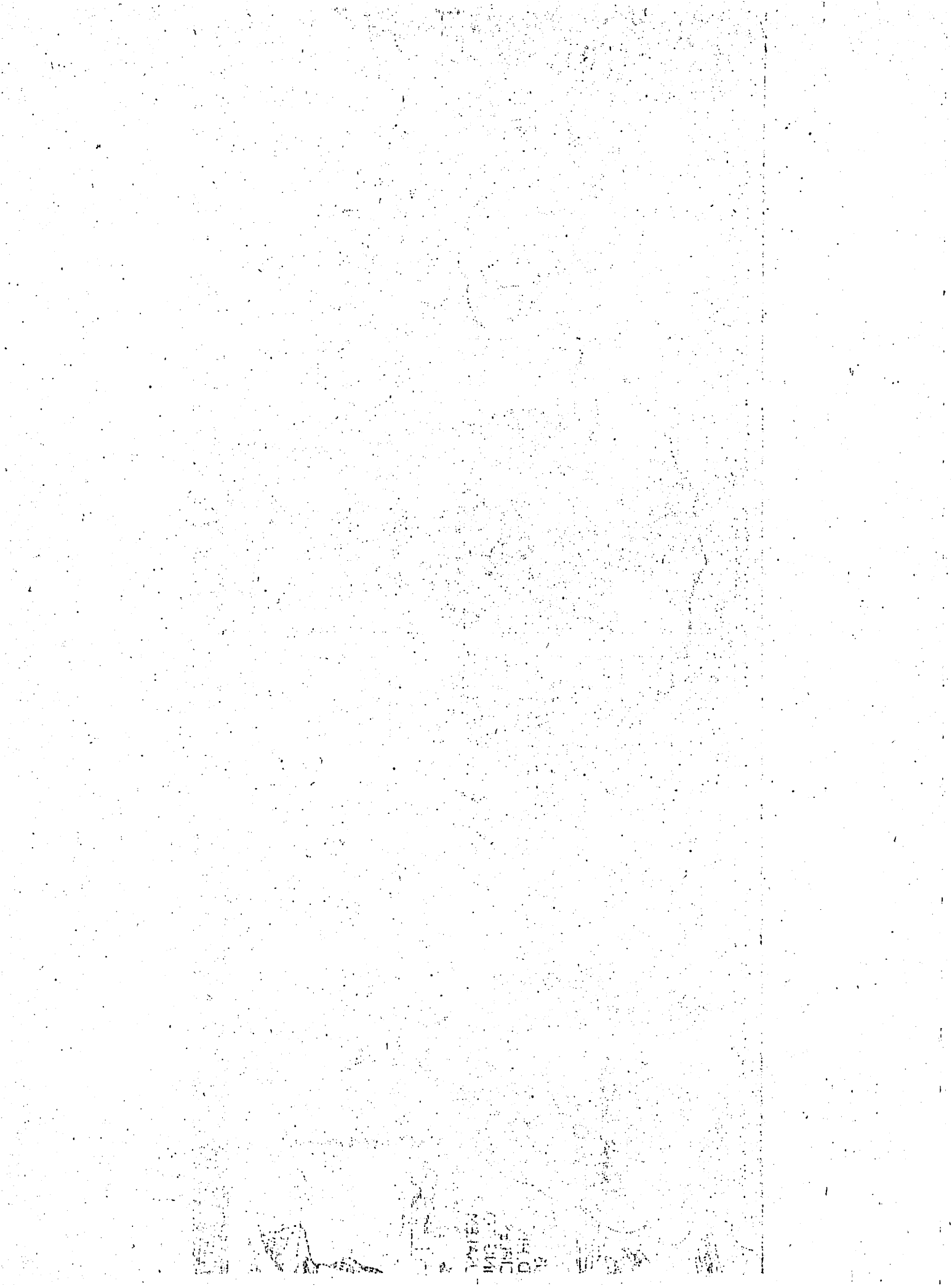
The seventy-
weeks foretold
to DANIEL
by GABRIEL
DAN. 9:21-26

CYRUS DECREES
483 YEARS UNTIL
MESSIAH
IS CUT OFF —
(CRUCIFIED)
FOR ALL OF THE
SINS OF THE
WHOLE
WORLD



**TERED & CAPTIVE
D TO BABYLON**
..... JER. 25

WRATH, FACTIONS, SEDITIONS, HERESIES, ENVYINGS, MURDERS, ETC. T



DATE: 10/10/2001
TIME: 10:10:10

THE LAMB OF GOD SACRIFICED

"CHRIST DIED FOR US" ROM 5:8-10 40 DAYS

HE REJECTION OF CHRIST AS THE ETERNAL SON OF GOD

MARK 10:32-34



JOEL 2:28

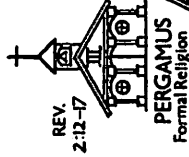
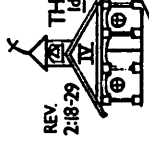
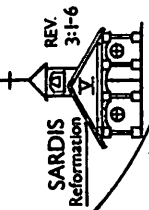
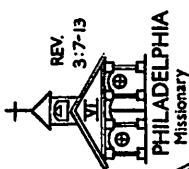
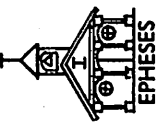
ASCENSION ACTS 1:8-9

ACTS 2:1-12 THE DAY OF PENTECOST

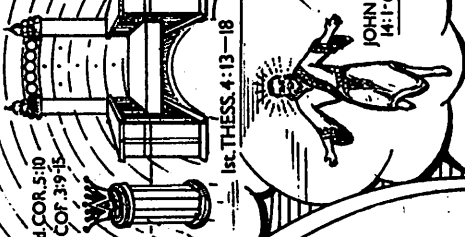
CHRIST IN GLORY

THE AGE OF GRACE

THE CHURCH AGE FROM PENTECOST TO RAPTURE OF BELIEVERS



JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST



1st. THESS. 4:13-18

JOHN 14:1-6

THE RAPTURE MEETING IN THE AIR



JOHN 3:16

SATAN DRIVEN OUT OF HEAVEN BY MICHAEL AND HIS ARMY (3 1/2 yrs.) JACOBS

THE KEY TO SATAN REV. 9:1-21

REV. 5:1-14



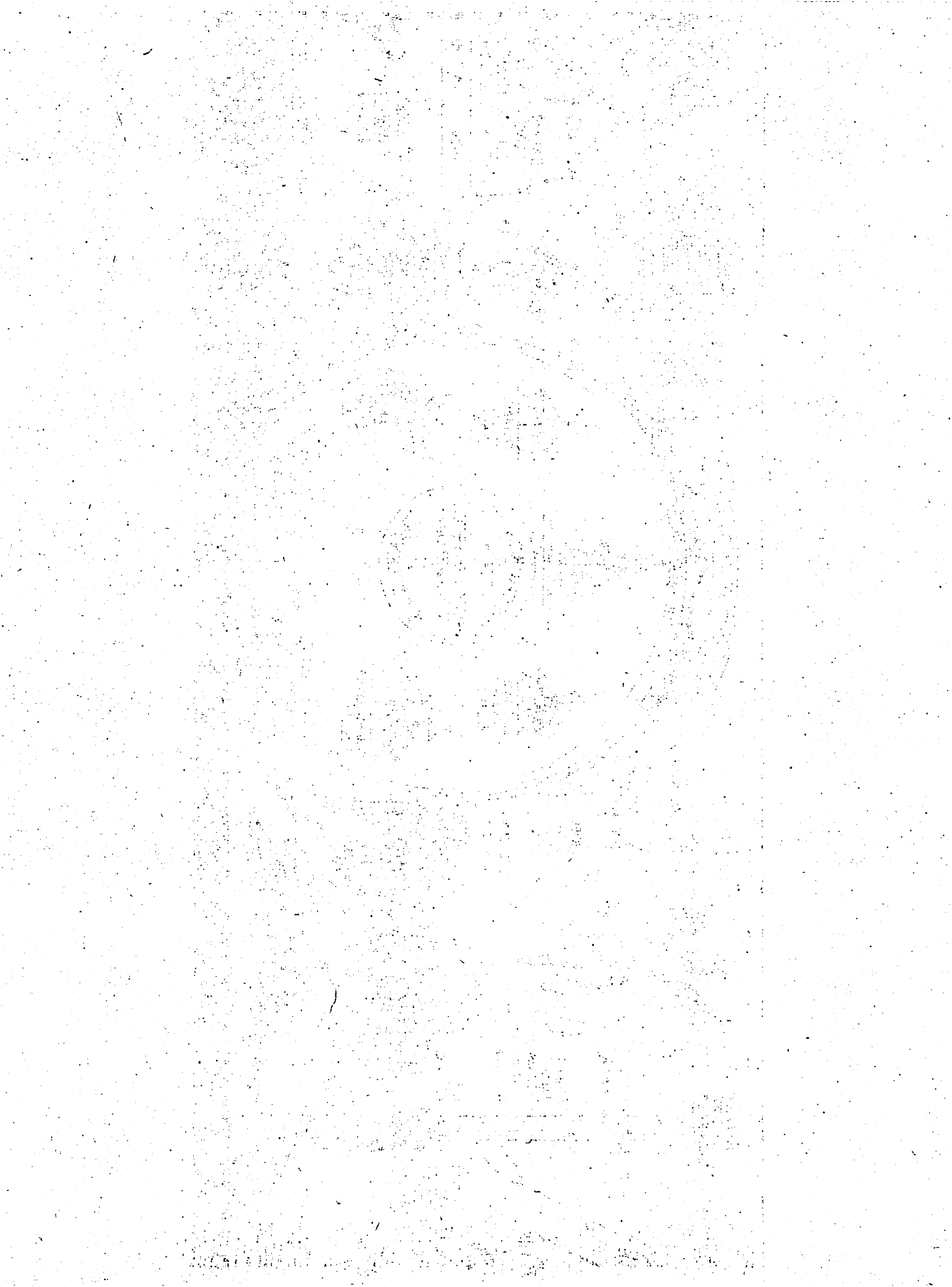
REV. 9:7

REV. 12:7-17



(3 1/2 yrs.) JACOBS

THE REJECTION OF CHRIST AS THE ETERNAL SON OF GOD



MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB OF GOD
REV. 19:7
THE MARRIAGE SUPPER
REV. 19:17

ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION
MATT. 24:15

MYSTERY BABYLON
REV. 17:1-18
REV. 18:1-24

TROUBLE (3 1/2 yrs.)

THE GREAT TRIBULATION
(70th - Seven)
OF DANIEL
9:24
9:26,27

THE BEAST & FALSE PROPHET
REV. 19:20

CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE
REV. 19:20

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST RETURNS TO REIGN OVER HIS (RIGHTEOUS) KINGDOM ON EARTH
1st. THESS. 3:13 : REV. 11:15
REV. 19:11-21: ISAIAH 40:10

HEAVENLY RIGHTEOUSNESS COMING DOWN UPON THE EARTH
"Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done ON EARTH; as it is in HEAVEN"
MATT. 6:10

1000 YEAR KINGDOM OF RIGHTEOUSNESS ESTABLISHED
REV. 20:6

NATURE RESTORED
ISAIAH 11:6-9

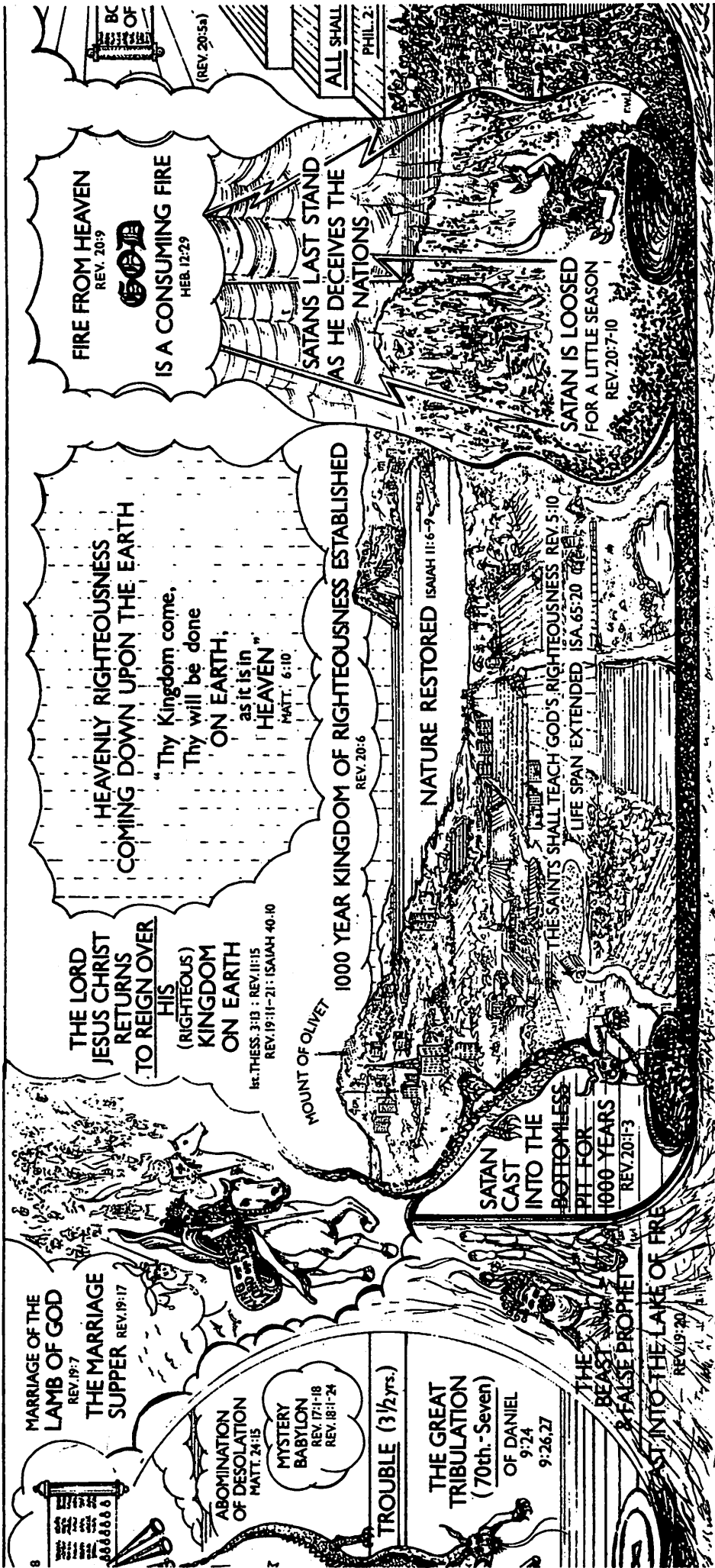
THE SAINTS SHALL TEACH GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS
REV. 5:10
LIFE SPAN EXTENDED
ISA. 65:20

FIRE FROM HEAVEN
REV. 20:9
IS A CONSUMING FIRE
HEB. 12:29

SATANS LAST STAND AS HE DECEIVES THE NATIONS

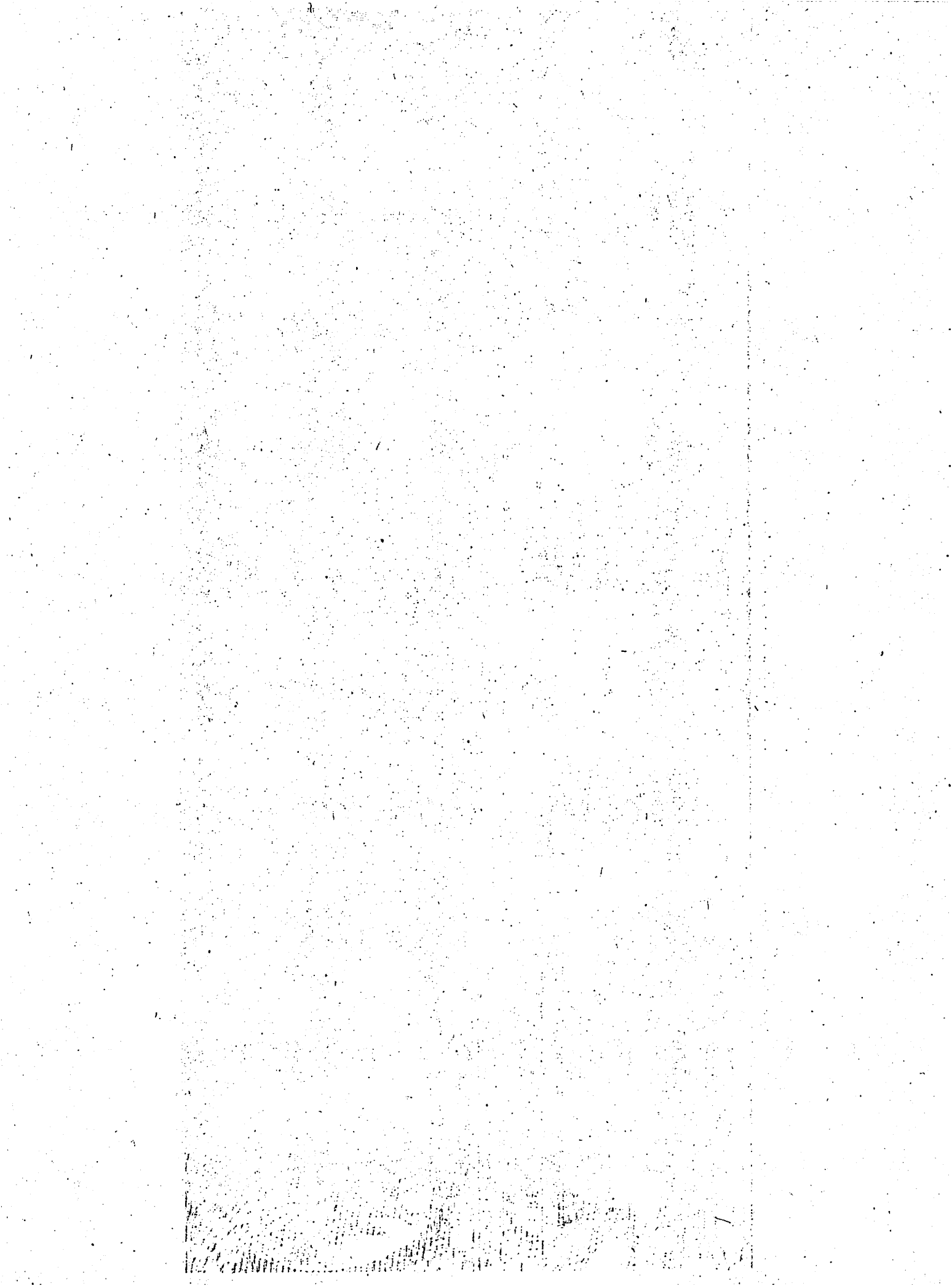
SATAN IS LOOSED FOR A LITTLE SEASON
REV. 20:7-10

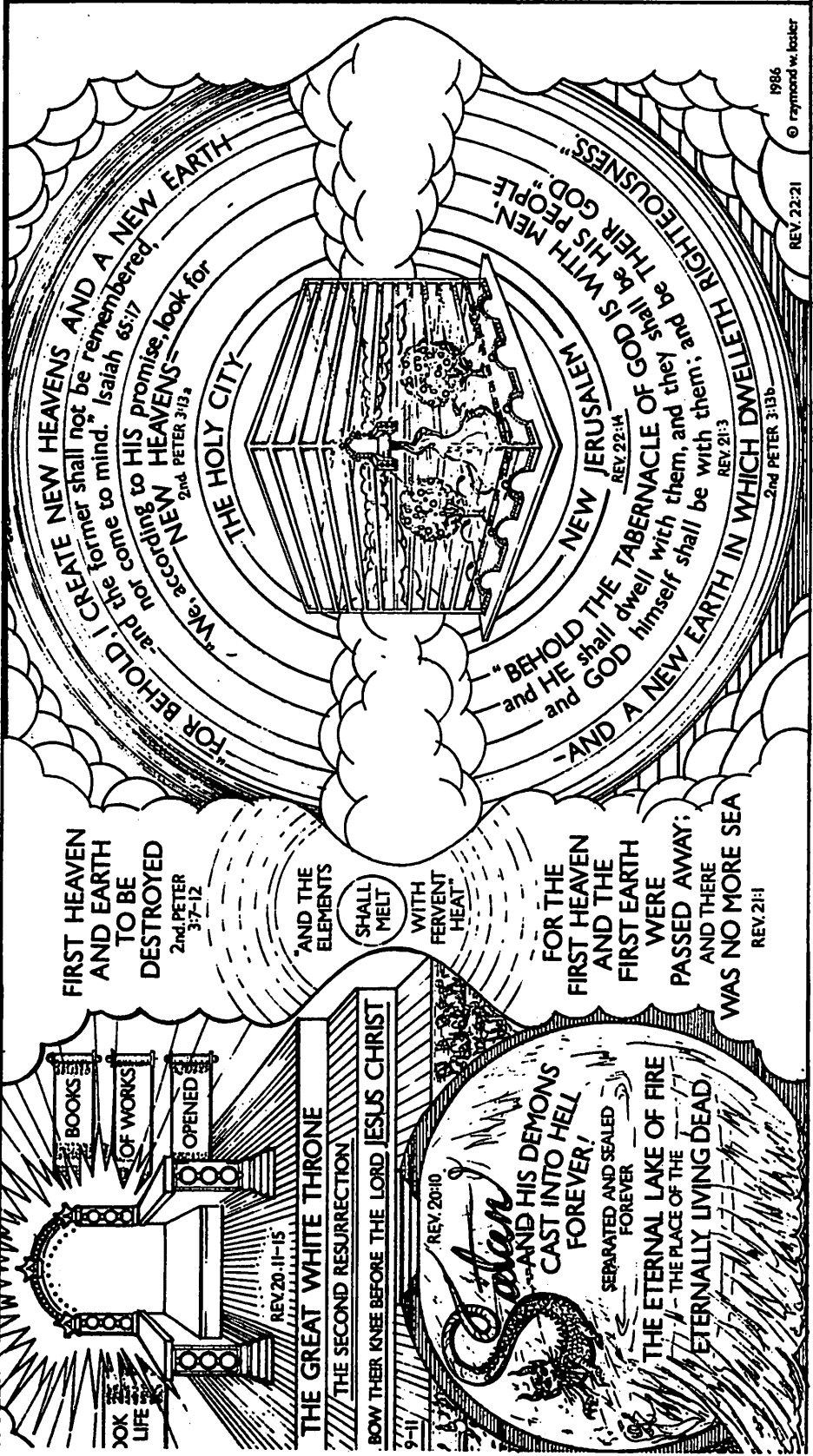
SATAN CAST INTO THE BOTTOMLESS PIT FOR 1000 YEARS
REV. 20:1-3



BC OF (REV. 20:5a)

ALL SHALL PHIL. 2:





FOR BEHOLD, I CREATE NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH
and the former shall not be remembered,
nor come to mind. Isaiah 65:17
We, according to HIS promise, look for
NEW HEAVENS
2nd PETER 3:13,2
THE HOLY CITY
NEW JERUSALEM

BEHOLD THE TABERNACLE OF GOD IS WITH MEN
and HE shall dwell with them, and they shall be HIS PEOPLE
and GOD himself shall be with them; and be THEIR GOD.
REV. 22:14
REV. 21:3
AND A NEW EARTH IN WHICH DWELLETH RIGHTEOUSNESS.
2nd PETER 3:13b
REV. 22:21
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FIRST HEAVEN
AND EARTH
TO BE
DESTROYED
2nd PETER
3:7-12

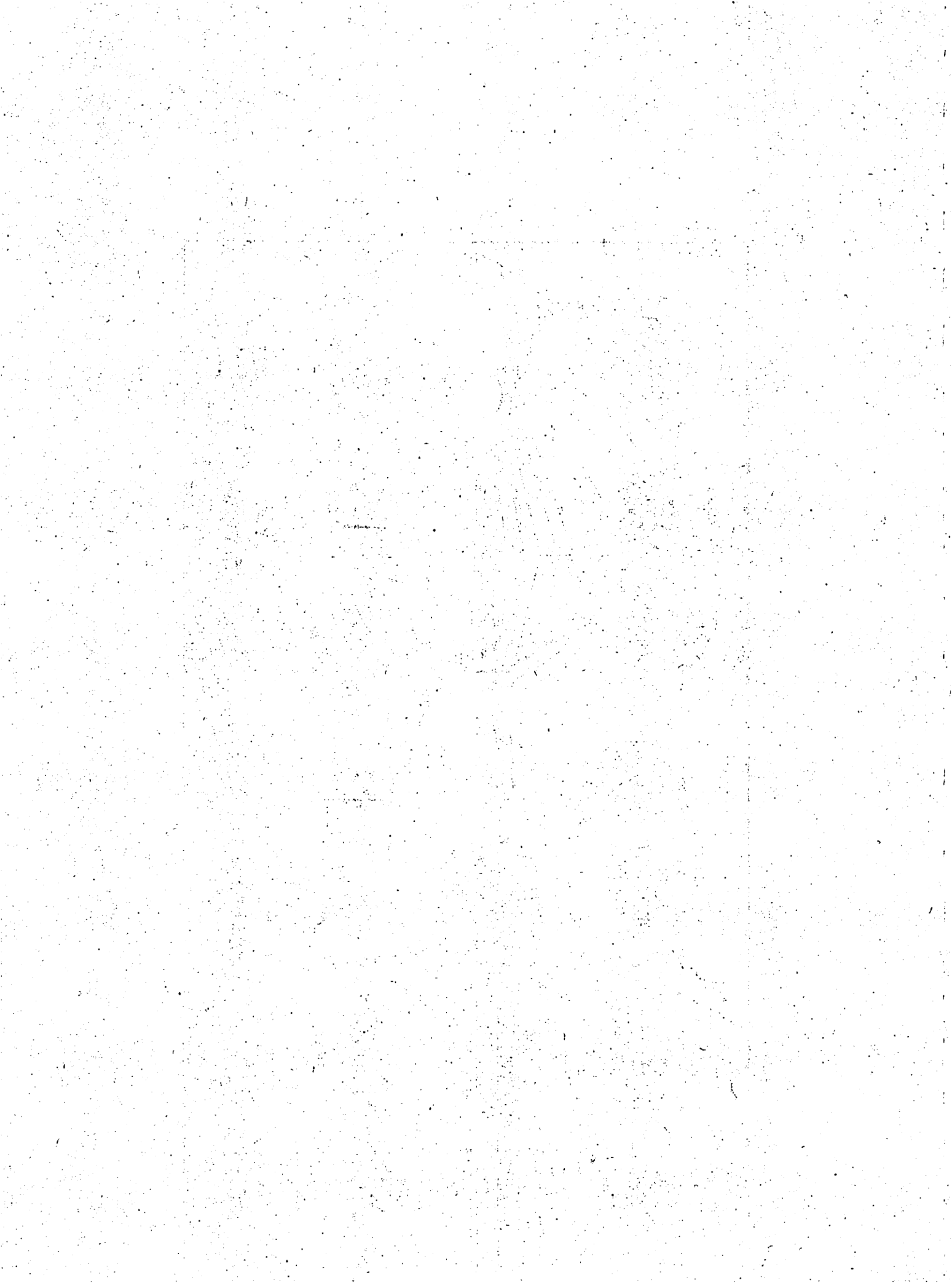
AND THE
ELEMENTS
SHALL
MELT
WITH
FERVENT
HEAT

FOR THE
FIRST HEAVEN
AND THE
FIRST EARTH
WERE
PASSED AWAY;
AND THERE
WAS NO MORE SEA
REV. 21:1

BOOKS
OF WORKS
OPENED
REV. 20:11-15
THE GREAT WHITE THRONE
THE SECOND RESURRECTION
BOW THEIR KNEE BEFORE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST
9-11
BOOK
LIFE

REV. 20:10
AND HIS DEMONS
CAST INTO HELL
FOREVER!
SEPARATED AND SEALED
FOREVER
THE ETERNAL LAKE OF FIRE
THE PLACE OF THE
ETERNALLY LIVING DEAD,
REV. 21:1

REV. 20:10
AND HIS DEMONS
CAST INTO HELL
FOREVER!
SEPARATED AND SEALED
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THE ETERNAL LAKE OF FIRE
THE PLACE OF THE
ETERNALLY LIVING DEAD,
REV. 21:1



Publications

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Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Losier

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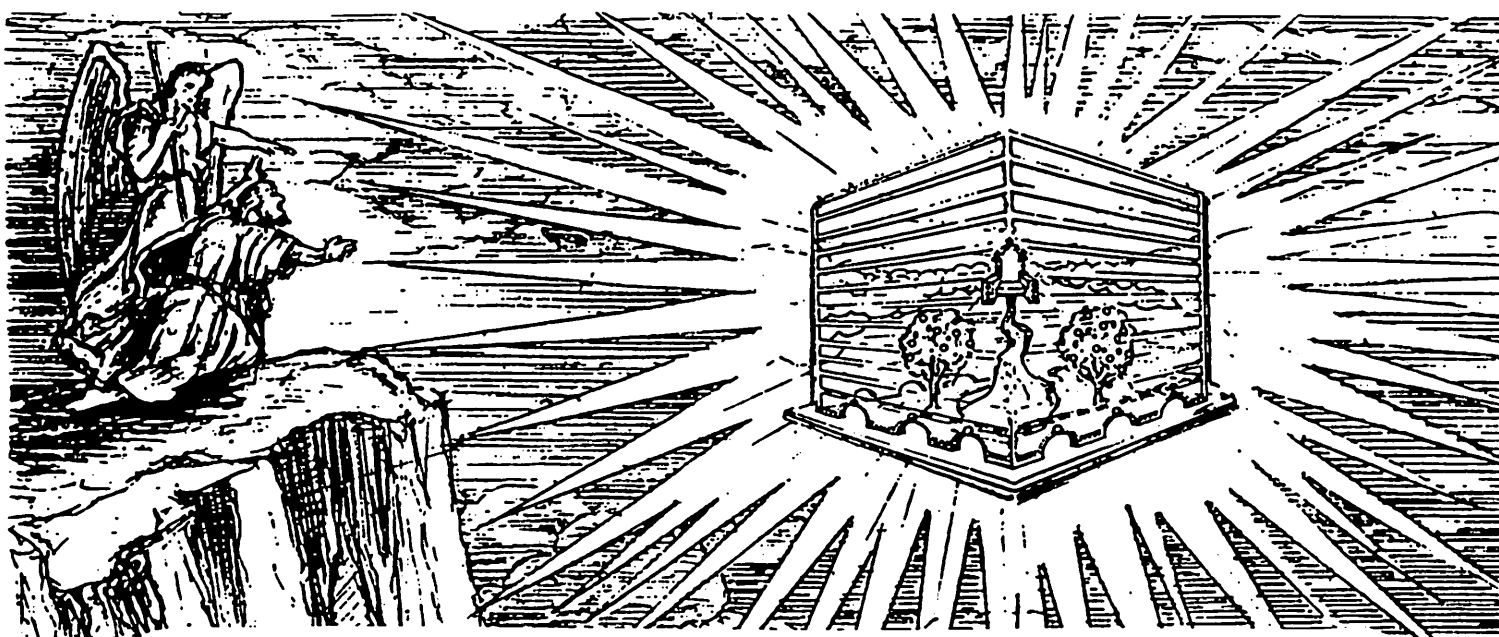
The Cross of Christ

The Holy Spirit

The Glory of God

Treasure Chest of Eternal Gems

What Does the Future Hold?



"And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain and showed me that great city, the Holy Jerusalem, descending out of Heaven from GOD" – Revelation 21 : 10

Author: Rev., Dr. Andrew J. Losier

Missionary in Africa since 1938, established the first of the Christian Literature and Bible Centers in Kenya, East Africa in 1952. Since then, over a billion pieces of FREE CHRISTIAN LITERATURE have been distributed throughout Africa in approximately 50 different languages. The overwhelming response of African Christian leaders to the WORD OF GOD, inspired Rev., Dr. Andrew J. Losier to write this book.

JESUS said "I am ALPHA and OMEGA"

Revelation 1:8

