

Onething 2008 Teaching Notes

Book of Revelation: Forerunners Preparing the Bride

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The Coming Eschatological Revolution

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. **Eschatological**: means pertaining to the End Times
- B. **The coming eschatological revolution** will be the most comprehensive revolution in human history and will involve the unique dynamics of the end of the age. This revolution will include Jesus coming back to earth to replace all the leadership on the earth that aligns with darkness.
- ¹⁵ ***The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" (Rev. 11:15)***
- ¹⁹ ***I saw the Beast (Antichrist), the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered to make war against Him (Jesus)...²⁰ The Beast was captured, and with him the False Prophet...these two were cast alive into the lake of fire...²¹ The rest were killed with the sword...^{20:1} Then I saw an angel...² He laid hold of...the Devil and bound him for 1000 years; ³ and he cast him into the bottomless pit...⁴ I saw thrones, and they (the saints) sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus...and they lived and reigned with Christ for 1000 years... (Rev. 19:19-20:1-4)***
- ²⁵ ***He (Antichrist) shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High...²⁷ Then the...greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. (Dan. 7:25-27)***
- C. The Church in the generation in which Jesus returns will actively participate in this revolution.
- ¹⁰ ***The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night...¹¹ Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God... (2 Pet. 3:10-12)***
- D. My premise: many people alive today will see this revolution in their lifetime. Thus, they are called by Jesus to actively participate in this revolution in a personal and dynamic way. Scripture outlines what is involved in preparing the Bride. She must be prepared in an intentional way.
- ⁷ ***For the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. (Rev. 19:7)***
- E. We need to be focused on what to do now in practical ways to be prepared for this. This is our forerunner call to action. There are specific actions that must be taken now by forerunners. The next few decades will involve a unique preparation for a unique transition of human history.
- F. First, we must clearly see the “big picture” concerning this dramatic change to the earth. Next, we must understand what the role of the Church is in this coming eschatological revolution.
- ²⁰ ***The anger of the Lord will not turn back until He has executed and performed the thoughts of His heart (Great Tribulation). In the latter days you will understand it perfectly. (Jer. 23:20)***

- G. We must prepare ourselves to prepare others to prepare the nations for the greatest transition in history. In the time of this coming storm, being prepared is all about loving Jesus and people.
- ³ *The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God...5 The glory of the LORD shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together (at Jesus' Second Coming)... (Isa. 40:3-5)*
- ⁷ *By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household... (Heb. 11:7)*
- H. Important to Jesus' End-Time purposes are forerunners who are called to be faithful witnesses of the truth. They will overthrow nations by prophesying, praying and doing acts of kindness.
- ⁷ *The Lord said to me: "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. 8 Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you..." 9 The LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and said to me: "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. 10 I have this day set you over the nations...to root out and to pull down, to destroy and to throw down, to build and to plant." (Jer. 1:7-10)*

II. UNDERSTANDING A TRANSITIONAL GENERATION

- A. We must understand the implications of a transitional generation. First, it is a time in which the majority of God's people witness the power of God on a regular basis. The measure of revelation and power that God releases increases dramatically. In other words, there is much more in God to believe for and to contend for in the generation the Lord returns. Second, the way God relates to His people on earth dramatically changes. There are 3 transitional generations in history.
- B. First, the generation of Moses: God established the Old Covenant
- C. Second, the generation of the apostles: God established the New Covenant
- D. Third, the generation in which Jesus returns: Jesus establishes the Millennial Kingdom

III. BOOK OF REVELATION: JESUS' END-TIME BATTLE PLAN FOR THE CHURCH

- A. Jesus gave us the big picture in the Book of Revelation so we would know it and engage in it. The overcoming Church in the Book of Revelation is described as a praying Church.
- B. The Book of Revelation reveals the glory of Jesus (Rev. 1:1) and His specific plan to transition the earth to the age-to-come. There will be *unique dynamics* in the generation Jesus returns that are absolutely necessary in preparing the nations for His return. These events require our deep involvement. Jesus gives us *strategic information* that is essential in equipping His Church to fully participate.

- C. The theme of Revelation is Jesus' return to earth to rule all the nations. His plan to physically destroy all the evil governments on earth is by releasing His judgments on them (Rev. 6-19).
- D. As the Book of Acts describes the power of the Holy Spirit that was released through the early Church so the Book of Revelation describes the power of the Holy Spirit that will be released through the end-time Church. I refer to Revelation as the "***End-Time Book of Acts***". It is a "***canonized prayer manual***" that informs us of the ways in which Jesus will manifest His power.
- E. As Moses released God's judgments on Pharaoh by prayer (Exod 7-12), so the Church will release the Great Tribulation judgments on the Antichrist by prayer. The miracles and judgments in Exodus and Acts will be multiplied and released worldwide through prayer. The greatest demonstrations of power in history will be openly manifest by Jesus and Satan (Rev. 12:9; 13:2).
¹⁸ I will build My Church, and the gates of Hades (authority of hell) shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. (Mt. 16:18-19)
- F. These judgment events do not happen *to us* as helpless victims of Satan, but they are released *through us* as participants with Jesus. Jesus' judgments are released to remove all that hinders love. The main focus in the Book of Revelation is God's judgment against the Antichrist's empire. The secondary theme is tribulation against the saints from the Antichrist.

IV. THE WITNESS OF THE GOSPEL OF KINGDOM: FOUR PURPOSES

¹⁴ This gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. (Mt. 24:14)

- A. The end-time forerunner ministry will function as an "accelerant" in the grace of God to bring the fullness of what is in human hearts to come to the surface in "deeds". This is necessary before Jesus releases the fullness of His justice (salvation) or judgment.
Accelerant: a substance used as a catalyst to spread a fire that is intentionally set
- B. **Personal salvation**: offers the glorious good news of Jesus to all who will freely receive it
- C. **Eschatological intercession**: Jesus comes in answer to the beckoning of a covenant invitation from His people in each nation. God gave the dominion of the nations to man. Jesus honors this.
²⁶ Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion...over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth... (Gen. 1:26)
¹⁶ The heavens...are the Lord's...the earth He has given to the children of men. (Ps. 115:16)
¹¹ He spoke another parable...because they thought the Kingdom of God would appear immediately. 12 Therefore He said: "A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for

himself a kingdom and to return...¹⁴ But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We will not have this man to reign over us'... (Lk. 19:11-14)

³⁹ You shall see Me no more till you say, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Mt. 23:39)

- D. **Prophetic warning**: Jesus does everything in perfect justice even in His judgment of the wicked.
⁷ Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His...prophets. (Amos 3:7)

³ When he (the watchman) sees the sword coming upon the land, if he blows the trumpet and warns the people, ⁴ then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning...his blood shall be on his own head...⁵ But he who takes warning will save his life. ⁶ But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any person from among them...his blood I will require at the watchman's hand. ⁷ Son of man, I have made you a watchman (forerunner)...therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me. ⁸ When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you shall surely die!' and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ Nevertheless if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul. (Ezek. 33:3-9)

- E. **Judicial hardening**: before God releases the fullness of wrath, the fullness of man's sin must come to the surface. The accelerant is the forerunner ministry proclaiming the truth.

¹⁴ Thanks be to God who...through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. ¹⁵ For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. ¹⁶ To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things? (2 Cor. 2:14-16)

¹³ He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs...they will afflict them 400 years...¹⁶ But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete." (Gen. 15:13-16)

- F. Prophetic preaching causes the light to shine and the guilt and hardness to increase.

¹⁹ This is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ Everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹ He who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God. (Jn. 3:19-21)

- G. Jesus will remove evil and oppression with perfect love and justice.

² Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints...⁴ For Your judgments have been manifested. (Rev 15:2-4)

² For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth...and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants... (Rev. 19:2)

- H. Jesus is the faithful witness who stood firm on speaking the truth. He understands the challenge.
⁵ *From Jesus Christ the faithful witness... (Rev. 1:5)*
- I. In describing his calling, John emphasized the need to give witness to the truth (Rev 1:2, 9). The end-time martyrs were faithful witnesses of the truth (Rev. 6:9; 12:11, 17; 19:10; 20:4)
² *John bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus, to all things that he saw...⁹ John...was on Patmos for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus... (Rev 1:2-9)*
¹⁰ *For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. (Rev. 19:10)*
³ *My two witnesses...will prophesy 1,260 days...⁷ Now when they finish their testimony, the Beast (Antichrist)...will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. (Rev. 11:3, 7)*
¹¹ *They overcame him (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death...¹⁷ The dragon...went to make war with... (those) who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus... (Rev. 12:11, 17)*
¹¹ *You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings." (Rev. 10:11)*
- J. Forerunners are “messengers” who function with a specific message in different spheres of life. For example, they are preachers, evangelists, artists (singers, musicians, actors, etc.), writers (internet), media, marketplace or intercessors as well as those who disciple people one-on-one in the church, marketplace, campus, or home (moms are some of the most important forerunners).
- K. We must be prepared in our understanding of Jesus’ judgments so that we:
1. **May not be offended at them:** so we trust His leadership instead of being angry at it
 2. **May release them:** by global united prayers of faith
 3. **May faithfully witness to them:** to tell the truth for Jesus’ glory and man’s good. Regardless if they receive it or not, witness must be given for the sake of justice.
- L. Our witness of the truth must be:
1. **Clear:** without too many qualifiers
 2. **Bold:** courageous and without the spirit of the fear of man
 3. **Tender:** motivated by love so as to give everyone the greatest chance to receive it
 4. **Humble:** so that Jesus’ glory and salvation may go forth (not for our ministry agendas)

- M. The Bride must be prepared in gifts (power), fruit (character) and wisdom (understanding). We must intentionally seek to be prepared in the following three ways.
- ⁷ ***For the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. (Rev. 19:7)***
1. **Power:** preparation of our ministry to move in the power of the Holy Spirit by prayer.
 2. **Character:** preparation of our heart in intimacy based on the values of the Sermon on the Mount. We cannot release that which we do not live in agreement with in our private life.
 3. **Understanding:** preparation of our mind so we engage in Jesus' action plan without being offended, fearful, confused or passively neglectful. We must understand Jesus as the Bridegroom, King and Judge who is releasing power to confront the Antichrist's empire and to release the Great Harvest.
- N. The revelation of Jesus as a Bridegroom is an essential component of the forerunner ministry
- Tender:** confidence in God's love even in our weakness
- Delight:** exhilarated by God's emotions of affection, joy and gladness
- Jealousy:** spirit of abandonment (First Commandment) releasing Jesus' zealous judgments
- Fascination:** God's wisdom (plans) to establish love and justice in partnership with us

V. ONE GENERATION WILL KEEP THE PROPHECY

- ³ ***Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near. (Rev. 1:3)***
- ⁷ ***I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book...9. I (angel) am your fellow servant...and of those who keep the words of this book. (Rev. 22:7-9)***
- A. The 2-fold "keeping" of this Book is by engaging in the battle plan and preserving it in obedience even unto death. There is one generation will have the mandate to hasten the Day of the Lord by engaging in the uniqueness of the eschatological battle plan as faithful witnesses. There is one generation of believers who will keep the Book of Revelation. It is the generation that intentionally prepares as His Bride to make herself ready.
- ⁷ ***Shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night...8 Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith (agreement) on the earth? (Lk. 18:7-8)***
- B. There is only one generation that is prepared to follow through on keeping the Book by having the character, skilful insight and anointing in prayer to release its contents. Only one generation rises up to challenge to keep the Book. They fast food in order to eat the scroll (Rev. 10).
- C. In May 7, 1997, the Lord spoke to me about believing Him to raise up 10,000 forerunner who live in the spirit of John the Baptist as friends of the Bridegroom. (Jn 3:29)

Overview of the Book of Revelation

I. THE BOOK OF REVELATION: JESUS' END-TIME BATTLE PLAN FOR THE CHURCH

- A. The Book of Revelation reveals the glory of Jesus (Rev. 1:1) and His specific plan to transition the earth to the age-to-come. These events require our deep involvement.
- B. There are 4 parts in the structure of Revelation. The 4th part has 5 chronological sections in which the events occur in sequential order. There are 7 main symbols in the Book.
- C. The main theme of Revelation is Jesus' return to earth to rule all the nations. Evil governments will resist this. His End-Time battle plan is to physically destroy all the evil governments on earth by releasing His judgments on them during the Great Tribulation as described in Rev. 6-19.
- D. As the Book of Acts describes the power of the Holy Spirit that was released through the early Church, so the Book of Revelation describes the power of the Holy Spirit that will be released through the End-Time Church. I refer to Revelation as the "**End-Time Book of Acts**". It is a "**canonized prayer manual**" that informs us of the ways in which Jesus will manifest His power.
- E. As Moses released God's judgments on Pharaoh by prayer (Exod 7-12), so the Church will release the Great Tribulation judgments on the Antichrist by prayer. The miracles and judgments in Exodus and Acts will be multiplied and released worldwide through prayer. The greatest demonstrations of power in history will be openly manifest by Jesus and Satan (Rev. 12:9; 13:2).
¹⁸ I will build My Church, and the gates of Hades (authority of hell) shall not prevail against it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. (Mt. 16:18-19)
- F. Revelation is Jesus' battle plan to allow the sin in man's heart to fully come to the surface and then to drive evil off the planet through the praying Church. These judgment events do not happen *to us* as helpless victims of Satan but are released *through us* as participants with Jesus. Jesus' judgments are released to remove all that hinders love. He is at *war* to have His *wedding*.
- G. The 7 main symbols: all events and numbers in Revelation are to be taken in their plain meaning (literal) unless specifically indicated not to (Rev. 1:20; 5:6; 11:8; 12:1, 3, 9; 17:7, 9, 15-18, etc.)
 - 1) **Dragon**: is symbolic of Satan (Rev. 12:3, 4, 7, 9, 13, 16, 17; 13:2, 4; 16:13; 20:2)
 - 2) **First Beast**: is symbolic of the Antichrist (Rev. 13; 14:9-11; 17:3-17; 19:19-21; 20:4, 10)
 - 3) **Another Beast**: is symbolic of the False Prophet called "another Beast" just once (Rev. 13:11)
 - 4) **Seven Heads**: are 7 empires from history that persecuted Israel (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, revived Roman Empire of Dan. 2:41-42; 7:7; Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3-16)
 - 5) **Ten Horns**: represents a 10-nation confederation that serves the Antichrist (Rev. 17:12-13)
 - 6) **Harlot Babylon**: will be a worldwide demonically inspired religious and economic system based in the rebuilt city of Babylon, near Baghdad in Iraq (Rev. 17-18; Jer. 50-51)
 - 7) **Woman with a Male-child (Jesus)**: is the faithful remnant of Israel through history (Rev. 12)

II. STRUCTURE OF REVELATION: 4 PARTS AND 5 SECTIONS (IN THE 4TH PART)

Rev. 1 **Pt. 1 John's CALLING to prophesy about the End-Times:** John gave 18 truths about Jesus' majesty that formed the way he prophesied about the End-Times, which are meant to equip us.

Rev. 2-3 **Pt. 2 Jesus gave 7 LETTERS to 7 churches:** the instructions Jesus gave to these 7 churches about overcoming sin give us practical insight into what we must also overcome today.

Rev. 4-5 **Pt. 3 Jesus takes the SCROLL:** contains the earth's title deed and His battle plan to cleanse it.

Rev. 6-22 **Pt. 4 Jesus' BATTLE PLAN:** includes Great Tribulation judgments against the Antichrist. Jesus reveals His main storyline of love to cleanse the earth of evil. His battle plan is seen in **5 chronological sections** that describe events that unfold in sequential order. Each section is followed by an **angelic explanation** to help us understand that section.

The 5 Chronological Sections: tell us what happens to the Antichrist's followers in 21 judgment events (*7 seals, 7 trumpets, 7 bowls*). These intensify in severity as they unfold.

The 5 Angelic Explanations: function as a parenthesis, putting the storyline on "pause". They answer questions arising from the chronological sections: Why is God's wrath so severe? What will happen to us? Angels explain to John what happens to God's people including what Jesus will do to **help us** and what the Antichrist will do to **persecute us**.

Rev. 6 **Chronological Section #1:** the **SEAL JUDGMENTS** against the kingdom of darkness.

Rev. 7 **Angelic Explanation #1:** we receive **PROTECTION** from judgments and falling away.

Rev. 8-9 **Chronological Section #2:** the **TRUMPET JUDGMENTS** against the Antichrist's empire.

Rev. 10-11 **Angelic Explanation #2:** we receive **DIRECTION** by great increase of prophetic ministry.

Rev. 11:15-19 **Chronological Section #3:** the **SECOND COMING PROCESSION** and the Rapture.

The 7th and Last Trumpet (1 Cor. 15:52; Rev. 10:7; 1 Thes. 4:16): Jesus replaces all governmental leaders on earth in a hostile takeover. In His Procession, Jesus first travels across the sky to rapture the saints (every eye sees Him; Rev. 1:7), then through the land of Edom (modern day Jordan; Isa. 63:1-6), then into Jerusalem to the Mount of Olives.

Rev. 12-14 **Angelic Explanation #3:** the Antichrist's violent **CONFRONTATION** against the saints justifies that all his governments must be taken over. Satan is on earth.

Rev. 15-16 **Chronological Section #4:** the **BOWL JUDGMENTS** destroy evil infrastructures in society

Rev. 17-18 **Angelic Explanation #4:** the **SEDUCTION** of Babylon's evil religion will permeate and infiltrate all the structures of society, requiring that Babylon be totally destroyed.

Rev. 19-20 **Chronological Section #5:** Jesus' **TRIUMPHAL ENTRY** to Jerusalem (Rev. 19:11-21:8).

Rev. 21-22 **Angelic Explanation #5:** the **RESTORATION** of all things Acts 3:21 (Rev. 21:9-22:5).

III. THE BOOK OF REVELATION IS FOR EVERYONE TO UNDERSTAND

- A. My goal is to provide a roadmap so all have confidence that they can understand the Book of Revelation. It was written to be understood by all. The majority of the people through history were uneducated. I want to expose a common lie that it is impossible to understand this book unless you are a scholar.
- B. The Bereans searched the Scriptures to see if the things that Paul said were true (Acts 17:10-11). I do not ask anyone to accept my views, rather I urge you to think for yourself. Truth is never hurt by scrutiny but rather it is confirmed. You must boldly challenge all ideas that you hear. Refuse any that you cannot clearly see confirmed in Scripture for yourself.
- ¹¹ These were more fair-minded...in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. (Acts 17:11)***
- C. Related to the End-Times, I try to always clarify which one of the 3 positions that I speak from. We want to boldly proclaim our biblical convictions, to carefully qualify our informed opinions, and to rarely speak our personal theories.
- D. The most controversial point in this study is found in my belief that the Church will go through the Tribulation (in great victory and power). This differs from the popular pre-tribulation Rapture view that teaches that the Church will be raptured at any minute and will therefore, miss the End-Time revival and crisis. The Bible teaches that the Church will be raptured. The issue is one of timing. The Church will be raptured at the end of the Tribulation, rather than at its beginning. I honor the godliness and wisdom of many who hold the pre-tribulation Rapture view, but I see it as a serious mistake that will leave many unprepared. We can disagree in a spirit of meekness without a spirit of debate. The reality of the Tribulation is too weighty to reduce it to arguments.
- E. Revelation gives us more information on the End-Times than any other book in Scripture. In other words, it is so helpful in preparing the Bride, which is Jesus' passion for this generation. It was written to help God's people participate in the great End-Time drama that shifts history to the age-to-come and to endure persecution so as to overcome in great victory (Rev. 12:11; 15:2).
- F. Revelation is unique. It is the only book in the Bible in which God promises a special blessing to anyone who reads or hears it (Rev. 1:3) and a curse to anyone who adds to or takes from it.

³ Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near. (Rev. 1:3)

⁷ Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book...¹⁸ If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues...in this book ¹⁹ and if anyone takes away from the words of...this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life... (Rev. 22:7-19)

- G. The Book of Revelation reveals the glory of Jesus (Rev. 1:1) and His specific plan to transition the earth to the age-to-come. There will be ***unique dynamics*** in the generation Jesus returns that are absolutely necessary in preparing the nations for His return. These events require our deep involvement. Jesus gives us essential ***strategic information*** to equip us to fully participate.
- H. The main theme of Revelation is Jesus' return to earth to rule all the nations. Evil governments will resist this. His End-Time battle plan is to physically destroy all the evil governments on earth by releasing His judgments on them during the Great Tribulation as described in Rev. 6-19.
- I. The Bride is anointed to partner with Jesus in bringing in the Harvest and judging the Antichrist's worldwide empire as a key part of His plan to drive evil off the earth.
- J. As stated before, the five chronological sections in the Book of Revelation tell us the main storyline of judgment events that are released on the earth by the Praying Church in the order they occur. The five chronological sections (seals, trumpets, and bowls) tell us happens to the Antichrist's empire.
- K. After each of the chronological sections, an angel explains to John why the events just described are necessary. These explanations function as a parenthesis that puts the storyline on "pause" as they answer questions as ***Why is God's wrath is so severe?*** and ***What will happen to the saints?***
- L. The five angelic explanations tell us what will happen to God's people. These act as parenthetical sections that describe the Antichrist's attack against God's people and/or God's intervention to help them with power, protection and direction.

IV. PT. 1 JOHN'S CALLING TO PROPHECY ABOUT THE END-TIMES

¹ ***The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him (Jesus) to show His servants--things which must shortly take place. He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John... 19 Write the things which you have seen...and the things which will take place after this. (Rev. 1:1, 19)***

- A. The Book of Revelation is called the "revelation of Jesus" because it reveals His heart, power and leadership in preparing the nations for God's glory. The Father's purpose in giving us this book is to reveal the beauty of Jesus. It is secondarily a book about "events" in the End-Times. John was to prophesy about the End-Times in context to revealing the majesty of Jesus.
- B. If we read Revelation right, it causes us to adore Jesus and to trust His leadership as we see His dramatic plans in the End-Times. His wise and loving plans combine God's sovereignty (in manifesting His love and righteousness), human free will and satanic rage to result in the Great Ingathering of souls and a victorious Church without violating justice or man's free will. This book is very dear to Jesus and is a great gift from Him to us. We see His beauty as a King and Priest (Rev. 1). We hear His counsel to prepare us as His beloved Bride (Rev. 2-3) as we partner with His plan to clean the earth and replace governments to rule the earth (Rev. 20).

V. PT. 2 LETTERS TO THE 7 CHURCHES (REV. 2-3)

Jesus spoke prophetically to 7 churches in the first century calling them to be overcomers (Rev. 2-His prophetic messages are intended to give us instruction on how to best prepare for His coming in the midst of the End-Time dynamics. Jesus promised us eternal rewards (Rev 2:7, 10, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21). No one knows more about how to prepare Jesus' Bride than Jesus Himself.

VI. PT. 3 JESUS RECEIVES THE 7-SEALED SCROLL (REV. 4-5)

- A. Jesus takes a 7-sealed scroll from the Father. The scroll represents the **title deed** of the earth and the **battle plan** to judge, cleanse and prepare the nations for Jesus' rule over all the earth while bringing the Church to a mature Bride who partners with Him in the plan seen in Rev 6-22.
- B. Revelation 4 gives us the greatest revelation of God's beauty in Scripture. What God put around Himself expresses His beauty to creation. I refer to Rev. 4 as the "beauty realm of God".
- C. After the Father's beauty is revealed in Rev. 4, then His plan to exalt Jesus as a human king over all the earth is set forth in Rev. 5. The primary theme in the Book of Revelation is Jesus coming back to take over all the nations. This is the inheritance that the Father promised Him.

VII. CHRONOLOGICAL SECTION #1: THE SEAL JUDGMENTS (REV. 6)

- A. The seven seals are released by Jesus, the Lamb of God (Rev. 5:5; 6:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 12; 8:1).

¹ *I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals... (Rev. 6:1)*

THE SEVEN SEALS (Rev. 6:1-17; 8:1)

First seal (White Horse): Antichrist's political aggression (Rev. 6:1-2)

Second seal (Red Horse): bloodshed and World War (Rev. 6:3-4)

Third seal (Black Horse): famine and economic crisis (Rev. 6:5-6)

Fourth seal (Pale Horse): disease and death to 1/4 of the earth (Rev. 6:7-8)

Fifth seal (Prayer Movement): prayer movement strengthened by the martyrs (Rev. 6:9-11)

Sixth seal (Cosmic Disturbances): cosmic crisis (Rev. 6:12-17)

Seventh seal (Anointed Prayer): prayer movement strengthened by angels)

- B. These 7 seal-judgments target the kingdom of darkness (Harlot Babylon, etc.). God lifts His restraining hand off evil men so that they attack one another with great hatred and destroy one another's resources. The restraints of man's sin are lifted so that the truth of man's wickedness and lawlessness is seen.
- C. The events include the Antichrist conquering evil nations that aligned with the Harlot Babylon (**Rev. 17:16-17**), world wars, economic crisis, famine and disease, etc. The fifth and sixth seals open the heavens to release God's power (Rev. 6:9-17). The sixth and seventh seals involve heavenly activity.

VIII. ANGELIC EXPLANATION #1: PROTECTION (REV. 7:1-17)

¹⁷ *For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand? (Rev. 6:17)*

- A. This angelic explanation emphasizes God's protection of His people in answering the question, "Who can stand in the midst of so much pressure?" John sees a divine sealing on people that gives them protection from God's judgment and from yielding to compromise in the midst of the Antichrist's persecutions (Rev. 7:1-17). There will be 144,000 Jewish believers who will stand in victory (Rev. 7:1-8). God's judgments come on the Antichrist and not God's people. Jesus will protect the saints from compromise under pressure of persecution as seen in Gentile believers (7:9-17) from every different nation and situation standing without wavering in persecution.

³ *Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." 4 I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 of all the tribes of...Israel were sealed...9 Behold, a great multitude...of all nations...before the Throne ...clothed with white robes...10 saying, "Salvation belongs to our God... (Rev. 7:3-10)*

- B. God puts a protective seal on His people before He strikes the earth (Rev. 7:3). Other believers (Gentiles) will be sealed by God (Rev 9:4). In the Exodus, Israel received a "protective mark" on their doors that saved their first born from death. The Goshen Principle: Ex. 8:22-23; 9:4, 6, 26.

IX. CHRONOLOGICAL SECTION #2: SIX TRUMPETS (REV. 8:2-9:21)

The trumpet judgments are supernatural acts of God through nature (first four trumpets) and through the release of demons (fifth and sixth trumpet) to destroy the Antichrist's resources.

First trumpet (Food Supply): burning 1/3 of the earth's vegetation (Rev. 8:7)

Second trumpet (Food Supply): destroying 1/3 of the sea (Rev. 8:8-9)

Third trumpet (Water Supply): poisoning 1/3 of the earth's fresh water (Rev. 8:10-11)

Fourth trumpet (Light, Energy): darkening 1/3 of the earth's light (Rev. 8:12)

Fifth trumpet (Torment): releasing demonic locusts that torment for 5 months (Rev. 9:1-12)

Sixth trumpet (Death): releasing demonic horsemen that kill 1/3 of the earth (Rev. 9:13-21)

X. ANGELIC EXPLANATION #2: DIRECTION (REV. 10:1-11:13)

- A. Rev. 10:1-11:13 is an angelic explanation after the crisis of the six trumpet judgments. This section is focused on the welfare of the saints as God promises to provide prophetic direction and power by releasing an unprecedented outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:17-21).

- B. God has concealed key prophetic information that will be vital in the End-Times. He will reveal it to the Church (Rev. 10:4). He will raise up the Two Witnesses (prophets) who will help God's people with great power during the last 3½ years of the Tribulation. Jesus will also raise up prophetic messengers who will carry the "seven thunders prophetic messages". My prayer is for 10,000 forerunners to serve in the End-Time drama in each local and regional part of the earth.

XI. CHRONOLOGICAL SECTION #3: SECOND COMING AND RAPTURE (REV. 11:14-19)

¹⁵ *The seventh angel sounded...voices...saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord..." 17 You have taken Your power and reigned. (Rev. 11:15-17)*

⁵¹ *We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment...at the Last Trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible... (1 Cor. 15:51-52)*

- A. The Second Coming Procession begins with the Rapture at the time of the Last Trumpet or the 7th trumpet (Rev. 11:15; 1 Cor. 15:52). The Last Trumpet signals the time that Jesus raptures the Church. The Rapture is the first event in the Second Coming Procession (that has three stages). First, Jesus comes across the earth in the sky (Rev. 1:7) to rapture the saints. Second, He comes across the land (Isa. 63:1-6; Hab. 3:3-16). Third, Jesus enters Jerusalem (Mt. 23:39) using the 7 bowls of wrath to destroy the Antichrist's armies gathered at Jerusalem (Zech. 12:1-3; 14:1-5).
- B. John highlights five things in the 7th Trumpet. First, the kingdoms of the earth come under Jesus' manifest leadership. Second, the nations become enraged at Jesus' leadership. Third, the unrighteous dead will be judged (evaluated and pronounced guilty) then spend 1,000 years in Hades (their temporary prison) until they are thrown in the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:11-15). Fourth, the saints will be rewarded. Fifth, the rebellious are destroyed by the 7 bowls of wrath (Rev. 16).

XII. ANGELIC EXPLANATION #3: CONFRONTATION (REV. 12:1-14:20)

- A. This angelic explanation occurs immediately after the announcement of Jesus replacing all the governments on earth (Rev. 11:15). This section gives insight as to why God's wrath is so severe as to require that many governments be replaced. The answer is that found in understanding the Antichrist's violent confrontation against the saints and all that is good. In Rev. 12-13, Satan makes war through his two vessels the Antichrist and False Prophet. In Rev. 14, the saints are assured of their full victory and of the Antichrist's sure defeat.
- B. In Rev. 13:1-10, the Antichrist will wage war against God and His people with a political, military and economic alliance of a ten-nation confederation. In Rev. 13:11-18, the False Prophet will be devoted to causing all nations to worship Satan and the Antichrist (Rev. 13:4, 8).

XIII. CHRONOLOGICAL SECTION #4: 7 BOWLS OF GOD'S WRATH (REV. 15:1-16:21)

- A. The 7 bowls of wrath are the third and final numbered judgment series (Rev. 16). Jesus will release the 7 bowls in a way that parallels Moses releasing the ten plagues of Egypt against Pharaoh (Exod 7-12). The bowls will be poured out over a 30-day period as Jesus marches up through Jordan to fight the final battle in the Armageddon campaign in Jerusalem and to rescue the remnant of Israel (Zech. 12:1-9; 14:1-5; Isa. 63:1-6; Hab. 3:3-16).
- B. The Second Coming Procession occurs over a 30-day period which can be seen by comparing the 1,260 days in Rev. 11:2-3; 12:6, 14; 13:5 with the 1,290 days of Dan. 12:11.

- C. The 7 bowls of wrath (3rd Judgment series) recalls the ten plagues of Egypt (Exod 7-12).
First bowl (Sores): painful sores on those who worship the Antichrist (Rev. 16:1-2)
Second bowl (Food Supply): destroying the sea with blood and killing all in it (Rev. 16:3)
Third bowl (Water Supply): poisoning the earth's fresh water with blood (Rev. 16:4-7)
Fourth bowl (Torment): scorching heat and fire from the sun (Rev. 16:8-9)
Fifth bowl (Destruction): darkness on the Antichrist's global empire (Rev. 16:10-11)
Sixth bowl (Global Guilt): deceiving the nations to come to Armageddon (Rev. 16:12-16)
Seventh Bowl (Annihilation): shaking by earthquakes and hail stones (Rev. 16:17-21)

XIV. ANGELIC EXPLANATION #4: SEDUCTION BY BABYLON (REV. 17:1-19:10)

- A. This angelic explanation section us tells why such severe judgment is necessary, requiring that Jesus dash all the infrastructures of society by the bowl judgments. The answer is that they were deeply infiltrated by the evil seductions of Babylon whose complete influence must be removed.
⁸ *I (the Father) will give You (Jesus) the nations for Your inheritance...⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel. (Ps. 2:8-9)*
- B. The judgment of the Great Harlot (Rev. 17) and the fall of Babylon (Rev. 18) will destroy many of the resources for the infrastructures of darkness. The Marriage supper of the Lamb is the revelation that motivates us during this time (Rev. 19:7-10).

XV. CHRONOLOGICAL SECTION #5: TRIUMPHAL ENTRY (REV. 19:11-21:8)

¹¹ *Behold, a white horse. And He (Jesus) who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war....¹⁴ And the armies in heaven...followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵ Out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them...¹⁶ He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS...²⁰ The Beast (Antichrist) was captured, and with him the False Prophet ...These two were cast alive into the Lake of Fire burning with brimstone. ²¹ And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. (Rev. 19:11-21)*

- A. In this section, John describes Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem as the victorious King (Rev. 19:11-21) to end the Armageddon campaign and to destroy the armies of the Antichrist. These passages describe Jesus' Second Coming to Jerusalem to sit on an earthly Throne as King over all kings. He will cast the Antichrist and False Prophet in the Lake of Fire (Rev. 19:20).
- B. Jesus will cast Satan into prison (Rev. 20:1-3) and establish the Millennium (Rev. 20:4-10).
² *He (angel) laid hold of...Satan and bound him for 1000 years; ³ and he cast him into the bottomless pit...⁴ I saw thrones, and they (saints) sat on them...They lived and reigned with Christ for 1000 years...⁶ They shall reign with Him 1000 years. (Rev. 20:2-6)*
- C. The Millennium is a literal 1,000-year period in which Jesus will rule the whole world from Jerusalem in righteousness and peace. Millennium is from the Latin "*mille*" (a thousand).

XVI. ANGELIC EXPLANATION #5: RESTORATION (REV. 21:9-22:5)

- A. This angelic explanation describes the Bride reigning in the Garden of Eden forever. Jesus will restore to us all that He originally intended in creating the Garden of Eden. An angel explains to John the dynamic quality of life in the New Jerusalem that will come down to the Millennial earth to release a supernatural dimension of glory to our reign on the earth.
- ¹⁹ Repent...that your sins may be blotted out, so that...²⁰ He (the Father) may send Jesus...²¹ whom heaven must receive (keep) until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began. (Acts 3:19-21)*
- B. At the Second Coming, Jesus will establish His Throne of Glory on earth in Jerusalem.
- ³¹ When the Son of Man comes in His glory...then He will sit on the Throne of His glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them... (Mt. 25:31-32)*
- ¹⁷ At that time Jerusalem shall be called The Throne of the LORD, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem. (Jer. 3:17)*
- C. Jesus' Throne will be connected to the Holy of Holies in the Millennial Temple (Ezek. 43:4-7). Jesus' Throne is in the earthly Millennial Jerusalem and the heavenly New Jerusalem.
- ³ The Throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it (New Jerusalem). (Rev. 22:3)*
- D. Does Jesus have one Throne or two? Is it on the Millennial earth or in the New Jerusalem? Yes! His Throne of glory is both on earth and in Heaven. ***It is one Throne with two expressions.***
- E. I suggest that Jesus' Throne of glory is a vast governmental complex with the "far upper end" of it extending into the New Jerusalem and the "far lower end" of it based in the Millennial Temple in Jerusalem in what I refer to as a "***Corridor of Glory***" between the two Jerusalems.
- F. The New Jerusalem will descend to a place above Millennial Jerusalem on Mt. Zion. This will create a vast "governmental complex" with a "Corridor of Glory" that joins them together. This governmental center of heaven and earth is referred to as Jesus' Throne of glory (Mt. 19:28; 25:31). This is seen when taking into account all the specific details of the prophetic Scriptures.
- G. There are ***four reasons*** the New Jerusalem is close to Millennial Jerusalem yet not on the earth. First, Millennial Jerusalem is about 10 square miles or 4,500 rods X 4,500 rods (a rod is approx. 10.5 feet; Ezek. 48:30-35; 45:6; 48:15-19). The New Jerusalem is 1,380 miles and thus it is too large for the 10 mile area of Millennial Jerusalem. Most believe the unit of measure is rods (10.5 feet) not cubits. NKJV adds the word cubits in italics to designate it is not in the original text.
- H. Second, the kings of the Millennial earth come into the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:24-26).
- ²⁴ The (Millennial) nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the (Millennial) earth bring their glory and honor into it...²⁶ And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. (Rev. 21:24-26)*

- I. Third, the leaves in the New Jerusalem are for the healing of the Millennial nations. Therefore, people on the Millennial earth have access to these healing leaves (Rev. 22:2).
² *The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the (Millennial) nations. (Rev. 22:2)*
- J. Fourth, angels guard the entry to the City to keep sinners out (Rev. 21:12, 27; 22:14-15). Angels guarded the entrance to the Garden of Eden after Adam sinned Gen. 3:22-24).
¹² *She had a...high wall with 12 gates, and 12 angels at the gates... (Rev. 21:12)*
²⁷ *There shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. (Rev. 21:27)*
¹⁴ *Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the Tree of Life, and may enter through the gates into the city. 15 But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters... (Rev. 22:14-15)*
- K. The New Jerusalem descends to earth two times or in two stages. First, it descends at the Second Coming to begin the Millennium (Rev. 21:10). The second time it descends is after the Millennial earth is cleansed with fire to become the New Earth that has no sea (Rev. 21:2).
¹⁰ *He...showed me the...holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God... (Rev. 21:10)*
² *I, John, saw the holy City, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven... (Rev. 21:2)*
- L. By understanding the structure of Rev. 21-22 we see the two descents of the New Jerusalem. We know that the events in Rev. 21:9-22:5 refer to the Millennium because the nature of what is described includes the eternal and temporal realms being together. In other words, we see the eternal state of the resurrected saints in the New Jerusalem along with Millennial conditions.
- M. The “same” angel showed John the Bride in Rev. 21:9-10 and the Harlot Babylon in Rev. 17:1-3. They are parallel visions that are both clearly parenthetical sections in which an angel explains significant details and events that do not occur on earth in chronological order. Because Rev. 21:9-22:5 is a parenthetical section, its events do not occur until after the events in Rev. 21:1-8 (the New Heavens and Earth, etc.). The descent of the New Jerusalem in Rev. 21:2 is the last event in the last chronological section (Rev. 19:11-21:8).
- N. The City's size: the walls extend 1,380 miles (about 7,000,000 ft.) in length, height, and width (Rev. 21:12b-14). A furlong (NIV stadia) is a Greek measurement that is approx. 600 feet). Outer space is 800 miles from earth. The walls are 216 feet or 72 yards thick (21:15-17).
- O. John gives us an internal view of the City as the ultimate *Garden of Eden*. He describes the City's beauty (21:22-27) and its life with face to face communion with God (22:1-5). It is a worshipping City with no temple (21:22; 22:4a); an illuminated City with no sun (21:23; 22:5); a governmental City with God's Throne (21:24, 26; 22:3-5d); a servant City that works (21:25b; 22:3c, 5a) and a holy City without any sin (21:27, 8; 22:14-15).

Harlot Babylon: A Coming One-World Religion (Rev. 17-18)

I. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPHECY

- A. Rev. 17-18 is one of the most significant End-Time prophecies because it gives us insight into Satan's strategy to deceive the nations while causing many Christians to fall away from the faith. Those who are deceived by the Harlot will end up in the Lake of Fire and some saints who resist the Harlot will be killed (Rev. 17:6). This prophecy deserves much careful study and dialogue.
- B. The main message of Rev. 17 is easy to understand. The main themes are the seductive power, and cruel persecution along with the inevitable destruction of this Harlot system. The Harlot is the counterfeit of the Bride that the Holy Spirit is raising up.
- C. Rev. 17 is the most symbolic passage in Revelation with many intricate details. These intricacies make it the most difficult chapter in Revelation to understand. Since the angel gave John the meaning of the symbols, we have a solid foundation for understanding this passage. ***Why is this most important prophecy veiled in such cryptic language?*** One reason I think it is veiled is because it causes us to pour over every line and discuss it often to understand its every nuance.
- D. Rev. 17:1-6, gives us details about the emergence of the Harlot Babylon as a one-world religion, describing her evil seductions and cruel persecutions. She will be a counterfeit justice movement that unifies multitudes from the largest religions on earth. The rest of Rev. 17-18 describes her relationship with the Antichrist and how she is finally destroyed.
- E. The five chronological sections in the Book of Revelation tell us the main storyline of judgment events that are released on the earth by the Praying Church in the order they occur. After each of the chronological sections, an angel explains to John why the events just described are necessary. These explanations function as a parenthesis that puts the story line on "pause" as they answer questions such as Why is God's wrath is so severe? and What will happen to the saints?
- F. In the angelic explanation in Rev. 17-18, we are told why the bowls of wrath are necessary and we are assured of the defeat of Babylon. The angel explains why billions of people will be killed in the bowl judgments and why the infrastructure of the nations will be dashed into pieces by Jesus. It is because the seduction of Babylon's religion of evil will permeate so many of these structures.
⁸ I will give You (Jesus) the nations for Your inheritance...⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel. (Ps. 2:8-9)
²⁶ The nations...²⁷ shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels (Rev. 2:26-27)
- G. The 7th Trumpet focus is on replacing evil leaders and the bowls focus on replacing the social infrastructures (tax codes, education or business policies, etc.).

II. OVERVIEW OF REV. 17:1-19:10

- A. **The Harlot Babylon:** will be established in the rebuilt city of Babylon in Iraq (50 miles south of Baghdad). Babylon will be restored and used as one of the headquarters for the Antichrist.
 - 1. It will function as the center of worldwide demonic religious and economic networks (Rev. 17-18; Isa. 13-14; 21; Jer. 50-51).
 - 2. Just as Jerusalem suddenly came out of the ashes and was rebuilt, so Babylon (in Iraq) will be suddenly rebuilt. The judgments prophesied in Jer. 50-51 that suddenly destroy Babylon forever have not yet happened.
- B. Rev. 17:1-19:10 is the longest prophecy in the NT (42 verses). The longest prophecy in the OT is Jer. 50-51 (110 verses) and it also focuses on Babylon in the End-Times as does Isa. 13-14 (54 verses). This prophecy is so long because God wants us to understand its significance and danger. The second longest prophecy in the NT is focused on the New Jerusalem (33 verses in Rev. 21:1-22:5) which pictures the Bride of Christ in her glory. The Harlot is the counterfeit of the Bride of Christ.
- C. God's wrath on Babylon will come in two stages. Rev. 17-18 describes the two falls of Babylon.
- D. **Focus of Rev. 17:** the first phase of the fall of Babylon (Rev. 17) relates to a worldwide religious system of toleration and syncretism. This occurs in the beginning of the Great Tribulation at the hands of the ten kings (Rev. 17:16) who burn the Harlot to replace it with Antichrist worship.
- E. **Focus of Rev. 18:** the second phase of her fall will be at the end of the Great Tribulation. It focuses on the collapse of the Antichrist's global economic system at God's hands (Rev. 18:8).
- F. **Focus of Rev. 19:1-10:** the Marriage supper of the Lamb and the rewards for each believer will occur in context to the Second Coming and the Rapture (Rev. 19:7-10).

III. THERE ARE TWO STAGES IN SATAN'S END-TIME PLAN

- A. There are two stages in Satan's End-Time plan to be worshipped by all nations and to rule them.
⁴ ***They worshiped the Dragon (Satan)...and the Beast, saying, "Who is like the Beast? Who is able to make war with him?"...8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him... (Rev. 13:4-8)***
- B. Satan knows that it is too big of a step for a compromising Christian, Muslim or Hindu, etc. to suddenly become a devoted Satan worshipper. Therefore, he will first call all to join a one-world religion of tolerance that will declare that all paths lead to God and salvation. As multitudes are seduced into joining this Harlot Babylon religion it will weaken their conscience concerning their religious heritage. Next, Satan will demand that they all become Satan worshippers.

- C. The emergence of this false worship movement will lead to a falling away in the Church. The two signs that Paul gave to indicate the time of Jesus' Coming are a falling away from the faith combined with the revealing of the Antichrist on the world stage to establish peace (1 Thes. 5:3).
³ ***Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day (Jesus' Second Coming) will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin (Antichrist) is revealed... (2 Thes. 2:3)***
- D. The nations will rejoice in the unity it brings and that it will help to establish world peace.
³ ***When they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them. (1 Thes. 5:3)***
- E. People will defile their consciences and break relationships related to their religious heritage by renouncing their former beliefs in absolutes and the people who hold to those absolutes. Once people leave their religious ideals, whether Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, etc., there will be no absolute truth to keep them from worshipping Satan as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14).
- F. The Harlot religion will prepare the nations to receive the Antichrist. It will be a religion of affirmation and toleration without absolutes. It will be a ***counterfeit justice movement*** that will feed the poor and be deeply involved in humanitarian projects. He will inspire acts of compassion but for all the wrong reasons. The goal will be the dignity and happiness of man. Humanism is man seeking to make God in man's image.
- G. The voluntary Harlot Babylon religion will be replaced by a mandatory Antichrist religion. First, people will voluntarily join the ***Harlot Babylon*** one-world religion of tolerance (Rev. 17). Second, all will be forced to be Satan worshippers in the ***Antichrist religion*** (Rev. 13:4, 8, 15).
- H. Many believers will fall away in the seductions and deceptions of the ***Harlot's religion***. There will be a falling away from the faith at the end of the age (Mt. 24:9-13; 2 Thes. 2:3; 1 Tim. 4:1-2; 2 Tim. 3:1-7; 4:3-5; 2 Pet. 2:1-3). A doctrine of a demon is a teaching inspired by demons.
¹ ***Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, 3 forbidding to marry... (1 Tim. 4:1-3)***
- I. Sound doctrine teaches obedience to Jesus and His plans. It requires endurance. To turn the ear away means that the people will no longer hear what God intended in various Bible passages. They will heap up teachers or zealously follow many teachers who support their desires.
³ ***For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables... (2 Tim. 4:3-4)***
- J. Love of the truth is more than adherence to it. This love takes a firm stand for truth regardless of the cost. Loving truth requires that we commit to accept any new ideas as long as they are substantiated in the Scripture regardless of how different they are from our religious background.
⁹ ***The coming of the lawless one (Antichrist) is...with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and unrighteous deception...because they did not receive the love of the truth (2 Thes. 2:9-10)***

IV. THE GREAT HARLOT: HER SEDUCTIONS AND PERSECUTION

¹ *Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, 2 with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication"...3 I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet Beast (Antichrist)... 4 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. 5 On her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, the mother of Harlots and of the abominations of the earth. 6 I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints...15 He said to me, "The waters...where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. (Rev. 17:1-6, 15)*

- A. Before the angel shows John the wealth and counterfeit beauty of the Harlot religion, he shows him her inevitable judgment and sure defeat (v. 1). This system will fail and be utterly destroyed.
- B. The Harlot will sit on many nations (v. 1) or will have authority over the nations by seducing and controlling the world's most powerful leaders (kings and merchants) through global networks. It is a religious network (Rev. 17) and an economic network based in Babylon (Rev. 18).

- C. The Harlot's system will cause the nations to be drunk with her seductions that offer great benefits, including humanitarian aid, a unified religion (that minimizes wars) and a prosperous world economy. The nations will rejoice and get drunk or intoxicated with her promises of goodness, prosperity and compassion and theology of tolerance based in deception.

² *The inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication. (Rev. 17:2)*

- D. The Harlot religion will have great prominence. It will be arrayed in purple (royal status) and will be respected by the elite financial leaders of the earth who will give their allegiance to her.

⁴ *The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet (royalty), and adorned with gold...having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. (Rev. 17:4)*

- E. The Harlot will be adorned with gold. It will be the wealthiest religious network in all history. The Harlot will have a golden cup in which she "serves" the nations. It will appear golden (valuable and good). She will offer the nations unprecedented humanitarian service in helping the poor. As the Harlot emerges with religious unity, war will disappear and for first time in modern history there will be world peace (1 Thes. 5:3).

- F. She will have an evil cup of abomination and filth. Abomination refers to being filled with demonic activity. In the OT, abominations refer to idolatrous (demonic) activity. Filthiness points to being filled with moral perversions.

- G. The Harlot will deceive the nations by sorcery which is a combination of drugs and demonic power (witchcraft). Her dark supernatural power will fascinate people and appear to be good. Her worship music will be powerful in that it will have a supernatural demonic element to it.

²³ *For by your sorcery all the nations were deceived. (Rev. 18:23)*

- H. Sin will be allowed to reach its fullness in the End-Times. The Harlot Babylon is the context in which the nations will reach the heights of sin and their experience of the demonic realm.
²³ ***In the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their fullness, a king (Antichrist) shall arise...who understands sinister schemes. (Dan. 8:23)***
- I. We evaluate a ministry by the lifestyle it produces in others and not by how fast it grows or how much money it has. Because serving the poor and walking in unity is foundational to preaching the gospel, many will think that all who proclaim this represent the truth. This statement by Jesus will reach its greatest fulfillment in the End-Times.
¹⁵ ***For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God. (Lk. 16:15)***
- J. The influence of the Harlot will cause multitudes to be drunk or intoxicated with the blood of the saints who expose her (v. 6). The more she kills, the bolder she will become in killing the saints. The one great enemy of the Harlot religion will be the saints of Jesus in the prophetic Church.
⁶ ***I saw the woman (Harlot Babylon), drunk with the blood of the saints... (Rev. 17:6)***
- K. The Praying Church must expose the Harlot for who she really is. The Church will be hated by all nations for this. We declare the seductive nature of her perversion and her judgment.
⁹ ***They will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. 10 Then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. 11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. (Mt. 24:9-11)***
- L. The kings (political leaders) will understand some of the lies that empower the Harlot system. However, they will support her agenda to gain her wealth. In this way, they will knowingly prostitute themselves or commit fornication with her in knowingly supporting her lies for money.
² ***The kings of the earth committed fornication...the inhabitants were made drunk... (Rev. 17:2)***
- M. The Harlot will depend on the Antichrist who will carry her (provide resource and protection).
³ ***I saw a woman sitting on a Beast (Antichrist) which was full of names of blasphemy...7 I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the Beast that carries her... (Rev. 17:3, 7)***
- N. Surprisingly, the Harlot worldwide religion will be hated and destroyed by the jealousy of the ten primary kings who serve the Antichrist (Dan. 7:7, 20, 24). They will burn the Harlot at the beginning of the Great Tribulation. Satan's kingdom is filled with hatred, not unity. We prophesy that after a short season of prominence, she will be burned by leaders of the Antichrist's empire.
¹² ***The ten horns which you saw are ten kings... 16 The ten horns...on the Beast will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. (Rev. 17:12, 16)***
- O. In the middle of the final 7 years of this age, the Antichrist's plan is to replace the Harlot religion of tolerance with Antichrist worship. This new worldwide religion will be strict and without any toleration. All who refuse to worship the Antichrist will be killed (Rev. 13:4-18). Satan's purpose for the Harlot religion is as a "forerunner" to prepare the nations for Antichrist worship.

V. THE END-TIME CONFLICT OVER THE TRUTH OF WHO JESUS IS

- A. In the End-Times there will be a battle for the truth about Jesus. Some believers will give heed to doctrines that lie about Jesus. The conflict will center on defining who Jesus is and how we love Him. We must love God on His terms. It is expressed with allegiance to the Jesus of the Bible.
- B. Allegiance to Jesus is our main issue along with being lovers of His truth (2 Thes. 2:10). Tolerance is the main issue in the counterfeit forerunner movements to the Harlot Babylon. We greatly value the people in different religions. They possess great dignity before God. We are not willing to let them perish in hell by refusing to tell them the truth about Jesus and His salvation.
- C. Three truths about Jesus that offend humanists include; first, His deity and thus His right to establish absolute standards for which the nations are accountable to Him. Jesus does NOT accept humanistic views of righteousness and love. Second, the only way of salvation is through Jesus. Third, He possesses the wisdom and love to judge sin for all time and eternity.
- D. Anyone who confesses the name of Jesus must stand for His deity and for His way of salvation. If they do not, then they are operating under the spirit of a false prophet. This is true of famous people who work in the White House, host talk shows, fill stadiums with concerts for the poor or lead mega-churches. We must apologize to Jesus for so much man-pleasing preaching with lies.
- E. There are counterfeit forerunners who are preparing the nations to embrace the Harlot Babylon. These false forerunners tell lies about Jesus. Some are not yet false prophets but they operate in the same spirit as one. Some of them are still in the balance. The issue is not about being positive or negative but it is about being faithful witnesses to the truth. We are not running for office; however we are His messengers who will give an account at the Judgment Seat of Christ.
- F. The End-Time Praying Church is to steward the greatest hope and justice movement in history. We have a far superior hope than any humanistic movements. Forerunners are the greatest hope-bringers in history. They will be filled with love (purity and humility), do deeds of compassion while giving a clear witness of the truth. They will magnify Jesus' love, wisdom and tenderness.
- G. We are called to judge people to win them to righteousness so they may be saved. If one confesses to being a follower of Jesus, then one is accountable to the standards of God's Word.
¹ It is reported that there is sexual immorality among you...³ I have already judged him who has so done this deed...⁵ Deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus...¹¹ I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner--not even to eat with such a person. (1 Cor. 5:1-11)
- H. We are to only to judge in the way we want to be judged (accurately, patiently, tenderly).
¹ Judge not (with false measures), that you be not judged. 2 For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. (Mt. 7:1-2)

Forerunner Ministry: Preparing for the Day of the Lord

I. DAY OF THE LORD: THE 2 EXTREMES RELATED TO JESUS' RETURN

¹¹ *For the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; who can endure it? (Joel 2:11)*

- A. The Day of the Lord refers to the unusual events (positive and negative) that will escalate dramatically in the 3½ years just before Jesus returns. The 2-fold nature of this time is seen in the great blessing it releases on those who call on Jesus and the judgment for those who refuse Him.
- B. *It will be a great Day* to those who call on Jesus' name because they will experience the greatest outpouring of the Spirit in history leading to Jesus' Coming (Joel 2:28-32). In this great revival, the Spirit will release the miracles that were seen in the Book of Acts and the Book of Exodus combined and multiplied on a global scale
- C. *It will be a very terrible Day* to the rebellious who will experience the most severe outpouring of God's judgments in history in the Great Tribulation which occurs in the last 3½ years of this age.
²¹ *Then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 Unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved (physically preserved); for the elect's sakes those days will be shortened. (Mt. 24:21-22)*
- D. The prophets asked, "Who can endure the Day of the Lord events?" Who can experience God's favor, deliverance and power in this unique time? Forerunners will have the answer to this.

II. WHAT IS THE FORERUNNER MINISTRY?

- A. Forerunners prepare the way by preparing people to prepare the nations for Jesus' return.
³ *The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God...5 The glory of the LORD shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together (at Jesus' Second Coming)... (Isa. 40:3-5)*
¹⁰ *Prepare the way for the people; build up the highway! Take out the stones, lift up a banner for the peoples! 11 Say..., "Surely your salvation is coming..." (Isa. 62:10-11)*
- B. In Isa. 40:3, forerunners prepare a highway "for God" whereas in Isa. 62:10 they prepare the highway "for the people". It is one highway seen from two points of view. Forerunners represent God and His interests in Isa. 40, whereas in Isa. 62, the intercessors represent the people. The highway God walks on is the voluntary agreement of His people as they partner with Him.
- C. Forerunners are messengers who proclaim "now" what the Holy Spirit is "soon" to emphasize in a universal way across the nations. They are "one short step" ahead of what the Holy Spirit is about to openly release, so they can *prepare the people to respond rightly to Jesus* by making known God's plans so the people can make sense of what will happen before it actually happens. Forerunners bring new understanding or paradigms of God and His End-Time activity and plans.

III. SEVEN THEOLOGICAL PREMISES OF THE FORERUNNER MINISTRY

- A. Forerunners are “messengers” who function with a specific message in different spheres of life. For example, they are preachers, evangelists, artists (singers, musicians, actors, etc.), writers (internet), media, marketplace or intercessors as well as those who disciple people one-on-one in the church, university or home (moms and dads are some of the most important forerunners).
- B. Premise #1: There will be “**unique dynamics**” in the generation the Lord returns.
1. It will witness the **greatest demonstration of power** both God’s and Satan’s (Rev. 13). The three “supernatural generations” in Scripture are the generation of Moses (Ex. 7-10), the generation of the apostles, and the generation Jesus returns in which the miracles done by Moses and the apostles will be combined and multiplied on a global level.
 2. It is the generation **most described** by God in His Word.
 3. It is the generation that is **most populated**. Some estimate that there will be more people alive in this one generation in one life span (70 years) than in all history combined. After the Great Harvest, there will be more of God’s people on earth than in heaven.
 4. The greatest number of people at the time of the greatest manifestation of power will require a unique preparation, focus and understanding. The unique dynamics of the generation in which history transitions to the Millennial Kingdom is the “new thing”.
¹⁸ Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. 19 Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? (Isa. 43:18-19)
- C. Premise #2: The Spirit is emphasizing the **revelation of the Father** in bringing God’s family to maturity. God will raise up those who release the Father’s heart in the home, church, marketplace and government (Ps 68:5-6). The Spirit is also highlighting care for the fatherless (orphans, etc.).
⁵ I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. 6 And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse. (Mal. 4:5-6)
- D. Premise #3: The Holy Spirit will emphasize **3 facets of the beauty of Jesus** as clearly seen in Scriptures that describe God’s End-Time plans (Rev. 19; Mt. 24-25; Isa. 60-62). There will be no contradiction in Jesus’ heart and ministry as He manifests His glory as a Bridegroom, King, and Judge. He does not suspend one attribute to exercise another.
1. Jesus as a **passionate Bridegroom**: has great tenderness and deep desire for His people
 2. Jesus as a **powerful King**: releases power in confronting darkness and winning the lost
 3. Jesus as a **righteous Judge**: upholds the standards of conduct (holiness)

- E. Premise #4: Forerunners will participate in the **3 unprecedented activities of the Holy Spirit:**
1. **To restore the First Commandment to first place** worldwide as the Church is prepared as a worthy Bride (Mt. 22:37; Rev. 19:7).
 2. **To gather the Harvest** through an unprecedented release of God's power (Rev. 7:9, 14).
 3. **To release Jesus' End-Time judgments** described in Revelation (Rev. 6; 8-9; 16).
 - a. **To remove everything that hinders love** in preparing the Church as a Bride. The principle of God's love in judgment: God uses the least severe means to reach the greatest number of people at the deepest level of love without violating our free will.
 - b. **To aid in gathering the Harvest** by bringing eternity to bear on the hearts of multitudes of lost humanity and by manifesting God's power.
 - c. **To release God's vengeance** on those who hate Jesus and persecute His people.
- F. God's End-Times judgment will shake 7 spheres of human life. **1) The heavens:** the sky, atmosphere, weather patterns; **2) The earth:** earthquakes, volcanoes, etc.; **3) The sea:** tidal waves, tsunamis, etc.; **4. The dry land:** vegetation and plant life; **5) All nations:** national and social infrastructures will be shaken; **6) Religious institutions:** multitudes come to Jesus as the Desire of All Nations; **7. Economic disruption:** commercial turmoil as God transfers wealth.
- ⁶ I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; 7 and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory...⁸ The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,' says the Lord of hosts. (Hag 2:6-8)**
- G. Premise #5: God is **preparing forerunner ministries ahead of time** in the wilderness that they may prepare others for the Day of the Lord activities. It takes a clear sense of mandate and identity as a forerunner to stay faithful long-term to grow in understanding (Dan. 11:33-35). God is raising up "friends of the Bridegroom" type forerunner ministries like John the Baptist who will fast and pray as they "stand and hear" Jesus' voice as the Bridegroom God.
- ²⁹ The friend of the Bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the Bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine (John the Baptist) is fulfilled. (Jn. 3:29)**
- H. Premise #6: Forerunners must **live a fasted lifestyle** in the grace of God as seen in Mt. 6:1-18. This is God's way to position ourselves to tenderize our hearts to receive more revelation in faster time frames with a deeper impact on our hearts.
- I. Premise #7: Forerunners are **best trained in context to the End-Time prayer movement**. God is raising up forerunner ministries in local congregations that are rooted in prayer that flows in the spirit of the Tabernacle of David.

IV. THREE RESPONSES OF THE CHURCH TO GOD'S END-TIME JUDGMENTS

- A. **Offense** (fear, confusion, anger) will be the first reaction of believers with an unrenewed mind.
⁶ And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me. (Mt. 11:6)
- B. **Understanding** will be given by the Holy Spirit to the End-Time Church.
¹⁹ Behold, a whirlwind of the LORD has gone forth in fury -- a violent whirlwind (Great Tribulation)! It will fall violently on the head of the wicked. ²⁰ The anger of the LORD will not turn back until He has executed and performed the thoughts of His heart. In the latter days you will understand it perfectly. (Jer. 23:19-20)
²⁴ The fierce anger of the LORD will not return until He has done it, and until He has performed the intents of His heart. In the latter days you will consider it. (Jer. 30:24)
³³ Those of the people who understand shall instruct many... they shall fall by sword and flame, by captivity and plundering....³⁵ Some of those of understanding shall fall (martyrdom), to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end; because it is still for the appointed time. (Dan. 11:33-35)
- C. **Partnership** with Jesus in intercession releases God's judgments in the way that Moses did.
⁶ Let the high praises of God be in their mouth... ⁷ to execute vengeance on the nations, and punishments on the peoples...⁹ To execute on them the written judgment (written in the End-Time Scriptures)-- This honor have all His saints. (Ps. 149:6-9)
²⁰ Rejoice over her (judgment on End-Time Babylon), O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her! (Rev. 18:20)

V. BECOMING A VOICE AND NOT AN ECHO

- A. The Priests and Levites who were sent from the Pharisees in Jerusalem asked John who he was.
²² Who are you...? What do you say about yourself?" ²³ He said: "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness: make straight the way of the LORD"... (Jn. 1:22-23)
- B. The only way to understand John is to know Who He lived before. John described his heart, motivation, and forerunner ministry. He lived a "**wilderness lifestyle**" (in the Word and prayer with fasting) and then went before Jesus "**as a voice**" (not an echo) to prepare the people to receive Jesus' embrace as the Bridegroom God empowering them to walk out the first commandment as those who love God with all of their heart.
- C. We become a voice by hearing His voice and responding to it in faith and obedience. An echo only memorizes the ideas and repeats them, but a voice embodies them in the reality of their heart. There is nothing wrong with being an echo. I have echoed many truths for many years. This is how I have learned the truths. A voice speaks about things to come with clarity, power and boldness. It is a banner of hope.

VI. PROPHETIC MINISTRY IN THE END-TIMES (REV. 10-11)

- A. In Rev. 10, God promises to raise up prophetic messengers (forerunners) to bring understanding that helps people avoid deception. This is an important passage for forerunner messengers.
- B. The focus of Rev. 11 is the Two Witnesses (prophets) who will preach with great power and release God's judgments against the Antichrist's systems for the final 3½ years (Tribulation).
³ I will give power to my Two Witnesses, and they will prophesy 1,260 days...⁵ If anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies...⁶ These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues... (Rev. 11:3-6)
- C. The Two Witnesses release End-Time judgments by prophetic decrees like Moses. The plagues of Egypt are the prototype of the End-Time judgments (Exod 7-12) released by intercession (Rev. 8-9; 16). The miracles done by Elijah and Moses will be done by the Two Witnesses.
- D. This will be the Church's most glorious hour in all history! Joel prophesied of the greatest prophetic move of the Spirit in the End-Times on all nations that would occur before the Day of the Lord or Jesus' Coming (Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:17-21; Eph. 4:11-13; Rev. 11:10, 18; 16:6; 18:20, 24). This outpouring of the Spirit will be manifest in many ways on national and regional levels. All God's praying people will receive dreams and visions, etc.
²⁸ I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy...²⁹ On My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit...³⁰ I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: blood and fire and smoke...³¹ before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord...³² whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. (Joel 2:28-32)
- E. The Lord released a down payment of Joel's prophecy on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:16). It was not completely fulfilled in Peter's generation. For example, the sun and moon did not grow dark with signs including blood, fire and smoke. The Spirit in Acts 2 only rested on 120 believers in one city, Jerusalem. The fullness of this prophecy requires a global dimension.
- F. The glory of the Angel (Rev. 10:1-3): the forerunner anointing
¹ I saw another mighty angel...clothed with a cloud. A rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire. ² He had a little book open in his hand. He set his right foot on the sea and left foot on the land ³ and cried...as when a lion roars. (Rev. 10:1-3)
- G. The angel's authority prophetically pictures aspects of the glory released on God's messengers.
1. Mighty angel: forerunners will operate in the power of the Holy Spirit.
 2. Robed in a cloud of glory: forerunners will experience God's Shekinah glory.
 3. Rainbow around his head: forerunners will emphasize God's promises and mercy.
 4. Face shines like the sun: forerunners will receive God's might in their inner man (Eph. 3:17).
 5. Feet are like pillars of fire: forerunners will release God's holy judgment to establish love.
 6. Feet on the sea and land: forerunners will take possession of their inheritance across the earth.
 7. Cries out like a roaring lion: forerunners will pray and prophesy in the boldness of a lion.

- H. End-Time forerunner messengers: the seven thunders prophets
- ² *He (angel) had a little book open in his hand. He set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land...3 When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices (messages). 4 When the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice...saying, "Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them." (Rev. 10:2-4)*
- I. A prophetic book being "open" indicates that its contents are knowable. The angel probably read its contents to John. This may be the same book with the same prophetic information that Daniel received. Daniel 10-12 is a parallel passage with Rev. 10-13. Daniel sealed up similar prophetic information with an angel of similar glory (Dan. 12:4-10).
- ⁴ *Daniel...seal the book until the time of the end...9 For the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end... (Dan. 12:4-9)*
- J. John was told to seal the seven thunder prophetic messages until the End-Times. This was similar to what happened to Daniel. For a book to be opened implies that its prophetic information was made known in a widespread way. For a book to be sealed implies its info is not to be made known. The angel's open book was probably the book Daniel sealed (Dan. 12:4). Many think its contents were what John wrote about in Rev. 11-22 and prophesied to the nations (v. 11). The little book the angel opened was a different set of prophecies uttered from by the seven thunders voices.

VII. THE MANDATORY PREPARATION FOR THE END-TIME MESSENGERS

- ⁸ *Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel...9 I went to the angel and said, "Give me the little book." He said, "Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth." 10 I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. When I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter. 11 And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings." (Rev. 10:8-11)*
- A. John eating the scroll as Ezekiel did (Ezek. 2:10-3:3) is a prototype for End-Time messengers. The principle being taught is that we must take time to digest God's revelation of the End-Times. John sees the book open and "eats it" then makes it known. John saw and prophesied about the Beast (Rev. 11-13). This was, in essence, what Daniel prophesied about in Dan. 7-12. Daniel and John had unusual revelation and devotion to the Word from their youth. They both had visitations when older. Daniel modeled fasting, praying and studying (Dan. 9:20-22; 10:1-13).
- ¹ *Son of man...eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel." 2 So I opened my mouth, and He caused me to eat that scroll. 3 He said, "Son of man, feed...and fill your stomach with this scroll..." 4 He said, "Go to Israel and speak with My words to them. (Ezek. 3:1-4)*
- B. Sweet: message of victory, salvation and justice with deliverance to the oppressed worldwide. Bitter: message of judgment worldwide that brings persecution to the messengers (Lk. 19:41).
- C. John must prophesy because God only releases the fullness of His purposes as His people pray and prophesy their release under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Lovers of Truth: Being a Faithful Witness (Rev. 22:6-20)

I. THE END-TIME CONFLICT OVER THE TRUTH OF WHO JESUS IS

- A. In the End-Times there will be a battle for the truth about Jesus. Jesus stood firm on speaking the truth in His generation, thus He understands the challenge.

⁵ *From Jesus Christ the faithful witness... (Rev. 1:5)*

- B. Jesus is the faithful witness (Rev 1:5; 3:14). Other examples of witnesses are: the two Witnesses (Rev. 11:3, 7); John (Rev 1:2, 9); the End-Time martyrs (Rev. 6:9; 12:11, 17; 19:10; 20:4); and the Tabernacle of the Testimony (Rev. 15:5).

² *John bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus, to all things that he saw...⁹ John...was on Patmos for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus... (Rev 1:2-9)*

¹⁰ *For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. (Rev. 19:10)*

³ *My two witnesses...will prophesy 1,260 days...⁷ Now when they finish their testimony, the Beast (Antichrist)...will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. (Rev. 11:3, 7)*

¹¹ *They overcame him (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death...¹⁷ The dragon...went to make war with... (those) who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus... (Rev. 12:11, 17)*

⁶ *I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints...the martyrs of Jesus. (Rev. 17:6)*

- C. In the End-Times some believers will give heed to doctrines that lie about the person of Jesus.

¹ *The Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons...² having their conscience seared... (1 Tim. 4:1-2)*

- D. The conflict in the End-Times will center upon defining who Jesus is and how we love Him. We must love God on His terms. Love for God is loyalty to His truth as seen in Jesus. Our love must be expressed in alliance with the Jesus of the Bible, not the Jesus of humanistic sentiment.

- E. Jesus' final exhortation to the Church was to be faithful witnesses to His Word.

⁷ *I (Jesus) am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book ...⁹ I (angel) am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book...¹⁰ He said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book...¹⁶ I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things..." ¹⁷ The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!"...¹⁸ I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; ¹⁹ and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life...²⁰ Even so, come, Lord Jesus! (Rev. 22:6-20)*

- F. Three truths about Jesus that offend humanists include; first, His deity and thus His right to establish absolute standards for which the nations are accountable to Him. Jesus does NOT accept humanistic views of righteousness and love. Second, the only way of salvation is through Jesus. Third, He possesses the wisdom and love to judge sin for all time and eternity.
- G. Love of the truth is more than adherence to it. This love takes a firm stand for truth regardless of the cost. Loving truth requires that we commit to accept any new ideas as long as they are substantiated in the Scripture regardless of how different they are from our religious background.
⁷ *The mystery of lawlessness is already at work...⁹ The coming of the lawless one (Antichrist) is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception...because they did not receive the love of the truth... (2 Thes. 2:7-10)*
- H. The mystery of lawlessness includes man's "surprising" capacity to hate Jesus and love sin. Humanists believe man is basically good and innocent, thus they hate God's judgments.
⁹ *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? (Jer. 17:9)*
⁹ *They will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. 10 Many will...betray one another, and will hate one another. (Mt. 24:9-10)*
- I. Some are naïve about the depth of sin that many walk out in the End-Times. The fullness of man's sin will be seen in the actions of evil people against one another (Rev. 9:21).
²¹ *They did not repent of their murders...sorceries...sexual immorality or thefts. (Rev. 9:21)*
1. Murder: the primary sin on earth (Rev. 6:9-11; 7:13-14; 13:7; 16:6; 17:6; 18:24; 19:2)
2. Sorceries: occult and demon worship will fill the earth (Rev. 13:3-15; 14:11; 16:13-14)
3. Immorality: demon energized perversion (Rev. 9:20-21; 16:13; 17:2; 18:3; 19:2)
4. Theft: legislation and persecution motivated by theft (i.e., the Nazi's anti-Semitism)
- J. Sin will reach the greatest heights ever in all history in the generation in which the Lord returns.
²³ *In the latter time...when the transgressors have reached their fullness... (Dan. 8:23)*
- K. Sin will escalate to such a degree that it will surpass the violence of the days of Noah.
⁵ *The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually...¹¹ The earth was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence... (Gen. 6:5-11)*
- L. The Antichrist will be worshipped in every nation (Rev. 13:4, 8). The nations will hate Jesus and rage against His love and truth (Ps. 2:1-3).
¹⁸ *The nations were angry and Your wrath has come... (Rev. 11:18)*
- M. Judgment is necessary because God has created the human spirit with the great dignity of free will. *Many use their free will to hate God's love, truth and people.* Our freedom to act in love or hatred has real consequences. Our choices really matter to God and really affect others.

II. THE PROPHETIC PICTURE OF JESUS IN THE SCRIPTURES

- A. The true picture of Jesus is to comfort those who receive Him and to confront those who do not.
¹ The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty...² To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God... (Isa. 61:1-2)
- B. The day of vengeance (Great Tribulation) is in Jesus' heart. It is dear to Him and rooted in love. It prepares for the year of redemption (Millennium) in which His love is manifest worldwide.
² Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? ³ "I have trodden the winepress...I have trodden them (nations) in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes. ⁴ For the day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of My redeemed has come...⁶ I have trodden down the peoples in My anger, made them drunk in My fury..." (Isa. 63:2-6)
- C. Revelation gives us the most complete picture of Jesus in the Scripture emphasizing Him as Bridegroom, King and Judge who manifests His power to win the Harvest and cleanse the earth.
¹ The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him (Jesus) to show His servants. (Rev. 1:1)
- D. Revelation reveals the plans of Jesus as the Bridegroom King who judges all that hinders love. God's love is expressed and promoted by His redemptive judgments to remove all that hinders love in confronting those who aggressively oppose and hate His love and leadership. God will use the least severe means to reach the greatest number of people at the deepest level of love.
1. Jesus is a passionate Bridegroom who is filled with tender and jealous love.
 2. Jesus is a King who will intervene to save the earth by taking over the nations for the glory of God and the good of His people forever.
 3. Jesus is a wise and just judge, who will redemptively confront the deep hatred of God and the truth in order to establish love across the whole earth (Rev. 15:3; 16:5-7; 19:2).
- E. The clearest picture of Jesus as our Bridegroom King who judges all that opposes love is found in Rev. 19:11-21. There is no contradiction in the "Jesus of Christmas" who brings peace and goodwill to all men who receive Him and the "Jesus of Armageddon" who confronts all who refuse His love.
¹¹ He...was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war...¹³ He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God...¹⁵ Out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ He has on His robe...a name written: KING OF KINGS... (Rev. 19:11-21)

III. HOW ARE WE TO VIEW GOD'S JUDGMENTS IN THE TRIBULATION?

- A. All in heaven will rejoice as Jesus, through His Church, releases judgment against those who hate God, His truth, and His salvation. What do they understand about God's judgments?

² I saw...those who have the victory over the Beast...³ They sing the song of Moses...and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways...⁴ For Your judgments have been manifested." (Rev. 15:2-4)

- B. All the saints will rejoice when they see the full fruit of Jesus' leadership in releasing judgment. Jesus does everything with love. He is zealous to remove all that hinders love. We must not falsely judge Him, the great Judge but rather hold to what the testimony of Scripture says.

¹ A great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia...² For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot... (Rev. 19:1-3)

IV. JESUS' WARNS THE CHURCH ABOUT DECEPTION IN THE END-TIMES

⁴ Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁵ Many will come in My name...and will deceive many...¹¹ Many false prophets will rise up and deceive many...²⁴ False christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. (Mt. 24:4-5, 11, 24-25)

- A. A humanistic belief system is growing in the Church today that esteems temporal comfort far more than God's holiness and eternity. Jesus is Bridegroom, King and Judge. Many are embarrassed by Jesus as the Judge as if His judgments are lacking love and are too extreme.

- B. One aspect of false prophecy is to promise peace and prosperity in a time of coming judgment.

¹⁶ Do not listen to the words of the prophets...they speak a vision of their own heart, not from the mouth of the LORD. ¹⁷ They continually say to those who despise Me, 'The LORD has said, "You shall have peace";' and to everyone who walks according to the dictates of his own heart, they say, 'No evil shall come upon you.'" ¹⁸ For who has stood in the counsel of the LORD, and has perceived and heard His word?...²⁰ The anger of the LORD will not turn back until He has executed and performed the thoughts of His heart. In the latter days you will understand it perfectly. ²¹ I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran. I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied. ²² But if they had stood in My counsel, and had caused My people to hear My words, then they would have turned them from their evil way... (Jer. 23:16-22)

- C. The truth is politically incorrect. It exposes our core humanism and fear of man.

¹² They have lied about the LORD, and said, "It is not He. Neither will evil come upon us, nor shall we see sword or famine." (Jer. 5:12)

¹⁰ They have seduced My people, saying, 'Peace!' when there is no peace... (Ezek. 13:10)

¹² I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and punish the men who are settled in complacency, who say in their heart, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will He do evil.' (Zeph. 1:12)

The Millennial Kingdom: Heaven on Earth

I. THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM: JESUS' 1,000-YEAR REIGN ON EARTH

- A. This session will give an overview of the Millennium which is a 1,000-year period in which Jesus will rule the world in righteousness. Millennium is from the Latin “*mille*” (a thousand).
⁴ *I saw thrones, and they (saints) sat on them...They lived and reigned with Christ for 1000 years...6 They shall reign with Him 1000 years. (Rev. 20:4-6)*
- B. At this time the Kingdom of God will be openly manifest worldwide affecting every sphere of life (political, social, agricultural, economic, spiritual, educational, law enforcement, family, media, arts, technology, athletics, environment, social institutions, etc.).
- C. The result will be a 1,000-year period of unprecedented blessing for the whole earth as Jesus establishes righteousness and prosperity, and restores the agriculture, atmosphere, and animal life to some of the conditions that were seen in the Garden of Eden (Rev. 20:1-6; Isa. 2:1-4; 9:6-9; 11:1-16; 51:1-8; 60-62; 65:17-25; Ps. 2:6-12; 110:1-7; Deut. 8; 28; Mt. 5:5; 6:10; 17:11; 19:28; 28:19; Acts 1:6; 3:21). This period of blessing will be initiated by Jesus' Second Coming.
- D. Jesus as King of kings will personally govern a worldwide Kingdom from Jerusalem. He will do this in partnership with resurrected saints (Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21; 5:10; 20:4-6; 22:5; Mt. 19:28; 20:21-23; 25:23; Lk. 19:17-19; 22:29-30; 1 Cor. 6:2-3; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rom 8:17).
¹⁷ *Jerusalem shall be called the Throne of the LORD, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem. (Jer. 3:17)*
- E. The Millennial Kingdom is one of the major revelations of Scripture. Jesus' core message was that God's Kingdom was being released in a new measure on earth. The NT makes clear that the kingdom is ‘*already here*’ (in a limited expression) but is ‘*not yet*’ fully here until Jesus returns.
¹⁰ *Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. (Mt. 6:10)*
- F. Daniel saw the heavenly coronation of Jesus as the eternal King over all the dominions of earth. The dominions of the earth include every sphere of society.
¹³ *One like the Son of Man (Jesus)...came to the Ancient of Days (Father)...14 To Him (Jesus) was given...a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him...27 His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve Him. (Dan. 7:13-14, 27)*
- G. Jesus quoted Dan. 7:27 concerning His rule over all the nations and dominions of the earth.
³¹ *When the Son of Man comes in His glory...then He will sit on the Throne of His glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him... (Mt. 25:31-32)*
- H. In the Millennium all the kings of the earth will be saved and worship Jesus (Ps. 72:11; 102:15; 138:4; 148:11; Isa. 62:2; Rev. 21:24) and base their national governments on God's Word.
¹¹ *All kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him. (Ps. 72:11)*

II. CENTERPIECE OF GOD’S PURPOSE: BRINGING HEAVEN AND EARTH TOGETHER

⁹ *Having made known to us the mystery (hidden plan) of His will...10 that He might gather together in one ALL things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth--in Him. (Eph. 1:9-10)*

- A. The centerpiece of God’s eternal purpose is for Jesus to come back to establish His Kingdom over all the earth as He joins the heavenly and earthly realms together. God’s purpose has always been for His people to live together with Him in this way forever. This is the interpretive key to understanding the End-Times. Without this foundational revelation, confusion is inevitable.

³ *Behold, the Tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them... (Rev. 21:3)*

- B. God created the universe in two distinct realms. **Heaven** speaks of the spiritual realm where God’s power and presence is openly manifest. **Earth** speaks of the physical realm where human processes, emotions and physical sensations reach their fullest expression. Heaven is the place believers have gone for the last 2,000 years (the Cross to the Second Coming) as a “temporary holding pattern” before receiving a resurrected body. The saints do not need a resurrected body in heaven to relate to its spiritual environment. It is only as the spirit and the physical realm come together that we can express the fullness of God’s personality and purposes or the fullness of God (Eph 1:22-23; 3:19; 4:13; Col. 1:19-20; 2:9-10).
- C. Ancient Greek philosophy (Platonism) viewed the spirit realm as good and the material realm as bad. This philosophy continues in the Church today. It leads some to think wrongly about heaven on earth. If we do not think rightly of heaven on earth, we end up not thinking of heaven at all.
- D. In the Millennium, Jesus’ primary mandate is to prepare the earth for the Father’s coming by bringing the nations to mature righteousness (1 Cor. 15:24-28). Righteousness will be substantial in the Millennium then perfect afterwards on the New Earth. The earth will be purged with fire at the end of the Millennium to fully prepare it for the Father (2 Pet. 3:10-13; Rev. 20:11).
- E. The End-Time message is focused on Jesus preparing His people and the nations so that He might fully establish His Kingdom on earth. Jesus is raising up a “Millennial leadership team”.

III. THREE TYPES OF PEOPLE ARE ON EARTH WHEN JESUS APPEARS IN THE SKY

- A. The redeemed will be raptured during Jesus’ worldwide procession across the sky.
- B. The reprobates who took the mark of the Beast will be judged and then killed (some executed). At this time, there may be 1-3 billion of these people still alive. They will not just disappear.
- C. The resisters are the unsaved survivors of the Tribulation who refused to worship the Antichrist. These resisters will stand against evil governments without regard to having faith in God. For example, in World War II the French Resistance fought the Nazis. Scripture refers to “those who are left”. They can be saved then populate the Millennial earth (Isa. 4:3; 10:20; 11:11; 49:6; 65:8; 66:19; Jer. 31:2; Ezek. 20:38-42; 36:36; Amos 9:9-10; Joel 2:32; Zech. 12:14; 13:8; 14:16).

IV. GET THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE (PARADIGM) ABOUT THE END-TIMES

- A. Jesus will rule the earth with the natural human processes not suspended, yet significantly enhanced by the supernatural dimension of the Spirit.
- B. As Gentile believers, our most natural paradigm is to think of worshipping Jesus as God in the supernatural conditions of heaven. We emphasize Jesus' deity as the Son of God. The Jewish paradigm speaks of reigning with the Messianic King as a man in the natural conditions of the earth. The Jewish view emphasizes the Messiah's humanity as the Son of David.
- C. *The full truth is only seen when these two paradigms are brought together.*

V. THE NATURAL PROCESSES OF LIFE WILL CONTINUE ON EARTH FOR 1,000 YEARS

- A. Jesus will rule the Millennial earth that has both natural and supernatural dimensions. The length of life will be reversed as it was in Noah's time. Those who live to be only 100 years old will be thought to have lived a short life. It will be common for people to live to be 500 years old.
²⁰ No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; for the child shall die 100 years old, but the sinner being 100 years old shall be accursed. 21 They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. 22...For as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people...25 The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox... (Isa. 65:20-25)
- B. The animosity of animals toward each other and with humans will be removed (Rom. 8:20-21).
⁶ The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb...the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. 7 The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole...9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (Isa. 11:6-9)
- C. The natural processes of life will continue in establishing the infrastructure for every sphere of life in every city and village throughout the earth.
 - 1. This infrastructure will include replacing the governmental leaders from the Antichrist's worldwide government with new people at every level of public life in every city.
 - 2. This infrastructure will include life support systems (food, water, electricity), building projects (buildings, highways, bridges, etc.), economic systems (currencies, banking, investments, etc.), spiritual life (worship centers, Bible schools, etc.), education (from elementary to university levels), law enforcement, agriculture (equipment, distribution), media and arts, technology, environment, social institutions, etc.

VI. THE SAINTS WILL RULE WITH JESUS AS KINGS AND PRIESTS

- A. The two functions most emphasized for the saints are priests and kings (Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 20:6). As priests, resurrected saints will worship, intercede and communicate the knowledge of God to others (non-resurrected people on the Millennial earth plus the saints in the New Jerusalem). The primary government of the Millennial earth will come forth from continual intercession.
- B. As kings, resurrected saints will evaluate the past, determine future action plans and appoint people who serve in the infrastructure under their authority. This will include training and managing the people they appoint. Our personality will come forth in the decisions we make.
- ² *Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?...the world will be judged by you 3 Do you not know that we shall judge (evaluate) angels? (1 Cor. 6:2-3)*
- ²⁸ *In the regeneration (Millennium), when the Son of Man sits on the Throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will sit on 12 thrones, judging the 12 tribes of Israel. (Mt. 19:28)*

VII. JESUS WILL BE THE KING OVER ALL OTHER KINGS IN THE MILLENNIUM

¹⁶ *He has...a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. (Rev. 19:16)*

- A. In the Millennium, all the kings of the earth will be saved, worship Jesus and base their national governments on the Scripture (Ps. 72:11; 102:15; 138:4; 148:11; Isa. 62:2; Rev. 21:24).
- ¹¹ *Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him. (Ps. 72:11)*
- B. Jesus will rule a worldwide Kingdom in partnership with two types of kings: kings of the earth (non-resurrected bodies) and resurrected kings (saints with resurrected bodies). Together they will establish a godly social order that will transform every sphere of life in the Millennium.
- ⁵ *Jesus Christ, the faithful witness...ruler over the kings of the earth (non-resurrected bodies). To Him who loved us...6 and made us (resurrected saints) kings and priests to God. (Rev. 1:5-6)*
- C. Saints with resurrected bodies will be made kings and/or rulers over different spheres of life (Mt. 19:28; 20:21-23; 25:23; Lk. 19:17-19; 22:29-30; 1 Cor. 6:2-3; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rom 8:17).
- ¹⁰ *Have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth. (Rev. 5:10)*

VIII. THE RESURRECTED SAINTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE KINGS OF THE EARTH

- A. Jesus will establish infrastructure in partnership with resurrected saints who will oversee those with non-resurrected bodies. The saints (resurrected) will have a dynamic role in training “resisters” (with non-resurrected bodies) who become born again after Jesus’ return to earth.
- B. The necessary infrastructure to govern each sphere of life will gradually increase in capacity, quality and size as the leaders grow in wisdom and skill development.

- C. The saints as well as leaders with non-resurrected bodies will need to learn and then apply what they learned. Jesus with His saints will be involved in training the non-resurrected leaders of the nations in God's ways. As wisdom is gained and applied, society will progressively improve. Together they will establish training institutions that all nations may systematically learn Jesus' ways (political, economic, spiritual, educational, agricultural, family, media, technology, etc.).
³ ***Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the House of the God of Jacob; He (Jesus) will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths." Out of Zion shall go forth the law...the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. (Isa. 2:3)***
- D. Social improvements or the "healing of the nations" will be progressive, not instantaneous. Those who reign with Jesus will be involved in this process of healing the Millennial nations.
² ***Tree of life...the leaves of the Tree were for the healing of the nations. (Rev. 22:2)***
- E. The resurrected saints in partnership with the kings of the earth will work together to fully restore the cities of the earth that are destroyed in the Tribulation. The saints will oversee what is rebuilt by labor (Isa. 62:8-9; 65:21-23; Jer. 31:5; Ezek. 48:18-19).
³⁶ ***Then the nations which are left all around you shall know that I, the LORD, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted what was desolate. (Ezek. 36:36)***
- F. The resurrected saints in partnership with the leaders of earth will bring the gospel to those needing salvation. The lost will not be instantly and automatically converted at the moment of the Second Coming, neither will the children be who are born during the millennium. It will take time and effort to convert individuals and then to disciple nations.
¹⁸ ***I will gather all nations...and they shall come and see My glory 19...Among them who escape I will send to the nations...who have not heard My fame nor seen My glory. And they shall declare My glory among the Gentiles. 20 Then they shall bring all your brethren for an offering to the LORD out of all nations...says the LORD. (Isa. 66:18-20)***
- G. The resurrected saints with the kings of the earth will work together to re-establish businesses to generate financial resources (Isa. 60:1-14). Israel will be prosperous in the Millennium (Isa. 4:1; 35:1-2; 30:23-25; 62:8-9; 60:1-14; 65:21-23).
- H. The saints will oversee the work necessary to restore God's order to the agriculture, atmosphere, and animal life (Rev. 20:1-6; Isa. 2:1-4; 9:6-9; 11:1-16; 51:1-8; 60-62; 65:17-25; Ps. 2:6-12; 110:1-7; Deut. 8; 28; Mt. 5:5; 6:10; 17:11; 19:28; 28:19; Acts 1:6; 3:21).
- I. In the Millennial Kingdom, sin will occur by those with non-resurrected bodies and thus sin will be punished. Sin and even false prophets will continue in the Millennium. They will be punished (Ps. 2:9; 72:9-11; Isa. 11:4; 66:20, 24; Zech. 13:2-4; 14:16-19).
³ ***It shall come to pass that if anyone still prophesies, then his father and mother... will say to him, 'You shall not live, because you have spoken lies in the name of the LORD.' (Zech. 13:3)***

IX. EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

- A. It is essential to grasp the Book of Revelation because to see the end of the story is to have a framework to understand the 150 chapters on the End-Times.
- B. Jesus comes to Jerusalem as our great Bridegroom-King-Judge to end the Armageddon Campaign by defeating the Antichrist and to establish His earthly 1,000-year Millennial Kingdom which prepares the earth to receive the Father's Throne (Rev. 21:3).
- ³ ***Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. (Rev. 21:3)***
- C. Jesus brings justice or vengeance to the earth in context to the Antichrist's oppression that will have its most intense manifestation in Jerusalem (Zech. 12:2-3; 14:2; Joel 3:2, 12; Zeph. 3:8).
- D. There is no room for the fog of proud, naïve sentimentality about how our compassion is superior to Jesus' judgment in the face of this eschatological oppressor. God so loved the world that Jesus will kill the oppressors who cruelly kill people, instead of allowing them to continue to murder and commit evil.
- E. Jesus will only confront the oppressor to the measure that the prayers of the saints ascend in faith. The End-Time prayer movement is the greatest justice movement in history. The 24/7 prayers of the saints worldwide (Lk. 18:7-8; Isa. 42:10-16; Rev. 5:8; 22:17), will join with the prayers of the martyrs in heaven (Rev. 6:10) and with the prayers of the unsaved remnant of Israel (Zech. 12:10; Isa. 64:1-12; 30:18-33; Ps. 94:1-23; 98:1-9; 99:1-9, etc.). Isa. 64 can be identificational repentance prayed by Messianic believers today or the unsaved remnant before the Rapture or the Zech. 12:10 people.

⁶ ***Let the high praises of God be in their mouth...⁷ to execute vengeance on the nations...⁹ to execute on them the written judgment-- this honor have all His saints. (Ps. 149:6-9)***

²² ***These are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. (Lk. 21:22)***

⁷ ***Shall God not avenge (bring justice) His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? ⁸ I tell you that He will avenge them speedily (Great Tribulation). Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith (agreement in prayer) on the earth? (Lk. 18:7-8)***

¹⁰ ***The (End-Time martyrs) cried (interceded)...saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" (Rev. 6:10)***

¹⁰ ***They (martyrs) cried..., "How long...until You judge and avenge our blood...?" (Rev. 6:10)***

¹ ***Oh, that You would rend the heavens! that You would come down! That the mountains might shake at Your presence...² to make Your name known to Your adversaries, that the nations (Antichrist's armies) may tremble at Your presence (Ps. 110:5)... (Isa. 64:1-2)***

- F. The 7 scenes in Rev 19:11-21:8 follow right after the seventh bowl (Rev. 16:17-21). Jesus comes in context to the Battle of Jerusalem to end the Armageddon Campaign (lasts for 3½ years).
Scene #1: Jesus presents Himself as He approaches Jerusalem for the final battle (Rev. 19:11-16)
Scene #2: Jesus defeats the Antichrist at the Battle of Jerusalem (Rev. 19:17-21)
Scene #3: Satan is cast into prison for 1,000 years (Rev. 20:1-3)
Scene #4: Saints are given the governmental leadership over the earth (Rev. 20:4-6)
Scene #5: Satan is released after 1,000 years giving all a choice to obey (Rev. 20:7-10)
Scene #6: Great White Throne: God's final judgment of all enemies (Rev. 20:11-15)
Scene #7: The Father establishes His Throne with His people on the New Earth (Rev. 21:1-8)
- G. The Battle for Jerusalem is a spiritual, political and military battle for the control of Jerusalem. This is one of the most significant battlefronts in the spirit today. It will be ended only by Jesus' Second Coming to reign as King over the whole earth. Then Jesus as a man will use the keys of the Kingdom to cast ***Satan into prison*** (Rev. 20:1-3) and call forth the New Jerusalem to descend to the earth (Rev. 21:2, 10; 3:12). Satan's primary agenda is to stay out of prison. This is central to his End-Time focus as he wages war against Israel and the Church in the End-Times.
- H. This battle is central to the Armageddon Campaign which lasts for 3½ years (Rev. 11:2-3; 12:6, 14; 13:5; Dan. 7:25; 12:7) and ends with a great military conflict around Jerusalem as its decisive battle. Armageddon is a geographic area in the valley of Megiddo, in the northern part of Israel, and it functions as the staging area where kings gather together for a military build-up.
- ¹ Behold, the day of the LORD is coming...² for I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem...³ Then the LORD will go forth (Second Coming of Christ) and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. ⁴ In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives...⁵ Thus the LORD my God will come, and all the saints with You. (Zech. 14:1-5)*
- ² Leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. They will tread the holy city (Jerusalem) underfoot for 42 months. (Rev. 11:2)*
- I (the Lord) will also gather all nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat (area of Jerusalem); and I will enter into judgment with them there...¹⁴ Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near ...¹⁶ The LORD also will roar from Zion (Jerusalem), and utter His voice from Jerusalem... (Joel 3:2, 12-16)*
- I. The battle for Jerusalem is primarily a war between two men and two houses of prayer, Jesus' and the Antichrist's (Rev. 13:4, 8, 12; 17:14; 19:11-20:3). The man who wins this war will be worshipped as he rules the world from Jerusalem. Jesus, the victor, will be worshipped by all.
- ¹¹ The LORD will be awesome to them, for He will reduce to nothing all the gods of the earth; people shall worship Him, each one from his place...all the shores of the nations. (Zeph. 2:11)*
- ¹¹ "From the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My name shall be great among the Gentiles; in every place incense (worship) shall be offered to My name...for My name shall be great among the nations," Says the LORD of hosts. (Mal. 1:11)*

X. JESUS PRESENTS HIMSELF AS HE APPROACHES JERUSALEM (REV. 19:11-16)

¹¹ I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns...¹³ He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood...¹⁴ The armies in heaven...followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵ Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations...He Himself treads the winepress of the...wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ He has on His robe...a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. (Rev. 19:11-16)

- A. Heaven opens in order to show John the vision. Heaven opening is merely a description of how John sees and not an indication of the location Jesus is riding from at this point in the storyline.
- B. Makes war: at the 7th Trumpet a voice in heaven announces that Jesus is taking over all the nations (Rev. 11:15). The “*Jesus of Christmas*” brings peace and goodwill to men (Lk. 2:14) by openly waging a just war against the evil as the “*Jesus of Armageddon*”. He uses war to establish peace and justice. The Antichrist started the war (Rev. 11:7; 12:7, 17; 13:4, 7; 17:14; 19:11, 19; Dan. 7:21; 9:26). This war is also won in the heavenlies (Rev. 12:7-12).
- C. Robe dipped in blood: most scholars see this as the blood of Jesus’ enemies. This eschatological winepress is the gathering of evil leaders to Jerusalem. The wine flowing out of it is their blood. The blood on His robe denotes His intimate involvement and a public statement that He believes in this war. The word “dipped” comes from the Greek word “*baptō*” (baptize) which is translated by some as “sprinkled” or “soaked.” The robe is the long outer garment.
- ¹ Who is this who comes from Edom (Jordan)...this One who is glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength?... ² Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? ³ "I have trodden the winepress...I have trodden them in My anger...their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes. ⁴ For the day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of My redeemed has come. (Isa. 63:1-4)*
- ⁹ In that day that I will...destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. (Zech. 12:9)*
- D. A river of blood runs nearly 200 miles or the distance from Megiddo in the north to Bozrah in the south. A furlong equals a stadia (NIV) or 200 yards.
- ¹⁹ The angel...gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. ²⁰ The winepress was trampled...and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for 1,600 furlongs (200 miles). (Rev. 14:19-20)*
- E. The principle of judgment: God uses the least severe means to bring the greatest numbers to salvation at the deepest levels of love without violating anyone's free will in training the future governors of the earth (Dan. 7:21-27; Rev. 3:21; 5:10; 22:5). God’s judgments will remove all that hinders love in the Church and in Israel.
- F. Armies followed Him: Jesus conquers in partnership with His people (Rev. 3:21; Jn. 17:24). The saints are with Him (1 Thes. 4:14; Zech. 14:5). The saints dash the nations with Him (Rev. 2:27).

XI. JESUS DEFEATS THE ANTICHRIST AT THE BATTLE OF JERUSALEM (REV. 19:17-21)

¹⁷ I saw an angel...saying to all the birds..., "Gather together for the supper of the great God, ¹⁸ that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses...." ¹⁹ I saw the Beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him...and against His army. ²⁰ Then the Beast was captured, and with him the False Prophet...These two were cast alive into the Lake of Fire ...²¹ The rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him...the birds were filled with their flesh. (Rev. 19:17-21)

- A. The rest are killed by Jesus as described in Ps. 110:5-6 when David saw Jesus personally executing the leaders of the nations who voted for the Antichrist and against Jesus at the end of the battle. We must warn the leaders about refusing Jesus and warring against Him (Ps. 2:12).
⁵ He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath. ⁶ He shall judge among the nations, He shall fill the places with dead bodies, He shall execute the heads of many countries. (Ps. 110:5-6)
- B. The nearly 200 mile area of Rev. 14:20 is Jesus' winepress around Jerusalem. For the first time in history, all the kings of the earth will be gathered into one geographic area (Zech. 12:2-3; 14:2; Joel 3:2, 12; Zeph. 3:8; Rev. 16:14). After they gather, Jesus kills them all in this winepress (Rev. 19:21). A winepress was usually associated with the celebration of the harvest. In this case all of heaven celebrates this glorious harvest of the earth (Rev. 14:14-20; 19:1-5).
- C. Jesus will capture the Antichrist and then sentence him to prison. This is a dramatic reversal of the roles between Jesus and Satan which took place in the temptation in the wilderness when Satan offered Jesus the leadership of the all the nations of the earth (Mt. 4).
- D. The great slaughter of the Antichrist's armies leaves blood flowing for 200 miles (Rev. 19:19-21; 14:20) and coincides with the great plague that will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem, causing their flesh, eyes and tongues to dissolve. This plague also strikes their horses, mules, camels, donkeys and all the cattle in their camps. (Zech. 14:12-15). Jesus will destroy the Antichrist with the brightness of His coming (2 Thes. 2:8).
- E. The pinnacle of the Second Coming Procession is Jesus' re-entry into the city of Jerusalem to be officially received by the governmental leaders of Israel as their Messianic King.
³⁹ I say to you (governmental leaders in Jerusalem), you shall see Me no more till you say, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!" (Mt. 23:39)
- F. Jesus will be celebrated as the Son of David in a Hosanna coronation parade hosted by the leaders of Israel. The leaders of Israel will open the gates of Jerusalem to Jesus in an official declaration of Him as their King after He rescues them to end the Armageddon campaign.
⁷ Lift up your heads, O you gates (of Jerusalem)! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. ⁸ Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle (Armageddon campaign). (Ps. 24:7-8)

XII. THE FATHER ESTABLISHES HIS THRONE WITH HIS PEOPLE ON EARTH (REV. 21:1-8)

¹ *I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."* (Rev. 21:1-4)

A. The high point of all salvation history is the Father dwelling on earth with humans (v. 3). The Father gives us a 7-fold message (Rev. 21:5-8) revealing His commitments to us. The Father also speaks in a direct way for only the second time in Revelation (Rev. 1:8; 21:5).

B. God's purpose has always been to live together with His people face-to-face on this earth. This is the most difficult yet ultimate reality that God determined to accomplish through Christ. The dilemma is that God cannot violate His blazing holiness and yet will not violate man's free will. Thus, He had to establish a salvation process that created the context for Him to dwell face-to-face with humans. God can only make His habitation on earth after the nations live in obedience to Him. There are many implications to this grand reality of God fully removing "the veil".

³ *Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.* (Rev. 21:3)

C. Jesus as a man will use the keys of the Kingdom to cast ***Satan into prison*** (Rev. 20:1-3) and call forth the ***New Jerusalem to descend*** to the earth (Rev. 21:2, 10; 3:12). Satan's primary agenda is to stay out of prison. This is central to his End-Time focus as he wages war against Israel and the Church in the End-Times. The greatest authority in binding and loosing occurs as Jesus binds the devil and looses the New Jerusalem to come to earth, causing an open heaven over the earth.

D. The New Jerusalem is our eternal dwelling place. The City is seen in its relational term or in its nearness to God (Rev. 21:1-8).

¹³ *Look for a new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.* (2 Pet. 3:13)

E. The New Jerusalem has been prepared as a place where all the saints will live forever in God's immediate presence (Heb. 11:10, 16; 12:22-24). The New Jerusalem descends to the earth on two occasions (at the Second Coming and then after the Millennial Kingdom).

F. Rev. 21:3 describes God dwelling with humans. Our highest inheritance is God dwelling with us (Ex. 25:8; Lev. 26:11-13; Ezek. 37:26-27; Rev. 21:3), which is a promise that is completely fulfilled to the saints whether in the Millennial Earth or New Earth. The tabernacle speaks of intimate face-to-face encounter with God's heart and person. As stated previously, the Father speaks in a direct way for only the second time in Revelation 21 (Rev. 1:8; 21:5).

Apostolic Pre-Millennialism

I. APOSTOLIC CHRISTIANITY: THE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING THE END-TIMES

- A. We use the term “apostolic” as an adjective to describe the vision, values, and perseverance (*in persecution*) of the New Testament Church, as raised up under the leadership of the first century apostles. In other words, Apostolic Christianity embraces a New Testament lifestyle. (Note: we are not using the term in this paper as a noun, thus referring to modern-day apostles).
- B. Apostolic Christianity or New Testament Christianity will emerge in the End-Times as the Spirit raises up a victorious Church that operates in unprecedented unity, intimacy and maturity (Eph. 4:13) which includes a significant release of the Holy Spirit’s gifts, fruit, and wisdom (Eph. 4:13; 5:27; Matt. 16:18; 22:37; Jn. 17:21-26; Rev. 19:7; 12:11; 15:2).
- ¹¹ *He gave...apostles, some prophets...12 for the equipping of the saints...13 till we ALL come to the unity (fully unified Church) of the faith and of the knowledge (intimacy) of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the...stature of the fullness of Christ (maturity). (Eph. 4:11-13)*
- ²⁷ *That He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. (Eph. 5:27)*
1. **Unity** – functioning as a fully unified community or spiritual family of believers in context to the End-Time outpouring of the Spirit along with persecution.
 2. **Intimacy** – experiencing the knowledge of Jesus’ heart as His Bride (Jn. 17:21-22).
 3. **Maturity** – walking in the Spirit’s *gifts* (power), *fruit* (character), and *wisdom* (revelation) that will lead to impact (*evangelism and transformation of some geographic areas*).
- C. The End-Time Church is called by God to victory, wholeheartedness and relevance.
1. **Victory** – attaining to unity, intimacy and maturity and led by the five-fold ministry (Eph. 4:13). The Holy Spirit will restore the 5-fold ministry (Eph. 4:11-13; Rev. 18:20).
 2. **Wholehearted** – walking in “Sermon on the Mount lifestyles” of self-denial and serving, giving, blessing, praying and fasting as seen in the New Testament Church (Mt. 5-7).
 3. **Relevance** – understanding the relevance of our present labors in three ways. First, seeing how they *benefit people now*. Second, seeing their continuity to our life in the age-to-come. In other words, some of our impact in society now will have **continuity** in the Millennium (justice in legislation, education, technology, scientific advancements, etc.) and will continue after Jesus returns. Third, seeing how they impact our *personal eternal rewards* after Jesus returns.

II. WHAT IS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIANITY?

- A. ***It is Church-centered*** – Jesus is building a Church that will openly triumph over all the powers of hell (Mt. 16:18). The New Testament presents salvation in context to the Church as a spiritual family that walks out love and honors all its members (i.e., gender, age, ethnic, economic, etc.).
- B. ***It results in wholeheartedness*** – as it embraces holiness and discipleship. In other words, the fasted lifestyle is described in the Sermon on the Mount (Mt. 5-7). It resists the “pleasure-seeking Western Church culture” that results in “lazy-friendly churches” that refuse self-denial and commitment. Apostolic Christianity receives God’s blessing (prosperity) as a means to increase God’s Kingdom rather than to live as “consumer Christians” that use most of their resources to live extravagantly.
- C. ***Its ministries flow from intimacy with God*** – our ministries can only operate in fullness as we flow from a foundation of intimacy with fasting and prayer (*intercession, worship, intimacy with the Bridegroom God*) that contends (*fights*) for the release of the Spirit’s power (Rev. 22:17; Jude 3).
- D. ***It possesses a missionary spirit*** – our inheritance is to be effective in the Harvest and to make an impact on society (*Cultural Mandate*) with righteousness and justice in social institutions (*government, economics, education, technology, media, etc.*). There is continuity of some of our labors into the Millennial Kingdom.
- E. ***It embraces persecution*** – as a part of spiritual warfare (Col. 1:24; 2 Cor. 11-12).
- F. ***It engages in God’s purpose for Israel*** – the salvation of Israel is a foundational aspect of God’s End-Time drama. Jews and Gentile believers will come together as One New Man (Eph. 2:15) with a profound unity that matures in context to the unique dynamics of the End-Times. Israel will be provoked to jealousy (Rom. 11:11, 14) by an anointed apostolic Church that stands with them in context to anti-Semitism and persecution. The End-Time falling away will be related to this (2 Thes. 2:3).
- G. ***It prepares “Day of the Lord prophetic preachers”*** – the Spirit is raising up forerunners like John the Baptist and Paul who will not draw back in fear from declaring the whole counsel of God, which includes End-Time themes that will enrage many (Acts 20:20, 27; 5:20; Joel 2:1).
- H. ***It is led by apostolic ministry*** – God will restore the 5-fold ministry (Eph. 4:11-13; Rev. 18:20).
- I. Overview of the victorious Apostolic Church – (Eph. 4:13; 5:27; Mt. 16:18; 22:37; Jn. 17:21-26; Rev. 19:7; 12:11; 15:2). ***Fullness of revival*** (Rom. 11:25; Rev. 7:9). ***Victorious Church*** (Eph. 4:13; 5:27; Matt. 16:18; 22:37; Jn. 17:21-26; Rev. 19:7; 12:11; 15:2). ***Fullness of the Gentiles and the salvation of Israel*** (Rom. 11:25-26). ***Bridal paradigm*** (Rev. 22:17; Hos. 2:16; Mt. 22:37; 25:8). ***Worship and prayer movement*** (Lk. 18:7-8; Mt. 21:13; Rev. 5:8; 8:3-5; 22:17, 20; Isa. 62:6-7; Joel 2:12-17, 32; Zech. 12:10). ***Spirit of power and prophecy and revelation*** (Acts 2:17; Jer. 31:9; 23:20; 30:24; 5:4-5; Dan. 11:33-35; 12:3, 10; Rev. 11:3-6; 18:20; Mt. 17:11; Mal. 4:6; Jn. 14:12). ***Great Harvest*** (Mt. 24:14; 28:19; Rev. 7:9; 5:9; 14:6; 15:4; Dan. 7:14, 27).

III. THE DAY OF THE LORD DRAMA – 2 DIMENSIONS

¹¹ *For the Day of the LORD is great and very terrible; who can endure it? (Joel 2:11)*

- A. **Great Day** – the greatest revival and outpouring of the Spirit in history results in a victorious Church full of God's glory (Eph. 4:13; 5:26-27; Mt. 16:18; Jn. 17:21-26; Acts 2:17-21; Rev. 7:9; 12:11; 15:2; 19:7-8; 22:17). It will include miracles that were seen in the Book of Acts and the Book of Exodus combined and multiplied on a global scale. The End-Time Ingathering of souls will possibly be over 1 billion (Mt. 24:14; Rev. 7:9, 14). The salvation of Israel (Rom. 11:12-15, 25-26) will occur as the Church provokes Israel to jealousy by standing with them in affliction and operating in the power of God.
- B. **Very Terrible Day** – the greatest crisis in history is called the Great Tribulation. Daniel prophesied that it would be "a time of trouble such as never was" (Dan. 12:1). Jesus quoted this saying, that there will be great tribulation that will threaten the lives of many (Mt. 24:21-22).
- C. **Review:** characteristics of the End-Time Church. The ***bridal paradigm*** of the Kingdom will result in believers with courageous love as they encounter Jesus as the Bridegroom God. The ***worship and prayer movement*** will operate in great authority. There will be ***supernatural provision*** of food and water. There will be ***supernatural direction*** by prophetic revelation (Jer. 31:9; Joel 2:28) as the Lord directs His people to safety and to be at the right place to escape earthquakes, or the ambush of the enemy. The spirit of power and prophecy will rest on all believers (Acts 2:17). There will be ***supernatural protection***. God will seal individual saints protecting them from judgments (Rev. 7:2-3; 9:4).

IV. THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

¹⁰ *Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. (Matt. 6:10)*

- A. The Millennium is a literal 1,000-year period in which Jesus will rule the whole world from Jerusalem in righteousness, peace and prosperity (Rev. 20:1-6). The result will be unprecedented blessing for the whole earth as Jesus restores the agriculture, atmosphere, and animal life, etc.
- B. The Kingdom of God will be openly manifest worldwide affecting every sphere of life (political, economic, spiritual, educational, agricultural, family, media, arts, technology, athletics, environment, social institutions, etc.). This period of worldwide blessing is initiated by Jesus' Second Coming and the binding of Satan (Rev. 20:1-6; Isa. 2:1-4; 9:6-9; 11:1-16; 51:1-8; 60-62; 65:17-25; Ps. 2:6-12; 110:1-7; Deut. 8; 28; Mt. 5:5; 6:10; 17:11; 19:28; 28:19; Acts 1:6; 3:21).
- C. Jesus as King of Kings, will personally govern a worldwide Kingdom from Jerusalem in partnership with resurrected saints who rule with Him in establishing a biblically based, social order (Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21; 5:10; 20:4-6; 22:5; Mt. 19:28; 20:21-23; 25:23; Lk. 19:17-19; 22:29-30; 1 Cor. 6:2-3; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rom 8:17).

V. END-TIMES (ESCHATOLOGY) – WHY DOES IT EVEN MATTER?

- A. **Ideas have consequences** – God gave us information about the End-Times to describe what the Church attains to before and after Jesus' Coming. Our view of the End-Times affects our ministry focus, prayer life and lifestyle. Wrong views hinder our ministry focus and our effectiveness. Everyone has a view of the End-Times. Most have not clarified their views.
- B. Eschatology is the study of the End-Times. Biblical eschatology greatly strengthens the Church while wrong eschatology hinders its effectiveness. Thus, it is essential to clarify what eschatological views hinder the gospel.
- C. Often people accept one of three extremes.
 - 1. First, being ***too negative*** in thinking the Great Tribulation will be so bad that nothing will change for good. This view leads people to draw back from seeking to change society. They say, “Why should we exert effort to bring change if the change will not last?”
 - 2. Second, being ***too positive*** in thinking that most of society will be transformed before Jesus returns. This view ignores what Scripture says about the coming pressures and the necessity of Jesus' personal return to establish the fullness of the Kingdom. Hope-filled desire is important, however, it must be tempered by Scripture and not humanistic optimism. We must be loyal to God's wisdom in Scripture. Exaggerated optimism often ignores or explains away the negative specific details of End-Time prophecy.
 - 3. Third, being ***too vague*** assuming that it is impossible to know what the Scripture says about the End-Times. Thus, they ignore the subject and let the future take care of itself without preparing for it. Many assume nothing dramatic will happen (2 Pet. 3:3).

VI. THREE APPROACHES TO END-TIME PROPHECY (AS RELATED TO THE MILLENNIUM)

- A. ***Pre-Millennialism*** – teaches that Jesus returns **BEFORE** (pre-) His 1,000 year rule on earth. This is the only view that interprets End-Time prophecy in a literal or face value way.
- B. ***A-Millennialism*** – means “**No-Millennium.**” This view teaches that Jesus' 1,000-year reign is not a literal earthly reign, but rather it is a spiritual victory over sin in the heart of the believer. Millennial prophecies are interpreted as currently being fulfilled in the Church's war against sin.
- C. ***Post-Millennialism*** – teaches that Jesus will come back **AFTER** (post-) the Millennium. This view teaches that the Church establishes the Millennial Kingdom by fully Christianizing the whole world before Jesus returns. This is idealism and optimism that goes beyond Scripture.
- D. ***Pan-Millennial?*** – claims that things will just ‘**pan out.**’ There will be negative consequences for the unprepared. Things will pan out but will they pan out well for you?

VII. AMILLENNIAL VIEW OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

- A. *The strength of this view* is its focus on the spiritual triumph of the Church over sin and Satan before the Lord returns.
- B. *The weaknesses of this view* are found in usually interpreting most End-Time prophecy as symbolic or figurative (instead of literal) and in embracing replacement theology which teaches that the Church replaces Israel as heir to Israel's positive prophetic promises.
- C. Most Amillennialists and Post-Millennialists have the preterist view of the End-Times. Preterism is a term referred to in many eschatology books. A preterist is one with interest in the past. A preterit is a verb tense that describes a past action or condition (a verb in the preterit form).
- D. Preterists usually do not believe in an End-Time Tribulation nor interpret the Book of Revelation in a literal way. Preterism sees most of the prophecies of the Book of Revelation (Tribulation, Armageddon, Antichrist, False Prophet, etc.) as being completely fulfilled in an earthly way when Israel was at war with Rome (66-70 AD) and/or seeing them as partly symbolic (as a picture of spiritual conflict throughout Church history). Israel's war with the Roman Empire led to over one million Jews being killed and to the destruction of Jerusalem and its Temple under General Titus in 70 AD.
- E. Amillennialists see the prophecies of Mt. 24 and Lk. 21, as being completely fulfilled in 70 AD. It is true that the events of 70 AD were a partial fulfillment of these prophecies. However, they were meant to be understood also as a significant prophetic foreshadowing of End-Time events.
- F. Most Amillennialists are what I call "eschatological cessationists" that do not believe the power of God will be manifest in the events related to the Great Tribulation and the establishing of the Millennium. Preterists have a ***domesticated eschatology*** that reduces most of the literal manifestations of God's power and judgments in Revelation to symbolism. Preteritists also approach many Old Testament prophecies by either spiritualizing them (seeing them as symbolic) or simply ignoring them (*without even attempting to see their fulfillment in 70 AD*).
²⁴ ***Jesus answered and said to them (Sadducees), "Are you not therefore mistaken, because you do not know the Scriptures nor the power of God?" (Mark 12:24)***
- G. Amillennialists usually limit the Kingdom of God on the earth as being mostly in the heart of a believer. Most Amillennialists do not emphasize a large Ingathering of souls in the End-Times nor the restoration of the 5-fold ministry (Eph. 4:11-13), nor the gifts of the Spirit.
- H. Amillennialism is mostly held by those with reformed theology. Amillennialists through history believed in a Great Tribulation with a literal Antichrist. However, today most Amillennialists reject this. Also, those with this view usually lack a strong emphasis on the Cultural Mandate to impact society. Amillennialists and Post-Millennialists believe in the victorious Church yet in different degrees and emphases.

VIII. POST-MILLENNIAL VIEW OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

- A. ***The strength of this view*** is found in their zeal for the Cultural Mandate or for transforming society and its laws (*political, economic, education, media, arts, etc.*).
- B. ***The weakness of this view*** has similarities with Amillennialists in usually interpreting most End-Time prophecy as symbolic instead of literal and in embracing replacement theology. Most Post-Millennialists have the preterist view of Revelation which sees most of its prophecies and Mt. 24 and Lk. 21 as being fulfilled in Israel's war with Rome (66-70 AD), instead of being understood as a partial fulfillment and also a prophetic foreshadowing of End-Time events.
- C. Jesus first endured the cross and so will His Church before the fullness of God's promises are released on earth. Peter rebuked Jesus for choosing the cross. Jesus rebuked him for being filled with humanistic thinking that was inspired by Satan. Peter's mindset is still in the Church today.
- ²⁰ Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem...and be killed...²² Peter...began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You...this shall not happen to You!" ²³ He said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men." ²⁴ Jesus said..., "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me...²⁷ The Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father...then He will reward each according to his works. (Mt. 16:20-27)*
- D. The zealots of Jesus' day made the same mistake in expecting Israel's Messianic Kingdom on earth to be established without the Messiah dying. They were offended at the idea of the cross being necessary. The same offense with the cross is true today with many Post-Millennialists, who are expecting the Church to usher in the fullness of God's kingdom on earth without being purified by the eschatological dimensions of the cross in the Tribulation (Dan. 11:33-35; 12:10).
- E. Some refuse the plain teaching of Scripture that the whole human race and all creation will endure the birth pangs that usher in the age to come. We must refuse all theological systems that claim more compassion and optimism (victory) than God's plan that requires the Tribulation.
- F. Post-Millennialism is an overly optimistic eschatology. It was most popular during the Victorian age (approximately 1840-1900) when the Holy Spirit was focused on restoring in the Church the truths of social action and human rights. Many believers thought things would just get better and better until Jesus returned. However, the reality of two world wars in the 20th century caused Post-Millennialism to fall out of favor worldwide. For example, Wheaton College was founded with Post-Millennial views, but switched to Pre-millennialism after the two world wars clearly contradicted Post-Millennial optimism. Some Post-Millennialists believed in a literal 1,000-year reign of the Spirit in the Church before Jesus' Second Coming. The distinction between Amillennialism and Post-Millennialism is not as clear in history as some suggest. Amillennial and Post-Millennial camps differ on the measure and way that the Church takes over society. In the 1600s, the consensus of the Puritans believed in Israel's salvation (yet without being restored to their land). Most Puritans were Post-Millennial. Both Amillennial and Post-Millennial theologians claim Jonathan Edwards.

IX. THE PRE-MILLENNIAL VIEW OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

- A. Pre-Millennialists believe that Jesus will return to rule the earth for a Millennium (1,000 years).
- B. *The strength of this view* is found in its literal interpretation of End-Time prophecy.
- C. Three views of Pre-Millennialism:
 - 1. **Dispensational Pre-Millennialism** (pre-tribulation rapture)
 - 2. **Historic (classic) Pre-Millennialism** (post-tribulation rapture). Pre-Wrath and/or Mid-Tribulation have strengths and weaknesses similar to this position.
 - 3. **Apostolic Pre-Millennialism** combines the biblical strengths of the other eschatological positions. It understands the End-Times from the perspective of the values, vision, and power of the New Testament Church in the midst of world crisis and persecution.

X. DISPENSATIONAL PRE-MILLENNIALISM

- A. This is the most popular eschatology today. It is called dispensational because it teaches that God has related differently to His people in seven different dispensations or seasons of history. The different dispensations speak of different stages in God's plan of salvation through history.
- B. *The strength of this view* is found in its literal interpretation of End-Time prophecy and in embracing God's purpose for Israel in the End-Times.
- C. *The weakness of this view* is its error that Jesus will rapture the Church before the Tribulation. It is a dangerous deception that hinders the effectiveness of the gospel in several ways.
 - 1. First, it undermines the need to urgently prepare the Church for the hardship and persecution of the Great Tribulation. It does not see the role of Gentile believers to provoke Israel to jealousy and salvation by standing with them in persecution while functioning as an anointed apostolic Church. Most with this view see Israel's salvation as the responsibility of the Two Witnesses and the 144,000 sealed Israelites (Rev. 7; 11).
 - 2. Second, with its doctrine of imminency (*Jesus returning at any moment*), some do not emphasize the need for a long-term plan for their life or ministry, nor a commitment to impact society. Thus, those with this view usually neglect the Cultural Mandate.
 - 3. Third, it often minimizes the certainty of the End-Time Ingathering of souls (Rev. 7:9).

- D. **Summary:** it neglects to prepare the Church for persecution and to stand with Israel during the Great Tribulation, is not actively seeking breakthroughs in transforming society, and it minimizes the certainty of the End-Time Harvest. Thus, it is an overly pessimistic eschatology.
- E. The common response is escapism (*why bother if we will soon be raptured*) along with fatalism and defeatism (*society cannot be effectively changed*). This view usually sees the Church's mandate as being like a life raft limited to delivering people from drowning (preaching only salvation) while abdicating the rest of society to the devil with its overly pessimistic future.
- F. This view can lead to a lazy disengagement (complacency) instead of urgency to be prepared in prayer with fasting as we seek for spiritual breakthroughs in the Kingdom. Note: some Dispensational Pre-Millennial churches are very active in soul winning.

XI. HISTORIC (CLASSIC) PRE-MILLENNIALISM

- A. **The strength of this view** is found in its literal interpretation of End-Time prophecy, in preparing the Church for future persecution and in our responsibility to provoke Israel to salvation.
- B. **The weakness of this view** is found in lacking the assurance of a victorious Church functioning in her bridal identity (Rev. 22:17), a large End-Time Ingathering of souls, and the Cultural Mandate. Therefore, it does not usually emphasize intimacy with God, or the need for night and day intercession, or the certainty of an End-Time victorious Church. A few with this view do see a measure of victory in the Church.
- C. Historic (classic) Pre-Millennialism (post-tribulation) has similar strengths and weaknesses as Pre-Wrath and/or Mid-Tribulation Pre-Millennialism. (J. O. Bengel wrote a classic book on Historic Pre-Millennialism as did George Ladd).

XII. APOSTOLIC PRE-MILLENNIALISM

- A. “Apostolic eschatology” speaks of a view of the End-Times that reflects the vision, power and lifestyle of the New Testament Apostolic Church. Apostolic eschatology will equip believers for apostolic (New Testament) lifestyles and perspectives in the midst of the coming great revival and persecution. I refer to apostolic eschatology as “***Apostolic Pre-Millennialism.***”
- B. **The strength of this view** is found in combining the biblical strengths of other End-Time views. This view calls the Church to victory, wholeheartedness and relevance. It will include all the elements of Apostolic Christianity as mentioned on pages 1-2. I will repeat a few of them.
- C. **A victorious Church** that attains to unity, intimacy and maturity resulting in the greatest revival in history as it is led by the five-fold ministry (Eph. 4:11-13; 5:27). This prophetic praying Church will walk in power and revelation as it is used to bring in the End-Time Ingathering of souls, be purified by persecution and will stand with Israel in pressure.

- D. **A wholehearted Church** that walks in “Sermon on the Mount lifestyles” of self-denial and serving, giving, blessing, praying and fasting as seen in the New Testament Church (Mt. 5-7). This discipleship lifestyle of “happy holiness” will be energized by bridal intimacy and an ever deepening experience with Jesus as the Bridegroom God (Rev. 22:17). In the End-Times, the Church will be purified in the context of the great revival and pressure, resulting in a significant separation of true believers from compromising ones. All who are currently in the Church will either become wholehearted or they will deny the Lord. Part of the Church will fall away (2 Thes. 2:3) as the other part rises up to walk out Apostolic Christianity. The options are “apostate Christianity” or “Apostolic Christianity.”
- E. **A relevant Church** that understands the value of our present labors in three ways. First, in seeing how they benefit people now in winning the lost, preparing the Church as End-Time forerunner messengers, and releasing God’s justice (judgments) against evil by intercessory worship (Ps. 149:6-9). Second, seeing the continuity of our labors now to our life in the age-to-come. In other words, some of our present impact in society (releasing justice in legislation, education, technology, scientific advancements, etc.) will have continuity in the Millennium by continuing after Jesus returns. Third, in seeing how our current labors of love will impact our personal eternal rewards and ministry assignment in the Millennial Kingdom.

XIII. THREE COMMON OBJECTIONS TO APOSTOLIC PRE-MILLENNIALISM

- A. Some claim that the Holy Spirit is the restrainer that is removed when the Church is raptured. Paul prophesied that someone and something who restrains the Antichrist from being revealed would be removed (2 Thess. 2:6-8). Paul described the restrainer of the increase of sin and the release of the Antichrist as a “what” (neuter gender in 2:6) and as a “He” (masculine gender in 2:7). Paul taught that governing authorities are appointed by God to restrain evil (Rom. 13:1-4). I believe the restraining force that is removed is a combination of a “what,” which I believe to be the existence of national governments that will not allow that Antichrist’s one-world government to emerge, and a “He,” which I believe to be God and His sovereign decree to bring the ten-nation confederation into unity with the Antichrist (Rev. 17:17; Dan. 7:9-12, 19-27).
- B. Some claim that Christians will not go through the Great Tribulation because “we are not appointed unto wrath” (1 Thes. 5:9). It is true, the Church is not appointed to wrath. The wrath of God in the Great Tribulation is released by the praying Church (Rev. 8:3-4) to destroy the Antichrist’s empire. The Church will receive supernatural provision, direction and protection. The saints will have a protective seal given by God (Rev. 7:2-3; 9:4; 14:1).
- C. Some claim that Jesus may return at any minute (referred to as imminency) instead of after specific prophetic signs that must be discerned by the Church. They say we are not to know these prophetic signs because Jesus said that “no one knows the day or the hour” (Mt. 24:36, 42, 44, 50; 25:13). These prophetic signs must be discerned. This will be an issue of life and death (Lk. 19:43-44). The Scripture requires those in the generation the Lord returns to know it and prepare accordingly. Jesus and Paul emphasized the knowability of the prophetic signs of the End-Times (Mt. 24:32-34; Lk. 21:25-29; 1 Thes. 5:1-6; 2 Thes. 2:1-11).

XIV. APOSTOLIC PRE-MILLENNIALISM: CONFRONTING 5 DECEPTIONS IN THE CHURCH

- A. ***“Lazy-friendly” spiritual culture*** that is currently seducing the Western Church by its casual view of compromise and a false view of eternal security that does not depend on vibrant faith. All have an eschatology even if it is simply to be happy with and have an easy life. This view of the future is the most popular one and will please many people, be very popular and will make one many friends. However, we desire to be an oracle of God not man pleasers.
- B. ***Replacement theology*** that denies Israel’s place in God’s purpose.
- C. ***Pre-tribulation Rapture*** that leaves the Church unprepared.
- D. ***Prayerless cessationism*** that believes that the gifts of the Spirit and the five-fold ministry have ceased. Therefore, they do not contend in prayer with fasting for the their full release.
- E. ***Symbolic interpretation of most End-Time prophecy*** that significantly reduces, dismisses, or ignores the literal, future events in the End-Time drama. This approach to Scripture fuels a scoffing spirit of unbelief and hardness of heart (2 Pet. 3:3; Mk. 16:14; Lk. 24:25, 38).

XV. THE GREAT TRIBULATION WAS NOT FULFILLED IN 70 AD (MT. 24:21)

¹⁵ ***Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place...21 then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 Unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved (physically spared); but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened. (Mt. 24:15, 21-22)***

- A. Jesus prophesied that the Great Tribulation would be the most severe time in history. It will surpass all other times of crisis. Some seek to minimize this prophecy by reducing it to symbolism or by seeing it as being fulfilled in 70 AD. The Great Tribulation will be so severe that God shortened it to 3½ years to keep the entire human race from being physically killed.
- B. The events of 70 AD were a prophetic foreshadowing of the Tribulation. Yet, they did ***not*** fulfill most of the scriptural details of the Tribulation. The Tribulation will threaten the life of every human being (Mt. 24:22) and will not occur until after the abomination of desolation, which is described in Rev. 13. The scriptural details of the Great Tribulation require a talking image, the mark of the Beast, a healed head wound, mandatory worldwide worship of the Antichrist and a False Prophet. Nothing close to this happened in the Jewish Revolt against Rome (66-73 AD). In this crisis, Jerusalem and the Second Temple were destroyed in 70 AD. Then in 132-135 AD, the Jews revolted against Rome again, resulting in 500,000 Jews being killed and 1,000 villages being destroyed. In World War II, 50 million died which far surpassed the one million deaths (70 AD). Neither 70 AD nor World War II came close to threatening the existence of the human race as the Great Tribulation will. Neither of these terrible times are the worst time in history and neither involved the Abomination of Desolation in the Jerusalem Temple (Rev. 13:14-17). The 50 million babies aborted each year world wide overshadows both 70 AD and WWII.

Jesus' Second Coming Procession

I. THE RAPTURE AND REPLACEMENT OF ALL WORLD GOVERNMENTS (REV. 11:15-19)

¹⁵ *The seventh angel sounded...loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord...¹⁸ The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time...that You should reward...the saints...and destroy those who destroy the earth. (Rev. 11:15-18)*

A. At the Rapture of the Church, Jesus will begin to immediately replace all the evil governments of the earth with His new government. At this time, Jesus will reward the saints and completely destroy those who destroy the earth.

B. This will be a "hostile takeover" because the nations will be angry at Jesus and will resist His right to rule their nation. Satan is raging (Rev. 12:12, 17) and leaders are angry (Rev. 11:18) whenever Jesus exerts His leaders in their nation through the Praying Church. The Elijah confrontation at Mt. Carmel in 1 Kg. 18 is the confrontation that will mount up to the Second Coming. The Elijah-Jezebel showdown is to occur again with both groups calling down fire from heaven (Rev. 11:5; 13:13). God answers in the whirlwind (1 Kg. 19).

C. We see the impact of the Rapture on world governments. This continues in the pattern seen in the chronological sections which describe what takes place on earth rather than in the sky.

D. The saints will be given governmental leadership over the earth (Rev. 20:4-6; Dan. 7:27).

⁴ *I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus...and they lived and reigned with Christ for 1000-years...⁶ They shall...reign with Him 1000 years. (Rev. 20:4-6)*

E. Jesus' coming is in context to a military conflict around the city of Jerusalem. He will come to win the Battle of Jerusalem which ends the Armageddon Campaign (which lasts for 3½ years). Jesus will march through Bozrah in Edom (Jordan) killing His enemies on His way to Jerusalem (Isa. 34:1-10; 63:1-6; Hab. 3:3-18; Ps. 110:5-6; Deut. 33:2; Num. 24:17-19; Rev. 19:11-16).

¹ *Who is this who comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah (capital of Edom), this One who is...traveling (marching) in the greatness of His strength?...² Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? ³ I have trodden the winepress...I have trodden them in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, I have stained all My robes. (Is. 63:1-3)*

² *The indignation of the LORD is against all nations, and His fury against all their armies; He has utterly destroyed them, He has given them over to the slaughter...⁵ "For My sword...shall come down on Edom...for judgment. ⁶ The sword of the LORD is filled with blood...for the LORD has a sacrifice in Bozrah, and a great slaughter in the land of Edom...⁸ For it is the day of the LORD's vengeance, the year of recompense for the cause of Zion. (Isa. 34:1-8)*

¹² *You marched through the land...You trampled the nations in anger... (Hab. 3:12)*

- F. As Jesus makes His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, He destroys armies of the Antichrist.

¹¹ Behold, a white horse. He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war...¹³ He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵ Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations...He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God...¹⁹ I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him...²⁰ The Beast was captured, and with him the False Prophet...these two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. ²¹ And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him... (Rev. 19:11-21)

II. JESUS RAPTURES THE SAINTS AT THE SOUND OF THE LAST TRUMPET

- A. The Rapture describes what happens to all the saints at the time of Jesus' Second Coming. As Jesus descends from heaven, He will catch up or rapture the saints to meet Jesus in the air as they are instantly changed by receiving resurrected bodies (1 Thes. 2:19; 4:17; 5:10; 2 Thes. 2:1). The word *Rapture* comes from a Latin word *raptus*, "snatching away" (Greek word: *harpazo*).

God will bring with Him those who sleep (died) in Jesus...¹⁶ The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. The dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. (1 Thes. 4:14-17)

- B. Jesus will rapture all the saints on earth when He brings all the saints with Him from heaven (Zech. 14:5). Jesus will come with billions of angels who gather the saints in the sky from the ends of the earth (Matt 13:41; 24:31; 25:31; Mk. 8:38; 13:27; Lk. 9:26; 2 Thes 1:7-10).

- C. Paul tells us that the Rapture occurs in association with the Last Trumpet (1 Cor. 15:50-52; 1 Thes. 4:16-17; Isa. 27:13; Rev. 11:15-17; 10:7). The 7th Trumpet is the Last Trumpet in the series of seven (Rev. 8-9; 11:15) that are numbered by John in Revelation.

⁵¹ We shall all be changed...in a moment...at the Last Trumpet. For the Trumpet will sound, and the dead (saints) will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. (1 Cor. 15:51-52)

- D. Some assume that Jesus will appear simultaneously to all the peoples of the earth as He instantaneously finishes all the activities involved in the Second Coming. "In a moment" qualifies how fast individuals will be "changed," not how much time it takes for "all" the Church collectively to see Him and be changed, thus completing the Rapture.

⁵¹ We shall all be changed...⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye... (1 Cor. 15:51)

- E. The mystery of God or His plan to prepare a Bride to rule the earth with Jesus is now complete.

⁷ In the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery (hidden plan) of God would be finished, as He declared to His...prophets. (Rev. 10:7)

- F. The Second Coming describes what Jesus does when He permanently "comes" back to earth. The Rapture describes what happens to the Church when Jesus first appears in the sky.

III. THE CENTERPIECE OF GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE: TO JOIN HEAVEN AND EARTH

⁹ *Having made known to us the mystery (hidden plan) of His will...10 that He might gather together in one ALL things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth--in Him. (Eph. 1:9-10)*

- A. Jesus will establish God's Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven (Mt. 6:10) by joining the heavenly and earthly realms together at the Second Coming. This is the interpretive key to understanding the End Times. God's fullness only occurs when heaven and earth come together.
- B. **Heaven:** supernatural realm where God's power and presence are openly manifest.
- C. **Earth:** material, physical realm where human process and emotions along with physical sensation are experienced to the highest. (*The earthly realm requires a resurrected body*). The natural realm is not suspended, but is enhanced by the supernatural anointing of the Spirit.

IV. GET THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE (PARADIGM) ABOUT THE END TIMES

- A. The challenge in understanding the Second Coming is in getting the right paradigm. The necessary paradigm is in understanding that Jesus will rule the earth with the *natural human processes not suspended, yet significantly enhanced by the supernatural dimension of the Spirit*. We see aspects of this when Jesus appeared with His resurrected body (Jn. 20-21; Acts 1).
- B. As Gentile believers, our most natural paradigm is to think of worshipping Jesus as God in the supernatural conditions of heaven. We emphasize Jesus' deity as the Son of God. Whereas, the Jewish paradigm thinks of reigning with the Messianic King as a man in the natural conditions of the earth. Jewish people emphasize the Messiah's humanity as the Son of David.
- C. *The full truth is only seen when these two paradigms are brought together.*

V. THREE TYPES OF PEOPLE ARE ON EARTH WHEN JESUS APPEARS IN THE SKY

- A. The redeemed will be raptured during Jesus' worldwide procession across the sky.
- B. The reprobate who took the mark of the Beast will be judged and then killed (some executed).
- C. The resisters are the unsaved survivors (Jews and Gentiles) of the Great Tribulation who refused to worship the Antichrist. The Scripture refers to them as "those who are left" or "who remain". After Jesus returns, they will have an opportunity to be converted and then will be the ones who populate the Millennial earth (Isa. 4:3; 10:20; 11:11; 49:6; 65:8; 66:19; Jer. 31:2; Ezek. 20:38-42; 36:36; Dan. 12:1; Amos 9:9-10; Joel 2:32; Zech. 12:14; 13:8; 14:16).

VI. THE SECOND COMING PROCESSION: 3 STAGES (30 DAYS)

- A. Jesus raptures the Church to initiate His Second Coming Procession which has 3 stages including many events occurring over a 30-day period which can be seen by comparing the 1,260 days (3½ year) in Rev. 11:2-3; 12:6, 14; 13:5; Dan. 7:25; 9:27; 12:7 with the 1,290 days of Dan. 12:11.

Stage #1: Jesus' procession across the sky: to rapture the Church (Mt. 24:30-31; Rev. 1:7)

Stage #2: Jesus' procession on the land: traveling through Jordan to Israel (Isa. 63; Hab. 3)

Stage #3: Jesus' procession into Jerusalem: to the Mount of Olives before His coronation

See notes for the biblical support for Jesus' 30-Day Procession

- B. Jesus' Procession begins in the sky at the 7th Trumpet (Last Trumpet; Rev. 11:15; 1 Cor. 15:52) with the Rapture and ends on the earth to finish the Armageddon campaign with an astonishing victory over the armies of the Antichrist at Jerusalem (Rev. 19:11-21; Zech. 12:1-13:6; 14:1-9).

VII. JESUS' PROCESSION ACROSS THE SKY: TO RAPTURE THE CHURCH

⁷ ***Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him...and all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him...*** (Rev. 1:7)

- A. Jesus will be seen by the eyes of every person from all the tribes of the earth. This requires a global procession over every inhabited place on earth including each remote island of the sea. The Rapture will not be a secret event, but a dramatic event that all the people on earth will witness with their natural eye (not by technology). It will be convincing enough to cause them to mourn. If they only saw Him by technology they would not be sure it was Jesus because of so many false signs and wonders done by the Antichrist and False Prophet and others.
- B. The Rapture will be a process that takes time to complete. Since the earth is round, it is impossible for all the people on the earth to see Him at the same time. What **height** and **speed** will Jesus travel at so as to be recognizable to people on the earth with the naked eye? His procession across the sky requires that Jesus be **close enough** to be seen and the process is **slow enough** for each person (not raptured) to interpret what is going on so that they mourn.

VIII. PROCESSION ON THE LAND: EDOM (MODERN DAY JORDAN)

- A. Jesus will march through the city of Bozrah in Edom (Jordan) and Teman killing His enemies on His way to Jerusalem. Their blood will be sprinkled on His robes (Isa. 34:5-10; 63:1-6; Hab. 3:3-18; Zech. 9:14; Ps. 110:5-6; Deut. 33:2; Num. 24:17-19; Rev. 19:11-16).

1 Who is this who comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah (capital of Edom), this One who is glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength?-- "I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save." 2 Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? 3...I have trodden them in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes. 4 For the day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of My redeemed has come. (Isa. 63:1-4)

- B. Jesus will march through the Sinai wilderness (Mt. Paran, Mt. Seir) through Jordan (Edom, Bozrah, and Teman which were part of ancient Assyria) in His journey to Jerusalem.
3 God came from Teman (in southern Edom), the Holy One from Mount Paran. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of His praise. 5 Before Him went pestilence, and fever followed at His feet...7 the land of Midian trembled (Arabian desert reaching into the Sinai Peninsula)...12 You marched through the land in indignation; You trampled the nations in anger. 13 You went forth for the salvation of Your people... (Hab. 3:3-13)
- C. ***Mount Paran*** is in the Sinai Peninsula, 30 miles south of Israel, and 130 miles north of Sinai. ***Mount Seir*** is the range from the S. of the Dead Sea to Elath, N. of the gulf of Akabah, on the E. of the Arabah. The distance from Mt. Sinai to Israel is 165 miles. It is an 11-day journey traveling 15 miles a day with flocks (Deut 1:2). ***Teman*** is a town in the southern part of Edom. ***Midian*** is the land east of the Dead Sea, that stretched to the south through the Arabian desert, reaching to parts of the Sinai Peninsula. It lay between Edom and Paran and it is in Arabia today.
- D. Jesus, as the “greater Moses”, will release the 7 bowls of wrath (Rev. 16) that will be similar to the plagues of Egypt released by Moses. This march will involve human natural processes that are enhanced with supernatural power. The march may take several days to complete.

IX. JESUS' PROCESSION INTO JERUSALEM: HIS TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

- A. The final stage of the Second Coming Procession brings us to the high point of world history. Jesus makes His procession into Jerusalem going to the Mount of Olives then to the coronation on His Throne in the Temple (Ps. 24:7-10; Zech. 14:4; Jer. 3:17; Zech. 6:12; Ezek. 43:7).
- B. Jerusalem will be surrounded by many nations under the Antichrist's leadership. The kings of the earth will gather to Armageddon as the military staging area for this attack (Rev. 16:12-16).
¹ Behold, the day of the LORD is coming...2 For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken...half of the city shall go into captivity... 3 Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations...4 In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives...and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two... making a very large valley...5 Then you shall flee through My mountain valley...Yes, you shall flee...Thus the LORD my God will come, and all the saints with You. (Zech. 14:1-5)
- C. After Jesus enters Jerusalem in context to the Armageddon campaign, He executes His enemies
⁵ The Lord (Father) is at Your right hand; He (Jesus') shall execute kings in the day of His wrath. 6 He shall judge among the nations, He shall fill the places with dead bodies, He shall execute the heads of many countries. (Ps. 110:5-6)

- D. Jesus will approach Jerusalem on a white horse as He marches through the land killing those who oppose Him in Jordan (Bozrah, Edom, Moab; Isa. 63:1-6; Hab. 3:3-18; Rev. 19:17-21).

¹¹ I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war...¹³ He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood...¹⁴ The armies in heaven...followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵ Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations...He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS...²⁰ The Beast was captured, and with him the False Prophet...these two were cast alive into the lake of fire...²¹ The rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him... (Rev. 19:11-21)

- E. The fact that the “heavens opened” (Rev. 19:11), describes how John received his revelation, rather than referring to where Jesus was most recently. In other words, Jesus did not get blood on His robe in the heavenly descent, but rather in the march through the land.

- F. The pinnacle of the Second Coming Procession is Jesus' re-entry into the city of Jerusalem to be officially received by the governmental leaders of Israel as their Messianic King.

I say to you (governmental leaders in Jerusalem), you shall see Me no more till you say, “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!” (Mt. 23:39)

- G. He will be celebrated as the Son of David in a Hosanna coronation parade that is hosted by the leaders of Israel. The leaders of Israel will open the gates of Jerusalem to Jesus in an official declaration of Him as their Messianic King after He rescues them. Because Jesus suddenly reverses the tide of the war in the Armageddon campaign, they call Him “the LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle and the LORD of hosts (God's armies), the King of glory.”

Lift up your heads, O you gates (of Jerusalem)! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. ⁸ Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle (Armageddon campaign). (Ps. 24:7-8)

Church After God's Heart: Why We Must Understand the 7 Churches

I. REVIEW: MESSAGE OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

- A. Revelation is called the "revelation of Jesus" because it reveals His heart, power and leadership.
¹ ***The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him (Jesus) to show His servants. (Rev. 1:1)***
- B. The theme of Revelation is Jesus returning to take leadership of the earth in partnership with His people to reap a harvest of souls (Rev. 7:9) and replace all governments (Rev. 11:15; 19:15-16).
⁷ ***Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him... (Rev. 1:7)***
- C. **Rev. 2-3:** Jesus gives us the clearest picture of what He wants in the Church in His seven letters where He exhorts believers to be overcomers.
- D. Rev. 2-3 is key to forming the end-time prayer and prophetic movement. Jesus will come ONLY in context to a prepared Bride in unity with the Spirit and anointed in prayer to release God's glory on earth and to release the Tribulation to confront darkness.
⁷ ***For the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. (Rev. 19:7)***
¹⁷ ***The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!" (Rev. 22:17)***
⁴ ***The prayers of the saints, ascended before God...⁵ Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth... (Rev. 8:4-5)***
- E. The Jn. 14:12 prayer anointing involves the miracles of Exodus and Acts being combined and multiplied on a global level to loose revival and the Tribulation and to bind the Antichrist.
Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. (Jn. 14:12)
On this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. (Mt. 16:18-19)

II. OUTLINE OF REVELATION

- Rev. 1:** Jesus gives the clearest picture of who He is in giving us 18 descriptions of His majesty.
Rev. 2-3: Jesus gives us the clearest picture of what He wants in the Church in His seven letters.
Rev. 4-5: Jesus gives us the clearest picture of His heavenly commission and resources.
Rev. 6-19: Jesus gives us the clearest picture of how He will prepare the nations for His glory.
Rev. 20-22: Jesus gives us the clearest picture of our eternal inheritance on earth with Him.

III. LETTERS TO 7 CHURCHES: PREPARING TO OVERCOME AND OPERATE IN POWER

- A. The Book of Revelation is an “Eschatological Book of Acts” revealing the acts of the Spirit through the end-time apostles and prophets and the praying Church under Jesus’ authority.
- B. Jesus will have partnership with the end-time apostles and prophets in binding and loosing the events in the Book of Revelation as He did with the apostles in the Book of Acts.
- C. He defines the spiritual maturity necessary for the Church to release the Great Tribulation by prophetic prayer under His leadership in the way that Moses released the 10 plagues on Egypt and in the way that the apostles established the Church in Acts.
- D. These 7 prophetic messages instruct us on how to prepare to partner with Jesus in His worldwide action plan related to His Second Coming. Jesus knows best how to prepare His own Bride. These letters show us the kind of Church that Jesus is building and what His agenda is. In them, He defines love and how He relates to His people. This defines what relevance is.
- E. These letters define the truths and focus necessary to equip the Church to walk in love for Jesus. Our love is expressed as we obey His commands, heed His warnings and believe His promises (especially His 22 eternal rewards). There will be great challenges but even greater rewards.
- F. There is a dynamic continuum between what we do in the years immediately preceding Jesus’ return. It is essential that we walk in full obedience and are loyal to the truth about Jesus as the necessary preparation to establish these truths beyond our life, to reach others and society.

The weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, 6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled (complete: NIV, NAS RSV). (2 Cor. 10:4-6)

IV. HOW TO APPLY THE 7 LETTERS

- A. **Historically:** the letters were first written to 7 churches in John’s generation to address their specific spiritual condition. Some see parallels in these 7 churches to the spiritual conditions of successive periods in church history. I am not sure this can be substantiated but it is possible.
- B. **Universally:** the letters were written to all churches in the first century and throughout 2,000 years of Church history, just as the letter to the Romans was for the church at Rome as well as all churches past, present, and future
- C. **Individually:** the letters were written to inspire response from individuals.
- D. **Eschatologically:** to prepare the end-time Church for the events seen in Rev. 6-19. This is when there will be the most believers in history alive during the most difficult time on the earth.

V. STUDYING THE 7 LETTERS: THE COMMON ELEMENTS IN THE LETTERS

- A. **Historical context:** it is important to gain information about the situation that each church was challenged with politically, economically and spiritually. Jesus strategically selected these 7 churches knowing they would give prophetic insight into preparing the end-time Church.
- B. **Affirmation for faithfulness:** what they were doing that Jesus valued. Two churches received no affirmation (Sardis and Laodicea).
- C. **Rebuke for compromise:** what they must not do. Jesus' correction is not rejection. He had things against 3 churches: Ephesus (2:4), Pergamos (2:14) and Thyatira (2:20). Two churches did not receive a correction (Smyrna and Philadelphia). Jesus gave the sternest rebukes for the following compromises; passivity, immorality and idolatry (covetousness and/or sorcery; Col 3:5; Eph 5:5; 1 Cor. 10:20-22). These were enabled by false teachings on grace that did not require repentance.
- D. **Exhortation to respond:** what they must do. Jesus gave examples of actions that He required. Sometimes the exhortation had an element of warning. The warnings that Jesus gave most were against ***passivity*** (distraction from the First Commandment because of increased blessing that led to busyness) and ***fear*** (persecution/rejection).
- E. **Promise for overcomers:** as incentive for diligent faithfulness to Jesus. He promised 22 specific eternal rewards (Rev. 2:7, 10, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21). Most have a partial fulfillment now with the fullness in the Millennium. Insight into rewards is essential to equip us to stand in pressure.
- F. **Revelation of Jesus:** in each message, Jesus called attention to specific aspects of His majesty as seen in Rev. 1 that were most needed in the specific situation of each Church. Sixteen different aspects of Jesus' majesty are highlighted in Rev. 2-3. See www.IHOP.org for more on this.

VI. SIXTEEN DESCRIPTIONS OF JESUS: APPLIED TO SPECIFIC TEMPTATIONS

¹ To...Ephesus write, "These things says He who holds the seven stars...who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands..." 8 To...Smyrna write, "These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life..." 12 To...Pergamos write, "These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword"...18 To... Thyatira write, "These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass"...3:1 To...Sardis write, "These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars"... 7 To...Philadelphia write, "These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David"...14 To...the Laodiceans write, "These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God"... (Rev. 2:1-3:14)

Jesus gives us insight into His heart in this passage more than any other passage in Scripture. This will prepare us for the glory and crisis in the End Times. We must grow in revelation of these facets of Jesus' heart and ministry. We do this by studying and praying over these truths as we confess them to God in faith to resist Satan's attack. In this session, we will look at 16 different facets of Jesus' heart which reveal His personality and ministry to the Church (holding the seven stars is mentioned twice).

VII. HE WHO HAS AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR: 5 IMPLICATIONS

- A. The exhortation that Jesus repeated the most in His earthly ministry was the call to have ears to hear what the Spirit is saying. This is written 16 times (8x in the Gospels and 8x in Revelation (Mt. 11:15; 13:9, 43; Mk. 4:9, 23; 7:16; Lk. 8:8; 14:35; Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22; 13:9).
⁷ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. (Rev. 2:7)
- B. First, it signaled that the truth being proclaimed was *extremely important to Jesus*.
- C. Second, Jesus is saying that *there is more than* what is obvious. He is calling us to pursue the deeper truth being set before us and not to be content to understand only what is on the surface.
- D. Third, it takes the *supernatural help of the Holy Spirit* to grasp it. The unaided mind of even a devoted believer will not be able to automatically comprehend the truth being set forth. Jesus is making it clear that it is beyond our natural ability. Jesus wants us to ask the Spirit for help.
- E. Fourth, each time Jesus spoke this exhortation in Revelation it was about their *eternal rewards and destiny*. He warned them and us to have ears to hear because it takes supernatural insight to grasp them. When reading each reward, pray; "Lord, show me more".
- F. Fifth, it takes a *focused determination* to lay hold of the truths being referred to. We do not automatically respond to them in a deep and sustained way to them. It will take a tenacious commitment to maintain these truths in our lives long-term because of our propensity to lose touch with them.
- G. Jesus started by speaking to individuals ("he" who has an ear) then changed to addressing a group (the "churches"). There is an individual and a corporate response that the Spirit desires.
- H. Jesus was the only one in the NT to give this exhortation. He echoed Moses who called Israel to "hear" meaning to "have ears to hear" (Deut. 6:4-5) and the Father (Ps. 45:10).
⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. (Deut. 6:4-5)

VIII. THE ANGEL TO THE CHURCH: APOSTOLIC LEADERSHIP

- A. The *angel to the church* refers to the apostolic leader over each congregation. The word *angel* is *angelos* in the Greek. In the NT, the word refers to an angelic or human messenger (Lk. 7:24, 27; 9:52). It was translated messenger when referring to John the Baptist (Mt. 11:10. Mk. 1:2).
- B. The messenger was responsible to guard the message by proclaiming it publicly, consistently, boldly and tenderly and by not losing it through compromise or fear or neglect. Leaders must not draw back when others become angry at Jesus' message in Rev. 2-3. People follow whatever message is publicly and consistently proclaimed with boldness.

IX. JESUS' EMPHASIZES ON ETERNAL REWARDS

- A. Jesus gave His most in-depth teaching on eternal rewards in Rev. 2-3 and Mt. 5-7. He knew what we would need to be sufficiently motivated during the release of the glory and crisis in His end-time plan.
- B. ***Jesus promised 22 eternal rewards in Rev. 2-3:*** To eat from the tree of life in the midst of Paradise (2:7); to receive the crown of life (2:10); to not be hurt by the second death (2:11); to eat hidden manna (2:17); to receive a white stone (2:17); to receive a new name written on the stone (2:17); to have power over the nations (2:26); to receive the morning star (2:28); to receive white garments (3:5); to receive a name that is not blotted from the Book of Life (3:5); for Jesus to confess one's name before the Father and angels (3:5); for one's persecutors to worship before their feet (3:9); for one's persecutors to know that Jesus loves them (3:9); to be made a pillar in God's temple (3:12); to have God's name, the New Jerusalem and Jesus' new name written on them (3:12); to receive gold to make one rich (3:18); to receive white garments (3:18); to have anointed eyes to see more (3:18); to eat with Jesus (3:20) and sit on His Throne (3:21).
- C. Jesus was speaking to believers who had already received the free gift of salvation. He was calling believers to live in such a way as to receive heavenly rewards. Salvation or justification is a free gift given to us. It is based on Jesus' worthiness (Eph. 2:8-9). Heavenly rewards are given to us according to our works, or according to our response of gratitude to Jesus for giving us so great a salvation.
- D. Rewards are given in addition to the free gift of eternal life. Jesus is speaking to churches. The issue of salvation is settled. The issue in focus is the particular areas of unfaithfulness that Jesus emphasized in their lives. Not all Christians overcome the unfaithfulness Jesus highlights.
- E. Most of these 22 rewards will be received by all believers in an introductory way. Most of the rewards consist of receiving a greater measure of the basic blessing of eternal life that all receive. There will be a vast difference in the measure of glory of each one's reward (1 Cor. 15:41). The issue in Rev. 2-3 pertains to what measure of the reward a believer receives.
- F. Since only overcomers receive the ***fullest measure*** of these rewards, it is important that we rightly interpret what Jesus intends when calling us to be overcomers in Rev. 2-3.
- G. These rewards are not secondary or irrelevant but rather they are a very important part of our destiny. Therefore, all believers should be very familiar with these rewards. They equip us to persevere by being anchored in eternity with confidence that our choices will be rewarded in eternity. When suffering is seen in God's light, it loses its power to intimidate.
- H. Our obedience is deeply connected to our rewards. Some falsely teach that these rewards are given to all believers in fullness, regardless of how they live. This view takes these rewards out of their context which requires repentance from certain things and faithfulness to the end.

- I. In Rev. 2-3, Jesus was not exhorting them to be born again. He was offering born-again believers rewards as incentives to greater diligence in the face of specific temptations and pressures.
 - 1. To the church of Ephesus overcoming meant to return to their first love for Jesus until the end of their life. To the church in Smyrna it meant being faithful in persecution, even to death. To the church in Pergamos and Thyatira overcoming meant to resist immorality and idolatry for the remainder of their life.
 - 2. To the church in Sardis, it meant to be watchful or to develop a prayer life and to hold fast the things that God entrusted to them from their earlier years. To the church in Philadelphia, overcoming meant to persevere in mature obedience for the remaining years of their life. To the church of the Laodiceans, overcoming meant to resist lukewarmness.

X. UNDERSTANDING THE CALL TO OVERCOME

- A. An overcomer is one who matures in the specific areas that Jesus emphasizes in their life. Overcoming does not mean attaining perfection in our character but rather constantly reaching for victory with all our strength. The Lord evaluates us with great tenderness and kindness.
- B. Our greatest faithfulness is “flawed” yet it is rewarded if we will continually seek to obey. David and Abraham were both counted faithful in context to their “flawed obedience”. Paul wrote that David fulfilled all of God’s will (Acts 13:22), and Abraham’s faith did not waver (Rom. 4:20)

XI. WHO ARE OVERCOMERS? TWO DIFFERENT CONTEXTS

- A. First, **overcoming worldly unbelief**: all believers overcome in this general way by believing in Jesus and refusing heresies as outlined in John’s epistles (1 Jn. 4:1-5; 5:4-5).
- B. Second, **overcoming unfaithfulness**: a believer overcomes specifically as defined in Rev. 2-3. To overcome means to walk in spiritual maturity or to be consistently reaching for obedience.
- C. Summary: as unbelievers we **overcome unbelief** on the day we are born again. As believers, we **overcome unfaithfulness** only after we continue in obedience until the end of our life.
- D. **The eternal reward view**: rightly teaches that the rewards in Rev. 2-3 are given in different degrees according to one’s faithfulness in loving and obeying Jesus. Rewards are given in addition to the free gift of eternal life. The issue is faithfulness to area that Jesus emphasized in their lives. Not all Christians overcome with faithfulness in the areas highlighted by the Spirit.

Knowing the Signs of the Times

I. THE COMMAND TO KNOW THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

- A. Jesus gave 12 trends as signs of the generation in which He will return (Mt. 24:4-8; Lk. 21:7-18). Matthew gave us 7 trends which are false christs, war, ethnic conflict, economic warfare, famines, pestilences, and earthquakes. Luke described 5 more which are commotions, fearful sights, great signs from heaven, distress in the nations and roaring waves.
- ⁵ Many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. ⁶ You will hear of wars and rumors of wars...for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation...and there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes...⁸ All these are the beginning of sorrows (birth pangs). (Mt. 24:5-8)*
- ⁹ When you hear of wars and commotions, do not be terrified; for these things must come to pass first, but the end will not come immediately...¹¹ There will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven...²³ There will be great distress in the land...²⁵ There will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; ²⁶ men's hearts failing them from fear.. (Lk. 21:9-11, 23-26)*
- B. Jesus commanded the people in the generation of His return to know that His return was near when they saw ALL the sign events of Mt. 24 occurring at the same time. There is only one generation in which all these things happen simultaneously on a global basis.
- ³³ When you see all these things, know that it is near--at the doors! ³⁴ Assuredly...this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place... (Mt. 24:33-34)*
- C. How long is a biblical generation? A generation in Scripture ranges from 40 to 100 years (Gen. 15:13-16; Num. 32:13; Ps. 90:10; Mt. 1:17; Acts 7:6). Moses spoke of Israel's captivity in Egypt as lasting 400 years or 4 generations (Gen. 15:13). Thus, a generation could refer to 100 years. There were 14 generations from Abraham to David (Mt. 1:17) each averaging about 70 years.
- D. Jesus rebuked His generation for not being able to read the signs of His first coming. Asking for a sign was a legitimate request because Joel prophesied that the Messiah would give signs from heaven (Joel 2:30). Their hypocrisy was in testing Jesus by asking for signs beyond those He did.
- ¹ The Pharisees...came testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven...² Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times. ⁴ A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign... (Mt. 16:1-4)*
- E. Israel's unresponsiveness to God was partly related to them not knowing the time of their visitation. There is a relationship between the measure to which people are informed of coming prophetic events and the measure in which they respond to God in context to those events.
- ⁴² If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace...⁴³ For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, ⁴⁴ and level you, and your children within you, to the ground...because you did not know the time of your visitation. (Lk. 19:42-44)*

- F. Paul taught that the Church should know the times and seasons related to the Lord's coming.
¹ Concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. ² For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night (the unprepared suffer unnecessary loss)...⁴ But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief...⁶ Therefore...let us watch and be sober. (1 Thes. 5:1-6)
- G. Paul said that we are not in darkness that the Day of the Lord should overtake us as a thief. A thief causes one to suffer loss of things that could have been avoided by watching. The thief motif mostly emphasizes the element of loss that one suffers because of an unexpected coming.
- H. Any who set specifics dates for the day of Jesus' return are corrected and rebuked. However, Jesus told us to know the generation and Paul exhorted us to know the times and seasons.
³⁶ Of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels...but My Father only. (Mt 24:36)

II. FOUR TYPES OF PROPHETIC SIGNS

- 1). **Sign Events:** signs predicted in Scripture will alert the Church to the timing of His return.
 - 2). **Sign Trends:** happen in society and creation and will escalate and thus signal the final generation.
 - 3). **Cosmic Signs:** highly unusual phenomena will happen in the sky, this even includes weather
 - 4). **Personal Signs:** subjective prophetic experiences will alert believers to the End-Times.
- We do not put undue focus on these because they are subjective and fallible.

III. COMMON LIES AGAINST KNOWING THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

- A. **Lie #1:** we cannot understand End-Time Scriptures or the signs of the times. Scripture was written to be understood by all. The majority of people throughout history have been uneducated.
- B. **Lie #2:** some think that understanding the End-Times will minimize the work of the Kingdom.
- C. **Lie #3:** since we are not able to know the day or hour of Jesus' return, we should not try to know the times and seasons or the signs of the generation in which Jesus returns. The truth is that the Scripture requires those in the generation the Lord returns to know it and prepare accordingly. Jesus and Paul emphasized the know-ability of the prophetic signs of the End-Times (Mt. 24:32-34; Lk. 21:25-29; 1 Thes. 5:1-6; 2 Thes. 2:1-11).
- D. **Lie #4:** every generation believed they were the last one. It is probably true that a very small number (less than 1%) in each generation believed this. In only **one generation** has the majority of God's people believed in a sustained way (for decades) that we will see Jesus' return. Some in history spoke of the End-Times when a great crisis occurred (but the emphasis was temporary). There was Millennial fervor for a short time just before 1,000 AD but it was not sustained.
- E. **Lie #5:** it will all pan out in the end. The question is how well will it pan out for you?

IV. THE THREE PROPHETIC TIME FRAMES: SEEING THE BIG PICTURE

- A. Scripture describes **3 prophetic time frames** related to the last 7 years of this age (Dan. 9:27). The last 7 years is made up of 2 distinct periods each lasting 3½ years.
- B. First time frame: beginning of birth pangs with ***distress in the nations*** (Mt. 24:4-8; Lk 21:23, 25)
Second time frame: increased labor pangs with ***counterfeit world peace*** (first 3½ year period)
Third time frame: hard labor pangs with the ***Great Tribulation*** (final 3½ year period)

V. UNDERSTANDING THE FIRST TIME FRAME: DISTRESS IN THE NATIONS (MT. 24:4-8)

- A. ***The beginning of birth pangs*** occurs before the 7-year period starts. Israel is the timetable for God's prophetic plans. They are the reference point for understanding redemptive history past and future. Therefore, my opinion is that the beginning of birth pangs started in 1948 when Israel became a nation or in 1967 when Jerusalem came under Israel's authority.
- B. Jesus spoke of a specific period of time called the "beginning of birth pangs." The Greek word *birth pangs* is translated as *sorrows* (NKJV). It is to be compared with the increasing trauma a woman experiences during childbirth. This trauma will result in a new world order being birthed at the Millennium. Paul spoke of creation as groaning before the Millennial earth.
- C. Jesus gave twelve major trends that are to be discerned and received as prophetic signs to help the Church prepare for the coming years (Mt. 24:4-8; Mk. 13:5-8, Lk. 21:7-18). Jesus gave us accelerator signs in different areas of life including spiritual (positive and negative), social, political, technological, natural (signs in heaven and earth).

VI. UNDERSTANDING THE SECOND TIME FRAME: COUNTERFEIT WORLD PEACE

- A. The second prophetic time frame occurs in the first 3½ year period. It begins with the Antichrist being revealed as a man of peace who solves the "***distress in the nations***" (Mt. 24:4-8) and then establishes a counterfeit world peace (1 Thes. 5:3). At this time the Harlot Babylon religion persecutes the Church (Rev. 17:2-6) leading to many falling away from the faith (1 Tim. 4:1).
- B. The last 7 years begins when the Antichrist makes a covenant with many nations bringing world peace that lasts 3½ years. When he breaks this covenant the Great Tribulation starts (Dan. 9:27).
³ ***When they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains (Great Tribulation) upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. (1 Thes. 5:3)***
- ²⁷ ***He (Antichrist) shall confirm a covenant with many (nations) for one week (7 years); but in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice (in the Jerusalem Temple). (Dan. 9:27)***
- C. There are two stages in Satan's end-time plan to be worshipped by all nations (Rev. 13:8). First, he will establish the Harlot Babylon worldwide religion as a means to deceive the nations and cause Christians to fall away from the faith. Next, he will establish the Antichrist religion.

- D. The Harlot Babylon will be a counterfeit “justice” movement and religion that will masquerade as an answer to injustice as it deceives the earth by feeding the poor, meeting humanitarian needs, loving peace, and championing the dignity of humanity with no moral absolutes. The two main characteristics of the Harlot's ideology are ***moral relativism*** and ***religious pluralism***.
- E. The Harlot religion serves as a “forerunner” to prepare the nations to worship the Antichrist. Revelation 17:1-6 vividly describes the seductive power, cruel persecution, and destruction of Harlot Babylon's one-world religious system.
- F. The Harlot's system will cause the nations to be drunk with her seductions that offer great benefits including humanitarian aid, unified religion (that ends war) and a prosperous world economy. The nations will get drunk or intoxicated with joy with her promises of goodness, prosperity, compassion and a theology of tolerance.
- ² ***The inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication. (Rev. 17:2)***
- G. The Harlot religion will have great prominence. It will be arrayed in purple (royal status) and will be respected by the elite financial leaders of the earth who will give their allegiance to her.
- ⁴ ***The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet (royalty), and adorned with gold...having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. (Rev. 17:4)***
- H. The Harlot will cause multitudes to be intoxicated with the blood of the saints who expose her.
- ⁶ ***I saw the woman (Harlot Babylon), drunk with the blood of the saints... (Rev. 17:6)***
- I. Surprisingly, the Harlot worldwide religion will be hated and destroyed by the jealousy of the ten kings that serve the Antichrist (Rev. 17:16). They will burn her at the beginning of the Great Tribulation (which is in the middle of the last 7 years). The Antichrist will replace her with his own Antichrist religion. The Harlot religion will be joined voluntarily and characterized by tolerance. The Antichrist religion will force all to worship him with strict rigidity.
- ¹² ***The ten horns which you saw are ten kings... 16 The ten horns...on the Beast will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. (Rev. 17:12, 16)***
- J. Two signs that Paul gave to indicate the time of Jesus' Coming are a falling away from the faith combined with the revealing of the Antichrist on the world stage to establish peace (1 Thes. 5:3).
- ³ ***Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day (Jesus' Second Coming) will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin (Antichrist) is revealed... (2 Thes. 2:3)***
- K. There will be a falling away from the faith at the end of the age (Mt. 24:9-13; 2 Thes. 2:3; 1 Tim. 4:1-2; 2 Tim. 3:1-7; 4:3-5; 2 Pet. 2:1-3). A doctrine of a demon is a teaching inspired by demons.
- ¹ ***Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, 3 forbidding to marry... (1 Tim. 4:1-3)***

VII. POSITIVE SPIRITUAL TRENDS INDICATING THE GENERATION JESUS RETURNS

- A. There are positive spiritual trends prophesied in the Scripture that will occur in the generation the Lord returns in a great measure with a unique intensity on a global basis. They are measureable.
- B. **Gospel preached to all nations**: Jesus connected the timing of His return to the preaching of the gospel to all nations. Mission organizations project from statistical data that the gospel will be heard by every people group and language on the earth for the first time by 2025.
¹⁴ ***This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations (ethnos) and then the end will come. (Mt 24:14)***
- C. Churches exist in all 232 nations and territories of the earth. The greatest harvest of souls in history is occurring now. The Bible has been translated in over 2,000 languages (used by 98% of the world's population). Wycliffe plans to have it translated in every language by 2040.
- D. **Salvation of Israel**: Messianic (Jewish) congregations in Israel are seeing more Jewish people come to Jesus than any time since the first century. There are over 120 Messianic congregations in Israel totaling over 10,000 believers. This is an increase of over 500% in the last 10 years.
³⁹ ***You shall see Me no more till you say, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord" (Mt 23:39)***
²⁶ ***All Israel will be saved, as it is written... (Rom. 11:26)***
- E. **Bridal identity**: John connected Jesus' return to the Church worldwide understanding her bridal identity. This is occurring in a global way for the first time in history (Rev 22:17; Mt. 25:1-13).
¹⁷ ***The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!" (Rev. 22:17)***
- F. **Global prayer movement**: Jesus connected the timing of His return in Lk. 17 to night and day prayer in Lk. 18. Isaiah prophesied of 24/7 prayer ministries continuing until Jesus' Coming (Isa. 62:6-7) and energized by those who have a bridal identity (Isa. 62:4-5). The recent surge of 24/7 prayer with many stadium prayer events occurring worldwide is a sign of the times. The Spirit is raising up a end-time prayer movement (Rev. 22:17; 5:8; 8:4; Lk. 18:7-8; Mt. 25:1-13; Isa. 62:6-7; 24:14-16; 25:9; 26:8-9; 27:2-5, 13; 30:18-19; 42:10-13; 43:26; 51:11; 52:8; Joel 2:12-17, 32; Jer. 31:7; Mic. 5:3-4; Zeph. 2:1-3; Ps. 102:17-20; 122:6; Zech. 12:10).
⁷ ***Shall God not avenge (bring justice) His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? 8...He will avenge them speedily (Tribulation). When the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith (agreement in prayer) on the earth? (Lk. 18:7-8)***
⁴ ***You shall be called Hephzibah...for the LORD delights in you...5 As the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you. 6 I have set watchmen (intercessors) on your walls, O Jerusalem; they shall never hold their peace day or night...7 and give Him no rest till He establishes and till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth. (Isa. 62:4-7)***

- G. **Global worship movement** (Isa. 42:10-13): Jesus is coming back in context to the greatest worship movement in history. The current explosion of worship and music combined with intercession is a sign of the times. Isaiah prophesied of the prominence of singing in the End Times (over 100 verses). See Isa. 5:1-7; 6:3; 9:3; 12:1-6; 14:3-27; 24:14-16; 25:1; 26:1-6; 27:2-5, 13; 29:19; 30:29-30; 35:1-10; 38:19-20; 42:10-17; 43:21; 44:23; 48:20-21; 49:13; 51:3, 11; 52:8-10; 54:1; 55:12; 56:7-8; 60:18; 61:3, 7-11; 62:6-7, 9; 63:7; 65:13-14; 66:10-14, 21.
- H. **End-time outpouring of the Spirit**: all believers will receive prophetic dreams and visions (Joel 2:28-31). The number of Pentecostal/Charismatic believers has exploded from approximately 1 million in 1900 to over 500 million today. The greatest prophetic moment is yet to come (Acts 2:17; Jer. 31:9; 23:20; Dan. 11:33-35; Isa. 26:9; Rev. 11:3-6; 18:20; Mt. 17:11; Mal. 4:6).
¹⁷ *I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and daughters shall prophesy... (Acts 2:17)*
- I. **Unparalleled understanding of End-Time prophecy**: (Jer. 23:20; 30:24; Dan. 11:33; 12:10): an angel told Daniel that information about the end-of-the-age was sealed in his day to be unveiled at the time of the end (Dan. 12:4, 9-10). This speaks of an unsealing of revelation regarding the time of the end. John wrote of 7 thunders prophecies that were concealed until the end (Rev. 10).
²⁰ *The anger of the LORD will not turn back until He has executed and performed the thoughts of His heart. In the latter days you will understand it perfectly. (Jer. 23:20)*
- J. **Global youth focus in the Kingdom**: Malachi predicted a unique time in which the fathers of the faith would turn their heart to love and serve the younger generation. This includes a massive turning of the heart of the Church to the fatherless (orphans, human trafficking victims). At this same time an entire generation of youth would turn their hearts to the fathers. This prophesied time frame was knit to the release of the “spirit and power of Elijah” just before Jesus’ coming.
⁵ *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. 6 And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children... (Mal. 4:5-6)*

VIII. NEGATIVE SPIRITUAL TRENDS INDICATING THE GENERATION JESUS RETURNS

- A. **Scoffers and mockers**: Peter highlighted we first of all we should brace ourselves to be mocked.
³ *Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming?" (2 Pet. 3:3-4)*
- B. **Harlot Babylon worldwide religion**: (Rev. 17:2-6): the Harlot Babylon religion of toleration will be a counterfeit justice movement that claims to answer injustice by meeting humanitarian needs.
- C. **Falling away from the faith**: (Mt. 24:9-13; 2 Thes. 2:3; 1 Tim. 4:1-2; 2 Tim. 3:1-7; 4:3-5; 2 Pet. 2:1-3). Many churches today deny Scripture as infallible and therefore, as the moral plumb line.
- D. **Persecution against believers**: will be unique in the generation in which the Lord returns (Dan. 7:21, 25; 8:24; 11:33-35; 12:7, 10; Rev. 6:9-11; 7:9, 14; 9:21; 11:7; 13:7, 15; 16:5-7; 17:6; 18:24; 19:2; Mt. 10:21-22, 28; 24:9; Lk. 12:4-7; 21:16-19). The number of martyrs over 1900 years was nearly 25 million. In the 20th century, there have been almost 50 million martyrs.

IX. LAWLESSNESS: DAYS OF NOAH (VIOLENCE) & THE DAYS OF LOT (IMMORALITY)

A. Lawlessness will abound: sin will reach its fullest expression (Mt. 24:12; Rev. 14:18).

¹² *Because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. (Mt. 24:12)*

²³ *In the latter time...when the transgressors have reached their fullness... (Dan. 8:23)*

²¹ *They did not repent of their murders...sorceries...sexual immorality or thefts. (Rev. 9:21)*

1. Murder: as the primary sin on earth (Rev. 6:9-11; 7:13-14; 9:21; 13:7, 10; 16:6; 17:6)

2. Sorceries: occult and demon worship will fill the earth (Rev. 13:3-4, 8, 12-15; 14:11)

3. Immorality: demon-energized perversion (Rev. 9:20-21; 16:13; 17:2; 18:3; 19:2)

4. Theft: legislation and persecution motivated by theft (i.e., the Nazi's anti-Semitism)

B. The days of Noah: VIOLENCE (Mt. 24:37; Gen. 6:11-13; 2 Tim. 3); great violence will be seen in terrorist acts, race riots, wars in the streets, increasing murder rates worldwide.

¹² *God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. 13 God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them... (Gen. 6:12-13)*

1. Abortion: nearly 50 million abortions worldwide each year or 1/4 of all pregnancies (over 100,000 per day). Over 1.5 million babies are aborted per year (4,000 per day) in the US.

2. Breakdown of the family: the divorce rate is exploding worldwide (in the US it is 50%) and brother shall betray brother even to death (Mk 13:12).

C. The days of Lot: IMMORALITY (Lk. 17:28-30; Gen. 19:1-28); immorality will greatly increase in the End-Times (Rev. 9:21; 14:8; 17:1-4; 18:2-4, 9-10; 19:2; 21:8). This is seen in many ways.

1. Human trafficking: over 80% of the human trafficking victims are forced into the rapidly growing sex trade that generates over \$40 billion per year. Biblical prophecy declares that slavery would be a predominant sin in the End-Times (Rev. 18:13; Joel 3:3). There are currently 35 million slaves on the earth. It is growing nearly 5 million per year.

2. Pornography: nearly \$100 billion is spent each year on pornography worldwide. There are nearly 5 million pornographic websites on the internet with over 500 million pages containing pornography. In every second of every day over 30,000 internet users view pornography. These numbers are rapidly increasing worldwide.

3. Homosexuality: is sweeping across the world as nations are accepting homosexuality in clergy and marriage. Paul prophesied that marriage would be outlawed in some places.

¹ *The Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits...3 forbidding to marry... (1 Tim. 4:1-3)*

X. GLOBALIZATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRENDS INDICATING THE END-TIMES

- A. **Globalization**: an alarming and observable trend is globalization and the manner in which finances, commerce, communication, religion, and geopolitics will converge from a nation-based context to a more globally unified expression (Rev 17-18). There will be one-world technology, economics, political cooperation, travel and info. Nations and religions will pool resources.
- B. **Knowledge and travel** (Dan. 12:4): Daniel prophesied of a remarkable increase of knowledge (communication) and travel (transportation) as many “run to and fro” to obtain it.
⁴ Seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro (unprecedented travel), and knowledge shall increase (information age). (Dan. 12:4)
1. Global tourism will generate \$8 trillion in 2009 and \$15 trillion by the year 2020.
 2. The collective sum of all printed knowledge is doubling every four years. Knowledge of biological science is doubling every 6 months. Over 80% of all the scientists who have ever lived are alive today. Every minute they add 2,000 pages to our scientific knowledge. Over 500,000 new books are published every year.
- C. **Instant communication**: satellite transmission with robotics, laser technology and instant global communication with microchip technology will facilitate a cashless society, etc. (Rev. 13:13-18).
⁹ Those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see (through media) their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. (Rev. 11:9)
- D. **Internet technology**: has allowed knowledge to increase in an unprecedented way. The mark of the Beast imbedded chip technology has a one-world economic system with a cashless society
¹⁶ He causes all...to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, 17 and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the Beast... (Rev. 13:16-17)
- E. The enforcing of the mark of the Beast worldwide (Rev. 13:16-18) implies the existence of modern technology, a cashless society and a one-world economic system. Today’s new imbedded chip technology makes all of this possible for the first time in history. A computer chip can be implanted just beneath the skin of the hand and easily read by a scanning device. The procedure is available today by receiving a VeriChip which is an implantable microchip the size of a grain of rice. It only costs \$200 and only takes 10 seconds to inject it by a needle.
- F. Many are pushing for global currency with one universal language of commerce with microchips encased in plastic smart cards thus, making a global cashless society possible for the first time.

XI. POLITICAL SIGNS OR EVENTS PERTAINING TO THE NATION OF ISRAEL

- A. In Scripture, Israel is the reference point in discerning God's prophetic timetable for the end-time drama. Israel has always been the primary timing indicator for God's prophetic calendar. The entire end-time drama in Scripture is given in context to events related to Israel.
- B. Many end-time prophecies related to Israel are closely linked to each other and overlap. They include Israel being in the land with control of Jerusalem, worshipping in a rebuilt Temple in context to OT animal sacrifice, Sabbath laws and speaking the Hebrew language. They highlight Israel being in the center of world controversy amid anti-Semitism with a restored military.
- C. The re-establishing of the state of Israel and gaining control over the city of Jerusalem fulfills many prophecies (Dan. 9:24, 27; Joel 3:2, 12; Zech. 12:3; 14:2; Lk. 21:24). On May 1948, Israel became a nation in one day and gained control of Jerusalem in the Six Day War in June 1967.
- ⁸ *In the latter years you (Gog) will come into the land of those (Israel) brought back from the sword and gathered from many people on the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate; they were brought out of the nations, and now all of them dwell safely. (Ezek. 38:8)*
- ⁸ *Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Shall a nation be born at once?...Zion...gave birth to her children. (Isa. 66:8)*
- ⁶ *In that day...Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place. (Zech. 12:6)*
- D. A stunning and unique sign of the generation in which the Lord returns is the prophesied rebirth of the nation of Israel. The most striking event in Biblical prophecy is the return of Jews to their ancient homeland and the formation of the state of Israel. No end-time sign is more dramatic or convincing than Israel becoming a nation. Israel was scattered to the nations from her land in AD 70. For first time in 2,000 years, there is now an Israeli government in control of Jerusalem.
- E. The Temple on Mount Zion has not existed since it was destroyed in AD 70. The Temple sign is at the very heart of the key prophetic signs regarding the nation of Israel.
1. Rebuilt Temple with sacrifices according to the laws of Moses (Mt. 24:15; Mk. 13:14; 2 Thes. 2:4; Rev. 11:1-2; 13:12-18; Dan. 9:26, 27; 11:31; 12:11). The Abomination of Desolation (worldwide Antichrist worship system) cannot occur without a rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem. Today, there is a strong new movement in Israel to rebuild the Temple.
 2. The re-establishment of the Sabbath in the social and civil law is a sign (Mt. 24:15-20).
¹⁵ *When you see the abomination of desolation...¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee... ²⁰ Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. (Mt. 24:15-20)*

- F. The re-establishment of the **Hebrew language**. No nation in history has ever maintained its national language without a homeland for more than one generation. For Israel to re-establish an ancient language after 2,000 years is unprecedented in history.
⁹ Then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, that they all may call on the name of the LORD, to serve Him with one accord. (Zeph. 3:9)
- G. Jerusalem as **center of world politics and controversy**. The OT prophets foretold of Jerusalem being the primary focus of the whole earth in the End Times (Zech. 12:3; 14:1-3; Joel 3:2, 12; Zeph. 3:8; Lk. 21:20-24). Jerusalem is quickly becoming the center focus of world attention.
¹ Behold, the day of the LORD is coming...² For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken...half of the city shall go into captivity... (Zech. 14:1-2)
- H. The restoration of a military in Israel in the End Times is a sign (Zech. 10:5; 12:6-9).
- I. Anti-Semitism will increase worldwide. Jesus requires that the Church stand with Israel. Ezekiel prophesied of a significant increase of Arab hostility against Israel (Ezek. 35:1-15; Joel 3:1-7).

XII. POLITICAL SIGNS OF THE TIMES FOCUSED ON OTHER NATIONS

- A. **World peace and safety**: the Antichrist will offer his solutions to the turmoil in the nations that is seen in the beginning of birth pangs (Mt. 24:4-8). The last 7 years begins when the Antichrist confirms a covenant with many nations bringing world peace that lasts 3½ years (1 Thes. 5:3; Dan. 9:27). The Antichrist will first be revealed as a ***man of peace*** who brings **world peace**.
³ When they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains (Great Tribulation) upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. (1 Thes. 5:3)
- B. **Global government**: emergence of a global coalition based in a Middle East-European superstate (revived Roman Empire) with a 10-nation confederation under the Antichrist's authority (Dan. 2:41-42; 7:7, 20, 24; 9:26-27; Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7, 12, 16). This one-world governmental coalition will lead the world into the Armageddon Campaign. This will be the largest political, military, economic, religious power in history (Dan. 2; 7; Ezek. 38; Rev. 13; 17). There is a growing globalization quickly moving towards a one-world governmental cooperation.
- C. A worldwide cooperation in policies and economics will be necessary for the legislation seen in Rev. 13:14-17. These systems must be refined before the Antichrist unveils his true evil self. A majority of the nations will operate in deep cooperation with the Antichrist in their policies, which will concern economics, technology, security, military, etc.
- D. The most challenging issues facing the nations are international in nature including ***global warming***, the ***global war on terror*** and the ***global financial crisis***. The tension in the financial crisis is that we have global financial markets without global rule of law. The growing crisis in these three issues is changing the political atmosphere so "global governance" is a more attractive option to finding global solutions.

- E. **Rebuilding city of Babylon:** in Iraq (50 miles south of Baghdad). Babylon will be restored and used as one of the headquarters for the Antichrist. It will function as the center of the worldwide demonic religious and economic networks (Rev. 17-18). As Jerusalem suddenly came out of the ashes to be rebuilt, so Babylon (in Iraq) will also be rebuilt suddenly. The prophecies in Jer. 50-51 that Babylon would be suddenly destroyed forever have not yet happened.
- F. **The rise of Asia:** with world leadership (China, Korea, Japan, India) with military forces in the East powerful enough to trouble the Antichrist's mighty empire (Dan. 11:44; Rev 16:12).

XIII. SUMMARY: THESE TRENDS MUST ALL HAPPEN IN THE SAME GENERATION

- A. **Watch for:** the emergence of a worldwide economic system.
- B. **Watch for:** globalization in the United Nations calling for the political identity of a new World Order to minimize national boundaries and establish one currency, military, political process, etc.
- C. **Watch for:** a distress in the nations that leads to a counterfeit worldwide peace and safety
- D. **Watch for:** the emergence of worldwide religious network of toleration and syncretism with great wealth that hates true Christianity (salvation only in Jesus and the infallibility of Scripture)
- E. **Watch for:** the rebuilding of the city of Babylon in Iraq as the center of the Harlot religion
- F. **Watch for:** Israel to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem and reestablish animal sacrifice
- G. **Watch for:** anti-Semitism to grow rapidly on a worldwide scale
- H. **Watch for:** the emergence of a European Superstate (Europe/Middle East) in the area of the ancient Roman Empire that leads to a worldwide power base with a 10-nation confederation
- I. **Watch for:** for one man to rise up from obscurity (as a regional political leader) with unusual diplomacy who initially works with a 3-nation coalition. He will lead a ten-nation confederation (Superstate) and confirm a peace treaty with Israel and the Middle East bringing peace.
- J. **Watch for:** the rise of the kings of the East as an Asian confederacy of nations
- K. **Watch for:** a significant increased Arab hostility towards Israel
- L. **Watch for:** the emergence of oil rich Islamic nations in alliance with a global leader (Antichrist)
- M. **Watch for:** the stage being set for the Armageddon Campaign as all nations gather against Israel

XIV. FIRST PROPHETIC TIME FRAME: BEGINNING OF THE BIRTH PANGS TRENDS

- A. The beginning of birth pangs is intense enough to warrant paralleling it to woman within hours of her hard labor. She is immobilized from doing business as usual. These birth pangs will create many-faceted crises unparalleled in history. If they are not distinctly discernable then they are not prophetic signs. Solving the problems resulting from them will require extreme measures. The birth pangs are social conflicts and ecological disturbances.
- B. **War:** an unprecedented escalation of war has occurred in the twentieth century making it the bloodiest time in history (over 100 million people killed). Since World War II, over 150 major wars have occurred with a death toll of over 25 million. Since the Berlin Wall fell (Nov. 1989), conflicts have forced 50 million people from their homes worldwide. There were over 70 wars in 1995 (double from 1989).
- C. **Ethnic conflict:** civil disorder and racism. The Greek word for nation in Mt. 24:7 is *ethnos* which translates ethnic or tribe. Nation against nation is "ethnic group against ethnic group". The ethnic wars in Cambodia, Albania, Rwanda, Bosnia, Kosovo and Sudan along with Stalin's purges, and China's Cultural Revolution have caused the number murdered by their own people to exceed the deaths caused by wars outside their borders (totaling over 150 million deaths). The militant Islamic leaders have especially targeted Israel, the USA and the European Union.
- D. **Famine:** nearly a billion people worldwide world suffer from malnutrition. Over 25,000 people die every day worldwide from hunger related causes. Nearly 5 million die of starvation every year. Water shortages have reduced the global food supply by 10 percent. The population is growing yet its agricultural capabilities are diminishing. Over 500 million people do not have enough drinking water. The numbers increase to 2 billion by 2025 (greatest famine in history).
- E. **Pestilences (disease):** the rise of diseases such as tuberculosis, the Avian bird flu, pneumonia, meningitis, are becoming unstoppable as some are becoming more resistant to inoculations. The nations of the former Soviet Union are developing genetically engineered viruses and bacteria that cannot be stopped by antibiotics. Terrorists threaten to use smallpox because many today (even in the USA) do not have a vaccination against it. Epidemics of typhoid and diphtheria have afflicted areas of India and Russia. Deadly new strains of malaria, tuberculosis and cholera are becoming resistant to all known antibiotics and are killing millions. Diseases are growing in an unprecedented way globally especially viral killers like AIDS and Ebola. There are nearly 35 million people living with AIDS (2007). More than 25 million have died from AIDS since 1981. Africa has over 11 millions AIDS orphans. Six million people a year are getting infected.
- F. **Weather:** Global warming is melting the ice caps, raising the water level, and eroding our shorelines. We are experiencing record levels of floods, fires, hurricanes, volcanoes, and other natural disasters; and meteorologists warn that changes in global weather patterns mean that we will have hotter, more turbulent weather for the next 100 years or so. Four out of five of the costliest natural disasters of the past 40 years have occurred since 1989, including hurricanes Andrew and Hugo. The most costly earthquakes, hurricanes, tornados and floods are happening.

Overview of the End-Time Events

I. WHY STUDY THE END TIMES: INTRODUCTORY PREMISES

- A. We must study the End-Times because it is the most dramatic generation in human history with two great extremes. Before Jesus returns, the nations will witness the greatest revival and the most severe pressures (God's judgments, Satan's rage, man's sin) that have ever been seen.
- B. We must study the End-Times because it reveals Jesus' heart and leadership. The four Gospels (totaling 89 chapters) give us a record of Jesus' heart and power at His first coming when He accomplished redemption. In a similar way, the end of the age (over 150 chapters) reveals Jesus' heart and power as He takes over the leadership of the whole earth. In other words, the Gospels and the End-Time Scriptures reveal the same Jesus and the same power by the same Holy Spirit in the same Bible. The Book of Revelation is called the revelation of Jesus because it reveals His heart, power and leadership. The Book of Revelation is not an optional subject for the Church.
- ¹ The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants--things which must shortly take place. (Rev. 1:1)*
- C. We must study the End-Times because it is the one generation that God has chosen to announce with prophetic signs that increase in intensity as we get closer to Jesus' return. These prophetic signs include supernatural signs in the heaven, trends in society, and political, military, religious, scientific, technological, and economic developments. God calls it wisdom to understand (Rev. 13:18, 17:9) because this not mere curiosity but it is an issue of life and death.
1. The Scripture requires those in the generation the Lord returns to know it and prepare accordingly. Jesus and Paul emphasized the know-ability of the prophetic signs of the End-Times (Mt. 24:32-34; Lk. 21:25-29; 1 Thes. 5:1-6; 2 Thes. 2:1-11)
 2. God promised to give prophetic signs in the generation that the Lord returns as an expression of His mercy, so people can make the necessary preparations for what is coming. These prophetic signs serve the Church like a weather station that signals trouble before it comes so people can prepare and save lives. The example of the Southeast Asia Tsunami caused by the Sumatra earthquake on Dec. 26, 2004 illustrates this. Jesus rebuked Israel for being unable to read the prophetic signs at Jesus' first coming (Mt. 16:3). Jesus taught that Israel came under judgment for being unresponsive to God because they did not know the time of their visitation from God.
- For days will come...when your enemies will...⁴⁴ level you, and your children to the ground...because you did not know the time of your visitation. (Lk. 19:43-44)*

- D. Studying information about the End-Times is one of the keys to preparedness for it. It is important to study the End-Times because it prepares the Church to be victorious in the most extreme glory and pressure in history. It provides the Church a compass in the storm. We need to rightly interpret the crisis for the majority. We gain confidence in God's sovereignty, and knowing Scripture inspires the certainty of victory. It gives us revelation of Jesus' beauty and provides fuel for the prayer movement.
- E. The prepared prophetic Church alone will have the answer to keep multitudes from being offended at God in the End-Times. We will be able to answer the question of why a God of love would allow and even orchestrate the events in the Great Tribulation. The Church also must know how to live in a way that avoids or minimizes this judgment. The purpose of God's judgments is to remove all (false props) that hinders love so that multitudes would be saved and grow mature in love.
- F. Scriptures on End Times are literal unless specifically indicated as symbolic by the Scripture.
- G. The Scriptures on the End-Times were written to be understood by all, since they were written for all nations. The majority of people throughout history have been uneducated peasants. It is not true that the End-Time Scriptures are too complicated. All believers can and must understand the book of Revelation and End-Time prophecy. These are not optional reading designed for eccentric Christians.
- H. I believe we are in the beginning stages of the End-Times, but whether the Great Tribulation followed by Jesus' Coming begins in 5 years or 50 years, I do not know. It is probably closer to 50 than 5.
- I. A common misperception is that most generations believed they were in the End-Times. It is true that a very small group (probably less than 1%) of every generation thought they were at the end. Only twice has there been a universal sense that it was the time of the end, in the generation of the early apostles and this one (over 50 million books in the Left Behind series have been sold).
- J. ***Summary:*** Why study the End-Times? It prepares the Church to be ***victorious in love with power*** during the most dramatic time in history. It prepares the Church to participate in the coming revival instead of neglecting or resisting it. It prepares the Church to ***rightly interpret the crisis*** instead of being offended at God by it. It awakens the Church to ***urgency in intercession*** in knowing their prayers can minimize evil and increase victory in specific regions (Joel 2:13-14; Zeph. 2:3). It strengthens our ***confidence in God's sovereignty*** by knowing that He is in control and is never surprised.
- K. Some common lies related to End-Time prophecies are that they are not relevant but are just for the curious, that they are to be interpreted symbolically instead of taken literally, and that they are impossible to understand except only by scholars, and that the Church in every generation believed they were the final generation.

II. IMPORTANT THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

- A. I do not believe the view that the Church will be raptured at any minute and therefore, will miss the coming revival and crisis in the Great Tribulation. We honor the genuineness and godliness of many who hold this view, but we see it as a serious mistake that will leave multitudes unprepared and offended at Jesus during the Great Tribulation.
- B. If you are new in studying the End-Times, be braced that the Jesus seen in many End-Times Scriptures is very different from the Jesus that some in the Western Church think of. It is important that we are loyal to what Scripture says and not to our traditions or religious sentiments.
- C. I do not ask anyone to quickly accept my views. Rather, I urge you to challenge them fiercely and boldly as you refuse any idea that you cannot clearly see in Scripture for yourself. The old saying, “Be a Berean” is an appropriate one as we study Jesus’ leadership in the End-Times. The Bereans searched the Scriptures to see if the things that Paul said were so (Acts 17:10-11). I urge you to take time for the small group discussions. The learning process is greatly enhanced by wrestling with the various ideas in dialogue with others who are hungry for truth.

III. DAY OF THE LORD: THE 2 EXTREMES RELATED TO JESUS’ RETURN

For the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; who can endure it? (Joel 2:11)

I will send you Elijah...before...the great and dreadful day of the LORD. (Mal. 4:5)

- A. The great Day of the Lord refers to the unusual events (positive and negative) that will escalate in the final 3½ years before Jesus returns. It is one of the prominent themes in the Scripture (mentioned nearly 100 times). It is “His Day” because it is a unique time frame in which Jesus acts in the earthly arena in great power for His people and against His enemies. He openly shows Himself as the warrior King who aggressively confronts sin. (Is. 2:10-22; 4:1-6; 11:1-15; 13:6-9; Ezek. 13:5; Joel 1-3; Amos 5:18-20; Zeph 1:7, 12, 14-18, 20; Zech. 14:1-4; Mal. 4:5; 1 Thes. 5:2-3; 2 Thes. 2:2-3; 2 Pet. 3:10; Rev. 6:17).
- B. ***It will be a great Day*** to those who call on Jesus’ name because they will experience the greatest outpouring of the Spirit in history (Joel 2:28-32).
- C. ***It will be a very terrible Day*** to the rebellious who will witness the most severe outpouring of God’s judgments ever seen (Rev. 6-20). Jesus’ judgments will shake all that can be shaken on earth (Hag. 2:6-8; Heb. 12:26).
- D. The prophets asked, “Who can endure the Day of the Lord events?” In other words, who can experience God’s favor, deliverance and power in this unique time frame. This will be the most relevant question that must be answered by all as the best and worst time for the Church and all nations (including the USA and Israel) are soon to come.

IV. THE GREAT DAY OF THE LORD: POSITIVE TRENDS

- A. The greatest revival and outpouring of the Spirit in history results in a victorious Church full of God's glory (Eph. 4:13; 5:26-27; Mt. 16:18; Jn. 17:21-26; Acts 2:17-21; Rev. 7:9; 12:11; 15:2; 19:7-8; 22:17). It will include miracles that were seen in the Book of Acts and the Book of Exodus combined and multiplied on a global scale.
- B. The Great Ingathering of souls will possibly be over 1 billion (Mt. 24:14; Rev. 5:9; 14:6).
A multitude...no one could number of all nations...out of the Tribulation... (Rev. 7:9, 14)
- C. The salvation of Israel (Rom. 11:12-15, 25-26) will occur as the Church provokes Israel to jealousy by standing with them in affliction and operating in the power of God.
- D. The spirit of prophecy will operate in the Church and rest on every believer (Acts 2:17; Jer. 31:9; 23:20; Dan. 11:33-35; Isa. 26:9; Rev. 11:3-6; 18:20; Mt. 17:11; Mal. 4:6).
¹⁷ I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and daughters shall prophesy. (Acts 2:17)
- E. The bridal paradigm of the Kingdom will strengthen the Church resulting in believers with courageous love as they encounter Jesus as the Bridegroom God (Rev. 22:17).
The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!" (Rev. 22:17)
- F. The worship and prayer movement will operate in great authority (Lk. 18:7-8; Mt. 21:13; Rev. 5:8; 8:3-5; 22:17; Isa. 62:6-7; 25:9; 27:2-5, 13; 30:18-19; 42:10-13; Joel 2:12-17).
- G. There will be supernatural provision of food and water God will manifest His provision like He did in the Exodus. God provided all the needs of His people as they journeyed in the wilderness. He caused food to fall from the sky and brought water from a rock.
As in the days when you came out of...Egypt, I will show them wonders. (Mic. 7:15)
- H. There will be supernatural direction by prophetic revelation (Jer. 31:9; Joel 2:28) as the Lord directs His people to safety, to provision (food, water), to reconnect in relationships, to be at the right place to escape earthquakes, bombs, or the ambush of the enemy.
- I. There will be supernatural protection (pockets of mercy). The "Goshen Principle" (Ex. 8:22-23; 9:4-6, 26; 10:23; 11:7) was seen in the time of the plagues of Egypt. God did not allow His judgments to touch Goshen, where His people lived. Israel's livestock did not die (Ex. 9:4-6), they had no hail (Ex. 9:26), no swarms of flies (Ex. 8:22), and they had light (Ex. 10:23).
I will set apart the land of Goshen, in which My people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there...²³ I will make a difference between My people and your people. (Ex. 8:22-23)

- J. There will be pockets of mercy which refer to areas where God's people are protected from God's judgment (Rev. 7:2-3; 9:4; Ezek. 9:4-6). God's judgments can be minimized or averted in various regions by prayer and obedience. Our prayers make a difference in our quality of life (Joel 2:13-14; Ps. 91:5-7). The disaster zone can become a revival center.

Seek the LORD, all you meek of the earth...it may be that you will be hidden (protected) in the day of the LORD's anger (judgments) (Zeph. 2:3).

I also withheld rain from you...I made it rain on one city, I withheld rain from another city. One part was rained upon, and where it did not rain the part withered. 8 So two or three cities wandered to another city to drink water... (Amos 4:7-8)

You shall not be afraid of the terror by night...6 nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday. 7 A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it shall not come near you. (Ps. 91:5-7)

V. THE PRIMARY POSITIVE PEOPLE AND EVENTS IN THE END-TIMES

- A. Jesus' Second Coming to establish His Millennial Kingdom is the ultimate prophetic theme in the End-Times (Rev. 19:11-21; Zech. 14; 1 Thes. 4-5; Matt. 24; Lk. 21; Mk. 13).
1. Jesus will physically appear in the sky to all the people of the earth when He returns to permanently live on the earth. He will sit on a Throne as King and rule over all other kings (Rev. 19:15-16). He will establish His Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. (Matt. 6:10)
 2. The next stage of the Father's plan is for Jesus to rule as King on the earth for 1,000 years (Rev. 20:4-6). This is commonly referred to as the Millennial Kingdom of Christ. The term *millennium* is from the Latin *mille* (a thousand), and *annus* (a year).
They shall be priests of God....and shall reign with Him a 1,000 years. (Rev. 20:6)
 3. Jesus will rule the world from Jerusalem in perfect righteousness and continual peace as He restores it to the conditions of the Garden of Eden. His Kingdom on earth will affect every sphere of life (political, economic, educational, agricultural, family, media, arts, technology, environment, social institutions, etc; Rev. 20:1-6; Isa. 2:1-4; 9:6-9; 11:1-16; 51:1-8; 60-62; 65:17-25; Ps. 2; 110; Mt. 6:10; 17:11; 19:28; 28:19; Acts 3:21).
Jerusalem shall be called the Throne of the LORD, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem. (Jer. 3:17)
 4. Resurrected believers with glorified bodies will rule with Jesus over the governments of the Millennial earth. (Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21; 5:10; 20:4-6; 22:5; Mt. 19:28; 20:21-23; 25:23; Lk. 19:17-19; 22:29-30; 1 Cor. 6:2-3; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rom 8:17).

- B. The Rapture of the Church occurs as Jesus “catches up” all believers in the air from one end of the sky to the other. The Rapture will not be a secret event, but a dramatic one witnessed by all believers and unbelievers. It will occur in context to Jesus’ Second Coming (1 Thes. 4:13-5:11). The fact of the rapture is agreed on by nearly all believers through history. The timing of it as before the Tribulation is an error that confuses some.
- C. The Two Witnesses (Rev. 11:3-6) are two prophets who will preach with great power for 3½ years during the Great Tribulation. They do great miracles like Moses and Elijah did (Mal. 4:5).
- D. 144,000 sealed Jewish believers (Rev. 7:4-8; 14:1-5) are prophetic singers who will preach the gospel in power during the last 3½ years. They will be supernaturally sealed or protected by the power of God so that they can not be harmed by them. Other believers (Gentiles) will also be supernaturally protected by God from harm (Rev 9:4; Ezek 9:6).
- E. The Marriage supper of the Lamb occurs in context to Jesus’ coming (Rev. 19:7-10). The first descent of the New Jerusalem to earth also occurs at this time (Rev. 21:2, 9; 3:12).

VI. NEGATIVE TRENDS, PEOPLE AND EVENTS IN THE END-TIMES

- A. In the Great Tribulation, pressure will come from four sources. First, by the ***wrath of God*** on the rebellious (7 Seals, 7 Trumpets, 7 Bowls of wrath); Second, by the ***rage of Satan*** who will persecute the saints through the Antichrist’s reign of terror; Third, by the actions of ***evil people*** against one another; and Fourth, by ***convulsions in nature*** (earthquakes, storms, etc).
- B. There will be two severe waves of death. The first wave will claim one fourth, of earth’s population. The second wave will kill an additional one third of the earth. This will total 50% of the population (or 4 billion based on a possible population of 8 billion people).
Behold, a pale horse. The name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. Power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth. (Rev. 6:8)

The four angels...were released to kill one-third of mankind. (Rev. 9:15)

VII. VERY TERRIBLE DAY OF THE LORD: FOUR NEGATIVE TRENDS

- A. The fullness of God’s judgment (Rev. 14:7; 15:7) includes 21 specific events against unbelievers (7 seals in Rev. 6; 7 trumpets in Rev. 8:9; 7 bowls of wrath in Rev. 16).
The wrath of God which is poured out full strength... (Rev. 14:10)
- B. The fullness of Satan’s rage will be vented on earth (Rev. 12:12; Dan. 7:21, 25; Rev. 13).
Woe to the inhabitants of the earth...! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time. (Rev. 12: 12)

VIII. VERY TERRIBLE DAY: NEGATIVE PEOPLE AND EVENTS

- A. ***The Antichrist*** (Rev. 13:1-10) is the final world leader who wages war against God and persecutes His people. He will have a vast political, military, and economic alliance with a ten-nation confederation. He will have the greatest political coalition, the largest army, the biggest worldwide religious network and the most money and power of any man in history. He will use ***demonic miracles*** to deceive (Rev. 13:12-14), the ***political process to kill*** resisters (Rev. 13:15) and ***economic oppression*** (Rev. 13:16-17) to control the nations.
- B. The Antichrist will be the most evil and cruel man that ever lived. It will be impossible to negotiate with him for mercy, because he will reason and behave like a wild beast. The Antichrist is called the “Beast” 36 times in the Book of Revelation.
- C. ***The great catalytic event*** that thrusts the Antichrist into worldwide prominence will be a dramatic head wound and apparent healing (Rev. 13:3, 12, 14). He will seemingly be killed and healed before all, causing them to be overwhelmed with awe so as to worship him.
- D. ***The image of the Beast*** (Antichrist) will be a statue (image or idol) that is demonically empowered so that it will seem to think, talk, breathe, and make laws (Rev. 13:14-16). The main idol will be set up in the Jerusalem Temple and will be connected to a global network of idols. The image will be a significant prophetic sign in the End-Times. John emphasized this image ten times (Rev. 13:14, 15 [three times]; 14:9, 11; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4).
- E. ***The mark of the Beast*** (Antichrist) will be a public mark on people’s right hand or forehead. It will be used to regularly identify the people that promise to worship the Antichrist (Rev. 13:16-17). It will be one’s personal access to the global economic system. Those who refuse this mark will not be allowed to buy or sell the necessities of life. They will be viewed as criminals of the state who are guilty of the death penalty. As a wedding ring is a symbol of one’s marriage covenant, so this mark is the outward proof of one’s covenant to worship Satan and the Antichrist. In other words, people will not accidentally take this mark, nor will it be given to them against their will.
- F. ***The False Prophet*** (Rev. 13:11-18) is the Antichrist’s primary associate and is the leader of the End-Time worldwide religious network that will be devoted to causing all the people on earth to worship Satan and the Antichrist (Rev. 13:4, 8). The False Prophet’s plans to accomplish this will include giving demonically empowered speeches that are confirmed by great miracles (Rev. 13:12-14), using the ***image of the Beast*** (demonically empowered image) and using the ***mark of the Beast*** (global economic system).
- G. ***The Antichrist’s 10-nation confederation*** will be a political, military and economic alliance that will provide him with the greatest power base of any man in history.

- H. ***The Abomination of Desolation*** will occur when the Antichrist declares himself to be God by setting up his image or idol (which is the abomination) in the Jerusalem Temple (Dan. 8:13; 9:26, 27; 11:31; 12:11; Mt. 24:15; Mk. 13:14; 2 Thes. 2:3-4; Rev. 13:12-18).
1. It will be an abomination to God, because the Antichrist will demand to be worshipped as God and because many will fully respond to this demand. This image will be the greatest abomination to God in history. It will be confirmed by demonic miracles.
 2. The desolation will occur in two different ways. First, the Antichrist will seek to desolate or destroy any who refuse to worship him. Second, God will desolate or destroy in judgment all those who yield to the pressure to worship the Antichrist.
 3. After the Antichrist's head wound is healed, the Abomination of Desolation will be the key piece of legislation that begins his aggressive plan to rule the whole earth as God. This act of abomination will occur in the middle of the last 7 years before Jesus returns.
 4. The Abomination of Desolation is referred to 7 times in Scripture, 5 times by Daniel (Dan. 8:13; 9:26, 27; 11:31; 12:11) and 2 times by Jesus (Matt. 24:15; Mk. 13:14). Paul taught about the Abomination of Desolation (2 Thes. 2:3-4).

IX. THE THREE NUMBERED JUDGMENT SERIES (7 SEALS, 7 TRUMPETS, 7 BOWLS)

- A. The Great Tribulation consists of God's judgment as seen in the 7 seals, 7 trumpets, and the 7 bowls of wrath as described in Rev. 6-19. They constitute the core judgment activities of the Great Tribulation period that lasts for 3½ years ending with the Battle of Jerusalem and the Second Coming of Jesus (Rev. 19:11-21).
- B. There is an intensification of God's judgments. They become more severe as they unfold i.e., the events of the 7 seals are surpassed in severity by the 7 trumpets; which are then surpassed by the 7 bowls of wrath (1/4 of the human race dies in the seals, and then 1/3 die in the trumpets).
- C. There will be different responses to God's judgments. Many will respond in fear (6:15-17) leading them to curse God (16:21) without repenting (9:20-21). Others will glorify God for His power and salvation (Rev. 7:9; 11:13; 14:6).
- D. The 3 judgment series are focused on the Antichrist's worldwide empire as He purges the earth. They are ***literal*** (actual events not to be explained away symbolically or historically), ***future*** (their greatest fulfillment is future), ***progressive*** (they increase in intensity) and ***numbered*** (released in a sequential order as they follow one after the other in sequence that we might know their order as they unfold on earth).

X. THE KEY NEGATIVE JUDGMENT EVENTS AGAINST THE EVIL PEOPLE

- A. **THE SEVEN SEALS** (Rev. 6:1-17; 8:1)
 - 1. **First Seal** (White Horse): Antichrist's political aggression (Rev. 6:1-2)
 - 2. **Second Seal** (Red Horse): bloodshed and World War (Rev. 6:3-4)
 - 3. **Third Seal** (Black Horse): famine and economic crisis (Rev. 6:5-6)
 - 4. **Fourth Seal** (Pale Horse): disease and death to 1/4 of the earth (Rev. 6:7-8)
 - 5. **Fifth Seal** (Prayer Movement): spiritual atmosphere – releasing God's judgment (Rev. 6:9-11)
 - 6. **Sixth Seal** (Cosmic Disturbances): natural atmosphere – cosmic crisis (Rev. 6:12-17)
 - 7. **Seventh Seal** (Silence in Heaven): heaven atmosphere – release of seven Trumpets (Rev. 8-9).
- B. **SEVEN TRUMPETS** (Rev. 8:2-9:21; 11:14-19)
 - 1. **First Trumpet** (Food Supply): burning 1/3 of the earth's vegetation (Rev. 8:7)
 - 2. **Second Trumpet** (Food Supply): destroying 1/3 of the earth's seas (Rev. 8:8-9)
 - 3. **Third Trumpet** (Water Supply): poisoning 1/3 of the earth's fresh water (Rev. 8:10-11)
 - 4. **Fourth Trumpet** (Light, Energy): darkening 1/3 of the earth's light (Rev. 8:12-13)
 - 5. **Fifth Trumpet** (Torment): release of demonic locusts with a plague (Rev. 9:1-12)
 - 6. **Sixth Trumpet** (Death): release demons that kill 1/3 of the earth's population (Rev. 9:13-21)
 - 7. **Seventh Trumpet** (Defeat): begins Jesus' Second Coming procession (Rev. 11:15-19)
- C. **SEVEN BOWLS OF GOD'S WRATH** (Rev. 15-16) i.e., plagues in Egypt (Exod 7-12)
 - 1. **First Bowl** (Sores): painful sores on worshipers of the Antichrist (Rev. 16:1-2)
 - 2. **Second Bowl** (Food Supply): sea turns to blood and kills all in the sea (Rev. 16:3)
 - 3. **Third Bowl** (Water Supply): all the fresh water turns to blood (Rev. 16:4-7)
 - 4. **Fourth Bowl** (Torment): scorching heat and fire from the sun (Rev. 16:8-9)
 - 5. **Fifth Bowl** (Destruction): darkness on the Antichrist's global empire (Rev. 16:10-11)
 - 6. **Sixth Bowl** (Global Guilt): demons lure the nations to Armageddon (Rev. 16:12-16)
 - 7. **Seventh Bowl** (Annihilation): worst earthquake, 100 pound hail stones (Rev. 16:17-21).

XI. NEGATIVE EVENTS: JUDGMENTS ON THOSE WHO REBEL AGAINST GOD

- A. Jesus' victory at the Battle of Jerusalem to end the Armageddon Campaign (which continues for 3½ years) is a military conflict that destroys the Antichrist, the False Prophet and their armies (Rev. 16:16; 19:11-21; Joel 3:2-15; Zech. 14:1-5; Zeph. 3:8).
- B. God's judgment on the Great Harlot Babylon (Rev. 17-18) is a judgment on a worldwide demonic economic and religious network based in the city of Babylon. It will seduce many to do evil and to persecute the saints. The city of Babylon to be located on the Euphrates River in Iraq (50 miles south of Baghdad), will be restored (Isa. 13-14; Jer. 50-51; Rev. 17-18).
- C. God will judge this city in two stages. First, this worldwide religious system of toleration and syncretism will fall in the middle of the 7 year period, at the hands of 10 kings who will burn it (Rev. 17:16). They will replace it with the Antichrist's strict religious system and re-established it as one of the Antichrist's headquarters. Second, it will fall when Jesus returns (Rev. 18).

- D. The martyrdom of Christians comes as the Antichrist makes war with them (Dan. 7:21, 25; 8:24; 11:33-35; 12:7, 10; Rev. 6:9-11; 9:21; 11:7; 13:7, 15; 16:5-7; 17:6; 18:24; 19:2).
- E. Believers will fall away from the faith (the apostasy) – 2 Thes. 2:3; 1 Tim. 4:1; Mt. 24:12.
Let no one deceive you...for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin (Antichrist) is revealed... (2 Thes. 2:3)
Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons... (1 Tim. 4:1)

XII. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE END-TIMES

- A. Israel became a nation (1948) and took control of the city of Jerusalem (1967).
- B. There will be an emergence of a regional political leader (Antichrist) in the Middle East or Europe who has unusual diplomacy and who initially works with a 3-nation coalition.
- C. The formation of the European Union joins in the alliance of the ten-nation confederation in the Middle East. A 3-nation coalition will be its original base, but that base will be uprooted early on (Dan. 7:8, 20, 24). The ten-nation confederation will form the basis of a worldwide government.
- D. The Antichrist will make a Middle East peace treaty with Israel and other nations that brings a worldwide counterfeit peace and safety (Dan. 9:27; 1 Thes. 5:3). Israel's covenant with the Antichrist will seem to them to usher in the promised Millennial blessings.
- E. The Lord and Satan will work to gather the armies of all the nations of the earth to attack Jerusalem (Zech. 12:1-10; 14:1-2; Joel 3:2, 12; Zeph. 3:8; Rev. 16:12-16).
- F. The temple in Jerusalem (referred to as the Tribulation temple) will be built and then desecrated by the Antichrist. It shall be the context for the ministry of the Two Witnesses (Dan. 9:27; 11:36-45; Mt. 24:15; Mk. 13:14; 2 Thes. 2:4; Rev. 11:1-2).
- G. A one-world religion will emerge that kills Christians who resist it (Rev. 13, 17-18). The rise of false christs and prophets will help establish alliances between all the false religions which include the occult, New Age, Muslims, Hindu, Buddhists, and liberal "Christianity" with a commitment to moral tolerance that paves the way for a one-world religion.
- H. There is an increase of travel and knowledge (scientific, communication, technology).
Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and for (travel), and knowledge (scientific, technology) shall increase. (Daniel 12:4)

Forerunner Ministry: Friends of the Bridegroom (Jn. 3:29)

I. THE FORERUNNER MINISTRY

- A. Forerunners prepare God's people for the unique dynamics of the End-Time generation.
- B. Isaiah prophesied of forerunners who would prepare the way for the Lord in the End-Times or at the time of Jesus' Second Coming when all flesh (all nations) shall see Jesus' glory together.
³ The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God...5 The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh (all nations) shall see it together (at Jesus' Second Coming). (Isa. 40:3-5)
- C. John the Baptist was a down payment of this prophecy by being only a partial fulfillment of it.
²³ I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness...as the prophet Isaiah said. (Jn. 1:23)
- D. Forerunners prepare the way for the Lord by preparing people to ***respond rightly to Jesus*** in the End-Times by making known His plans. God raises up forerunners as a "mercy ministry" to the multitudes before the intensity of the Lord's End-Time activities begin in both positive (revival) and negative (judgment) ways. These activities express God's love and wisdom.
- E. As intense events begin to happen, many tend to lose their perspective and objectivity in seeing God's love and wisdom. Those who see what God is doing as biblical and as expressing His love and wisdom are able to set their hearts to be resolved to participate with the Lord in His purposes instead of resisting or neglecting them in fear, confusion and offense.
- F. The highway God travels on is the voluntary agreement of His people as they partner with Him. Forerunners make sense of what is to happen before the Spirit releases it in a worldwide way.
- G. They are messengers who proclaim "now" what the Spirit is "soon" to emphasize in a universal way. They are one short step ahead of what the Spirit is soon to openly release. Forerunners bring new understanding or paradigms of God and His End-Time activities.
⁵ If you have run with the footmen, and they have wearied you, then how can you contend with horses? If in the land of peace...they wearied you, then how will you do in the floodplain of the Jordan? (Jer. 12:5)
- H. The forerunner ministry does not make sense to the multitudes until the intense activities begin. The wisdom of Noah's ark was not apparent until it began to rain.
- I. Forerunners are "messengers" who function with a specific message in different spheres of life. For example, they are preachers, evangelists, artists (singers, musicians, actors, etc.), writers (internet), media, marketplace or intercessors as well as those who disciple people one-on-one in the church, marketplace, campus, or home (moms are some of the most important forerunners).

II. SEVEN THEOLOGICAL PREMISES OF THE FORERUNNER MINISTRY

- A. Premise #1: There will be ***“unique dynamics”*** in the generation the Lord returns. The greatest number of people will be living at the time of the greatest manifestation of power (God’s/Satan’s) and will require a unique focus and understanding. In this generation, history transitions to the Millennial Kingdom. This is the unprecedented new thing that Isaiah prophesied.
¹⁸ Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. 19 Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? (Isa. 43:18-19)
- B. Premise #2: The Holy Spirit will emphasize the ***revelation of the Father*** in the End-Times.
- C. Premise #3: The Holy Spirit will emphasize ***3 facets of the beauty of Jesus*** as a passionate Bridegroom (with tenderness and deep desire for His people), as a powerful King who confronts darkness and wins the lost and as a righteous Judge who upholds God’s standards (holiness).
- D. Premise #4: Forerunners participate in ***3 unprecedented activities of the Spirit: restoring the First Commandment, gathering the Harvest*** and releasing God’s judgments (Rev. 6; 8-9; 16).
- E. Premise #5: God is ***preparing forerunner ministries ahead of time*** in the wilderness that they may prepare others for the Day of the Lord activities. It takes a clear sense of mandate and identity as a forerunner to stay faithful long term to grow in understanding (Dan. 11:33-35).
- F. Premise #6: Forerunners must ***live a fasted lifestyle*** in the grace of God as seen in Mt. 6:1-18.
- G. Premise #7: Forerunners are ***best trained in context to the End-Time prayer movement***. They understand the role of the prayer movement in End-Time prophecy and therefore build houses of prayer. (Rev. 22:17; 5:8; 8:4; Lk. 18:7-8; Isa. 24:14-16; 26:8-9; 30:18-19; 42:10-13; 62:6-7).

III. JOHN THE BAPTIST'S LIFE: THE MODEL FOR THE FORERUNNER MINISTRY

- A. John the Baptist is the clearest model in Scripture of the End-Time forerunner as was prophesied in Isa. 40:3-5. The Holy Spirit gave him as a down payment of the forerunner ministry for our benefit. We gain invaluable direction and inspiration from his ministry.
- B. Jesus described John as having a burning heart and a shining lamp of ministry that clearly and boldly made known God’s ways and brought light that expelled misunderstanding about Jesus. He brought together the forerunner lifestyle (burning heart) with the forerunner message (lamp).
³⁵ He was the burning (heart) and shining lamp (ministry) and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light. (Jn 5:35)

¹ For Jerusalem's sake I (the Lord) will not rest, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burns. (Isa. 62:1)

- C. Jesus described John as the greatest man in history. No one ever obeyed God more consistently nor prepared for ministry more diligently than John the Baptist.

¹¹ ***Among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John...* (Mt. 11:11)**

- D. In the end the people of Israel said he was demonized and dangerous to God's purpose. Jesus assured us that John's lifestyle and message will be openly vindicated at the Judgment Seat.

¹⁸ ***For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon." 19...But wisdom is justified (vindicated) by her children (long term fruit). (Mt. 11:18-19)***

- E. Undoubtedly, John knew from his youth he was a forerunner to be prepared in the wilderness as declared in the Scripture. He prepared for about 20 years for only 2 years of public ministry.

²² ***Who are you...? What do you say about yourself? 23 He said: "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness: make straight the way of the Lord, as the prophet Isaiah said." (Jn. 1:22-23)***

1. ***I am the voice*** – John prepared the people to respond to God in the unique dynamics related to Jesus' first coming. The forerunner's voice speaks of the things that are yet to come with clarity, power and boldness.
2. ***One crying in the wilderness*** – John understood his identity in ministry as "a voice" that was to be prepared in the wilderness of fasting and prayer. A forerunner voice is always prepared and released in context to the wilderness.
3. ***Make straight the way of the LORD*** – we are to make clear without any compromise what God is saying and doing. God is establishing a "prophetic information highway".

- F. God is raising up forerunners who will be a voice and not merely an echo.

- G. There are 4 distinct applications of being in the wilderness in Scripture.

² ***The people...found grace in the wilderness-- Israel, when I went to give him rest. (Jer. 31:2)***

¹⁴ ***I will allure her, will bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfort to her. 15...She shall sing there...16 It shall be, in that day...that you will call Me "My Husband"... (Hos. 2:14-16)***

1. ***Posture of heart*** – the fasted lifestyle that seeks to encounter God in the wilderness. John lived a "**wilderness lifestyle**" (reading the Word with prayer and fasting).
2. ***Spiritual condition*** – dryness before the breakthrough of the Holy Spirit. Nations, cities, churches, ministries, etc., speak of experiencing the "**wilderness years**" before revival.
3. ***Difficult circumstances*** – an unusual season of pain before the release of God's promises
4. ***Geographic location*** – John lived in an actual wilderness, the desert of Judea.

IV. JOHN THE BAPTIST'S VIEW: HIS LIFE, MINISTRY AND PARADIGM OF JESUS

²⁹ *He who has the Bride is the Bridegroom; but the friend of the Bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the Bridegroom's voice...this joy of mine is fulfilled. (Jn. 3:29)*

- A. John described what Jesus felt emotionally in saying, "He who has the Bride is the Bridegroom". To understand John, they had to know who He lived before.

⁷ *The marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. (Rev. 19:7)*

1. *He that has the Bride* – Jesus has a bride in His heart because God promised Him a prepared Bride at the end of natural history.
2. *He is the Bridegroom* – He has tender love and burns with desire for His people.

- B. John described his ministry and lifestyle as a friend the Bridegroom who stands and hears Him.

1. *The friend of the Bridegroom* – the best man in a wedding does not seek to draw the bride's attention and affections to himself but to prepare her to receive the embrace of the Bridegroom. Paul spoke of ministries who preached or showcased "themselves" (2 Cor 4:5; Phil 2:19-21). Friends of the Bridegroom prepare people to receive Jesus' embrace as the Bridegroom God empowering them to walk out the first commandment.
2. *Who stands* – diligent attentiveness to stand in God's presence in prayer and the Word
¹⁸ *For who has stood in the counsel of the LORD, and has perceived and heard His word? Who has marked His word and heard it? (Jer. 23:18)*

² *The seven angels who stand before God...to them were given 7 trumpets. (Rev. 8:2)*

3. *Who hears him* – to respond with obedience regardless of the price

- C. John described the joyful emotional impact that hearing the Bridegroom's voice had on him.

1. *Because of the Bridegroom's voice* – growing in revelation of Jesus as a Bridegroom
2. *Rejoices greatly...this joy of mine is fulfilled* – empowered with joy by receiving the revelation of the Bridegroom even in the difficulty of a desert lifestyle

- D. The Holy Spirit will anoint forerunners to speak in power and clarity about the sin of a nation.

But truly I am full of power by the Spirit of the LORD, and of justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin. (Mic. 3:8)

Where Are Daniel's 30 Days in Scripture?

I. AN ANGEL TELLS DANIEL OF 30 DAYS BEYOND THE 1,260 DAYS

- A. An angel told Daniel about a thirty-day period that would extend beyond the commonly understood 1,260 days (3½ years) in which most of God's end-time plan occurs (Dan. 12:11).
And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the Abomination of Desolation is set up, there shall be 1,290 days. (Dan. 12:11)
- B. It is surprising that God allows the Antichrist's worldwide worship system to continue to function in Jerusalem for 30 days after Jesus raptures the Church at the seventh trumpet (Rev. 11:15). The Antichrist's future worship system is referred to as the Abomination of Desolation because it is an abomination to God that results in the desolation of the nations by His Great Tribulation judgments.
- C. This concept may seem difficult to understand at first. However, it is simple and straightforward. I am sure that most of you will understand this vital truth of Daniel's thirty days after you get a little more familiar with it.
- D. Scripture makes it clear that during the well-known three-and-a-half-year period, that three significant end-time activities unfold pertaining to God's people. Note that this three-and-a-half-year period is also referred to as 42 months or 1,260 days in Scripture (it is 1,260 days according to the Hebrew calendar). This very important 1,260-day period begins on the day the Abomination of Desolation is set up. Each of these three primary activities will begin on the very day that the Abomination of Desolation starts and they will continue for 1,260 days. What are these three primary activities that continue for 1,260 days?
1) God will make provision for the remnant of Israel for exactly 1,260 days (Rev. 12:6, 14).
2) The two witnesses will prophesy for exactly 1,260 days (Rev. 11:3).
3) The Antichrist will persecute the saints for exactly 1,260 days (Rev. 13:5).
- E. These three activities will abruptly end on exactly the 1,260th day after the Abomination of Desolation begins. This is also the very day that the rapture of the Church occurs at the seventh trumpet (Rev. 11:15). What is the Abomination of Desolation? It is the Antichrist's worldwide worship system that forces all the nations to worship him as God (2 Thes. 2:4; Rev. 13:13-18).
- F. The centerpiece of the Abomination of Desolation worship system is an image or statue of the Antichrist that will be seen standing in the holy place of the temple in Jerusalem. It will stand there for exactly 1,290 days. On the day this starts, we will know that the Great Tribulation has begun and the three primary activities listed above begin.

When you see the Abomination of Desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place... then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. (Mt. 24:15-16)

- G. The setting up of the Antichrist's image in the Jerusalem Temple will be an abomination to God that will lead to the desolation of nations by the judgment of God. In setting this image up, the Antichrist will claim to be God and will demand that everyone on earth worship him as God.

Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day (rapture/Second Coming) will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin (Antichrist) is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes... all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the Temple of God, showing himself that he is God... (2 Thes. 2:3-4)

- H. The image of the Antichrist that will stand in the Jerusalem Temple will be a demonically empowered statue that appears to breathe and speak (Rev. 13:14-15).

¹⁵ He was granted power to give breath to the image of the Beast, that the image of the Beast should speak and cause as many as would not worship the image...to be killed.. (Rev. 13:15)

- I. In the context of the activities associated with the Abomination of Desolation, the Antichrist will stop the daily sacrifices in the temple in Jerusalem (soon to be rebuilt). He will take away the daily sacrifices and put his image in their place and then demand that Israel worship him instead of worshipping the God of Israel. This will be the great abomination that results in desolation.

- J. One of the most surprising facts about Jesus' end-time plan is that Jesus will allow the Antichrist to continue to run his worldwide worship system for thirty days after the rapture of the Church. This is precisely the point the angel was making when he told Daniel that the Abomination of Desolation will continue for 1,290 days, that is, another thirty days after Jesus' return.

And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the Abomination of Desolation is set up, there shall be 1,290 days. (Dan. 12:11)

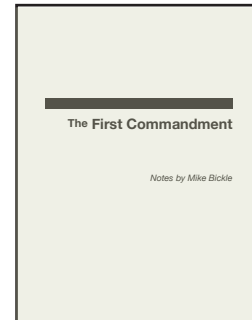
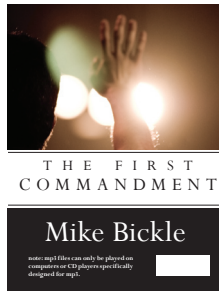
- K. The question is, "Where will Jesus and the saints be during these thirty days?" Remember that the rapture will occur at the seventh trumpet, exactly 1,260 days after the Abomination of Desolation is set up. This is the very day that the Antichrist's persecution of the saints stops (Rev. 13:5), when God's supernatural provision for Israel in the wilderness stops (Rev. 12:6, 14) and when the prophesying by the Two Witnesses stops (Rev. 11:3). They all end exactly on the 1,260th day because that is when the saints are raptured.

- L. At this time, several things will be happening with the saints, as seen in Mt. 24:31; 1 Thes. 4:17 and Rev. 11:15-18. They will be gathered together in the sky to receive their resurrected bodies, be evaluated and rewarded by Jesus and then organized and mobilized for the battle of Jerusalem which results in the hostile takeover of the governments of all the nations on earth. This is when Jesus marches up from Edom (Jordan; Isa. 63:1-6) to Israel, as the greater Moses, releasing the bowl judgments on the Antichrist as the end-time Pharaoh. He marches into Jerusalem to liberate Israel and kill the Antichrist and his armies, thus ending the Abomination of Desolation (Rev. 19:11-21). The saints will be involved in this. These dramatic events will take 30 days from the rapture of the Church to Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem to be received as King of kings.

MORE RESOURCES BY MIKE BICKLE

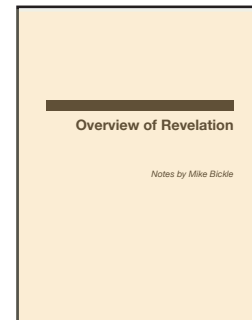
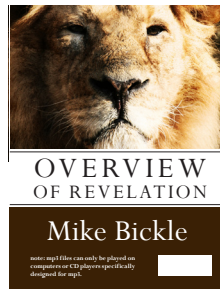
The First Commandment Series

Available in MP3, CD and Study Notes



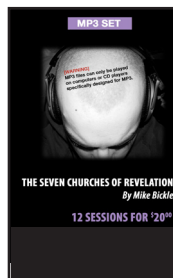
Overview of Revelation Series

Available in MP3, CD and Study Notes



THE REWARDS OF FASTING - Mike Bickle

"Experiencing The Power and Affections of God" - Fasting is a gift from God that goes much further than not eating. Jesus promised us that we would be rewarded for fasting. Done in the right spirit, fasting increases our receptivity to God's voice and His Word. This book, from Mike Bickle, explores the rewards and delights that come to those who fast.

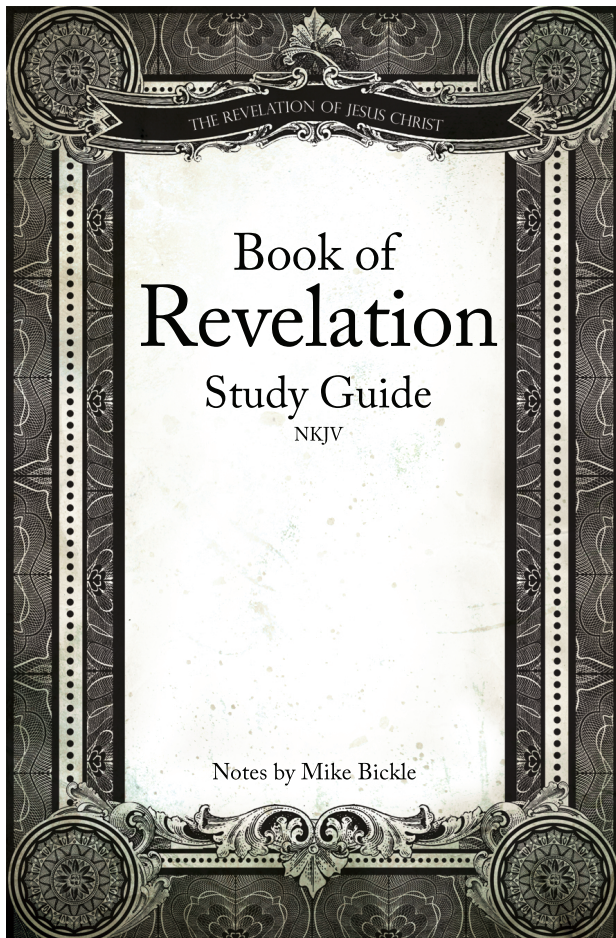


THE SEVEN LETTERS OF REVELATION - Mike Bickle

In this series on the seven letters from Revelation 2-3, Mike teaches us the 18 descriptions of Jesus that are meant to empower us to overcome the specific challenges that we will face in the generation that He returns. These seven letters are critical for the Church that will walk out the rest of the book of Revelation. We must see Jesus in His glory in order to overcome our sin, our dullness and our compromise. In these seven letters we see keys that will enable us to walk as overcomers, victorious in love, as we look to Jesus in His beauty.

FREE TEACHINGS AVAILABLE FROM MIKE BICKLE AT:
www.IHOP.org/free

NEW! - BOOK OF REVELATION STUDY GUIDE with Notes by Mike Bickle



"This Study Guide is a simple road map of the Book of Revelation. Everyone can understand this book..."

Mike Bickle exposes a common lie that says it is impossible to understand the Book of Revelation unless you are a scholar. Revelation was written to be understood by you and prayed by you. We must understand and enter into the actual battle plan that Jesus gives in this Book. Jesus looks for faith on the earth in the dawn of His appearing (Luke 18:8). Will we agree with Him and His perfect plan as seen in Revelation?

Mike presents the Book of Revelation as the "end-time Book of Acts." It is a "canonized prayer manual" that unifies and directs the mission of the end-time praying Church. Imagine millions of believers unified in prayer using the Book of Revelation as their glorious prayer guide.

Revelation is not a doomsday prophecy about the world coming to an end. Rather, it is the battle plan to usher in the new beginning for the world. It is the blueprint of the Father as He prepares a wedding for His Son and is the Battle Plan of Jesus that He will use to replace the Antichrist's empire with a government of meekness and love. This plan will bring about a restoration to the world that will surpass the Garden of Eden.

These judgment events in the Book of Revelation do not happen to us as helpless victims. It is exactly the opposite; they are released through us as participants with Jesus. In the way that Moses released judgment on Pharaoh through prayer, we will release judgment on the "end-time Pharaoh" (the Antichrist) through prayer. Jesus' judgments are released to remove all that hinders love. This is the Church's greatest hour. We are not trying to escape the Great Tribulation; we are releasing it on the Antichrist's empire by unified prayer under Jesus' leadership.

\$5 at the Forerunner Bookstore

FREE TEACHINGS AVAILABLE FROM MIKE BICKLE AT:
www.IHOP.org/free

IHOP-KC INTERNSHIPS

Training Programs of the IHOP-KC Missions Base

***A Generation of Lovesick Worshipers
An Army of Abandoned Warriors
Sending Forerunners to the Nations...***

3 and 6-month Programs Offered for All Ages in Five Languages:

- 'One Thing...' Internship (ages 18-25)
- Fire In The Night (night watch internship for ages 18-30)
- Simeon Company (ages 50 and up)
- Summer Teen Internships
- Intro to IHOP-KC (ages 25-50)
- International Summer Programs

FORERUNNER SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

The Forerunner School of Ministry is a full-time Bible school which exists to equip this generation in the knowledge of God and the power of the Spirit for the bold proclamation of the Lord Jesus and His return. Students embrace rigorous theological training and Sermon on the Mount lifestyles in the context of a thriving missions base fueled by night and day prayer. As a result, theological education obtained in the classroom is not separated from intimacy with Jesus or hands-on experience.

The times are urgent. Our need is severe. Traditional training will no longer suffice. Who will contend for the presence of the Lord? Who will bring together theological education with corporate prayer, sacrificial lifestyles and contending for the power of the Holy Spirit until revival breaks out in a geographic region? The School of Ministry serves the International House of Prayer Missions Base in Kansas City, and contributes to redefine biblical training in the Western world and answer the crisis of our day.

**FREE TEACHINGS AVAILABLE FROM MIKE BICKLE AT:
www.IHOP.org/free**

Anna Partners pledge **\$30/month**

Anna was the first evangelist and forerunner in the New Testament who prayed and fasted for over sixty years before Jesus' first coming. She was a prophetess who "did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day" (Luke 2:36-38). We use the term "Anna" to refer to those with the calling and grace to spend long hours in prayer with fasting and to sustain it for many years.

As an Anna partner you receive:

- ✓ The monthly Partner Journal

Bethany Partners pledge **\$60/month**

A friend and follower of Jesus Christ, Mary was representative of following the First Commandment. She lived a fasted lifestyle of pure and simple devotion to Jesus Christ, gave extravagantly of the little that she had, and sat at the feet of Jesus (Luke 10:38-42). She was from the town of Bethany, where Jesus performed many precious healing miracles; thus the name of our "Bethany" healing room for the critically ill.

As a Bethany partner you receive:

- ✓ The monthly Partner Journal
- ✓ Complimentary registration to our national IHOP-KC conferences

Joseph Partners pledge **\$120/month**

At this level, you are virtually subsidizing ONE FULL HOUR per month of the Prayer Room.

Joseph was strategically placed by God in a role of authority, given prophetic insight, and saved a nation through obedience to voice of the Lord. We use the term "Josephs" to refer to those called to prosper in the marketplace so that they may make provision for the people of God. These "Josephs" will have the anointing to release the prophetic, strategic thinking and mercy deeds to the nations, impacting leaders and building "cities of habitation" (Psalm 107; Exodus 1:11).

As a Joseph partner you receive:

- ✓ The monthly Partner Journal
- ✓ Complimentary registration for yourself and one guest (spouse, child, or guest) to our national IHOP-KC conferences
- ✓ Complimentary conference webcasts when you can't make it in person
- ✓ 10% discount at Forerunner Bookstore
- ✓ 10% discount on overnight lodging with IHOP Housing
- ✓ Invitation to the Partner Dinner at each conference

Daniel Partners pledge **\$300/month**

At this level, you are virtually subsidizing TWO FULL HOURS per month of the Prayer Room.

Daniel was a teenager in the Jewish nobility when he was captured by the Babylonians in 606 B.C. Through God's sovereign hand, and Daniel's faithful response, he rose to the rank of governor of the province of Babylon, and became "chief of the governors". He held the 2nd most powerful position in the nation that ruled the earth, and was used by God not only to control vast amounts of wealth, but also to release the captive Jews from exile in Babylon. He penned the prophetic book of Daniel. The prophet Ezekiel, a contemporary of Daniel, describes Daniel as one having righteousness and wisdom.

As a Daniel partner you receive:

- ✓ All of the Joseph benefits, plus complimentary conference family registration
- ✓ Complimentary access to our LIVE prayer room audio webstream

Cyrus Partner Program

When you give at this level, know that you are virtually subsidizing five FULL SETS (two hours each) per month in the prayer room!

King Cyrus was a Persian king who endowed the restoration of the Judaic temple in 535 B.C. Cyrus used both his wealth and his influence to restore Jerusalem. This influence went far beyond just his subjects - it affected his successors and blessed the Jewish people for centuries to come. Like Cyrus, there are, upon the earth today, men and women who control vast amounts of wealth and are using their money for the same types of godly purposes in the 21st century. The number of these individuals is growing as God's purposes advance through the nations.

What is a Cyrus Partner?

A Cyrus Partner is one who pledges to give **\$1,000 per month** to support the Prayer Room at IHOP-KC. As a Cyrus Partner, you will receive:

- ✓ The monthly Partner Journal and teaching CD keeping you up-to-date on news, vision and teaching
- ✓ Complimentary registration for yourself and your guests to our national IHOP-KC conferences and summits
- ✓ Complimentary conference webcasts when you can't make it in person
- ✓ Complimentary access to the LIVE prayer room webstream
- ✓ Each quarter, you will receive the latest Limited Edition CD, a compilation of some of the "best" moments in the prayer room
- ✓ 10% discount at Forerunner Bookstore
- ✓ 10% discount on overnight lodging with IHOP Housing
- ✓ Invitation to the Partner Dinner at each conference

Most importantly, we have personal intercessory teams that pray for your family and business as you stand on the front lines of commerce and industry. We love to pray very specifically, asking for strategic divine ideas, protection and wisdom for your family.

Another creative way to support IHOP-KC is donating non-cash gifts such as stock or real estate. The Cyrus Foundation can help you in estate planning and creative giving to the prayer movement. Contact cyrusfoundation@ihop.org for more details.