

the progressive program of ...

# PROPHECY



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PROGRESSIVE PROGRAM  
of  
PROPHECY

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## PROPHECY

As we begin the study of PROPHECY let us remind ourselves that we serve and love the LORD God Who knows all things--yea, He knows the end from the beginning. Our God knows the past--and He Who knows the past certainly does know the present--and we can rest assured that He knows the prospective.

A large portion of the Word of God is Historical; another portion is didactic (teaching); and then even a greater portion that we may realize is PROPHETIC. Some PROPHECY has already been fulfilled, and other which is waiting to be fulfilled.

Here are the simple rules to follow which will help the Bible Student to know when Prophetic Scriptures are PROPHETIC:

1. IT MUST HAVE BEEN MADE KNOWN PRIOR TO ITS FULFILLMENT.
3. IT MUST BE BEYOND ALL HUMAN FORESIGHT
4. IT MUST GIVE DETAILS.
5. A SUFFICIENT TIME MUST ELAPSE BETWEEN ITS PUBLICATION AND FULFILLMENT TO EXCLUDE THE PROPHET, OR ANY INTERESTED PARTY FROM FULFILLING IT.
6. THERE MUST BE A CLEAR AND DETAILED FULFILLMENT OF THE PROPHECY IN EVERY PARTICULAR.

--Clarence Larkin

As so many of the Prophetic Scriptures that we love have been already filled full, the modernists of today have accused the writers of some of the Scriptures of writing the Prophecies long

after their fulfillment, declaring that they wrote histories instead of Prophecies. But we know that their accusations are unfair and unjust, for men wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. Such Prophecies and Prophets as Daniel received the recognition and affirmation of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. This refutes and denial that any liberal might propose concerning the authenticity of the Prophecies.

To understand Prophetic Scriptures clearly, it must be held in mind that there is such a thing as the GAP in the Word of God, defined as: "God in the Jewish Scriptures ignores certain periods of time, leaping over centuries without comment." The biggest GAP in the Old Testament Scriptures is the CHURCH. For in Ephesians 3:1-6,9, we read,

*"For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, if ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: how that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, whereby, when ye read, ye understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; that the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel...And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ."*

In other words, we see that the Church was never seen nor written about in the Old Testament--that it was a MYSTERY hid in other ages; hid in God; therefore, we can note that the Church was never known nor prophesied by the prophets in the Old Testament. **THIS IS ONE FACT TO REMEMBER!--"THERE IS NO MENTIONING OF THE CHURCH IN THE OLD TESTAMENT !"**

The Prophets saw Christ's first coming and His second coming as being together--as two mountain peaks in the distance--but they didn't see the Valley in between-- they did not see the Church Age which separated the time of Christ's HUMILIATION and the time of His EXALTATION. This leads us to discuss the

## CHURCH

The following may surprise most of us, but it is true, nevertheless, that the word CHURCH cannot be found in the New Testament. The word CHURCH is a rendition and not a translation of the Greek word "ecclesia". The word "ecclesia" means a called out company, or assembly. It is used for different classes of people, not only believers in the Lord Jesus Christ:

- (1) A Mob, as found in Acts 19
- (2) The Children of Israel in the wilderness, as found in Acts 7:38
- (3) The Body of Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ as found in the Book of Ephesians

Concerning the Body of Believers in the Lord; Jesus Christ, we find that the word "ecclesia" which rendered "Church" is used four different ways:

- (1) Used in the singular--for a local assembly (I Thessalonians 1:1).
- (2) Used in the plural--for several local assemblies (Galatians 1:2).
- (3) Used for the body of living believers far and near without a certain number stated (Galatians 1:13).
- (4) Used for the Body of Believers from Pentecost to the Rapture--(Ephesians 5:25).

There are several opinions as to the TIME the Church (Body of Christ) BEGAN. Here are several opinions:

- (1) That it began with Adam, and includes all believers from Adam through the Millennium.
- (2) That it began with John the Baptist, and includes all believers from him through the Millennium.
- (3) That it began with Christ calling His disciples and then includes all believers through the Millennium.
- (4) That it began after the Resurrection of Christ when He breathed upon the disciples and told them to receive the Holy Spirit, and includes all believers from thence through the Dispensation of Grace.
- (5) That it began at Pentecost with the Coming of the Holy Spirit, and includes all believers from thence to the Rapture of the Church.

We believe that Christ started His Own Church by and through the Person and Power of the Holy Spirit (in fact every miracle and power demonstrated by the Lord, was done through the Person and power of the Holy Spirit). The Holy Spirit was not given until Christ went away, until Christ was glorified (when He went to glory). Although the Lord breathed upon them and commanded them to receive the Holy Spirit, yet they did not receive Him: for they were later commanded to wait for "*the promise of the Father*"-- to wait for Pentecost--and had they already received the Holy Spirit, why were they yet to wait for Him?

Those who hold that the Church began with Christ's calling His disciples are asked to answer: "Which calling?" The Lord Jesus called His disciples three times. The first time right after His Baptist (found in the Gospel of St. John). The second time (as found in the Gospels of St. Matthew and St. Mark) the Lord called His disciples when they were FISHING. And still later, the third time (as found in St. Luke) which happened about a year after the calling of the disciples as recorded by St. Matthew and St. Mark; here the disciples are WASHING THEIR NETS. Hence, there are three callings of Christ of His disciples. Upon which calling, then, was the Church founded? Why, upon none, but rather upon the Day of Pentecost.

Turn with us to Matthew 16:18-- *"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church (assembly); and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."* To begin with, let us point out that the word "hell" should be translated "hades"--thus the rendering: "The gates of hades shall not prevail against it."

### WHERE ARE THE DEAD?

As we study God's Word, we learn that the Old Testament was originally written in the Hebrew language (with a few exceptions), while the New Testament was written in Greek. From Old Testament Scriptures, we learn that the dead--all dead--whether righteous or wicked--went to sheol (translated in the King James Version as "hell"). The New Testament word is "hades". In the 16th chapter of Luke we have recorded the true account of Lazarus and the rich man. The word "hell" should have been translated "hades". Now the Lord is speaking before He went to Calvary, and here He reveals the fact that both righteous and unrighteous went to hades; but, hades is divided into two compartments: (1) Abraham's Bosom, the part for the righteous; (2) The Place of Torment, the part for the unrighteous. These two compartments of hades were divided by a great gulf.

When the Saviour died, He, too, went to hades. The Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, verify this statement. The Old Testament uses the word "sheol" and the New Testament used the word "hades". Peter at Pentecost quoted from Psalm 16:10--"Thou wilt not LEAVE my soul in hades" (Acts 2:27). Notice the word "leave"; it does not say "Thou wilt not take my soul to hades", but rather, "Thou wilt not LEAVE my soul in hades" -- the very word leave shows that He was there, but that He was not allowed to stay there! Yes, there are other Scriptures which substantiate the fact that Christ went to hades upon His death: that is, His soul and spirit. Take for instance, the words spoken concerning the "sign" proving that He was the Son of God:

*"But he answered and said unto them, an evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign OF THE PROPHET JONAS: for as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth (Matthew 12:40).*

And another:

*"Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?" (Ephesians 4:9).*

And one more: these words were spoken by our Lord to the thief on the cross as He replied to the thief's request to remember him when Christ came into His kingdom:

*"Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:43).*

Let us sum this up in these words: Three days and nights the Lord spend in hades; the first of these three days were to be in Paradise. Thus we deduct that Paradise was in hades, the place called Abraham's Bosom. **ALL THIS WAS BEFORE AND DURING THE DEATH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST!**

We now ask ourselves, "Where do the souls and spirits of the departed dead go now since the resurrection of Christ?" As for as the UNRIGHTEOUS are concerned, they still, upon death, go to the place of Torment in Hades. What about the RIGHTEOUS? They do not go to hades anymore, for upon the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, He took Paradise and all that was therein with Him to heaven: *"Therefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men" (Ephesians 4:8).* When the RIGHTEOUS die now, it is not to hades their souls and spirits go, but it is to be with the Lord: *"absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord" (II*

Corinthians 5:8). And we know that Paradise is now in the glory, in the third heavens, for the Apostle Paul in II Corinthians 12:2-4, writing by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit makes this plain:

*"I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) how that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter."*

By these words we learn that Paradise now is in the third heaven, the abode of God.

Don't fail to remember that Paradise was at first (before the Cross of Christ) in the heart of the earth, called "Abraham's Bosom. All righteous people upon death went there. Since the Cross, all righteous people upon death go to Paradise which is now located in the third heaven--the Lord Jesus taking it with Him when He ascended upon high.

The UNSAVED now, as before the Cross of Christ, go upon death, to the place of Torment in hades.

#### GATES OF HADES AND THE CHURCH

Having reviewed all this, we see a clearer meaning of the words of our Lord when He said, "The gates of hades shall not prevail against it". We will agree with all, that the forces of evil shall never defeat the Church (Body of Christ). Yes, we agree that the Devil and his angels can never destroy it. But this is not what the Scriptures say. The "gates of hades"--what are they: The Devil is not in hades. The Devil is not the king of hades. Those in hades cannot get out, and how could they be a potential enemy of the Church? Impossible.

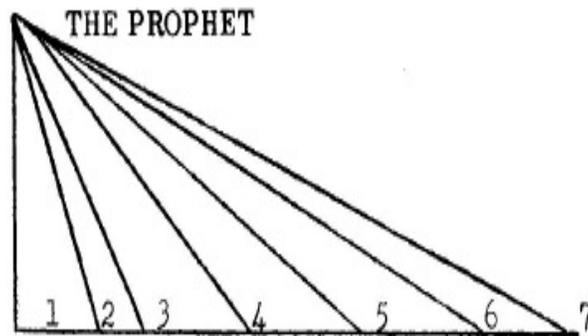
Notice that it doesn't say, "forces of hades", but rather, the "gates of hades". And we know that when one army goes against another army it does not take the gates of its own city with it into battle. Then what is meant by the gates of hades? Gates mean gates and hades means hades. And how can gates prevail over anything? What do gates do? They close together and shut. 'How, then, can gates prevail? By shutting or closing upon one. The THOUGHT which the Lord proposed here, and which is now a blessed reality, was THAT THE GATES OF HADES SHALL NOT CLOSE UPON THE CHURCH.

Before the Cross of Christ, all righteous people went to hades (Abraham's Bosom) the gates of hades prevailed against (CLOSED UPON) them. Christ, Who became the Head of His Body (the Church) went to hades--the gates of hades prevailed against (CLOSED UPON) Him. But the Lord Jesus said that the gates of hades "shall not prevail against (CLOSED UPON) the Church. If the Church had been started any time before the Cross of Christ, then hades closed upon the Church; for Christ, as the Head, went to hades; and the thief on the cross, who Was saved, was a member of the Church IF the Church had begun before the death of Christ; and he, too, went to hades, and thus the gates of hades closed upon him. We know that the thief was saved and that he went to hades for the Lord Jesus said "Today shall thou be with me in Paradise"--and Paradise then was in hades.

Since the Cross and the Resurrection of Christ, all the righteous who have died have gone to paradise (now in heaven) and have escaped hades--the gates of hades have NOT closed upon them--the gates of hades have prevailed against them. Thus, we conclude that the CHURCH HAD TO HAVE ITS BEGINNING AFTER THE CROSS AND RESUR- RECTION OF JESUS CHRIST!

#### DIAGRAM OF PROPHECY IN THE WORD OF GOD

This simple diagram will illustrate perfectly how prophecy AS A WHOLE is divided into seven divisions,



(1) His Own Day; (2) The 70 Year Captivity; (3) The Restoration; (4) The Coming of Messiah for the First Time; (5) Worldwide Dispersion of the Jews; (6) The Tribulation; (7) The Kingdom.

We want to point out this fact, that not all Prophets pointed out the same thing, for many of the Prophets lived long after some of the prophecies had already been fulfilled. But taking the Prophets as a whole, their prophecies can be divided into these seven stated divisions. Here are a few Scriptures which are catalogued under these seven divisions:

(1) THE PROPHET'S OWN DAY.

Every prophet prophesied something concerning His OWN day, for example:

*"Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider. A sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they*

*have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward" (Isaiah 1:2-4).*

Other Scriptural references can be looked up by the Bible student himself: Jeremiah 1,2; Daniel 2:37, 38; Jonah 1-4; Zechariah 1: 1-6; etc.

## (2) THE 70 YEAR CAPTIVITY.

*"And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years" (Jeremiah 25:11).*

*"Then said Isaiah to Hezekiah, Hear the word of the LORD of host: behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers' have laid up in store until this day, shall be carried to Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD. "And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon" (Isaiah 39:5-7).*

## (3) THE RESTORATION FROM THE CAPTIVITY.

*"For thus saith the LORD, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place" (Jeremiah 29:10).*

## (4) THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH FOR THE FIRST TIME

The Old Testament Scriptures are full of this prediction, a few of them being:

*"But thou, Bethlehem, Ephratah, though thou be a little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth; unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose*

*goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting"(Micah 5:2).*

*"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign: Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14).*

*"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). "He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street." (Isaiah 42:2).*

*"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass." (Zechariah 9:9).*

*"Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me" (Psalm 41:9).*

*"And I said unto them, if ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver" (Zechariah 11:12).*

*"He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not ... But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed ... He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? For he was cut off out of the land of the living, for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the*

wicked and with the rich in his death" (Isaiah 53:3,5, 8,9).

*"For thou wilt not leave my soul in sheol; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption"* (Psalm 16:10).

#### (5) THE WORLD-WIDE DISPERSION OF THE JEWS.

*"For, lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations, like as corn is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth."* (Amos 9:9).

*"And it shall come to pass, that as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good, and to multiply you; so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you, and to bring you to nought; and ye shall be plucked from the land whither thou goest to possess it. And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone."* (Deuteronomy 28:63, 64).

#### (6) THE GREAT TRIBULATION.

*"And these are the words that the LORD spake concerning Israel and concerning Judah. For thus saith the LORD; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? Wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness? Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it."* (Jeremiah 30:4-7).

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

(7) THE KINGDOM-- THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

*"And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it." (Isaiah 2:2).*

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

*"And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God" (Amos 9:14,15).*

We take note that the CHURCH is not mentioned in this Outline of Prophecy, and rightly so, for the Holy Spirit, speaking through the Apostle Paul, said it was hid in God and never before revealed as it is now revealed unto His holy apostles and New Testament PROPHETS (Ephesians 3:1-9). The CHURCH, therefore, was never known, never prophesied, never looked forward to by the Old Testament prophets. The Church IS NEW--not an outgrowth of Judaism, not Spiritual Israel--but that which never was before:

*"For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain ONE NEW MAN, so making peace; and that he might reconcile both unto God in ONE BODY by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: and came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father." (Ephesians 2:14-18).*

Therefore, we see that all Old Testament Prophecy had to do with Israel. When it speaks concerning the Second Coming of Christ it speaks concerning His Revelation rather than the RAPTURE of the Church (for the Church and all that pertains to it was revealed unto the Apostle Paul). The Kingdom is the Kingdom, and not the Church; and when the Scriptures state that the government shall be upon Christ's shoulder, it is speaking about the GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL and the GOVERNMENT OF THE WORLD and not the Church!

#### THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

It is of the most importance to understand the difference between these two Kingdoms: the Kingdom of God and Kingdom of Heaven. To some, the Kingdoms are the same, and confusion is the result.

The Kingdom of Heaven is found in only one Gospel, and that is the Gospel of St. Matthew. And it is the Gospel of Matthew which portrays the Lord Jesus as the KING. Now, Matthew's Gospel speaks also concerning the Kingdom of God, but it is the only Gospel which records the Kingdom of Heaven. Most Bible Commentators agree that the Kingdom of Heaven is the Millennial Reign of the Lord Jesus; and, as that Gospel

speaks of Christ as King it also reveals that Kingdom over which He is going to reign--here upon this earth.

The Kingdom of God is from everlasting to everlasting--it is an everlasting Kingdom:

*"How great are His signs! and how mighty are His wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation." (Daniel 4:3).*

Thus we conclude, that all things are part of the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of Heaven (Millennial Reign of Christ) is a phase of the Kingdom of God. The Church (Body of Christ) is a phase of the Kingdom of God.

While the Kingdom of Heaven is a phase of the Kingdom of God, and the Church is a phase of the Kingdom of God, nevertheless, the Kingdom of Heaven is NOT the Church.

And while the Church is a phase of the Kingdom of God, the Church is not all the Kingdom of God.

1. The Kingdom of God--from everlasting to everlasting (Daniel 4:3).
2. The Church--a phase of the Kingdom of God--now present:

*"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost" (Romans 14:17);*

*"So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure: which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be*

*counted worthy of the KINGDOM OF GOD, for which ye also suffer" (II Thessalonians 1:4,5).*

3. The Kingdom of Heaven --Millennial Reign of Christ--  
a phase of the Kingdom of God--in the future:

*"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever" (Daniel 2:44) ;*

*"And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an ever-lasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him" (Daniel 7:27);*

*"And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, after this I will return. and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I WILL SET IT UP" (Acts 15:15, 16).*

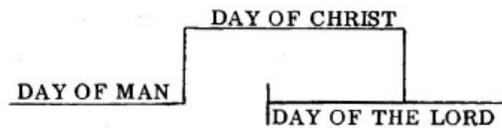
This leads us to the...

#### DAYS IN THE SCRIPTURES

We are to make a distinction when God makes a difference. And we are to distinguish the DAYS in the Word of God. We know that we are living in the Day of Salvation, the Acceptable Year of the Lord. This Day and Year is not a day of 24 hours nor a year of 365 days, but periods of time. When the Scriptures speak concerning the Day of Christ, it is not speaking of a day of 24 hours, but a period of time when Christ shall reward the believers. Then there is the DAY OF THE LORD (JEHOVAH), a period of time also, during which the WRATH of

Almighty God is poured out upon this world. (Note: Scripture references will be given a little later on in this book).

The following diagram will help the Bible student in distinguishing the difference DAYS of Scripture.



As a good portion of our study of Prophecy concerns the Millennium and the Tribulation, it is good that we study the opinions held by Christians today concerning:

#### THE MILLENNIAL TEACHINGS

1. **MILLENNIALISTS.** The first group call themselves just Millennialists. That is, they believe there is to be a millennium; they do not know when it will take place.
2. **POST-MILLENNIALISTS** are those who teach that there will be a millennium, but it will be established by the Church--the world is to be converted, and then Christ will come **AFTER** the millennium; hence Post-millennialists.
3. The **AMILLENNIALISTS** are those who compose the third group. They deny the Millennium altogether. They believe in the Second Coming of Christ, but that when He does come, he will not come to reign for a thousand years, but to judge the world: casting the sinners into the lake of fire, and opening heaven for the saved. Yet, they say that we are living in the **SPIRITUAL MILLENNIUM** now! Hence the Amillennialists are nothing more than glorified Post-millennialists. The Post-

millennialists say that Christ will come after the Millennium; the Amillennialists say that Christ will come after the spiritual millennium--The Amillennialists have just pushed the Millennium ahead in the program of God.

4. PREMILLENNIALISTS . The fourth group which we, ourselves, are proud to be a part of, are PREMILLENNIALISTS. We believe that Christ will come BEFORE the Millennium. That he will set up the Kingdom and reign over it for at least a 1000 years!

(While speaking concerning millennialism, we want to point out a group which includes a great number of the Amillennialists and Postmillennialists, and that is, the PRAETERISTS. These are they who believe that the Book of Revelation was fulfilled at the fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. But this theory is refuted easily by pointing out the fact that the 1st chapter and 19th verse of the Book of Revelation states: *"Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and things which shall be hereafter."* Notice the word "hereafter". Hereafter what? Hereafter the time of the Apostle John, of course; and to be more explicit, after the time of the Seven Churches.

The Book of Revelation was written in 96 A. D.

This was 26 years AFTER the fall of Jerusalem.

The "hereafter" is to be after the Book of Revelation was written.

Therefore the Book of Revelation could not have possibly been fulfilled at the fall of Jerusalem.)

#### PREMILLENNIALISTS AND PREMILLENNIALISTS

Those who confuse us are not the Amillennialists nor the Postmillennialists, but the Premillennialists!

Premillennialists are divided into many camps. There are the Futurists, of which I claim to be, but here we are divided also. And then there are the Historicalists, and their opinions differ as the sands of the sea.

Some man may attack our stand and say, "Why don't you deny the Millennium altogether and take your seat with the Amillennialists as you admit you are so divided?" But why should I take company with those who refuse to accept the direct statements of the Scriptures? And why make my bed with those who know nothing whatsoever of the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ? No, we will stand our ground as a Premillennial Futurist.

First, let us examine the HISTORICALIST. Now he is a Premillennialist. No denying that. He believes, however, that the Book of Revelation from the 4th chapter on have been partially fulfill one step at a time since the time of the Apostle John; that great events of history were the fulfillments of the Book of Revelation. Their number is many, and their interpretation the same.

Second, let us look at those who term themselves FUTURISTS, of whom we are glad to claim kin. They believe chapter 4 and on through the rest of the Book of Revelation is still in the future, and will occur AFTER the Rapture.

We must be honest and point that among the Futurists, there are those who call themselves MIDTRIBULATIONISTS, believing that the Church will go through half of the Tribulation. But we ask, "Why should the Church go through any of the Tribulation?" The Tribulation is Jacob's Trouble and not the Bride's trouble. (And then there are those who are termed as TRIBULATIONISTS, believing that the Church shall go through ALL the Tribulation. And again we ask, "Why?" We do not see how they can possibly call themselves Futurists.)

Another group label themselves as PARTIAL-RAPTURISTS holding that only those who are ready, who are clean, who are looking for the Second Coming will be caught away in the Rapture. The remaining believers (who also compose the Body of Christ) will be left to go through the Tribulation. To refute this conception we want to state that according to II Timothy the fact is presented that a Christian shall be rewarded for looking for the Second Coming of Christ with a crown, and not raptured as the prize:

*"Henceforth there is laid up for me, a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." (II Timothy 4:8)*

And as to leaving part of the Church behind--remember, the Church is a Body and it is inconceivable to think that the Lord will leave part of His Body here on earth--no, it is going to be a Rapture, and not a rupture.

#### TIME AND FULNESS OF THE GENTILES

The TIME of the Gentiles and the FULNESS of the Gentiles are entirely different. The Lord, Himself, spoke concerning the TIME of the Gentiles in Luke 21:24—

*"And they shall be led away captive into all nation: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the time of the Gentiles be fulfilled."*

Here the Lord reveals to us that meaning of the TIME of the Gentiles; that time when the land of Israel shall be under tile Gentile rule. The Saviour did not say that the time Gentiles began with the fall of Jerusalem, but rather that the fall of Jerusalem would be inclusive in that period of the TIME OF THE GENTILES. Yes, the time of the Gentiles is when Israel is under the mandate of Gentile rule; or better still, WHEN ISRAEL IS WITHOUT HER KING. That time covers the period between

Nebuchadnezzar to the Antichrist. The Book of Daniel is a commentary upon the TIME OF THE GENTILES.

Now as to the FULNESS of the Gentiles. This is found in Romans 11:25—

*"For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in."*

Get the background, and then we can understand our text. All the Jews have not embraced the Faith; they have not all believed and have not all accepted the Lord Jesus as their Messiah. Unbelief is blindness--and blindness on the part of Israel today exists, and will continue to exist until the FULNESS of the Gentiles be come in. The Fulness is that number known only unto God which composes the Body of Christ. When that number is completed, then the FULNESS OF THE GENTILES will have come in. The time element is from Pentecost to the Rapture.

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"Scriptures taken LITERALLY are as much Spiritual as those Scriptures which are taken FIGURITIVELY."

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## THE TWO RESURRECTIONS

### First

1. Christ ----- Firstfruits  
(I Corinthians 15:20,23).
2. Church ----- Harvest  
(I Thessalonians 4:13-18).

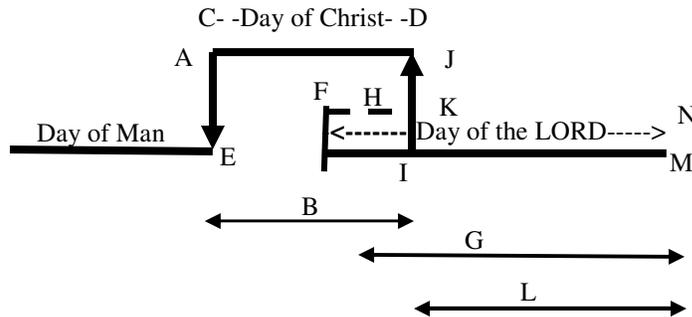
3. Old Testament Saints & Tribulation Saints--Gleanings (Revelation 20:4). While it does not say that these Tribulations saints rise from the dead, it does say they are killed during the Tribulation and that they live and reign with Christ for a thousand years; therefore, if they are killed during the Tribulation, and live during the Millennium, then they must have their resurrection between the Tribulation and the Millennium.

Last

All the wicked dead ----- the Chaff  
(Revelation 20:5,11-15;21:8; John 5:28,29; Daniel 12:2).

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### THE DIAGRAM OF PROPHETIC DAYS



- A. The Rapture
- B. The Tribulation Period (7 years)
- C. The Judgment Seat of Christ
- D. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb
- E. The Battle of Gog and Magog
- F. The Enthronement of the Antichrist
- G. The Day of the LORD
- H. The GREAT Tribulation
- I. The Battle of Armageddon
- J. The Revelation of Jesus

- K. The Judgment of the Nations (Gentiles)
- L. The Millennium
- M. The Second Battle of Gog and Magog
- N. The Great White Throne

#### A. THE RAPTURE

The word "rapture" is not a Biblical word, nevertheless it is a Biblical reality. By the word RAPTURE we mean the catching up of the saints of God to meet the Lord in the air. Scriptures abound with reference to this great event.

*"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." (I Thessalonians 4:16,17).*

*"Behold, I shew you a mystery, we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality." (1 Corinthians 15:51-53).*

*"After this I looked, and behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which SAID, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter" (Revelation 4:1).*

#### B. THE TRIBULATION PERIOD OF 7 YEARS

This covers the period of the rise of the Antichrist; yet the GREAT Tribulation consists of the last 3-1/2 years of this seven year period:

*"And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer" (Revelation 6: 1,2).*

This is the last or 70th Week of Daniel 9. The Lord Jesus is "cut off" at the end of the 69th Week, and between the 69th and 70th Week is that great GAP known as the Church Age which Daniel knew nothing. nor any other Old Testament Prophet (Ephesians 1:1-9). The Church is Raptured, the GAP is closed, and time begins again for Israel: the 70th Week of Daniel--the Tribulation period.

The Antichrist confirms the covenant with the Jews, but breaks it in the middle of that seven year period—

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

This is known as JACOB'S TROUBLE...

*"Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it." (Jeremiah 30:7).*

It is JACOB'S trouble, and not the Bride's trouble. Why should it be the Bride's trouble; why should the Church go through the Tribulation or any part of it? The Tribulation is the

wrath of God poured out upon unbelieving Israel, and thus the entire world, for Israel is scattered throughout the whole world. No, there is no reason why the Church should go through the Tribulation--her sins have already been judged upon the Cross of Christ, and thus she can not be accused of unbelief.

The tribulation is also called in Scripture as the DAY OF WRATH...

*"They shall cast their silver in the streets, and their gold shall be removed: their silver and their gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the LORD. They shall not satisfy their souls, neither fill their bowels: because it is the stumbling block of their iniquity" (Ezekiel 7:19);*

*"The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. For the day of the LORD of host shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon everyone that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low" (Isaiah 2: 11, 12).*

Notice: the wrath of God is pictured through out the word of God. It is that Day of Wrath when the LORD'S fury is poured out upon all flesh. But the Word teaches that the Church will not endure that wrath:

*"And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come" (I Thessalonians 1:10).*

The "wrath" to come is not the lake of fire--for we are waiting not for the coming of the Lord to deliver us from everlasting punishment--but we are looking for Him to deliver us from going through the tribulation (wrath) to come. Another Scripture:

*"Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the HOUR OF TEMPTATION, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth" (Revelation 3:10).*

#### C. THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST.

This is the "Bema", or REWARDING STAND of Christ. This is the rewarding of the saints of God for their lives lived in the flesh. It occurs in the air at the Rapture while the Tribulation is here upon the earth. Christ has come for His Saints and is thus rewarding them:

*"And, behold, I come quickly, and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." (Revelation 22:12);*

*"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (II Corinthians 5:10).*

And then Romans 14:10, 11.

#### D. THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB

According to Scripture this is the Supper of Christ (the Bridegroom) given in honor of His Bride the Church. This occurs sometime after the Judgment Seat of Christ in the 'air, while the Tribulation is in full swing here upon the earth, just before Christ returns WITH His Saints to the earth to battle at Armageddon:

*"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the white linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto*

*the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, these are the true sayings of God" (Revelation 19:7-9).*

#### E. THE BATTLE OF GOG AND MAGOG

This is the conflict between Russia and the nation Israel. Let us not confuse this first battle of Gog and Magog with the second battle which will be fought a thousand or more years later (after the Millennium). There are some Bible students who believe that this battle will take place in our time during this dispensation of Grace. But as we have pointed out the CHURCH (and which includes this Church Age) was never known by the Prophets of the Old Testament. That being the case, they knew nothing which would take place during this time. The CHURCH is the GAP BETWEEN the Dispersion of the Jews and the Tribulation. Thus it cannot occur during this dispensation of Grace, but will occur after the GAP is closed, the CHURCH being Raptured, and the Tribulation begun. Scripture for this battle is found in all the 38 and 39 chapters of Ezekiel--here are a few verses to confirm this:

*"And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him, and say, thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: and I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling sword..." (Ezekiel 38:1-4).*

#### F. THE ENTHRONEMENT OF THE ANTICHRIST

This occurs in the middle of the Tribulation period of seven years as determined in the Book of Daniel. At the beginning, the Antichrist wars upon the rest of the world,

*"And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer." (Revelation 6:1,2).*

The first 3-1/2 years of the Tribulation period which marks the rise of the Antichrist is not hard to endure, but it is terrible when he breaks his covenant with the Jews in the middle of the Tribulation...

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

The enthronement of the Antichrist occurs here in the midst of the 70th week of Daniel:

*"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is call God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God" (II Thessalonians 2:3,4).*

This, then, leads to the...

#### G. THE DAY OF THE LORD (JEHOVAH).

The Day of the LORD does not consist of 24 hours, but rather a period of time. It begins with the ENTHRONEMENT OF THE ANTICHRIST, the beginning of the 3-1/2 years of the

GREAT Tribulation, and then through the MILLENNIUM thus a period of 1003-1/2 years plus.

Here is how we know that the Day of the LORD doesn't begin until the Antichrist is revealed--and will continue until the Millennium is over: turning over to II Thessalonians 2:1-4, we read,

*"Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him. that ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of the LORD is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come except there come a falling away (departure) first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."*

You will notice that we have given the correct translation of the day of the LORD--the King James version translate it "day of Christ", but it should be as we have translated it "the day of the LORD". We have already shown on the diagram of the "DAYS IN SCRIPTURE" that the Day of Christ marks the beginning of the JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST while the Tribulation is beginning here on earth. From the Scripture just read, we notice that the Thessalonians were disturbed in mind, for someone had come to them declaring that the "Day of the LORD" was at hand. Had they declared that the "day of Christ" (Rapture) was at hand, it would have caused no alarm whatsoever, for that is the one hope of the Church. But here, someone had preached that the "Day of the LORD" was at hand. In other words, these Thessalonians knew that, if the DAY OF THE LORD was at hand, then the Rapture had already taken place, the Church had gone up, and here they were—left! That is what disturbed them. Therefore, we conclude, that the Day of the LORD occurs sometime after the Rapture.

Now we take note of the words, "for that day shall not come, except there come a "falling away first"...Greek form: "apostasia", from which we get our English word "apostasy". We have already thought of the "apostasy" as the "falling away from the truth". And some Bible students have declared that the Great Apostasy must occur before the Day of the Lord comes, and that present day Modernism is that Great Apostasy. But if we examine the Scriptures closely, we note that the apostasy, or the falling away from the truth, was holding sway at the time of the Apostles Paul and John:

*"But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some." (II Timothy 2: 16-18).*

*"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous ... Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such (YOU, TIMOTHY, DURING YOUR LIFETIME) turn away." (II Timothy 3:1-5).*

*"Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time" (I John 2: 19).*

It was the King James Version which first translated the word "apostasia" as falling away (as found in II Thessalonians 2:3). Earlier English versions translated it as "departure". And that is exactly what it means. The DAY OF THE LORD will not occur until the DEPARTURE occurs first--the departure of what?--why, the departure of the CHURCH, of course!

Thus, before the DAY OF THE LORD begins, the DEPARTURE of the Church takes place, then the MAN OF SIN, the LAWLESS ONE, the ANTICHRIST will be revealed. The Antichrist will not be revealed until the Church's Departure (rapture) and the first period of 3-1/2 years (of the Tribulation) of reconstruction is over. But at the beginning of the last 3-1/2 year period the Antichrist breaks the covenant with Jews (*"in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and oblation to cease"*), places his throne in the Temple and commands the world to worship him as God (*"He as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God"*). He is then revealed as the LIE--He claims to be God--he is, therefore, the LIE. Christ said that He, Jesus, was the TRUTH; the Antichrist shall say that he is God, but he is a liar. He is not God; thus he is the LIE! This time is known as the Abomination of Desolation--and we may add: "what greater abomination could there be than for one to claim to be God, but is mere man:? God pours forth His fury upon the world, it will be the Day of His Wrath--THE DAY OF THE LORD!

Now the DAY OF THE LORD'S limitations are from the beginning of the GREAT Termination (the last 3-1/2 year period of the 70th week of Daniel) on through the Millennium. The Apostle Peter making this plain:

*"But the day of the LORD will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up" (II Peter 3:10).*

This occurs in the DAY OF THE LORD. But what part of it? It is when the world shall be visited by fire, and all things pass away. And when is that? Right after the Millennium!

*"And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison .. and the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire .. And I saw a great*

*white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face THE EARTH, AND THE HEAVENS FLED AWAY: and there was found no place for them" (Revelation 20:7,10,11).*

Conclusion: thus the "DAY OF THE LORD" begins with the 3-1/2 years of the GREAT Tribulation, and continues on through the end of the Millennium.

#### H. THE GREAT TRIBULATION

The Tribulation period lasts for seven years--it is the last week (seven years) of Daniel's prophecy: "*Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people*" (Daniel 9:24). Sixty-nine of those weeks (a week in prophetic Scripture is seven years; therefore, sixty-nine weeks equals 483 years) have already been fulfilled, and were fulfilled when Messiah (Christ Jesus) was cut off:

*"Knowing therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks ... and after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off" (Daniel 9:25,26).*

Remember, the CHURCH was never known by the Prophets of the Old Testament; it was never revealed to them, but to the Apostle Paul first and after him the rest of the Apostles. Hence, we see that between the cutting off of the Messiah (which closed the 69 weeks, that is 483 years) and the last week (seven years) is that GAP or CHURCH AGE. When the FULNESS OF THE GENTILES is come in, the GAP shall be closed (the Church being raptured), and the last or 70th Week for Israel shall commence. This is known by Bible Students as the Tribulation period. The Antichrist begins his work of getting control of the world by wars, by covenants, by flatteries, etc. He confirms the covenant with the Jews to last seven years (this last week of Daniel) --no doubt recognizing the Abrahamic Covenant--giving

them all of Palestine, etc; but in the midst of that week, he shall break that covenant ("*And in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice to cease*" Daniel 9:27b); he shall set up his throne in the temple to be worshipped as God:

*"Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God shewing himself that he is God" (II Thessalonians 2:4).*

This is the abomination of desolation, "*For the over-spreading of abominations he shall make it desolate*" (Daniel 9:27c); and of what the Lord Jesus warned the believing Jews—

*"When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) then let them which be in Judea flee unto the mountains: let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, nither on the sabbath day: for then shall be GREAT TRIBULATION, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened"(Matthew 24:15-22).*

Here we have the words of our Lord and Saviour as He pointed out to us the GREAT TRIBULATION. The Great Tribulation begins with the abomination of desolation--when the Antichrist places his throne in the temple (this occurs in the midst of the seven year tribulation period-- these 3-1/2 years are the GREAT TRIBULATION known as the DAY OF WRATH and the DAY OF THE LORD. Other Scriptures bear this out:

*"Behold the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee" (Zechariah 14:1).*

This is one important question which is asked by many Bible students, and that is, "Will the Church go through the Tribulation or any part of it?" We have answered this in another part of this book, but let us turn to the Word of God to refresh our minds concerning this. I Thessalonians 1:10 says, *"And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the WRATH to come."* We are looking for the Second Coming of the Lord, not to save us from hell, but to deliver us from the WRATH --and that is, the GREAT TRIBULATION to come!

Another great question of equal importance is "Will there be any people saved during the Tribulation, and especial the latter part known as the GREAT TRIBULATION?" Turn with us to Revelation 7:2-4,9,13,14—

*"And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed a hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel...After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands... And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, these are they which came out of great Tribulation (Greek: THE TRIBULATION, THE GREAT ONE),*

*and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."*

## I. THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON.

Next on God's program is the Battle of Armageddon--this great battle closes the Great Tribulation.

Prophecy abounds both in the Old and New Testaments concerning this battle of all battles.

*"And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon" (Revelation 16:16).*

*"And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, come and gather your selves together unto the supper of the Great God ; that ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great"(Revelation 19:17,18).*

*"Therefore I will make Samaria as an heap of the field, and as plantings of a vineyard: and I will pour down the stones thereof into the valley, and I will discover the foundations thereof" (Micah 1:6).*

*"Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles: Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong. Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O LORD. Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full,*

*the vats overflow; for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision."* (Joel 3:9-14).

The purpose of the Battle of Armageddon, as far as the Antichrist is concerned, is to exterminate the Jew. All the nations shall be gathered together in a giant co-operative army to perform this:

*"Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled; and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city"* (Zechariah 14:1,2).

When the armies of the world come together to exterminate the Jews then comes to pass the following:

#### J. THE REVELATION OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Who comes to the aid of His earthly people, and fights for them:

*"Then shall the LORD go forth and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south (Zechariah 14:3,4);*

*"The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. The LORD also shall roar*

*out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel" (Joel 3:15-16);*

*"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called the Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS" (Revelation 19:11-16);*

*"And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him" (Jude 14,15).*

Thus we see the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus in two phases: (1) The coming of Christ FOR His Saints and (2) the coming of Christ WITH His Saints. The coming of Christ FOR His Saints takes place before the TRIBULATION, AND THE COMING OF CHRIST with HIS SAINTS occurs at the end of the Tribulation period (and the GREAT TRIBULATION.) The coming of Christ FOR His Saints is what we term as the

RAPTURE, and the coming of Christ WITH His Saints is what we term as the REVELATION.

#### K. THE JUDGMENT OF THE NATIONS

This great judgment is scheduled to begin right after the Lord Jesus comes at His Revelation (at the battle of Armageddon).

The following occurs at this time:

- (1) The Antichrist and false prophet are cast into the lake of fire:

*"And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone" (Revelation 19:20).*

- (2) The Devil is cast into the bottomless pit:

*"And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand, and he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him that he should deceive the -nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season" (Revelation 20:1-3).*

- (3) Then the judgment of those who have not been killed at the Battle of Armageddon:

*"When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the*

*throne of his glory; and before him shall be gathered all nations: .and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: and he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world ... then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels ...and these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal" (Matthew 25:31-46).*

Notice: (a) The Nations; (b) The Grounds For their Judgment; (c) The Rewards and Punishments.

(a) The Nations. The Word describes them as being sheep and goat nations. But here is a truth that might have been overlooked: the word "nations" is misleading. A better translation is "Gentiles". The idea is not that whole nations are going to be brought up and judged. But it is the Gentiles who are going to be Judged. Hence it is going to be an INDIVIDUAL judgment, that is, the Gentiles are going to be judged individually.

(b) The Ground For their Judgment. This has brought great confusion to some, for they read this portion of the word and can only see on the surface and not the great truths which it wants to reveal. Yes, we agree that grounds for this Judgment are...

*"INASMUCH AS YE HAVE DONE IT UNTO ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE MY BRETHREN, YE HAVE DONE IT UNTO ME."*

Yes , it does seem to say that this Judgment is upon the basis of WORKS, but we know that ETERNAL LIFE (salvation) is not based upon works lest any man should boast, and we have to agree also that those on the right hand enter into the "KINGDOM" and later into "life eternal", and those on the left

hand into everlasting punishment, "everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels". The "going" of those into life eternal and those going into everlasting punishment is determined upon "*Inasmuch as ye have done (or not done) it unto me.*" One may say, "I can see only WORKS, WORKS, WORKS..."

Before we go any farther, let us decide who the "brethren" are. Most Bible students agree that it means the Lord's brethren according to the flesh--that is, the Jews who live during the Tribulation--but there is something to consider, and that is, when the Lord was told that His mother and His brethren were without and desired Him, He answered,

*"And saith unto him that told him, Who is my mother? And who are my brethren? And he stretched forth His hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother" (Matthew 12:48,49).*

Now when we come to the 25th chapter of Matthew, the same word is used, "my brethren" Thus the word "brethren" can mean "those that are saved". And hence some may hold these "brethren" are those who are saved during the Tribulation. I believe we can clear this up on the next paragraph.

Now there are those who still insist that whether the Lord was speaking concerning the Jews or those saved during the Tribulation, the GROUND FOR JUDGMENT is still on "*INASMUCH AS YE HAVE DONE (or not done) IT UNTO ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE MY BRETHREN, YE HAVE DONE (or not done) IT UNTO ME.*" Again, we will have to agree that it does seem like works are the basis of this judgment. But listen to this: It is true, isn't it, that only those who do not take the mark of the beast will be able to go on into the Kingdom of Heaven, and after that, Eternal Life? Yes, that's right. Then these people are saved people? Yes. They have been saved, then, during the Tribulation on the grounds of ministering to the Brethren? Yes.

Then, how can the Brethren minister upon the Brethren? That's right. Therefore, the "brethren "must be the Jews? Why, of course!

Now we are agreed that the judgment is upon these Gentiles--individual Gentiles--how they have treated the Jews? Yes. Answer this question, then: "With the Jews being hunted and killed, and not being able to buy or sell without the mark of the beast, do you think that a person would dare visit, feed, clothe, and minister other ways unto the Jews unless he believed and accepted what the Jews were preaching? ' (These Brethren, or Jews, are the 144,000 who are sealed to carry the Gospel of the Kingdom throughout the world during the Tribulation.) Why, of course not. Then it is indeed an individual's acceptance of what the 144,000 are preaching, and what are they preaching? They are preaching CHRIST! And this bears out the words of the Lord Jesus when He said,

*"He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me" (Matthew 10:40).*

It is evident that when one shall minister unto the Jews (144,000) during the Tribulation, he would not minister unto them unless he believed WHAT THEY PREACHED--and that is CHRIST! Therefore, it is an individual judgment of the individual Gentiles upon their acceptance or rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ as their own Personal Saviour.

(c) The Rewards and Punishments. These individuals--Gentiles--have shown their faith by their works, and are rewarded accordingly. Those on the right hand of the Lord shall enter into the Kingdom, and hence into Life Eternal. Those on the left hand are cast into hell fire, prepared for the devil and his angels, the eternal lake of fire. These go there immediately after their sentencing and do not go to hades and there wait for the 1000 years to be finished and then be brought before the Great

White Throne. They go to their eternal punishment, the lake of fire, at this time.

#### L. THE MILLENNIUM

The Millennium is not a Scriptural word, but is a Scriptural truth. The word Millennium cannot be found in the Bible. It is called the "thousand years." Thus, the same. And the Millennium is the Kingdom over which the Lord Jesus Christ Himself shall reign:

*"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with CHRIST A THOUSAND YEARS ... Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such a second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years." (Revelation 20:4,6).*

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

*"Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the with throne of David, and upon his kingdom to order it, and to establish it with judgment, and with justice from hence- forth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of host will perform this" (Isaiah 9:7). "After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up"(Acts 15:16).*

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

#### M. THE SECOND BATTLE OF GOG AND MAGOG

Do not confuse this battle of Gog and Magog with the other battle which has already been discussed which we find is to be fought right after the rapture of the Church. Now; this battle of Gog and Magog is declared to be waged after the Millennium: *"And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them"* (Revelation 20:7-9).

This is not much of a battle--Satan finds many unbelievers even here at the end of the Millennium rule and reign of Christ.

The question will naturally arise as to these unbelievers. We thought that the Lord Jesus was going to rule with a perfect reign during the Millennium. That is true. His reign shall be glorious and perfect, but we do find that while obedience will be mandatory, all men shall obey Christ, but on the part of some it will be only a feign or mock obedience. They will have to obey, that is sure, but it will not be from the heart.

Old Testament Scriptures are clear to the fact that there shall be death during the Millennium--death to those unbelievers which shall be born of parents who come out of the Great Tribulation. There shall be no death to infants and babies; death will be measured unto these only who reach the age of 100, who have not been born again:

*"There' shall be no more thence an infant of days , nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed" (Isaiah 65:20).*

The last word "accursed" means to be cut off.

To the great number of unbelievers at the close of the Millennium shall Satan appeal to overthrow the beloved city. They organize, and together try to conquer the camp of the saints. And before they can fling one arrow, in fact, before they can do anything, fire from heaven descends upon them and they are thus destroyed.

#### N. THE GREAT WHITE THRONE.

The next step on the Prophetic Program is the last Judgment. This is set after the Millennium and the Second Battle of Gog and Magog. Scripture for this is found in Revelation 20:10-15:

*"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. And I saw a GREAT WHITE THRONE, and him that sat on it from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell (hades) delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were*

judged every man according to their works. And death and hell (hades) were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

No saved people appear before this Great White Throne. No Christian will ever be judged for his sins--they were judged upon Calvary's Cross of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ:

*"Verily, verily, I say unto you. He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment; but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24).*

Hence only the UNSAVED will appear before the GREAT WHITE THRONE. And note carefully, they do not appear there to see whether they are going to hell (lake of fire) or not; that has already been determined. They have already been convicted.

"And when he is come, he will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment" John 16:8);

They have already been condemned/

*"But he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" John 3: 18).*

The sinners' sentences are to be pronounced here at the Great White Throne! The DEGREE of Punishment is to be decided here--for the Scripture declare that the unsaved are to be judged "according to their works".

As there are degrees of REWARDS for the Saints, so there are to be degrees of PUNISHMENT for the Damned. Hence the unsaved are cast into the lake of fire where they remain forever--the degree of their punishment depending upon their works here upon earth during their life time.

*After the GREAT WHITE THRONE comes the NEW heaven and new earth: "And I saw a new heaven and a*

*new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea." (Revelation 21:1).*

A new heaven? Yes. A new earth? Yes. And also a new DAY--the DAY OF GOD!—

*"Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." (II Peter 3: 12, 13).*

THE END