

Studies on the
End Time Prophecies

recorded in eight chapters of the

New Testament

FULLY ILLUSTRATED!

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Apart from a few comments of mine and the making of some of the charts, most commentaries and explanations in this book as well as most artistic images and pictures were taken from the writings and publications of David B. Berg (1919–1994) who dedicated a lifetime of research and study into the future events and prophecies that are foretold in the Bible. My part has been mainly to search for the appropriate quotations and commentaries that would shed more light into these Bible prophecies.

INTRODUCTION

When most people think of End Time prophecies, they immediately have in mind the book of Revelation with good reason. The book of Daniel is also another one gaining popularity, again with good reason, as Daniel's prophecies are of the utmost importance in understanding the book of Revelation, they set the stage up so to speak.

But somewhat less known are several New Testament chapters or portions of chapters that give us a lot of details and extra information about the last days, the soon coming of our Lord and the end. And this is the purpose of this compilation of studies from the words of Jesus himself in the book of Matthew and the writings of the apostles Paul and Peter: it truly fills up a lot of holes, answers questions and marvellously goes hand in hand with the books of Daniel and Revelation.

This book is dedicated to anyone wishing to have a greater understanding of Bible prophecies, not only of the astounding future that awaits us but also of the present distress this world is gradually falling into. These prophecies are not meant to strike fear to its readers but on the contrary they are written so we can have hope and be prepared. As the apostle Paul so fittingly wrote after speaking of the Lord's second coming:

"Wherefore comfort one another with these words" 1st Thes.4:18

WHEN?

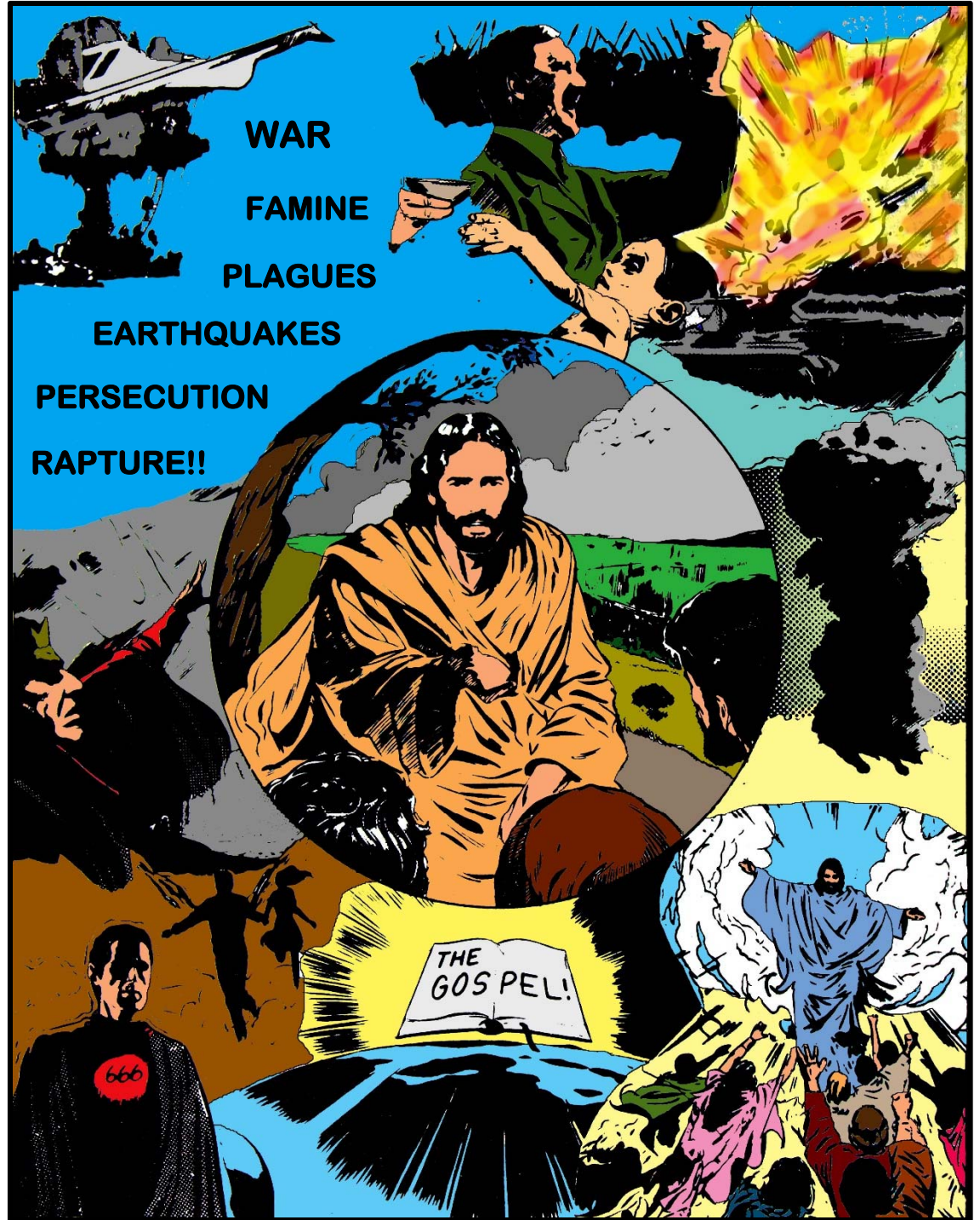
FOR THEN...

IMMEDIATELY AFTER...

AND THEN...

Matthew

Chapter 24



The big “WHEN” and the ANSWERS: “...for then, immediately after, and then...”

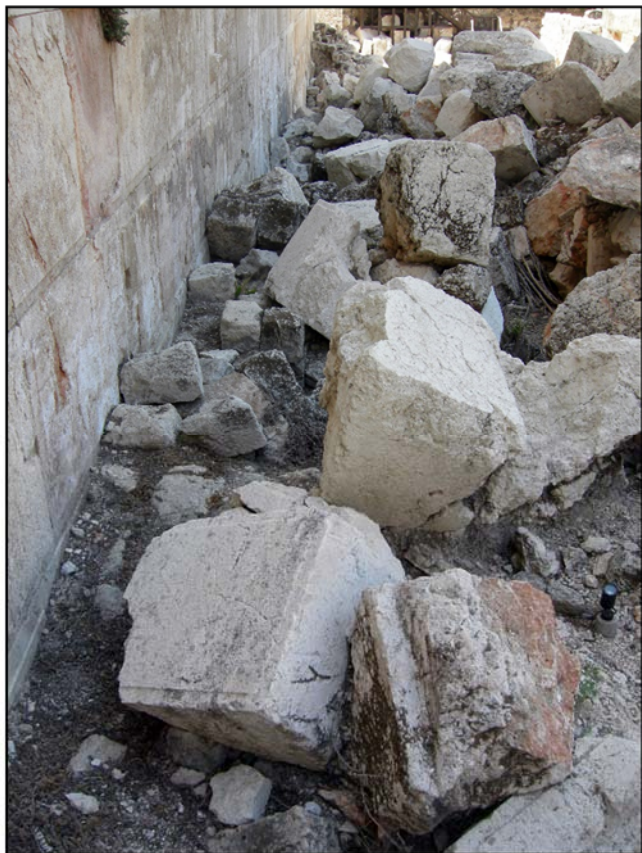
Throughout the ages a number of great religious teachers and seers have received special insight into the future. A discourse that is regarded by many as the most profound and detailed of its kind was given 2,000 years ago on a hillside just outside the ancient city of Jerusalem. There, a small band of truth-seekers gathered around their teacher, a carpenter-turned-preacher, known as Jesus of Nazareth. The question they asked Him prompted a response that spanned the centuries and then zeroed in on the days in which we are now living. In this class we will not cover all the verses of this chapter but we will focus mostly on the “when” question.

MAT.24:1 And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to show him the buildings of the temple.

MAT.24:2 And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? Verily I say unto you, **there shall not be left here one stone upon another that shall not be thrown down.**



The disciples were bragging to Jesus about the temple, what a beautiful building it was. "***He said unto them, see ye not all these things?***"--This beautiful gorgeous mountain of snowy buildings that Herod the Arab had reconstructed for the Jews! Jesus predicted that it would be torn stone from stone, and not one single stone would be left standing upon another! (***Mk.13:2, Lk.21:6.***) A prediction which was completely fulfilled by the Roman soldiers about 70 AD, in the invasion by Titus, under Vespasian the Emperor. He attacked the Jews for their rebellion, and sacked and burned Jerusalem, and crucified 100,000 Jews on



crosses around the city! The Romans then burned the Temple building itself with over 6000 thousand Jews inside: They had fled there for refuge on the words of a false prophet who had told the Jews that if they would flee into their temple and resist the Romans--they would be spared by God in the surroundings of their sacred temple. On the other hand, when the Christians saw the "signs" of the Romans coming, they fled the city and were saved; they had fled into the wilderness at the warning of their true Messiah found in this chapter and were saved."

Remember, the temple was largely composed of wood. They burned the wooden portions, which were embellished with the gold and the silver. The melted gold and silver ran down within the cracks between the great stones of its foundation. They even tore the foundation stones apart to get at the gold and silver! So, there wasn't one single stone left standing upon another!--In literal fulfillment of the prophecy of Jesus Christ! --Perhaps so that they would also no longer try to connect any building with God's worship, but would worship Him in Spirit and in Truth!

JOH.4:21, 23-24 Jesus said unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, **when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem,**

worship the Father...but the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeks such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

MAT.24:3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, **when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?**

They thought, "My goodness, when the Temple is destroyed, that must be when You're coming back and that's when the world must be going to be destroyed!" They didn't realize that the Temple was going to be destroyed 40 years later by the Romans, and it would still be another couple of thousands of years or more before the end of the World!

ACT.1:6-7 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, **wilt thou at this time**

restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, it is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

In the book of Acts, the disciples thought Jesus would restore Israel immediately. It wasn't for those to whom Jesus was speaking then to know, because they didn't have to know! They've already been dead now for nearly 2,000 years!--They weren't going to go through the Great Tribulation and Jesus wasn't about to come back, He hadn't even gone yet! He basically told them to get going with the task of evangelization of the world. But now that His Word is being fulfilled in these last days, we can begin to perceive and to understand "**the times and seasons**" better!

Here in verse 3 of Matthew, what His followers were asking Him about is often referred to as the "Second Coming," the dramatic return of Christ prior to His takeover of the world and the establishing of the kingdom of God on Earth. The term "**the end of the world**" is used here not to signify the end of the planet, but the end of the unjust and inhumane reign of man. (*Daniel 2:44*) Jesus answered their question by not just pointing out one sign that would indicate when "**the end**" would be near, but He gave *many* specific indicators to be on the lookout for.

MAT.24:4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, **Take heed that no man deceive you.**

MAT.24:5 For many shall come in my name, **saying, I am Christ;** and shall deceive many.

MAT.24:6 And ye shall hear of **wars and rumors of wars:** see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

MAT.24:7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be **famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes,** in divers places.

MAT.24:8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.

"**Sorrows**" is the English translation of the Greek word *wdi/nwn* [transliterated as *odin*] that appears in the original text of Matthew's Gospel. This word more commonly means birth pangs, the painful muscle contractions that a pregnant woman experiences during labor and subsequent childbirth.





The world has experienced these birth pangs of wars, famines, plagues, and earthquakes for millennia. The apostle Paul noted: "*For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now*" (Romans 8:22). But labor only goes on for a limited amount of time. The birth of the "baby," which in this case is Jesus' return and the end of this age, is not going to wait forever.

So at the end of this age, Jesus Christ Himself told us that there would be a time of birth pangs which would precede the Great Tribulation (see verse 21). Are we now living in that time of birth pangs? It is interesting to note that all of the things that Jesus said would occur in it are happening today. How long does that growth go on before

the child comes forth? Nine months, a long time! But when she begins to have the birth pangs, watch out brother, you'd better get her ready for the delivery!--And the closer they get together and the more severe they are, the nearer the time for her to bring forth!

The pangs are here now, and they're getting harder and closer together, and the time of the birth of the End is almost here! Some of you mathematicians can figure out the comparison between how long a woman is pregnant and how short the birth pangs are. The birth pangs are only hours compared to months of preparation. The Lord is comparing it to that. The World's had years of preparation, hundreds of years, millenniums!--And now the birth pangs! They won't just take a few hours, but in relationship, they'll take a few years. We know we have at least that much left.

MAT.24:9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

MAT.24:10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

MAT.24:11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

MAT.24:12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

MAT.24:13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

So far the signs of the time that Jesus mentioned have been:

False christs

Wars,

Famines,

Plagues,

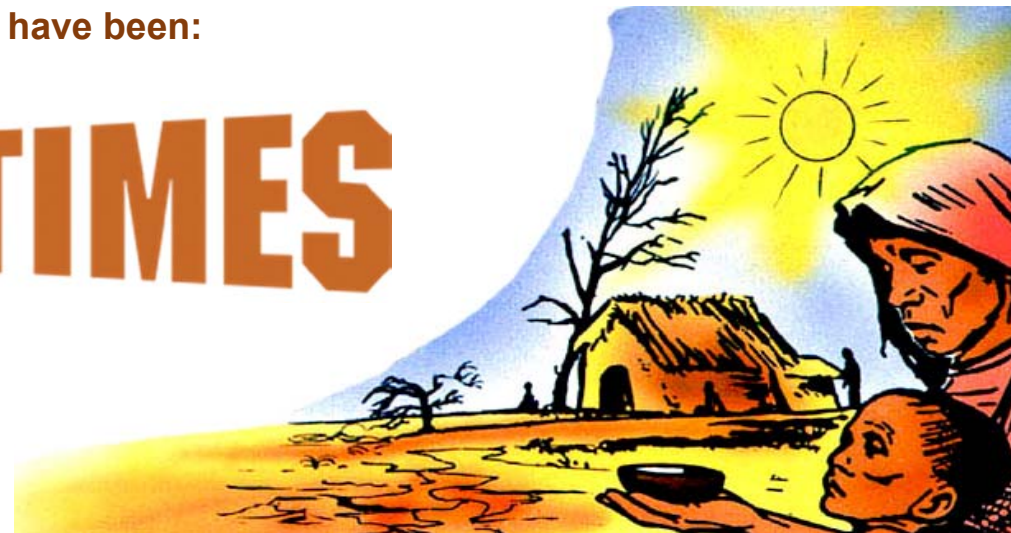
Earthquakes,

Persecution,

False prophets,

Iniquity abounding

SIGNS^{of the}TIMES



We've had these things ever since Jesus was here, haven't we, for the last 2000 years. He said they're only the beginning. It's only the beginning, folks, just the beginning but they certainly have progressed and increased in intensity just like the birth pangs of a pregnant woman.

MAT.24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

But here He's going to give another significant prediction! They wanted to know, "When is the End of the World going to be?" So He says here in this 14th verse: "*And this Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the End come.*" This particular sign clearly shows that we are really nearing the End! And that is one of the signs of the End that wasn't entirely fulfilled until just recently! The Gospel has been preached in all nations all over the World, especially the last 50-100 years or so! If not directly by missionaries, certainly by radio, television, internet and literature or their travelers, visitors and so on. Every nation on the face of the Earth has today heard the Gospel! Perhaps not every tribe and tongue, dialect and little tiny group, but every single nation on the face of the Earth has now heard the Gospel.



Now He's going to be even more specific about the exact end of things with the following key verses which will be the focus of this class:

MAT.24:15 **When** ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoever reads, let him understand :) **[This is Jesus speaking!]**

MAT.24:21 **for then** shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, nor ever shall be.

MAT.24:29 **Immediately after** the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

MAT.24:30 **and then** shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory

MAT.24:31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Jesus was explaining when and how the very end and His second coming would come about. You could think of it like someone giving you directions. They might say “You go down this road and you’ll see some trees and there will be a hill”, kind of general things. This is like what Jesus did when He said there would be “*wars, famines, pestilences and earthquakes.*”

But the one giving you directions might then say something like, “But when you see that **big red barn...**, when you see **that, then...**” That’s how Jesus taught this. After the somewhat general signs, He next gave something very specific indeed. He said, “*When you shall see the Abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the Holy place...*”, when you see that, “*Then there will be great tribulation.*”

It’s actually pretty clear and [we] have often encouraged people to even underline those words there in Matthew 24, “*When*” and “*then*”.

Because there’s another one after that. Jesus next said in verse 29, “*Immediately after the tribulation of*



those days...” He will gather together His elect. So, to make all this simple and even something you could share with others, some people underline those words in their Bibles, “*When*”, “*Then*”, and “*Immediately after*”. So as you can see, Jesus was pretty specific in verses 15, 21, 29 to 31 in giving us guideline for our understanding of the timing of the events just before His Return. We will now go through those same verses again with more details.

MAT.24:15 **When** ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso reads, let him understand :)

As we have seen earlier, near the end of Jesus of Nazareth’s ministry on earth, His disciples asked Him, “*What will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?*” (Verse 3) They wanted to know when He would return the second time. Jesus proceeded at first to give them general signs of His second coming. There would be “*wars, famines, pestilences and earthquakes.*” (Verse 6 and 7)

But what is important for us here is what He gave next as perhaps the single most important sign of the imminence of His return. In Matthew 24:15, Jesus told His disciples, “*When you shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place...*” and He went on to say in the next verses, “*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.*” (Matthew 24:21)

Those are the Words of Jesus on the subject of the very end, pointing us back to the book of Daniel and telling us to read what was there, particularly *Daniel 11:31*, perhaps *Daniel 9:27* is second and *Daniel 8:13 and 14* could be third. There is also *Daniel 12:11*. We cannot get away from the importance that Jesus Himself put on these things, His directing us to the book of Daniel and to where the subject of the “*abomination of desolation*” is covered. It’s just stunning. This is almost exactly what is written in the book of Daniel.

DAN.9:27 *Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.*”



DAN.12:11 And from the time that **the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up...**

DAN.11:31 ...then they **shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation.**

Again, [I will repeat myself here], the linchpin, gold standard and ground zero verse in our end time studies is Matthew 24:15. Jesus pointed us to no other book or prophet but Daniel and told us to watch for **“the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel, standing in the holy place”**. That’s the direct word of Christ, pointing us clearly to those scriptures. So what does it all mean? Has this happened yet? Is it near? Is any of this happening right now? We need to look carefully at this. Jesus Himself said in this passage we’re reading, Matthew 24:15, **“whosoever reads, let him understand”**.

Certainly some are wondering, **“What is ‘the abomination of desolation’?”**

And the easiest answer is, **“[We] don’t know for sure.”** But here is a little speculation. Daniel 11:31 says, they **“shall place the abomination that makes desolate.”** And Jesus said that **“the abomination of Desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet”** would be **“standing in the holy place.”** (Matthew 24:15) In the Old Testament, **“abomination”** was the word used to describe an idol. It speaks of **“Ashtoreth the abomination of the Zidonians, Chemosh the abomination of the Moabites, and Milcom the abomination of Ammon.”** (II Kings 23:13)



Idols in those days would often stand in temples and so that’s one possibility that this is something similar. Of course it’s probably not going to be exactly like idols of Old Testament times. But there are plenty of things we idolize in our times, even material things which most people love and cherish in their hearts. Then in the book of Revelation where it talks about the future Antichrist, chapter 13, it also talks about **“the image of the beast”** (Revelation 13:14-15) which also seems to be something man-made and again the word **“image”** is one that was used to refer to idols. Eleven verses in Daniel chapter 3 refer to the golden idol Nebuchadnezzar had built as an **“image”**. So this **“image of the beast”** in Revelation 13 seems possibly to be the same thing as **“the abomination that makes desolate”** in Daniel.

REV.13:14-15 ...telling those who dwell on the earth **to make an image to the beast** who was wounded by the sword and lived. He was

granted **power to give breath to the image of the beast**, that **the image of the beast** should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

It is also connected in some way to a future worldwide economic system and “**the mark of the beast**” which many feel has something to do with advanced computer or even bio-technology. At this time, there’s no completely clear answer to what this is. [Our] guess is that it will be some kind of technologically advanced creation of man which will play an integral part in the final New World Order economic system.

REV.13:16-17 He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.



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

With Bible prophecy, it is generally wise to leave ourselves open and stay away from being too rigid in our interpretation. Nonetheless some things are pretty specific in the Word of God! When does the tribulation begin? Jesus Himself tells us, well, He tells us to read and understand what the prophet Daniel predicted in his book. Now we’ve learned from the books of Daniel and Revelation and many other places in the Bible, that the Abomination of Desolation is going to be an Image, an idol of the Antichrist, this Devil-man, which he tries to force the World to worship, to worship him. And Jesus says here that “**when ye see**”, when you see this idol, this Image standing in the holy place--the holiest place on Earth to the World’s three greatest religions, Christianity, Judaism and Islam, Mount Moriah, Jerusalem--when you see the Antichrist Image raised up and standing there, then what’s going to happen? The period of the Great Tribulation begins! “**Whoso reads, let him understand**”, you’d better understand.” That’s the exact pinpoint of when the Tribulation begins!

Will we know when that happens? It is quite possible that we’ll know! We’ll probably be watching the erection of that Image on television or internet and hearing the Antichrist’s proclamation--given by the False Prophet, his propaganda chief--for everybody to fall down and worship him and receive his Mark in their hand or forehead or be killed! Jesus Himself said then begins the great tribulation!



Now how long does the great tribulation last?

We are told repeatedly throughout the books of Daniel and Revelation that the Tribulation period during which the Antichrist is fully possessed by Satan, wages repeated wars, and most specifically, persecutes the believers in God, is three and a half years. It is said so often that it almost begins to sound like a broken record. Jesus really wants us to understand this point. Here are those scriptures:

*He [the antichrist] shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for **a time and times and half a time.** (Daniel 7:25)*

*The court which is outside the temple ... has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for **forty-two months.** (Revelation 11:2)*

*And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy **one thousand two hundred and sixty days,** clothed in sackcloth. (Rev.11:3)*

*Then the woman [who represents the body of believers] fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God that they should feed her there **one thousand two hundred and sixty days.** (Rev.12:6)*

*But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for **a time and times and half a time,** from the presence of the serpent. (Rev.12:14)*

*And [the Antichrist] was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for **forty-two months.** (Revelation 13:5)*

"How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders be?" Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand



3½ years or 1260 days

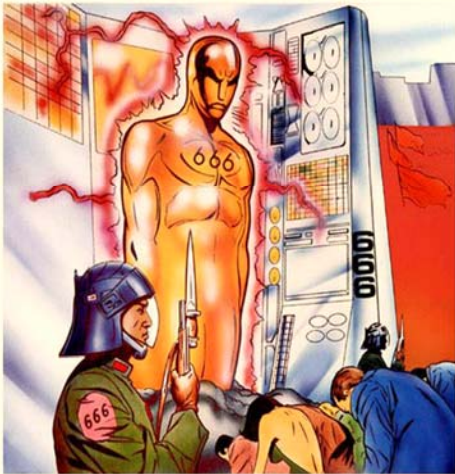
The Antichrist Causes the Sacrifice to cease. Dan.9:27; Dan.8:11-12; 2 Thes.2:3-4

He sets up the Abomination of desolation & the Mark of the Beast. Dan.11:31, Mt.24:15, Rev13:14-18

Great Tribulation begins. Mat.24:21-22; Dan.12:1; Rev.8:6

Jesus returns and the Rapture!

Mt.24:29-31,
2 Thes.2:1
Rev.11:15,
Dan.7:13-14
1Thes.4:16-17
1 Cor.15:51-52



and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished. (Daniel 12:6-7)

All of this is referring to the exact length of the Tribulation. So we know that that tribulation period will last exactly three-and-a-half years, 42 months, or to be exactly accurate, 1260 days. It begins with the "Abomination of Desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet," the Image of the Beast set up in the Holy Land, in Jerusalem in the holiest place of the World's three greatest religions, Mount Moriah, where there's already a Temple of Islam, where there will probably be again a Temple of Israel. Jesus said so, Daniel said so! John in Revelation said so! These things we know, there's no theory, there's no doubt about them! They are concrete solid block beliefs that we can be sure of because the Bible says so, it's very clear, and not just once but many times.

God has given us the exact time, exact days, the exact way in which to measure from the moment that horrible Tribulation begins! When that happens, we

are going to know the day, or pretty close to it, that Jesus Christ returns to rapture His Saints! Oh, most preachers will say, "Oh, Jesus Himself said no man knows of that day nor the hour, not even the Angels know! --No! They didn't know then and we still don't know at this time! But when the "Abomination of Desolation" is set up in the "Holy Place" then they will know and so will we! Think of that!

The book of Revelation tells us that prior to Jesus' return, the Antichrist will be doing his damndest to wipe out all who refuse to worship him and refuse to take his Mark. At the same time it makes clear that God will in turn be unleashing terrible plagues and judgments upon the Antichrist and his forces. So although it will be a time of great trouble for believers, it will also be a time of even greater trouble for their persecutors. Since the Bible spells out in so many verses how long this period of "great tribulation" will

last: 3½ years, or 42 months, or 1,260 days, then on the day that the coming world leader sets up his image and demands the world's worship, we will know exactly how long it will be till Jesus returns.

Why do you suppose the Lord revealed the length of the Tribulation so specifically and so exactly in His Word? --Because it's going to be such a terrible time that we're going to be counting the days! That's one thing that will help keep us going, to know that it is not going to last much longer! The fact that we're able to count the days is going to encourage us tremendously!--"Just one more day, one more day, one more day!"

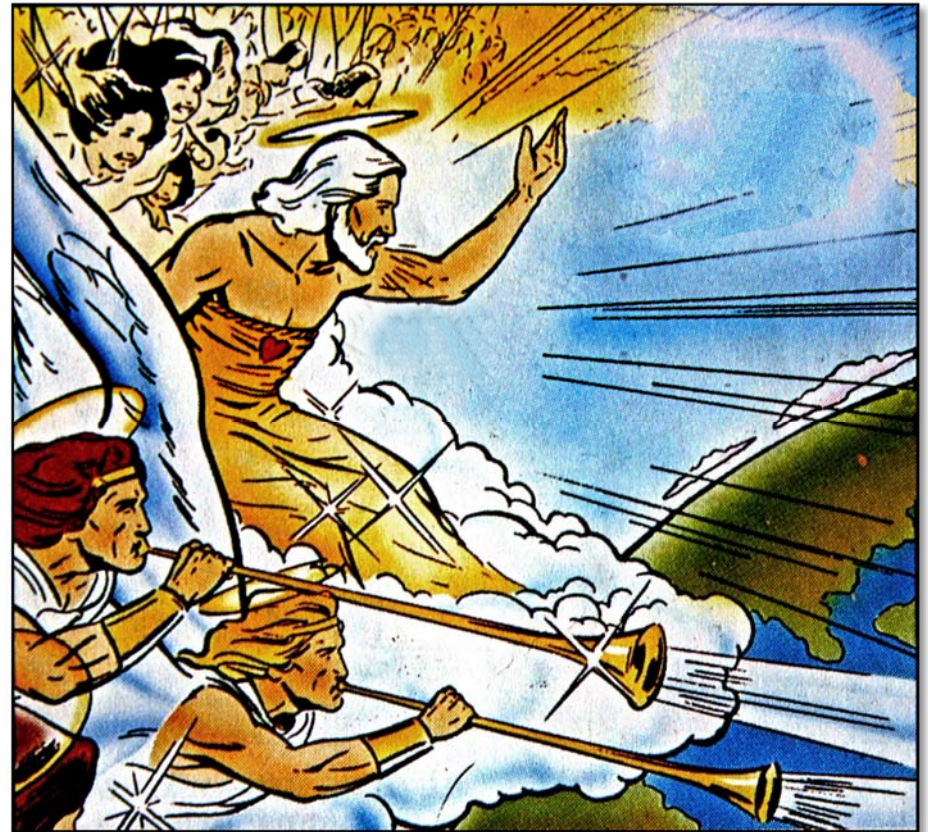
If you were lost on a desert island and didn't know whether you were ever going to get rescued, it would be pretty hard to endure. But if you knew exactly what day, or at least mighty close to it, that you were going to be rescued, you'd fight to live and survive until that day! Well, those last days of the Antichrist's reign during the Great Tribulation are going to be so rough, the Lord wanted us to know the exact times so that we wouldn't give up and for our own encouragement!--So we would know exactly how much longer we would have to suffer. He says, "...for your redemption draws nigh!" (Lk.21:28.) What a wonderful encouragement!

MAT.24:29 immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

MAT.24:30 and then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory

MAT.24:31 and he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Bible prophecy scholars have all kinds of interpretations about the rapture and teach all kinds of things about the Tribulation. Some people think Jesus is coming before the Tribulation, others think He's going to



come in the middle, some people think He's going to come at the end and still others think there are all kinds of different stages in-between. They really haven't got it very clear.

But we believe the Bible says it just as simply as can be when Jesus is going to come! Matthew chapter 24 is one of the simplest summaries of all. All the period of that Tribulation has occurred before the Coming of Christ. Jesus comes "***after the Tribulation***"! Jesus says it as plain as day in that 29th verse. "***Immediately after the Tribulation of those days.***" It says ***after*** the Tribulation shall appear the sign of the Son of man in Heaven. ***After*** the Tribulation, ***then*** shall all the tribes of the Earth mourn. ***After*** the Tribulation they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of Heaven with power and great glory. ***After*** the Tribulation He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet and they shall gather together His elect. ***That's*** when Jesus is going to come back for His elect, to rapture His Saints, to gather them together! In fact, at the very ***end*** of the Tribulation! Not before. He's even got the days numbered in the Scriptures several places we've already studied. The exact number of days from the setting up of that idol of the Antichrist in the holy place in Jerusalem it's going to be 1260 days to the day, God's Word says so!

Another strong indication that "***our gathering together unto him***" or the rapture will not occur until after the Tribulation is that the apostle Paul wrote that the Lord will definitely ***not*** come back until the ***Antichrist*** be revealed. That's what Paul said in 2Thessalonians 2:1-4:

2TH.2:1-4 Now we beseech you, brethren, ***by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him (rapture), that ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day (rapture and second coming of the Lord) will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above 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.***

For those who say that the Lord could come at any time, then where is "***that man of sin, the son of perdition,***" the antichrist? Is he revealed yet and do we see him sitting in the temple of God today, "***showing himself that he is God?***" NO, not yet! The Lord won't come unless the man of sin is revealed!

Now after the tribulation, in verse 30 and 31, everything is obviously a sign of the second coming, because these passages fulfill all the other signs and all the other Scriptures.

MAT.24:30 ...and they shall see the Son of man coming ***in the clouds*** of heaven with power and great glory...

ACT.1:9-11 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, **he was taken up; and a cloud received him** out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? **This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.**

MAT.24:31 and he shall send his angels with a **great sound of a trumpet** and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other...

MAR.13:27 And then **shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.**

1TH.4:16-17 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.**

1CO.15:51-52 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.**

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

REV.11:15 And the seventh angel **sounded [the last trumpet];** and there were great voices in heaven, saying, **The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.**

In verses 29 to 31, Jesus is telling us that the world's darkest period of tribulation and horror will abruptly end with



the dawning of the brightest day—the day Jesus Christ returns to gather His people to be with Him! The world will be shocked by the awesome sights and sounds that will herald Jesus' Second Coming. When the greatest sign of all is revealed, Jesus Himself coming in the clouds, supernaturally beaming God's power and might around the world, those who have rejected Him and worshiped the Beast will be thunderstruck. ***“Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him” (Revelation 1:7).***



But for those of us who know and love the Lord, His return will bring us greater joy and deliverance and freedom than we have ever known! God's people who have died since Jesus' days on Earth will be miraculously resurrected in new supernatural bodies, bursting out of their graves and ascending to meet Him in the air. Those of us still alive on Earth will be instantly transformed with new bodies as well, and we'll soar into the clouds to meet the Lord! Jesus will snatch His people out of the reach of their anti-Christ persecutors and whisk them away to the grandest, most thrilling victory celebration that's ever been held—an event known as the ***“Marriage Supper of the Lamb”*** in Heaven! ***(Revelation 14:14–16; 19:6–9).***

Jesus' Second Coming is the major prophetic end time event for Christians, as it will signify the end of this world as we now know it, as well as our place in it in these present physical bodies. Following His coming will be our complete translation and rapture as we're caught up together with Him in the air and taken off into heavenly places. His coming is the pivotal point, the end of this present life and work on earth, when ***“time shall be no more”*** for us, and we will enter the great eternal now. ***(Revelation 10:6–7)***

God has a set time and schedule for the return of His Son, Jesus Christ, to this earth to rescue His people. He's going to come right on the button, just like these space launches which have a preset countdown. Only there aren't going to be any problems to delay His countdown. Jesus is going to fulfill His Word. You can rest assured that He is not going to change plans and come contrary to all the things that He

Himself taught and the prophets and the apostles wrote. He is not going to misfire, but His return is going to fulfill the specific, detailed prophecies of His Word regarding end time events which must come to pass before He returns.

The final countdown to Christ's Second Coming will start after the Antichrist has been revealed and his image is set up in the temple at Jerusalem, then will begin the Great Tribulation period for which His Word gives us the exact three-and-a-half-year length over and over again in so many different ways that you cannot possibly misunderstand it as we have seen previously. Jesus warned us not to expect His return any sooner than has been predicted. He tells us, "When I come, you'll know it." The sky will light up like permanent lightning from one end to the other, and there will be such a sign in the heavens that you couldn't possibly mistake the fact that Jesus is coming.

Mat. 24:27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be.

Mat. 24:28 For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

Here the Lord is speaking in cryptic, very puzzling language, saying, "Wherever the body is, there will be gathered those that feed on Christ."—A rather unsavory comparison that we, like vultures, feed upon the body of Christ. But He said, "*Except you eat of My flesh and drink of My blood, you're not going to have any part in Me.*" (John 6:53–58) So here He's speaking of our gathering together or rapture to Him. Wherever His followers are, they're going to be drawn like a magnet, like the eagles to the carcass, like vultures to the body, who have to eat and feed upon Christ to live spiritually. Wherever the carcass is, there will all of us little eagles be gathered together.

What could be more cataclysmic, dramatic, terrific, and more obvious than the coming of the Lord as described here by Jesus himself? The whole sky will be lit up like lightning, the saved of all ages will be literally "*gathered together*" in the air, the sun and the moon will be darkened and meteors will be falling,



and Jesus Himself will appear in the atmospheric heavens, causing the unsaved to mourn and weep as they see His coming in the clouds *“with power and great glory.”* *But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.”* (1 Thessalonians 5:1–3)

It will be like sudden destruction, suddenly, without warning. Because their false prophets have been telling them, “Everything’s peaceful now, and you don’t have to worry about anything. We have our world government, we have our Antichrist, we have our Messiah, we have our superman to run the world now, and everything’s going to be okay. Peace and safety.” And then sudden destruction hits them! Jesus returns, rescues His Bride, and God begins pouring out His final wrath and judgments on the Antichrist’s world empire.

“But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day (of Christ’s Second Coming) should overtake you as a thief.” (1 Thessalonians 5:4) **Christians who know His Word and have “discerned the signs of the times” (Matthew 16:3) are not going to be surprised.** You may not know the precise day or hour, but you’ll certainly know when approximately three and a half years from the placing of the abomination of desolation has passed, and will be looking for and anxiously awaiting Jesus’ return.

“Ye are all the children of light and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep, sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for a helmet, the hope of salvation.” (1 Thes. 5:5–8)

Jesus’ magnificent Second Coming won’t catch His children by surprise, like a thief in the night, as it



will the rest of the world. ***“They shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”*** Our rapture, our resurrection, is part of our triumph, our God-given victory, our great exodus from this world. In Revelation it says, ***“Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him.”*** (Revelation 1:7) What greater witness could there be than the resurrection and the rapture? That’s the final witness, when they actually see Jesus and see us rise from the dead and from the earth to meet Him in the air.

Nobody’s going to be left behind that loves Jesus. Nobody’s going to be left behind that has received Jesus as his Savior. No one is going to be left behind who is saved. Not a single, genuine, Bible-believing, Christ-trusting, Jesus-loving Christian is going to be left behind, not one. For ***“we shall all be changed,”*** (1 Corinthians 15:51) and we will all be raised. He’ll send His angels out to gather His children from everywhere, from all around the whole earth, and He won’t leave one behind. He won’t forget one, not one. Isn’t that wonderful?

(Note: While the Bible is clear on certain major events and there is a lot we can understand, there are still many details that are open to conjecture. The Bible is often cryptic in what it says about some events and we will not clearly understand some of the things it is talking about until they happen. This [class] is intended to provide a foundation of understanding to its readers so that as the End time events begin to transpire, they can be aware of what is happening and know how to react.)



DETAILS OF THE ENDTIME!

THE BEGINNING OF GOD'S WRATH ON THE ANTICHRIST KINGDOM! SEVEN TRUMPETS OF TRIBULATION

-DETAILS OF THE END!
Rev. 8-14

FIRST HAIL & FIRE WITH BLOOD, 3RD OF GRASS BURST Rev. 8:7

SECOND GREAT MOUNTAIN CAST INTO SEA & 3RD OF TREES & LIVING THINGS OF 3RD OF SEA DESTROYED Rev. 8:8,9

THIRD STAR FALLS FROM HEAVEN TO WORMWOOD, MANY DIE Rev. 8:10,11

FORTH 3RD OF WATERS TURN TO & STARS DARKENED Rev. 8:12

FIFTH LOCUSTS FROM THE BOT-TOMLESS PIT TORTURE THE UNSEALLED FOR FIVE MONTHS Rev. 9:1-12

SIXTH 200 MILLION HORSEMEN KILL 3RD OF MANKIND Rev. 9:13-21

SEVENTH JESUS RETURNS Rev. 11:15-19 Mt. 24:29-31

PERSECUTION! TRUE CHURCH FLEES INTO THE WILDERNESS Rev. 12

TWO GREAT WITNESSES Rev. 11

666

THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB Rev. 19
JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST & REWARDS

THE SEVEN VIALS OF GOD'S WRATH Rev. 15-22

FIRST SORE UPON WORSHIPPERS OF THE BEAST Rev. 16:2

SECOND SEA TURNS TO BLOOD Rev. 16:3

THIRD RIVERS AND FOUNTAINS TURN TO BLOOD Rev. 16:4

FORTH SUN SCORCHES WORSHIPPERS OF THE BEAST Rev. 16:8,9

FIFTH BEAST'S KINGDOM IN DARKNESS, GREAT PAIN Rev. 16:10,11

SIXTH EUPHRATES RIVER DRIES UP Rev. 16:12

SEVENTH JESUS & SAINTS RETURN TO SETTLE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON Rev. 16:17-21

JESUS & SAINTS DESTROY ANTICHRIST ARMIES IN BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON

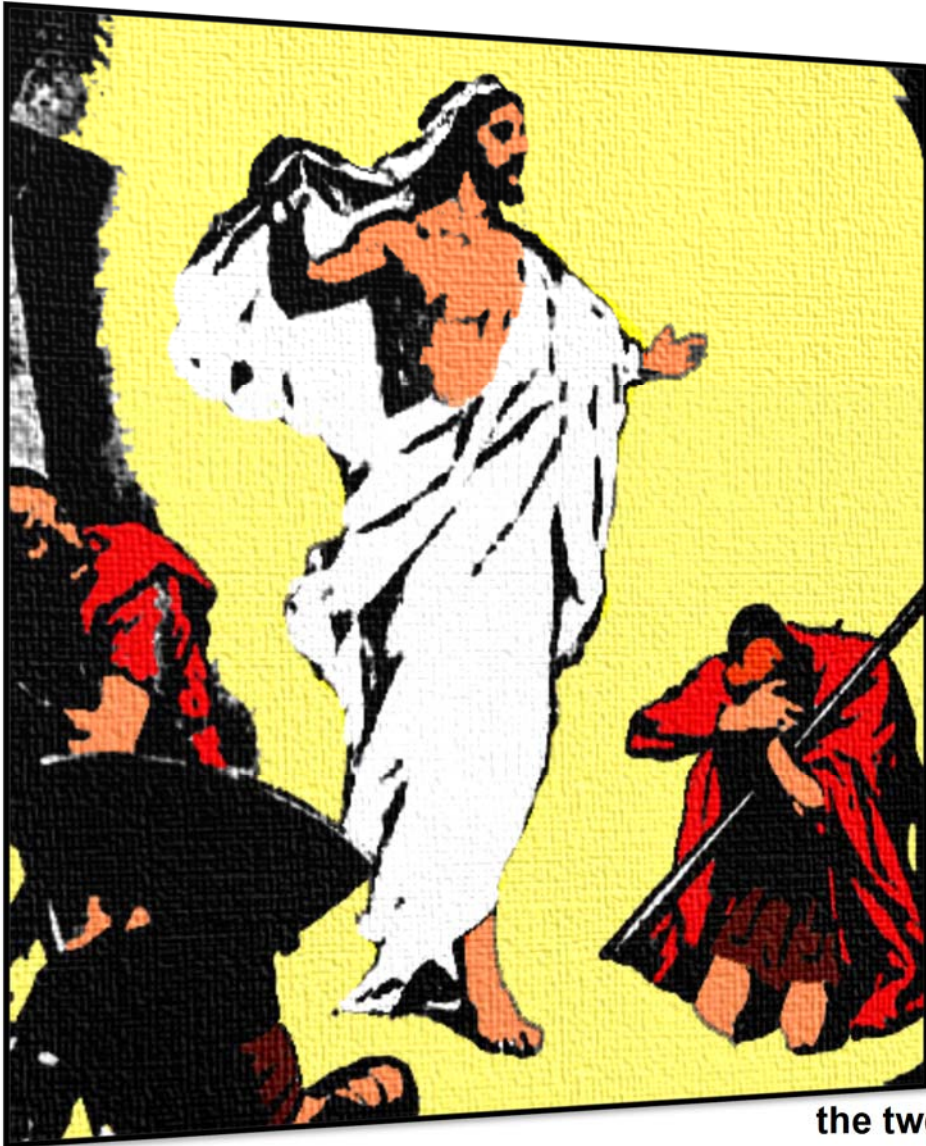
ON THE KINGDOM of the ANTICHRIST

WORSHIPPERS OF THE BEAST

1 Cor. 15:51,52

The First Resurrection and Our New Bodies!

1 Corinthians Chapter 15



the twelve:

1CO.15:6 After that, he was seen of above **five hundred brethren at once**; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

1CO.15:1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and **wherein ye stand**;

1CO.15:2 **By which also ye are saved**, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

1CO.15:3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, **how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures**;

ISA.53:5-6 **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. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

1CO.15:4 And that he was buried, and that **he rose again the third day according to the scriptures**:

PSA.16:10-11 **For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy...**

1CO.15:5 And that **he was seen of Cephas, then of**

1CO.15:7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

ACT.1:3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

JOH.20:16-17 Jesus saith unto her, **Mary**. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. **Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.**

For some reason or other he was to go to the Father first, perhaps because the Father wanted to be the first to embrace Him, the first to receive Him, the first to touch Him, the first to honor Him! We don't know exactly why that was, but He was to go there first. It certainly was a matter of honoring the Father, the Son returning to the Father in the Heavens from whence He had come. But we're sure when He came back then, which He did very shortly, that He embraced them all and there's the record! He ate with them, drank with them, read the Scriptures with them, talked with them, cooked for them, and did all kinds of things for 40 days. For 40 days He was seen by over 500 different people after that. Just think!

And He was willing to try to help convince some of the "reasoners" who were walking down the road to Emmaus still wondering about the Scriptures and discussing, to show them that He was really the Messiah. He reasoned the Scriptures with them as they walked along. He was able to conceal His identity through some means and convince them that Jesus really was the Messiah, although they didn't even realize that it was Jesus walking with them! (Lk.24:13-31)



So He went around giving some encouragement and doing a lot of little things that he wanted to do before he returned up, in order to send the Holy Spirit back again. He said, *"I must needs go away that I might send unto you another Comforter."* (John 16:7) But He spent 40 days and 40 nights here! Think of it!--Personally going around encouraging, comforting and preaching, even the three days and nights (See Mt.12:40) He spent in Hell preaching to the poor people down there! (Read Jn.5:21, 25) We don't know what kind of system He used, but it apparently didn't take very long for Him to preach the Gospel to them, and there must have been quite a few down there. The Lord must have gotten around and preached to everybody who deserved to hear it. *"By which also he went and preached (the gospel) unto the spirits in prison; which sometimes were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water."* (1Pe3:19, 20 & 4:6)



And then He spent 40 days encouraging His Disciples, teaching them, encouraging the faith of this one and that one, like doubting Thomas, proving that He had risen from the dead for sure, so there would be no doubt about it. Isn't that wonderful? He walked through doors, He appeared and disappeared, He did a lot of miracles while He was back from the dead in His resurrection body! He did some very amazing things, but He also showed Himself to still be quite human! He ate with them, He drank with them, and He even



cooked for them, to prove that He was really a resurrected Lord and had a supernatural, miraculous Resurrection body! (Lk.24:30-43; Jn.20:19, 26, 30; 21:6-13).

1CO.15:8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

ACT.9:3-5 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly **there shined round about him a light** from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, who art thou, Lord? **And the Lord said, I am Jesus...**

1CO.15:9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

1CO.15:10 But by the grace of God **I am what I am:** and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; **but I labored more abundantly than they all:** yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

2CO.11:23 Are they ministers of Christ? I am more; **in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.**

1CO.15:11 Therefore **whether it were I or they,** so we preach, and **so ye believed.**

Paul says it really doesn't matter who preached to you. It doesn't matter if it is him (Paul) or someone else. What is important is that you respond to the Spirit of God and turn to the One the Father has sent.

1CO.15:12 Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?

1CO.15:13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:

There are always some around who say there is no resurrection of the dead. It was true of Paul's day and it is true for us. Remember, Paul saw the risen Christ. So did John and Peter and many more. They told others and it was written down, just as it was seen. These were eye witness accounts.

It was revealed to the prophet Daniel that those who *"sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to*



everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt" (Daniel 12:2). The time of this will be the "time of the end, when many shall run to-and-fro (unprecedented transportation capabilities) and knowledge will increase" (Daniel 12:4). The transportation and knowledge explosion we are experiencing is unprecedented in history - He will soon return and the resurrection of all will be revealed to all. Of course, Paul is saying, if there is no resurrection (as Daniel was taught by God), then Christ Himself would not be Risen. There either is a resurrection for all or there is not.



1CO.15:14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

1CO.15:15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

1CO.15:16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:

1CO.15:17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. (1Pe.1:3)

1CO.15:18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

1CO.15:19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. (1Pe.1:21)

ACT.2:24 *Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.*

The Scriptures say over and over again that there's a better place, and "if in this life only we have hope, we are of all men most miserable." The Christian's hope has always been to go to Heaven and be with the Lord. This life is pretty difficult and gets pretty intolerable sometimes; Christians all down through the ages have sung about, written and longed for the time when they would go to be with the Lord. And not just Christians, but almost all religions look forward to a better World beyond this one! Paul said that "to depart

and be with Christ is far better" than this life, and that "we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house (body) which is from Heaven."— (Phil.1:23; 2Cor.5:2.)

1CO.15:20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept. (Col.1:18)

1PE.1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again **unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,**



MAT.27:50-53 Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, **the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.** This is a little known and not well understood scripture; we will offer this short and simple interpretation:

It was quite a miracle which occurred when that heavy curtain thicker than any fabric or cloth you have ever seen or any rug or drapery was suddenly split right down the middle, split in two, in twain! Now from this passage you can tell exactly what happened and when. It says that the bodies of the saints which slept arose, came out of the graves after His resurrection. Therefore, who was the first one to be resurrected, to rise from the dead?--Jesus! He was the first fruits, as Paul says, He was the first one to rise. What about these other bodies getting resurrected? It does not say their spirits.

“And the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after his resurrection” How about that? Well, there it is, right there in your Bible. Read it for yourself. Many of these things happened right at the time of His

crucifixion, obviously, but these saints were resurrected after His resurrection! In fact, probably very close to His resurrection. Jesus, God's Word says, was the first fruits of the Resurrection, and then after that the

Old Testament Saints were raised from the grave. Apparently many of them got to have their resurrection a long time ago, after Jesus rose, and He's been enjoying their fellowship ever since in the Heavens just like He promised!

1CO.15:21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. (Ro.6:23)

1CO.15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

1CO.15:23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

First they were Christ's, the "firstfruits" of that first resurrection, Christ and the Old Testament Saints, and then all of us who are saved at the time of Christ's Second Coming, the Rapture. "The first fruits" resurrection, that's a commonly accepted theological term because they call Christ the first fruits of that

resurrection, and other theologians include all those Old Testament Saints who were resurrected at the time of Jesus's Resurrection.



God's Word says, "and every man in his own order." Which indicates there is more than one Resurrection, in fact there are several! After Jesus was resurrected, as we already mentioned it earlier, many of the bodies of the saints came out of the graves and appeared unto many. That was perhaps the first part of the First Resurrection. Obviously those people were resurrected. So of course they could only have been those who had already died, Saints who had already passed away during the Old Testament period. One can only wonder what happened to these people, but the Scriptures don't

say anything further about them. We can only speculate. One thing for sure though: they were the firstfruits of what will happen when Jesus will return.

There is another resurrection at Jesus' Second Coming during the Rapture:

1TH.4:14-17 *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, **that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.** For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and **the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.** (See also Mat.24:29-31)*

John wrote in Revelation: "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: On such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years." (Rev.20:6.) So this "first" resurrection will be a resurrection of only the saved, (the believers) of those who love Jesus, of all those who belong to Him.

The first resurrection seems to include the Old and New Testament saints. The New Testament Saints are raised when Jesus comes at the Rapture at the end of the Tribulation. Well then, the Old Testament saints resurrected at the time of Jesus' resurrection must have also been considered a part of the First Resurrection! Though it was in two installments, first the Old Testament saints at the time of Jesus' resurrection, and then the New Testament saints at the time of the Second Coming, both are included in the First Resurrection.



Now if there is a first resurrection, there must also be a second resurrection, and if you read about the Great White Throne Judgement of God, (Rev.20:11-15) you'll find out that, of course, there is. But the next resurrection, the resurrection of the unsaved, the second resurrection, is not going to occur until after the 1,000-year Golden Age rule and reign of Christ on Earth known as the Millennium. And we are sorry to say that many of those who don't make the first resurrection are going to be suffering and learning some pretty hard lessons in Hell and a few other places during that time.--So what you don't want to do is miss the first resurrection!

1CO.15:24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when **he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.**

1CO.15:25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

DAN.7:14 And there **was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.**

MAT.28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.**

REV.20:4 And I **saw thrones, and they sat upon them... and judgment was given unto them: and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.**

1CO.15:26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. (Rev.1:18)

2TI.1:10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, **who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:**

REV.21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; **and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.**

1CO.15:27 For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him.



1CO.15:28 And **when all things shall be subdued unto him**, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, **that God may be all in all.**

1CO.15:29 Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? Why are they then baptized for the dead?

1CO.15:30 And why **stand we in jeopardy every hour?**

2CO.11:26-27 *In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.*

1CO.15:31 I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our LORD, **I die daily.**

You don't have to die physically on a cross or be beheaded or whatever, in the long run, you're a martyr every day if you witness and live for Jesus. Do you know what the word means? Martyr is a Greek word meaning "a witness." And you'll find out that witnessing and preaching the Gospel is martyrdom to your pride, your self-respect and the opinions of men. If you are a faithful witness unto God, you will be a daily martyr for Jesus Christ!

1CO.15:32 If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantages it me, **if the dead rise not? Let us eat and drink; for tomorrow we die. (Isa.22:13)**

1CO.15:33 Be not deceived: **evil communications corrupt good manners. (Pro.13:20; Mt.24:4)**

1CO.15:34 Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.

1CO.15:35 But some man will say, **How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?**

1CO.15:36 Thou fool, **that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: (John 12:24)**

1CO.15:37 And that which thou sowest, **thou sowest not that body that shall be**, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain:

1CO.15:38 But **God giveth it a body** as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.



We have been studying about the death of our own Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and about the time that He spent during those days that He was supposedly dead--obviously quite alive down below (1 Pe.3:19)--but His body dead and laid in a grave before He came back and picked it up in a new model form,

completely changed, regenerated, rejuvenated and resurrected! It's such a marvelous miracle, such a mystery, really, that nobody can understand it, how our bodies are still going to be related to that dust that goes back to the dust, and in some way that they are going to be raised again!

Paul says it's such a mystery you can hardly understand it any more than you can understand how a seed buried in the ground comes to life and springs up and becomes a whole new plant or flowers etc.! That's how much more wonderful your new body's going to be, that much different! He says there's one kind of this, one kind of that, and if you bury a grain of wheat in the ground you're not going to get apples. What comes out, the final end product is going to look like the grain of wheat you buried. And if you get buried before that time instead of going straight up with the Lord, (at the Rapture) what's going to be resurrected out of that grave is going to look like what was buried, and you're going to be recognizable. You're going to look like yourself but with a marvelous new body!

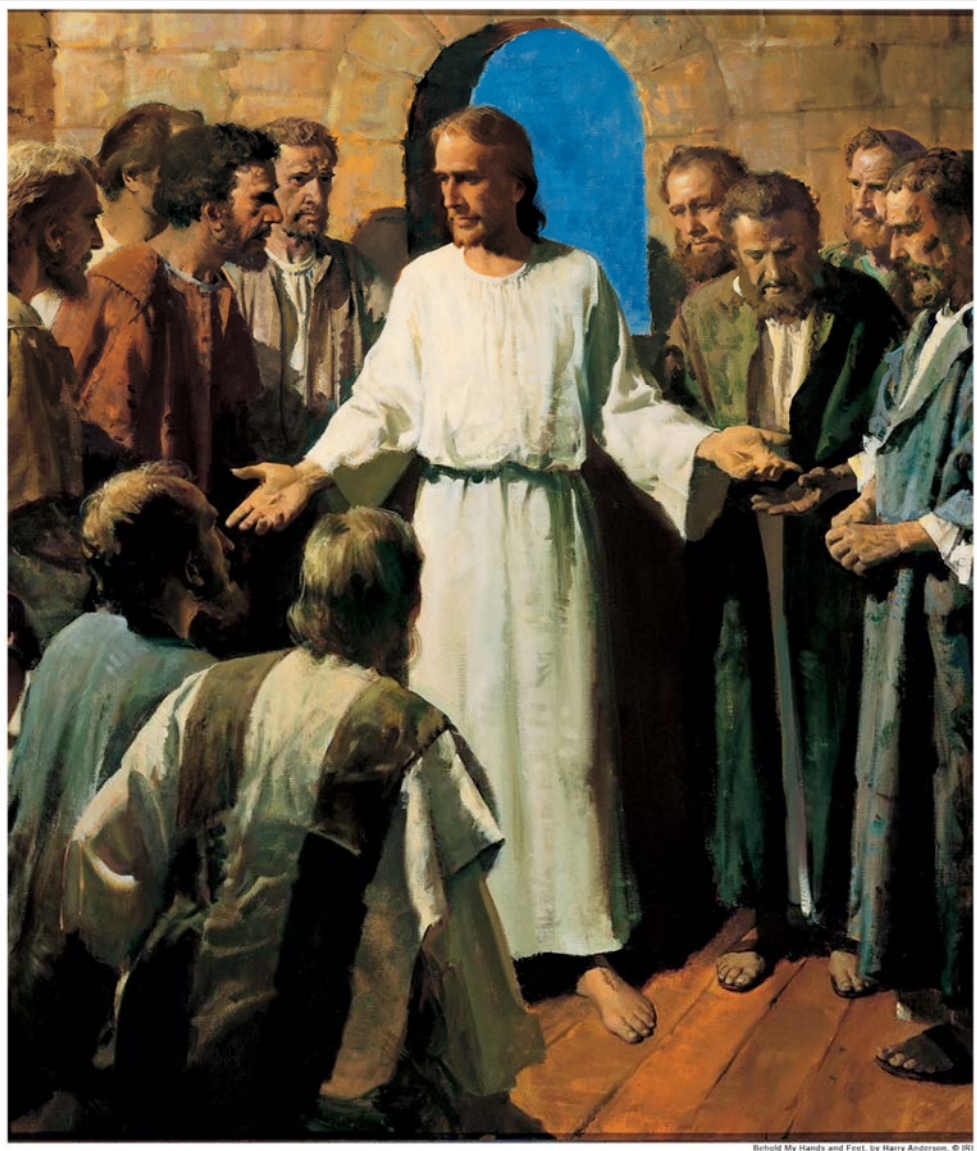
1CO.15:39 All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of **flesh of men**, another **flesh of beasts**, another **of fishes**, and another **of birds**.

1CO.15:40 There are also **celestial bodies**, and **bodies terrestrial**: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.

1CO.15:41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory.

1CO.15:42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:

1CO.15:43 It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: (Col.3:4)



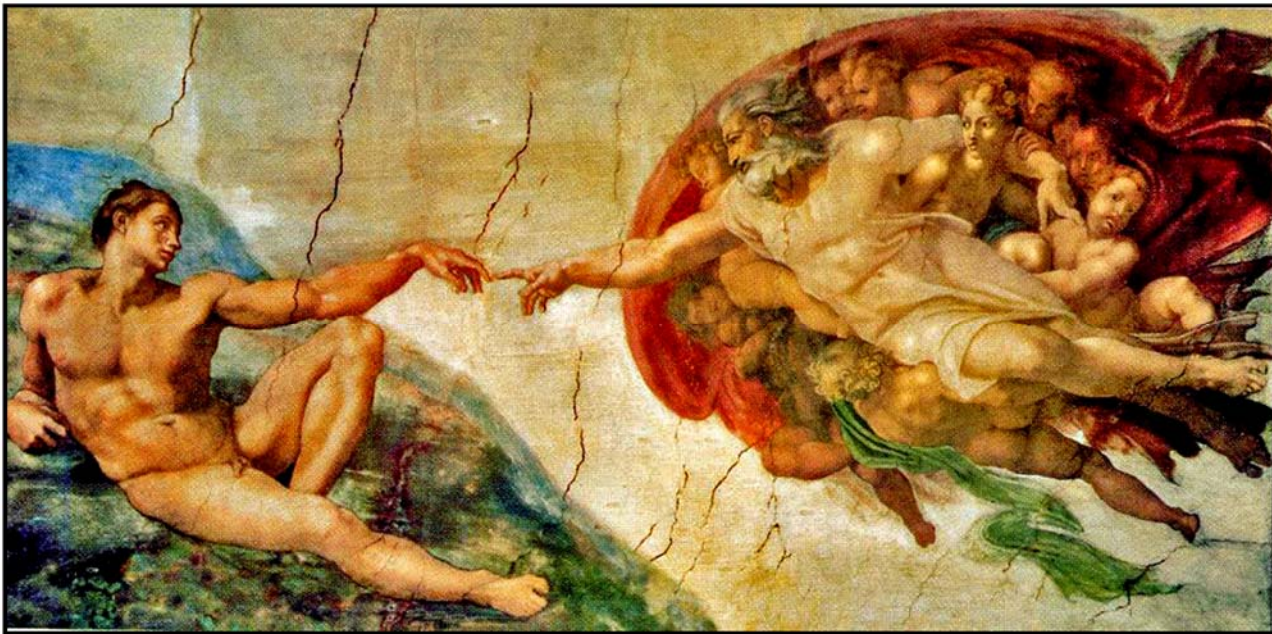
1CO.15:44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. (Phi.3:10)

So he says, the body we now have is "Sown in corruption, but it's raised in incorruption." This Earthly fleshly body can be buried and decay. It can grow old, die, be buried, and go back to the dust from which it came. "But it is raised in incorruption." When it's raised again it will not corrupt any more. It will be Heavenly, immortal and impossible to rot any more like our present flesh. "It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory." Today, although there have been great honorable burials and funerals, it's still, in a sense, a dishonor to have to die and be buried, this flesh to go back to the dust from which it came. It's a bit humiliating and humbling to realize that that's all we are is dust except for the spirit. But then "it is raised in glory"! Hallelujah!--The glory of the spirit and a new resurrection spiritual body.

"It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power!" Compared to what we're going to be then, we are weak now. These bodies are very weak compared to the powerful supernatural powers we're going to have in our new powerful supernatural body! "It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual" or a supernatural body. "There is a natural body and

there is a spiritual body." In a sense, you have both of them right now. Your spiritual body is inhabiting your natural body at the present. And we're going to look like we do now, in a way, only more beautiful.

1CO.15:45 And so it is written, the first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.



It says, "The first man Adam was made a living soul." Adam was the first man! Not the end of a long series of the process of evolution, but the first man! There were no ape men, there were no men before Adam, and he was the first. And it says Adam was made--he didn't grow, he did not evolve, but he was made, and he was made a living soul!

"So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them." (Gen. 1:27) Just

in case you don't get it the first time around, God repeats it. It says *"in His own image, in the image of God"* He didn't look like some ape man or monkey, or some fish or bird, He created him like Himself, God. He made man like Himself, in many ways, as an illustration of Himself.

1CO.15:46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.

1CO.15:47 The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven.

1CO.15:48 As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. (Ro.8:29)

1CO.15:49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

Even as we have looked on Earth, we will resemble that same image in Heaven. We will bear the same looks and general appearance--here called image--as we have here on Earth, but much more glorious. So much more glorious that it's almost like the difference between the flower and the seed! Even as the Lord Himself said in the beginning of the Creation, *"Let us make man in Our Own Image!" (Ge.1:26)* So man today, men and women, look like God, or at least look like Jesus, who has a spiritual human body already resurrected from the dead. And we're going to read you some verses pretty soon so you're going to know that you're going to look like Him!



1CO.15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

1CO.15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but **we shall all be changed**,

Well, you're going to be different, and yet how different? All we know is "*we shall be like Him*" of course different than we are now but at the same time much the same as at this moment. (1Jn.3:2) Jesus could sit down, eat, drink, talk to people, and show them scars and things like that after His resurrection. He was different but not so completely different. We will still be able to see each other, recognize each other and we will still have a human form, believe it or not!

1CO.15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the **dead shall be raised incorruptible**, and we shall be changed. (Mt.24:31)

1CO.15:53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. (2Co.5:2-4)

1CO.15:54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and **this mortal shall have put on immortality**, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, **Death is swallowed up in victory.** (Isa.25:8)

We read that Jesus was to come back in the clouds, and this will be one sign--And the lightning!--And the fact that we'll all be changed! If suddenly you're walking around through town and all of a sudden you feel a

sudden wonderful change go over your body and all the aches,

pains and weariness disappear and you feel light as a feather like you could fly and maybe you start floating--you'll know it, won't you!

You look down at your clothes and instead of that old dirty pair of pants or that old house dress or whatever you had on, compared to the robe of light that you suddenly discover you have on, anything else would look dirty and old! Because you're going to have a new robe, a beautiful robe of light and righteousness!--White robe, white raiment from the Lord!

In fact, you may be so busy looking up at the sky at what's happening up there, all the lightning and thundering going on and Jesus appearing in the clouds that you may not even have time to look down and see what you're wearing! But you'll sure feel different because you'll "all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye at the last trump!" Praise God!

There's going to be a trumpet sound, there's going to be another big noise! A trumpet is going to be blown. You're going to hear something that's going to sound louder than you ever heard at the ball park or the circus or the political rally or wherever, because this is going to be the biggest rally that was ever held!--Non-political, even non-religious, just the folks that love Jesus and that Jesus loves! All of us sinners saved by grace are going to be rallied, taken up to meet Jesus in the air! How about that? Isn't that wonderful?

Well, what are you going to be like? Over in Philippians the 3rd Chapter, He's talking about our opponents and all the trouble we have with them, 19th Verse: *"Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly and whose glory is in their shame, who mind Earthly things."* But then He says, *"For our conversation is in Heaven, from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself."*

What are you going to be like?—you're going to be like Jesus! What's your body going to be like? It's going to be like Jesus' resurrected glorious body! "According to the working"--or the power--"*whereby He is able to subdue all things unto Himself*"--including death! He's got that power to make your body become like His glorious body, even more glorious than you are today in the flesh! By comparison with which, this body of the flesh is even called a vile body. It's hard to live with sometimes,



sometimes it stinks, it's hungry, it's tired, it's heavy, it's sick, it's painful, it suffers, it groans, waiting to be delivered. Praise God, that deliverance is coming when it will be changed to a marvelous glorified body like the Body of Jesus Himself!

There's another good scripture to show you're going to be like Jesus over in 1 John 3rd chapter, beginning with the 1st verse, because he's talking about the Love of the Lord for us, and that's why we're going to get these beautiful gorgeous resplendent magnificent glorious Heavenly bodies: *"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God!"*--Daughters too! *"Therefore the World knoweth us not, because it knew Him not."* They haven't got any idea of what we're like, much less what we're going to be like. And you've hardly got any idea of what you're going to be like, compared to what you're like now! But we are trying to give you a little idea, some idea of what it's going to be like.

And he says in the second verse: "Beloved, now are we the sons of God." We're already sons and daughters of God, we're already His spiritually, and we already have glorified glorious spirits within, saved, happy and Heavenly hearts! *"And it doth not yet appear what we shall be"*--we don't know exactly what we're going to look like--*"but we know that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is."* Hallelujah! Think of that!

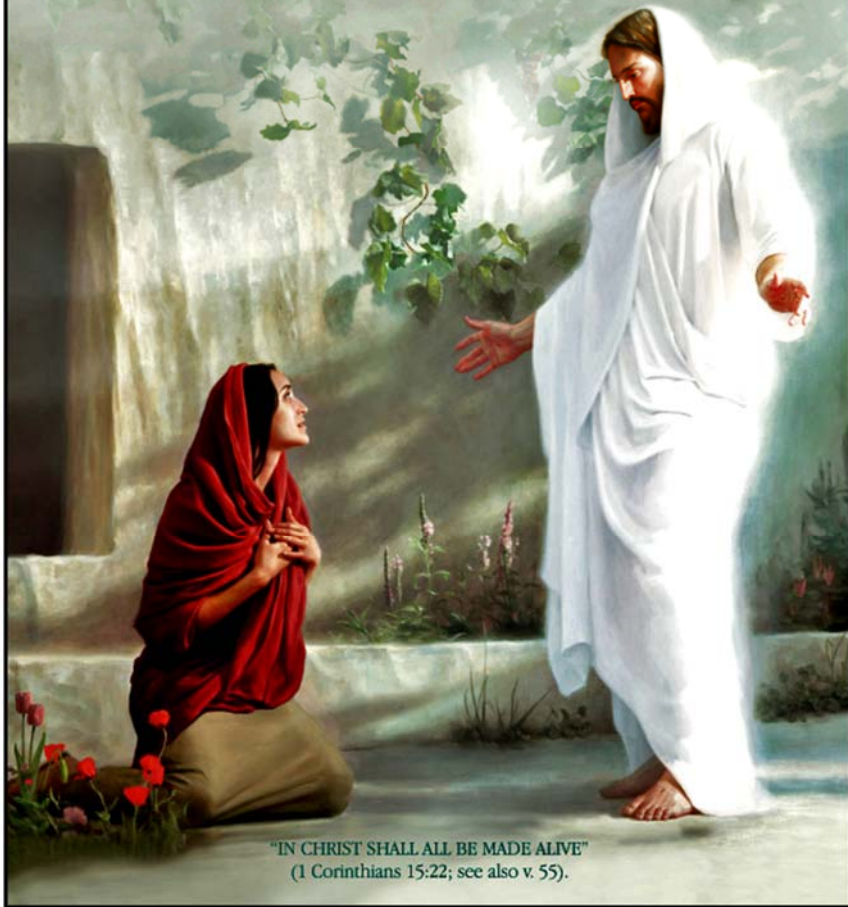
We're going to be like Jesus! We're going to look like Jesus did when He rose from the dead. We're going to look like Jesus when He descends from on high in glory in the clouds of Heaven to come catch up His Bride in the Rapture, to come up and love up with Him forever! He's going to come down in glory, we're going to be glorified and rise in glorious resurrected Heavenly raptured bodies just like His when He comes! *"For we shall see Him as He is."*

Praise God, we're going to see Jesus, He's going to see us and we're going to look alike! That doesn't mean we're all going to look just exactly like Jesus or each other, but it means we're going to have the same kind of bodies, the same kind of body that He has now and has had ever since His resurrection, the one in which He went to Heaven in and came back, visited in and still has today. We'll see him as He is and He'll see us as we are! *"We shall know even as also we are known,"* God's Word tells us! (1Cor.13:12)

1CO.15:55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? (Ho.13:14)

1CO.15:56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. (Ro.4:15)

DEATH, WHERE IS THY VICTORY?



The Lord said, "*Whosoever liveth and believeth on Me shall never die!*"--*At least we'll never experience death the way the World does. We'll never die. "I am the Resurrection, and the life: He that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die!"-- John 11:25, 26. That's even going further and saying we'll never die! You'll never die! You won't even feel death because the Lord already suffered it for you. "That He by the grace of God should taste death for every man!"-- Heb.2:9. That's what He must mean: We'll never die, we'll never feel death, because He's already taken the pain out of death for us. We don't even like to use the word "die" because it's not really death. It says in another place "they shall not see death." (Jn.8:51) And Paul says here, "Death, where is thy sting? Grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin."*

For us believers, death will have no sting because our sins are forgiven, and the grave will have no victory because we have won the victory over the grave through Christ, our salvation and our eventual resurrection. Our spirits are immediately free to go to be with the Lord, so it's not really death for us in the same way it is for others. We don't really die in the sense that they die. That's why we don't like to call it "dying" or "death", we prefer to call it graduation, passing on or promotion. It's just like passing from one room to another, and as you can see

and have read, it's a very beautiful experience for most people who know and love the Lord.

1CO.15:57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1CO.15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, **be ye steadfast, unmovable**, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that **your labor is not in vain in the Lord.**

Why is he talking about all this business about dying and being resurrected and heavenly bodies? There's a reason for it! What is He saying here? Be steadfast, unmovable, work hard for the Lord, because your labors are not in vain. You're going to inherit that marvelous Heavenly body and the Heavenly City before long! It's worth working for, saving for, suffering for, and worth being steadfast and unmovable for, always abounding in the work of the Lord, because we know our labor is not in vain. We are going to be rewarded with that stunning Heavenly body. Our labors are not in vain! Hallelujah! We're going to get that reward!



1 Thessalonians Chapter 4:13-18

Just after the darkest hour in World history, the Great Tribulation, we are going to have the brightest dawn! The brightest dawn comes after the darkest night, and Jesus is going to come back again and rescue His Own, His children, His church, His people, everyone who loves and knows Him, believes He is the Son of God, the Messiah, Yeshua Ha Messiah, who believes that He is the Savior of the World, the Jehovah of the Bible. He is going to come back to rescue us out of this world! He's going to say, "Stop the World! I want them to get off!" Hallelujah! And you're going to be caught up together with Him in the air, to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord! There's going to be hell on Earth as the judgments of God rain down, while we're having a great wedding feast and party up yonder in Heaven with the Lord!



The marvelous experience of the Rapture! It's the joining of the Bride to her Bridegroom. He's the man, we are the woman, the Bride of Christ. Our union with Him as we are caught up together with those who are resurrected from the dead is likened in His Word to the union of the Bride, the Church, with our Bridegroom, Jesus! And the event which follows is described as the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, the Marriage Feast of Jesus in which His Bride is joined to Him in a great wedding and a final union forever!--Never separated again, never to be apart again! Always with Him forever, living with us forever!

1TH.4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, **that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.**

Paul tells us that we “prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.” (2Cor. 5:8) **He also told the Philippians,** “For to me, to live is Christ **and to die is gain.** If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labour for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: **I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far;** but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.” (Ph. 1:21-24)

You see, the world at large has no true hope of what happens after death. Many people say, "Well, once you die, you die. You rot in the ground and are eaten by worms. You simply cease to exist." If we believed that, we'd do what the Bible says...If the dead are not raised, let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die. (1Cor. 15:32) But believers are not this way. When we understand what happens to a believer when they died, we do not grieve as those who have no hope. Paul had heard that the Thessalonian believers were troubled about those among them who had died. He used the gentle term "asleep" to describe these departed ones. We DO miss our loved ones who have gone to be with the Lord. And we DO long to be with them once more. Feelings like anger and depression DO exist in those who know such loss, even when they are in Christ. But there is indeed a difference. We know something, or rather we know SOMEONE the world does not know. We know the LORD, who gives us a sure hope that we will be with not only Him, but also with our loved ones once more. Our grief is not the same as "the rest who have no hope." (Eph.2:12)



1TH.4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so **them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.**

1TH.4:15 For this we say unto you **by the word of the Lord,** that **we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.**

1TH.4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

1TH.4:17 Then **we which are alive and remain** shall be caught up together **with them** in the clouds, **to meet the Lord in the air:** and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

“Even so they also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him” All the millions of them that have already gone to be with the Lord, they’re all going to come on that trip with Jesus when He comes back to get us, especially because they’re coming back to reclaim their bodies, their resurrected bodies, supernatural bodies, new bodies! It’s not the same old body. But if you didn’t believe it was the same body, there would be no resurrection. And that’s a part of the Apostle’s Creed: “I believe in the Resurrection of the Dead!” And if you don’t believe in the resurrection, then you don’t believe Jesus rose from the dead and we’re of all men most miserable. (1Cor.15:19). You have to believe that God is literally going to resurrect the physical bodies of the dead. It’s going to be the same body, but glorified, as God’s Word says. (1Cor. 15:40) It’s going to be so much the same and yet so different. Paul spent a considerable time trying to explain what it’s going to be like in 1st Corinthians chapter 15. Finally the apostle John just sort of gives up and says, “Well, all we know is **we shall be like Him.**” (1Jn.3:2)



1CO.15:51-53 Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but **we shall all be changed**, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, **at the last trump (that’s the seventh trumpet of tribulation)**: 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**.

PHI.3:20-21 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: **Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself**.

Well, He’s coming, there will be some big noises, and in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye you’ll be changed, completely transformed with your new body for your spirit, for you. In other words, you will get a new body, an actual body.--Not flesh and blood, but flesh and bone. Jesus said, “**Touch me, feel me, that it is I myself and not a ghost! For a spirit hath not flesh and bone as ye see me have.**” (Luk.24:39) Jesus already had His resurrection body, His supernatural, miraculous Heavenly body. But it was real enough they could

touch it and feel it! Think of it!--So much like the ones we have now. You're beautiful now, but you're going to be more beautiful than with your eternal body! You are going to look just about like you do right now or we wouldn't recognize each other. You'll be just absolutely glowing with eternal life, more beautiful than you've ever been, but not so different that we won't recognize you.

It says in Hebrews 12 we're surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. And here in Thessalonians it says that the Lord Himself will bring them with Him when He comes. Which means all the departed saints are going to come back with the Lord when He comes. It's part of the victory, and we're all going to rise to meet Him in the air. All of us! So you can imagine that's going to be quite a cloud of people, quite a cloud of spirits when the departed dead come back to get their resurrection bodies, all these bodies rising from the ground to be in Heaven! That will be quite a scene!

In the Rapture, "The dead in Christ shall rise first", then "we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with Him in the air. We shall not prevent them." --Literally meaning precede them in this case.

We're going to follow them in fact. In the resurrection, who's going to rise first? The dead in Christ! Not the dead in Moses or the dead before Christ. It's so plain! In other words, the Church!--Christians!

"For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God" at the Last Trump, that's when we go up! Paul says in another place, "*We shall all be changed, in an instant at the Last Trump!*" (1Co.15:52.) The Last Trump--that final trumpet is very important. When that seventh trumpet is blown you're going to find out we are going to be raptured out of this world right in the face of our enemies, just when they're trying to obliterate, absolutely massacre us and exterminate us, but they're not going to be able to do it!

You'll be changed when that trump begins to sound from the heavens to call you up to meet Jesus! It makes you wonder what it's going to sound like. It must be some trumpet to be heard all over the World by everybody! "...with a shout, and the Voice of the Archangel and the Trumpet shall sound." Three great big noises

when the Lord comes. He shouts, the Angel shouts and the Trumpet is blown! Praise God? Isn't that wonderful? You'll know when the Lord comes, you're going to hear it!--Not only see Him, but you're going to hear Him! The whole World is going to hear it!



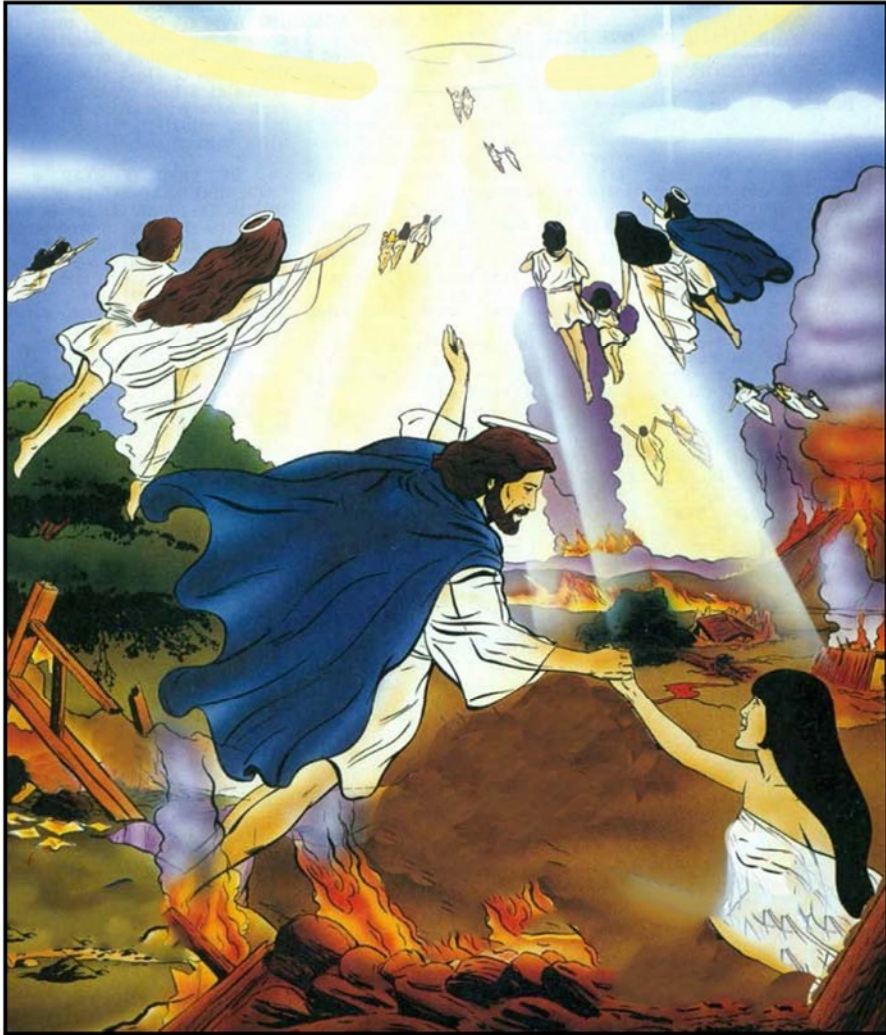
What a shock when suddenly all these people go up in the air right before their eyes! We don't believe in that stuff about everybody's just going to suddenly vanish and they're going to wonder where they went. Some preachers teach that kind of Rapture, the Secret Rapture, that suddenly all the Christians will just vanish into thin air and they'll wonder where they went! The Bible doesn't teach that at all! The Lord's going to come like lightning shining from the East to the West! ***“For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.”***(Mt.24:27) Have you ever seen when the lightning lit up the whole sky? Well, He's going to light up the sky more than that, where the whole sky is going to light up where it's daylight as well as where it's dark, so bright, the Lord coming brighter than the

sun, with big noises, big voices, trumpets! Wow!

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days...and then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” (MAT.24:29-31)

“The dead in Christ shall rise first, then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” We know some of us are going to be alive and remain at His coming because the Apostle Paul said so in this chapter. So are there going to be any Christians alive and remaining even at the end of the Antichrist rule? Yes, perhaps even millions!

The Antichrist horrible reign of terror, the worst the world has ever known, may even serve to turn millions toward the Lord again and away from this satanic man, knowing that he is not the Messiah! The Jews will finally recognize he's not the Messiah! Christians will see that he is certainly the Antichrist prophesied of! Perhaps even the Muslims will recognize that this is not the man,



not the Mahdi, the great one that they look for to come. So there may be millions of us still alive, still surviving whom God has marvelously protected.

1TH.4:18 Wherefore **comfort one another with these words.**

Jesus is going to come then in the clouds with lightning, thunder, earthquake, stars falling, moon darkened and sun blacked out!--Why?--So that the World will know they didn't just happen to suddenly stare at the sun and get blinded and think it was the sun, or they didn't get suddenly moonstruck or something and somebody tried to explain it away afterwards: "Oh, it was just lightning! Oh, it was just a sort of a sudden flare of the sun or a sudden little flare-up of the moon or something." God's going to blot all the other lights out so He can shine! Jesus can shine!



So the whole world's going to know something very unusual and very apocalyptic is happening! And it's going to be the Apocalypse for sure!--The revelation of Jesus Christ Himself coming in the heavens, in the clouds, in great power and glory, with the voice of the archangel and the trump of God; Christ Himself will shout and call us from every part of the Earth and we'll be gathered together to be with Him! "And so," He tells us, "shall we ever be with the Lord!"

Aren't you glad you're saved? Aren't you glad you're going to be there? Wow! Won't that be some feeling when all of a sudden you see and hear all of these things going on around

you and all of a sudden your clothes are changed to that beautiful wedding gown, and suddenly you feel

your body is changed! You feel like a young bride longing for her lover and you jump into the air and you don't come down again! You jump for joy for Jesus and you go sailing right off into the air clear on up into the clouds to be with the Lord! Praise God!

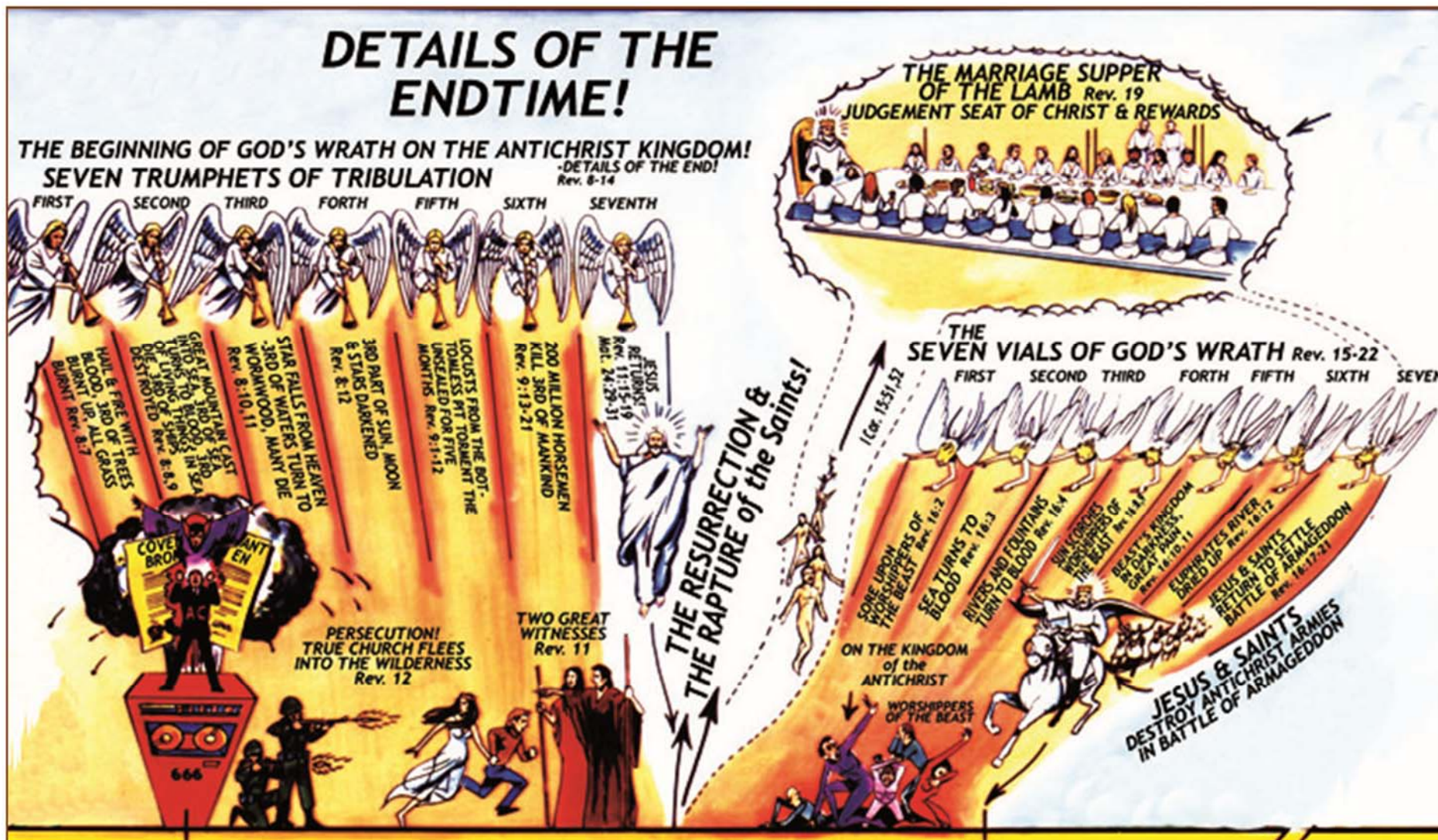


You will be glad the tribulation is over then; Jesus has come and we go to be with the Lord at the great Wedding Supper, the Marriage Feast of the Lamb in Heaven in that wonderful Holy City. We're going to travel nice and beautifully with the speed of thought right on out through space to meet Jesus in the air; then we're going to go on up with Him to that wonderful Heavenly City that's riding down through space right now on its way here! Hallelujah!--Where He's gone to prepare a place for us in our Father's house where there are many mansions. (Jn.14:2.)

"Wherefore comfort one another with these words." When do we comfort one another? After Jesus comes? No! When? Now! And especially when? When you're in the midst of the horrible Great Tribulation and you're having a tough time finding something to eat, you can't buy any groceries, you can't sell anything to get any money to buy anything with, you can't buy or sell 'cause you don't have the credit card that belongs to the Beast, you don't have the Mark, his credit card in your forehead or in the palm of your hand, and you're going

to have a tough time staying alive. These scriptures are going to be a great comfort to you to know, "Well, it's not many more days! If I can just hold out a little longer, praise God!"

It is important to remember that the Great Tribulation period with its 7 angels and 7 trumpets is a different and separated event from the Wrath of God and its 7 angels and 7 vials. According to the scriptures, the Lord returns for the rapture when the seventh trumpet sounds at the end of the Tribulation, to gather all the saved to be with him. (1 Cor.15:52, Mat.24:29-31, 1 Thes.4:16, 2 Thes.2:1-3) When we are safe with Him in Heaven, then begins the awful period of the wrath of God on those left on the earth. "For God hath not appointed us to wrath..." (1TH.5:9). We believe no Christian will be left behind during the Wrath of God!



1 THESSALONIANS CHAPTER 5:1-11

Be Ready!

1TH.5:1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

We shouldn't be ignorant of the times or the seasons. Paul says that we shouldn't be ignorant that these future events should catch us by surprise, but that we should know what to expect and be ready for it. (1Thes. 4.) That's why we are studying together so we'll know whereof we speak and be ready to give an answer for the faith that's within us. (1Pet.3:15.) *"Faith comes by hearing the Word of God!"* (Ro.10:17.)

As the days of His second coming get closer, you're going to want to know more and more details of what's happening--where is this in the Bible, and what's next? And amazingly enough, the Lord has left people guessing and hanging in suspense for hundreds of years, sometimes thousands of years, wondering what was going to happen, but they didn't need to know yet. But now that the hour is come that the End is almost upon us, the Lord gets more and more specific and reveals greater and greater details, even years, months, days, so you would know more exactly where you are in the end time schedule. In Daniel and Revelation, He tells exactly the length of the Antichrist's reign in years, then He gives you exactly when the Image of the Beast is going to be set up, and exactly how long the Tribulation is going to last. Then He begins to even number it in days, because you'll be counting the days if you happen to live at that time! (Da.9:27; Rev.11:3; Rev.13:5) So we shouldn't be ignorant of the times and the seasons.

In this chapter, Paul follow up on what he wrote on the Resurrection and Rapture in the preceding chapter 4 and now the subject is "being ready" and the best way to be ready is to study and know the Word.



Dan.11:32-33 ... the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits. And they that understand among the people shall instruct many...

DAN.12:10 Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.

1TH.5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

Mat.24:42-44 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this that **if the good man of the house had known** in what watch the thief would come, **he would have watched**, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. **Therefore be ye also ready:** for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

Jesus is going to come like a thief in the night! What? God's Word is comparing Jesus to a thief? Yes! Not only God's Word, but Jesus Himself. He's saying, "I'm going to come like a thief in the night!"--Not that you're not going to know when it happens, but it'll be so sudden that some are going to be caught by surprise! Some will not expect it and will not be prepared and ready.

But He says to us, "Who then is a faithful and wise servant whom his Lord has made ruler over his household to give them meat in due season? **Blessed** is that servant whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, that **he shall make him ruler over all his goods**"!(Mat.24:45-47)

Who is the Lord going to bless when the time comes? Who is the Lord going to make ruler over all His goods, one of the rulers in the Millennium?--That servant which the Lord finds feeding His sheep, His household, when He comes, taking care of His sheep.

He's going to come like a thief in the night to others, to the world and the unsaved, but not to us! That's the difference! He says, you don't have to be told the times and seasons, you already know these things! Because you will know and recognize His coming when He comes, you have studied the Word and are ready!"



1TH.5:3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

Dan.11:21, 24 "He shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries. He shall enter peaceably even upon the fattest places of the province; he shall do that which his fathers have not done, nor his fathers' fathers; he shall scatter among them the prey, and spoil, and riches..."

This guy, the Antichrist, he works deceitfully, he's very clever, he deceives the people, he lies to them, promises them things. And this one big promise he makes is going to be called the Holy Covenant, which the Bible speaks of again and again.--That's the biggest lie he ever told!--In which he promises the World peace, religious freedom, Jerusalem internationalized and no more war between the Jews and the Arabs and the Christians, he promises them everything. But right in the middle of the seven years he breaks it! (Dan.9:27)

Dan.8:25 "By peace shall he destroy many!" When the Antichrist takes over the World and establishes his worldwide kingdom, his worldwide anti-God government, he says, "Peace and safety! Everything's going to be peaceful and safe now.--No more wars, everything's going to be secure, prosperity on Earth, everybody's going to have plenty, and my kingdom's going to be a kingdom of Heaven on Earth, peace and safety!"

Psa.55:20-21 He hath put forth his hands against such as be at peace with him: he hath broken his covenant. The words of his mouth were smoother than butter ('Peace, Peace'), but war was in his heart: his words were softer than oil, yet were they drawn swords.

But "When they shall say, peace and safety, then sudden destruction cometh upon them." He makes the Covenant as a World Peace Treaty and everything is going fine, he's going to make everybody happy and



have World peace until he's finally got everything firmly in his grip. "After the League (Covenant) made with him, he shall work deceitfully and he shall come up and shall become strong with a small people." (Dan.11:23)

"And in the midst of the week (7-years covenant period), he shall cause the (Jewish) sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of Abomination he shall make it desolate!" (Dan.9:27) At the end of 3-1/2 years he breaks the Covenant, makes Jerusalem his capital, places the Abomination of Desolation in the Holy Place, proclaims himself God, and attempts to enforce worldwide worship of himself and his Image--a time of "Great Tribulation"! Jesus said, "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 Judaea flee into the mountains... For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." (Mat.24:15, 16, 21)



1TH.5:4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

God's prophets are well informed:

AMO.3:7 Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

REV.10:7 But in the days...of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

1TH.5:5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

"For you brethren," the apostle Paul tells us, "are not in darkness, that that day (of Christ's second coming) should overtake you as a thief!" In other words, it shouldn't take you by surprise! "Ye are all the children of light, the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness." We're not in the dark. We're not in the dark on this question. We know Jesus is coming, and from His Word we know how He's going to come! The Bible tells us plainly!--It couldn't be any plainer!

If you want to look at for just a moment with us in Matthew, you can see right in Matthew 24, to make it very clear, Matthew 24:29-30:

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days!" What comes first? Tribulation! See it right there in your Bible? Glue your eyes to that, stay with it, because we've got two or three verses to read here: ***"Immediately after the Tribulation of those days"--when?--After the Tribulation! Is that clear enough? "Shall the sun be darkened and the moon shall not give her light, the stars shall fall from Heaven."*** Jesus is speaking, mind you now, can you believe Jesus? ***"And the powers of the heavens shall be shaken!"*** Does that sound like He's coming secretly?



"Then shall appear the sign of the son of man in Heaven!" Are they going to see it? How can a sign appear if they don't see it? ***"And then shall all the tribes of the Earth mourn."*** What are they mourning about if they don't even know what happened? What are they crying about if it was so secret that nobody knew what happened?--If just suddenly a lot of Christians disappeared and they don't even know what became of them?

It's not going to happen that way, Jesus said so right here! Not only that, He didn't say it was going to be before the Tribulation, He said after the Tribulation! Plain as day! The sun will be darkened and the moon will not give her light, stars fall from Heaven, powers of the heavens shaken, sign of the Son of man in Heaven, all the tribes of the Earth mourning! My God! What could be more cataclysmic, catastrophic, noisy, dramatic, terrific

and more obvious than this kind of coming of the Lord! And it says specifically after the Tribulation!

"And they shall see"--Who? Just the church? Just the Christians? No! The whole World is going to see Jesus come! Everybody on Earth! It's going to be the biggest Light Show that ever happened!

He's going to sweep right around the world gathering together His elect from the four winds! Everybody on every side of the Earth is going to see it happen! Think of that! How do we know? Because on one side

of the Earth the sun's going to be darkened! On the other side of the Earth, the moon won't give its light! He's going to go right around the World and collect us all! Isn't that wonderful?

"And they shall see the son of man coming in the clouds of Heaven with power and great glory!" What good is it going to be if all this power and great glory are going to be a secret and nobody's going to see it? All that doctrine of Pre-Trib Rapture of the Church, secretly caught out by the Lord in a secret coming before the Tribulation is unscriptural!

1TH.5:6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

What does he say? He says, "You're not children of the night. You're not supposed to be sleepy and asleep when it happens. You're children of day, children of light! You're supposed to be wide awake and have the light on these things!

You're supposed to know what's happening and when they're going to happen! You're not children of darkness, you're not in the dark about all these Bible prophecies. You're not in the dark about the things that are going to happen! You won't be surprised when they come. You won't be surprised when the Antichrist arises and reveals himself. You won't be surprised when he proclaims a worldwide government of peace and signs a seven-year peace-pact amongst the religions, a holy Covenant that he proclaims to be holy, inviolate.

And neither will you be surprised when he breaks the peace pact right in the middle of it, and from then on there's nothing but trouble and war. It won't take you by surprise. You don't have to be stunned and you don't have to somehow or another be mystified by it, or in any way astonished! You're expecting it! You're wondering why it hasn't happened sooner! You're expecting it every day! Because as the World waxes worse and worse, and times get worse and worse, evil men and seducers worse and worse, Jesus said that's the way it'll be when He comes again.



"As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also when the Son of Man cometh. For they married and were given in marriage," He says, "and they planted and they reaped and they builded, and they knew not until the flood came and swept them all away!" (Mt.24:37-39, Lk.17:26-28) Who knew not?--The wicked! Who knew?--Noah! He knew what was going to happen, he was expecting it! He was not one of those who knew not.--He knew!

And we Christians today just like Noah and his family then, we know it's going to rain the judgments of God soon! We know that Jesus is coming soon! We know the Antichrist is going to be revealed even before that, and these things will come as no surprise to us. God told us in advance so that we won't worry about it. We will know exactly what and how and why it's happening, it's all been described in His Word already.

It won't catch us by surprise like a thief in the night as it will the rest of the world! They won't be expecting it. Especially when Jesus comes, they will really be shocked then when they see all the graves open and the bodies of the dead rise in the Resurrection! And all of us that they've been persecuting and trying to kill, torture, imprison and trying to make us take their Mark of the Beast and worship his Image, suddenly we'll rise right out of their hands, they can't even touch us! They can't even reach us anymore!



1TH.5:7 For they that sleep, sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

1TH.5:8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for a helmet, the hope of salvation.

Paul is now developing his comment of the preceding verse 7, taking it from an observation about the culture around him, into a look at the way we are supposed to be when we are in Christ. We are to be "sober," which he relates to being a people "of the day." And in doing it, he uses a favorite analogy of his, in which he compares our walk in Christ to the uniform worn by a Roman soldier. We see this imagery in more detail within the context of Ephesians 6:10 and forward, in which the "breastplate" refers to "righteousness" and "faith" is described as a "shield."

1TH.5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

The church may suffer some tribulation, a spanking from the Lord once in a while, but they're not going to go through the period of the Wrath of God because we will have been raptured already. "For God hath not appointed us to wrath." Only the wicked, only those who have totally rejected Jesus, are reserved for this fate.

Joh.3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; **but the wrath of God abides on him.**

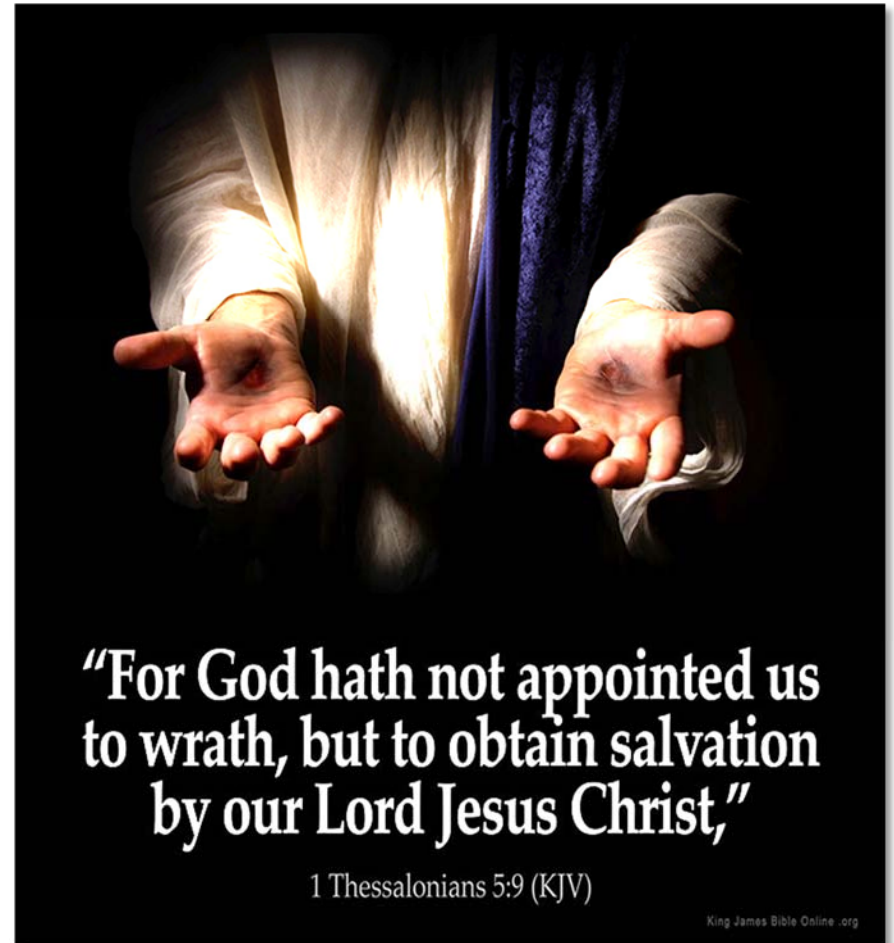
1TH.5:10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

1TH.5:11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

In conclusion:

The purpose of Bible prophecy is to prepare you for the future, so that you will not be in ignorance, as the Apostle says, or found in darkness. But rather ye are the children of light and these things will not come upon you as a thief in the night, unexpected or by surprise. You will have no "mighty widening of the eyes, as those who are not aware of the signs of the times", but you will see them in advance, you will recognize these events as they begin to transpire and you will be able to specifically know that "*this is that which was spoken of by the Prophet*" (Acts 2:16) which he was describing in a certain Scripture. Therefore you will know exactly what is happening or about to happen and you will know that this is what God was talking about: "This is it! We're here! We have arrived at this point, we are now in this period, and this is that event!"--And you will therefore know how to respond and react to it and what to expect as you have prepared for it in your heart for years with your knowledge of His Word.

"Ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky and of the earth; but how is it that ye do not discern this time?" (Lu.12:56) Jesus obviously chastised the religious leaders of His day for not knowing, at least,





the signs of the prophetic 'times' in which they were living. Because of their failing in this matter, they actually missed the foretold coming of their own Messiah. Therefore, we believe it is extremely important that God's people keep a serious eye upon appropriate prophetic interpretations and the current world events that may well match them.

This is what Bible Prophecy is all about, this is what Bible Prophecy is for, that God in His mercy is telling you in advance what's going to happen so you will not be in fearfulness of the unknown, and preparing you in advance for things to come.

Therefore
ENCOURAGE
one another & build up each other
as indeed you are doing.
1 Thessalonians 5:11

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2 Thessalonians Chapter 2

2TH.2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

2TH.2:2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

Mar.13:27 And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.

Now, notice that verse. When Jesus comes, what's going to happen? We're going to be gathered together to Him. He says, "We beseech you by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto Him." He certainly cannot possibly be talking about anything else but the coming of the Lord, can he? "When we are gathered together unto Him". The Rapture! Isn't that the Rapture? Plain as day, isn't it? "That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word"--there are a lot of false spirits around misguiding people too--"nor by letter as from us." In other words, a forged letter.

1Jn.4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.



He says, "Don't get all shook up to think that the Lord is just about to come!" A lot of people were probably saying, "The Lord's going to come any moment! Any moment!" This is exactly what many Christians are preaching today. The Evangelicals, Fundamenta-lists etc. are preaching the "any moment" doctrine that Christ could come at any moment, right now! No, He can't, because He won't!--Because all the prophecies haven't been fulfilled yet. The World hasn't gotten bad enough yet, its cup of iniquity is not filled. You think it's bad now? Wait till the Antichrist comes! You think conditions are bad? Wait till the Tribulation! Things are not done yet.

2TH.2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: **for that day shall not come, except there comes a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;**

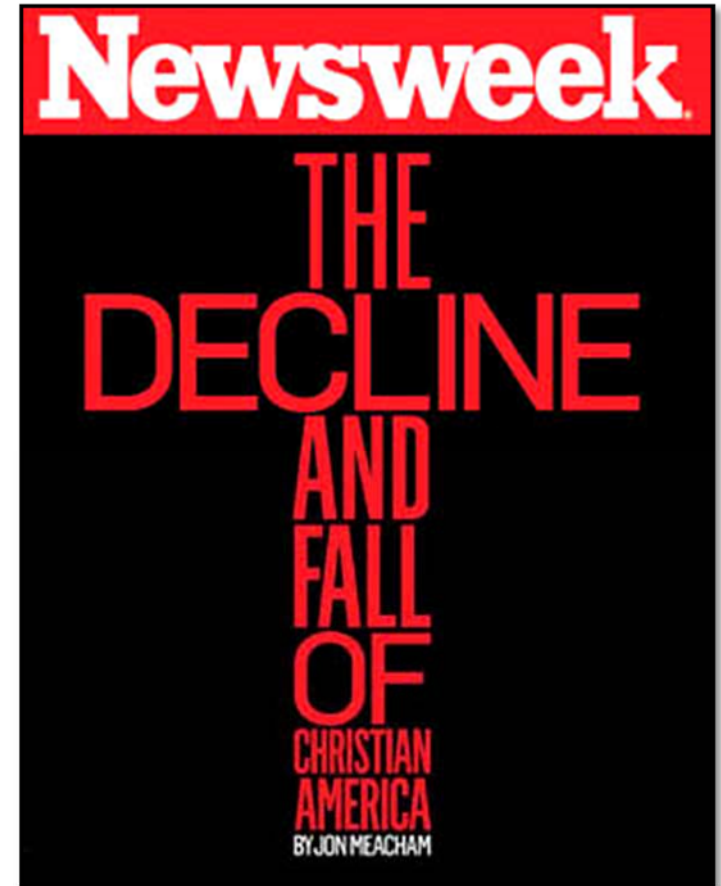
This means that the day of Christ cannot happen till two things come first:

1) The falling away, which in the Greek means "apostasy" or departing from the faith. This has been happening throughout all church history, but in these last days it will become, and is becoming, greater.

2) The "man of sin" has to be revealed. This is the man commonly referred to throughout Bible prophecy as the Antichrist, the End Time world dictator.

Paul said, "Don't let anybody deceive you! Jesus is not coming right now. He can't come right now!" He is saying there are some other things that have got to happen before He comes, and so he goes on to say what they are:

"For that day shall not come"—what day? The day of Jesus' coming! The day of our gathering together to Him. He says, "That day shall not come except there comes a falling away first", that means a loss of faith, a cooling off of the Churches and the believers.--A Worldliness having entered into the Church and amongst Christians, a falling away of Church attendance and belief and faith in God. There's a great falling away taking place throughout the world because of unbelief and the false doctrine of evolution, loss of faith in God, loss of faith in His Creation, loss of faith in the Bible. When did you ever see such an age of sceptics, agnostics, unbelievers and just downright atheists against God? A horrible falling away!



"Then shall that man of sin be revealed." It sounds like and maybe it means when he reveals himself to the World, his true character and nature, what he's really up to. That Scripture seems more like when he takes over, sets up his idol and sits in the Temple as God saying that he is God. **"Then shall that man of sin be revealed"--the Antichrist!**

We think the Christians and God's people, students of Bible prophecy, are going to recognize him before that! But only then will he really reveal himself to the World so that they will see who he really is and what he's up to: Reveal himself to them as their god, and his image to be worshipped, etc. You understand? But we, Christians, should recognize him long before that.

EPH.5:6 Let no man deceive you with vain words...

2TH.2:4 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.

In this verse we are given a glimpse of the nature of that person. Something of his character was revealed 2000 years ago, so that those who live at the time of his appearing will see him for what he is. What's going to happen before Jesus comes? Paul is telling us here very plainly! He said, "For that day shall not come except there come this falling away first and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition." **The son of Hell! The son of the Devil! The man of sin!** "Who opposeth & exalteth himself above all that is called God."



Dan.7:25 And he shall speak great words against the most High...

Dan.8:11 Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of the sanctuary was cast down.

Dan.11:36 And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods...

This is what Daniel also prophesied and wrote about that "man of sin". (See the Daniel classes) He said clearly that he exalts himself above all gods and tells the World to worship him and his Image. And John

tells us the same thing in Revelation the 13th Chapter, that he sets up his idol there in the holy place and commands everybody to worship him; everybody who refuses to worship him as God is to be killed.--So that he as God sitteth in this new rebuilt Temple of the Jews in Jerusalem.

REV.13:5-6, 8 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue **forty and two months**. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And **all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him**, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

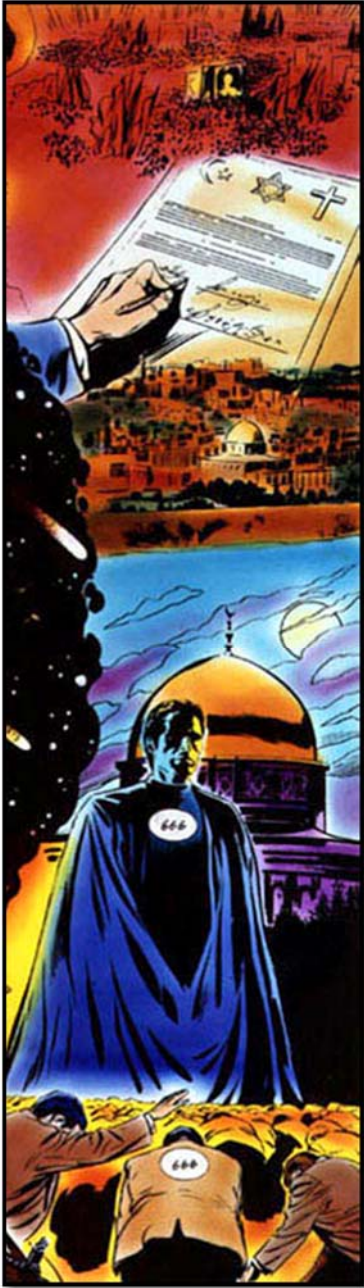
REV.13:15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and **cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed**.



“So that he as God sitteth in the temple of God” Now obviously that can’t happen until the temple is rebuilt, and it is not rebuilt yet! But the Jews have got all the materials there stored in warehouses to rebuild the Temple. That’s common knowledge, it’s been in the newspaper many times. They say they could rebuild it within a few months once they get the clearance and go-ahead and are able to be sure it will be safe to do so. But right now they’ve got a little problem, the Mosque of Omar is sitting there on the same hill a few yards away from the original Temple site. It’s the Dome of the Rock, it covers the altar which was out in front of the Temple. So quite a few things have to happen before he can do what it says here he’s doing!

least at first they will think he is the Messiah) tells them it’s safe and he’s internationalized and made Jerusalem an open city for all religions and all peoples. And just about three years later he’s going to declare that he is God, set up his own idol right there in the Temple area, a gigantic Image of himself, and command the whole World to worship it, to worship him!

And then he himself is going to go into that rebuilt temple of the Jews, their most holy place in the whole World, and he's going to sit down upon his throne in the Temple of God, saying that he is God! "So that he as God sitteth in the Temple of God, showing himself that he is God!" There it is, right here in the Bible! That's what's going to happen first, before Jesus comes!



2TH.2:5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

2TH.2:6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

2TH.2:7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

2TH.2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

Isa.11:4 But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth: **with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.**

"And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time." He says, in other words, the Lord's just holding things back until the Antichrist will be revealed in his time. "For the mystery of iniquity" That's what the Antichrist and his kingdom are! A mystery of iniquity that's going to be so diabolical, so devilish, so fiendish, that it's going to be a mystery of iniquity! He said, "Doth already work!" The Devil was busy working in Paul's day too, wasn't he? John also said: "*Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists...*" (1JN.2:18)

"Only He who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way." He who now lets the Antichrist forces and the Devilish fiendish forces operate like they do today, God, is now letting them more or less do what they please. He's going to let them keep on doing that until he be taken out of the way. Now, another meaning of this, you can take it either way, that way, or the original meaning of this old English word "let" was meant to mean "prevent", or "hold back". He who now prevented the Antichrist and the Devil from taking over the World, will keep on preventing it, or withholding it--this flood of iniquity, this

flood of evil that's going to take over the World when the Antichrist and the Devil reign as king and god-- until he's taken out of the way.

God so far has been holding back the floodtide of evil and iniquity, the flood of satanic forces! He's been holding them back! But one of these days soon the restraining power of God is going to be removed like a dam, is going to be taken away, and a whole lot of iniquity is going to flood the World under the reign of the Devil himself in person, the person of the Antichrist!

Upon receiving Paul's "second" letter, the Thessalonians were now reminded of what he had personally told them before regarding the time when the Messiah would come and gather his believing church. Paul tell us that the apostasy must come first and the Evil one must be revealed. These two events were standing in the way of the Messiah's second coming. They were actually restraining and delaying the coming of the day of Lord! When that person who is hindering the arrival of Christ finally makes his appearance, he will be revealed for who he is, "*that Wicked one.*" And the Lord will come and destroy him by the splendor of His *coming*.

An Alternative Translation of 2 Thessalonians 2:6-8a could be:

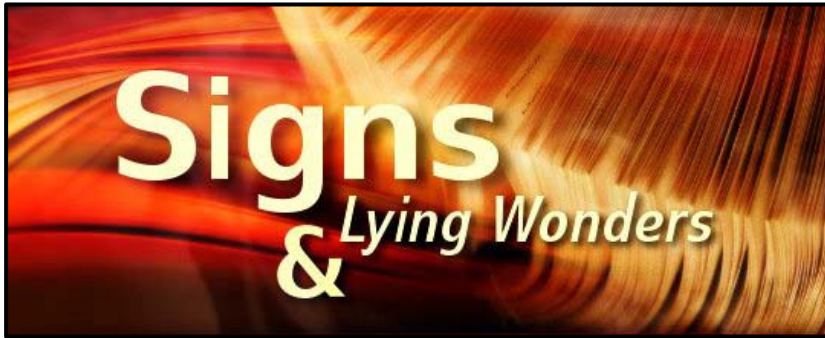
"And now you know what is delaying *the day of the Lord*, so that He might be revealed in His time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. He who delays *the day of Christ does so* only now, until he arrives from *our* midst, and then he will be revealed for who he is - "the Wicked One" - whom The Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth, and destroy by the splendor of His coming." (See Rev.19:20)

"And then shall that Wicked be revealed." You notice "Wicked" is capitalized in most Bibles? It means that Wicked One. Again Paul is writing the third time about "revealed", he's going to be revealed then. How else is he going to have an Image, how else is he going to sit in the Temple unless he's revealed? He's certainly going to be revealed by that time and possibly even long before that. We don't know for sure, but that's when we will certainly



know. We will know even when this Covenant is signed that he's around, whether it's signed in secret or publicly or whatever. "And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming!" **Again it shows that the Antichrist comes first and is revealed before His coming and the rapture!**

2TH.2:9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,



Rev.13:2 ...and the dragon (the devil) gave him (the Beast) his power, and his seat, and great authority

Dan.8:24 And his power (the Antichrist) shall be mighty, but not by his own power. (The devil's power)

Mat.24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

2TH.2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

2TH.2:11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

... The Bible says that if they reject the Truth, "God will send them strong delusion that they might believe a lie, that they might all be damned who received not the love of the Truth".--**He'll send a lie!**

God Himself will send them strong delusion and deceive them because they refused the truth and they were wicked and deserve to believe a lie because they didn't want to believe the Truth! So God lied to them, deceived them, deluded them and damned them!

The Bible prophesies that in the Last Days, "*the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine (the truth); but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears (ears that want to be tickled with lies!); and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables!*" (2Ti.4:3, 4) This time has come, these days are here, their ears have turned from the truth and are turned unto fables!--Like evolution!

"Because they received not the love of the truth..." And if you don't like the truth, you've only got one alternative--a lie!--And damnation! If they don't understand the Gospel, if they reject it, then the Lord allows the devil to sort of blind their eyes. What does it say? "*In whom the god of this World hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God,*

should shine unto them." (2Cor.4:4) Having rejected the Gospel, the Lord allows the Devil to then blind them and give them strong delusion that they might believe a lie, that they might be damned. They don't deserve it anymore. When they reject it, they've rejected the Holy Spirit and committed the unpardonable sin--rejecting Jesus Christ. (Mt.12:31, 32)

2TH.2:12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

1Jn.4:5 *They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.*

Joh.5:43 *I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, (like the Antichrist) him ye will receive.*

Do you think the vast part of the world is going to believe? Yes, they will, but not in Jesus. They're going to believe, all right, they're going to believe in the Antichrist that he's the Messiah, they're going to fall down and worship him and accept his Mark, 666, in their foreheads or in the palm of their hands and be doomed to die and go to Hell, because they refused to believe in the true Messiah, and they rejected the message of Jesus. They'll believe all right, "For He shall send them strong delusion that they might believe a lie that they might be damned!"

They'll believe in a lie, the false Messiah, his false prophet and his false image; they'll obey, worship him and take his Mark. They will be firm believers and followers of their god, the false one, the Devil himself! They'll show their true colors then, what they've been all the time, children of the "Wicked one", including some "*which say they are Jews but are not, but are of the Synagogue of Satan!*" (Re.3:9)

Well, if living water of Truth comes out of our mouths, what comes out of the Devil's? Dead water. His water, his word is always lies, "*When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own; for he is a liar, and the father of it.*" (Jn.8:44)

Joh.7:38 *He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.*



2TH.2:13 But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

2TH.2:14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2TH.2:15 Therefore, brethren, **stand fast**, and **hold the traditions which ye have been taught**, whether by word, or our epistle.

2TH.2:16 Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, **which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace**,

2TH.2:17 **Comfort your hearts, and stablish you** in every good word and work.

Conclusion:

Don't expect Jesus to come along pretty soon, any moment to catch you out of this world on a bed of rose and help you escape from the Tribulation and the Antichrist, his forces, the Mark of the Beast and compulsory worship of his Image! We're sorry if it comes to you as a surprise that you might have to live through the Tribulation, but that's what the Bible teaches! That's what the Bible says! That's the Truth! And we have read it to you here from many Scriptures: In the Words of Jesus, the Words of Paul, the Words of John, various ones, the Words of God's Holy Spirit written in His Holy Book! It's the Holy Bible! It says so right here.

Not the adulterated polluted word of some who try to give you that soft-soap, false peace prophets, telling you "peace, peace", when there is no peace.--"Peace and safety" when there's sudden destruction! Don't believe them! Jesus said, "Don't believe it but believe what I tell you! (Mat.24:23-27) This is the way I'm going to come! You'll know it when I come! I'm not going to come secretly, here, there, but the whole World's going to know it when I come, you're going to know it! And the whole World's going to see you go up and be with Me in Heaven!"

And before His second coming, Paul said, the Antichrist has got to come with his tribulation and his image, sitting in the Temple of God, that Jewish Temple, and claiming that he's God, trying to force everybody to worship him as God, the Devil himself in the flesh!--The Devil finally trying to do what he always wanted to do, be what he always wanted to be, God Himself! And trying to force the World to worship him.--Not voluntarily, but by force! It's all written right here in the Book! We've read it to you, it's the truth! Now the rest is up to you, are you going to believe it and receive it? (See chart next page.)

Take time to study the possible order of events before the coming of the Lord.

Last week = 7 years* or 2520 days

*Jewish year of 360 days

The 2300 days of the daily sacrifice spoken in Daniel 8:13-14??

3½ years or 1260 days

Half Point

3½ years or 1260 days

The daily sacrifice begins?? Dan.8:13-14

The Antichrist confirms the Covenant for one week. The temple is rebuilt??

Dan.9:27, Dan.11: 23, 30, 32 .

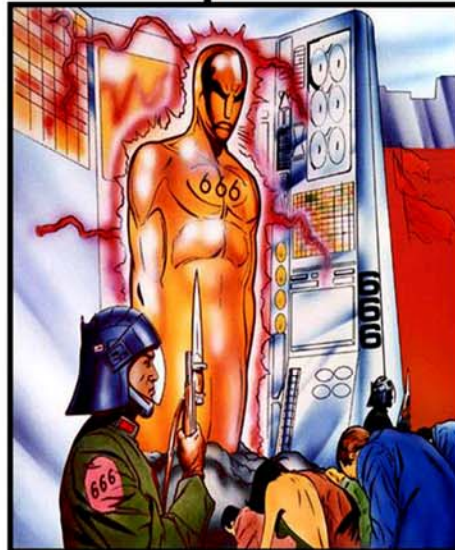
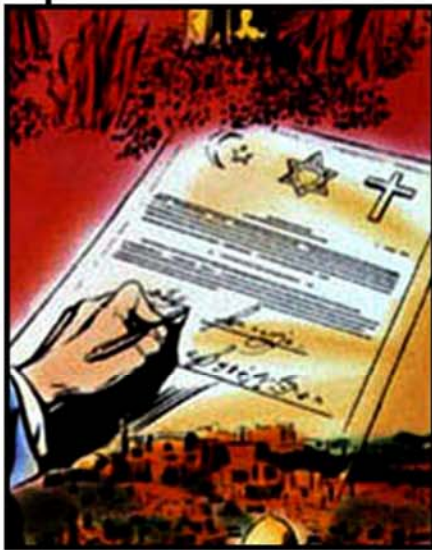
The Antichrist causes the sacrifice to cease. Dan.9:27; Dan.8:11-12; 2 Thes.2:3-4.

He sets up the abomination of desolation and the Mark of the Beast. Dan.11:31, Mt.24:15, Rev13:14-18.

Great Tribulation begins. Mat.24:21-22; Dan.12:1; Rev.8:6.

Jesus returns and the Rapture!

Mt.24:29-31,
2 Thes.2:1
Rev.11:15,
Dan.7:13-14
1Thes.4:16-17
1 Cor.15:51-52



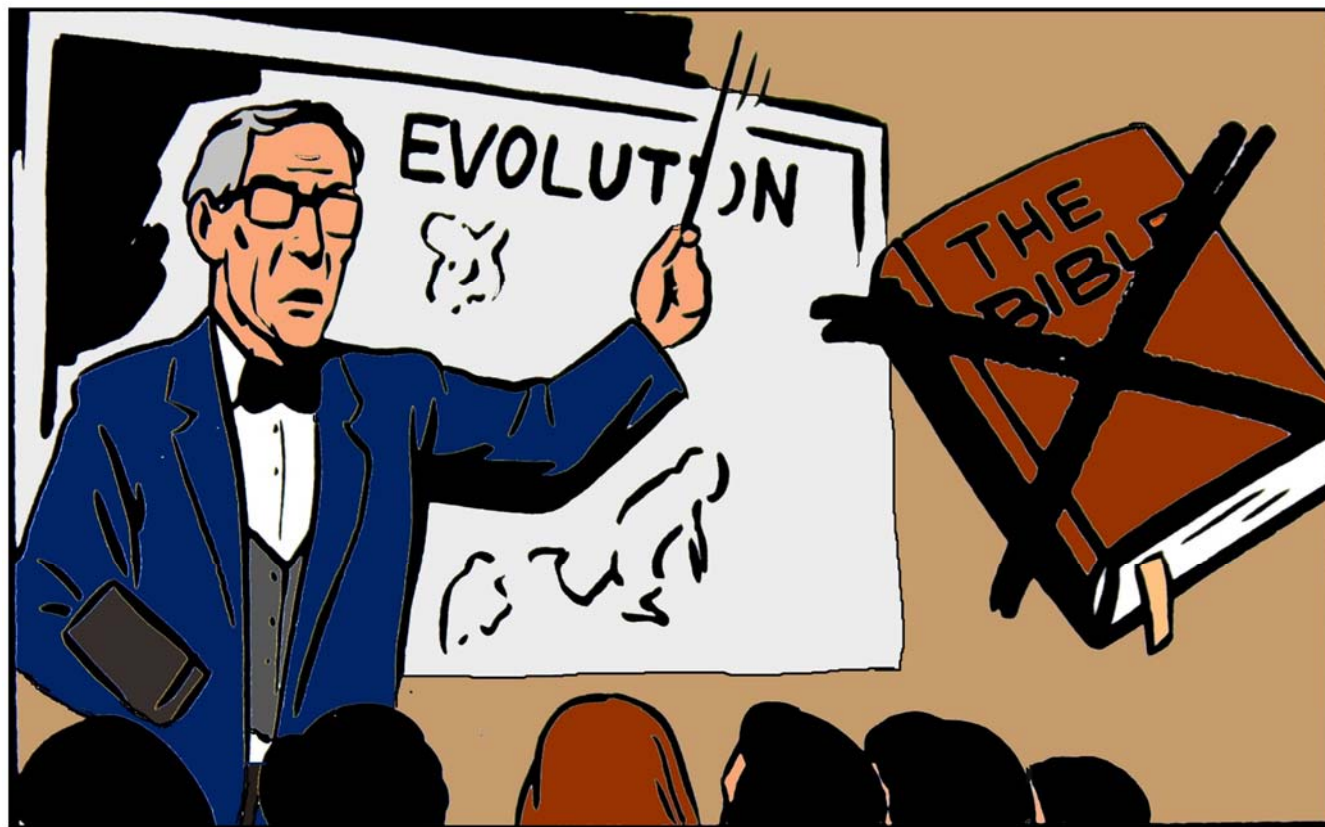
1 Timothy Chapter 4 (Verse 1 to 6)

1TI.4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

It is likely that every person on earth is curious about what is going to happen next. "What does the future hold?" we wonder. The future exists, but we cannot see it but God does! But if you really want to see what the future holds, here in these verses is the Holy Spirit of God, who does see, giving us glimpses about the end of all things. What is going to happen? Faith in the Lord, which is our only way of becoming right in the sight of God, is lessening in today's world. "Modern" people don't want to trust in Jesus Christ. In this verse we find that exactly such a lessening of faith is a sign of the end of all things.

2TH.2:3 ...for that day shall not come, except there comes a falling away first...

Entire countries of former Christianity have abandoned their faith for the false teaching of evolution, for which there is no foundation in proven fact whatsoever, just pure theories, fantasy and guesswork! That is the basic teaching which has replaced Christianity: Evolution, which is the survival of the fittest, dog-eat-dog and might is right! So what's happened to the former Christian faith?--It's out the window, even out the windows of some churches! Thanks largely to Charles Darwin and his evolutionary "doctrine of devils".





The result has been total anarchy and chaos! After all, if there is no Creator nor Creation, then life is just a meaningless, chaotic process of Evolution! If there's no God, then there's no Ruler. And if there's no Ruler, then there are no rules! And if there are no rules or laws, then nothing is either right or wrong! They say-- "A monkey is your God and you might as well 'do

your own thing' and do as you please.--Do whatever you want to do! It doesn't matter! Nothing's right! Nothing's wrong! It's merely relative and blah blah blah!" "Me first, and to Hell with the rest of you!!"

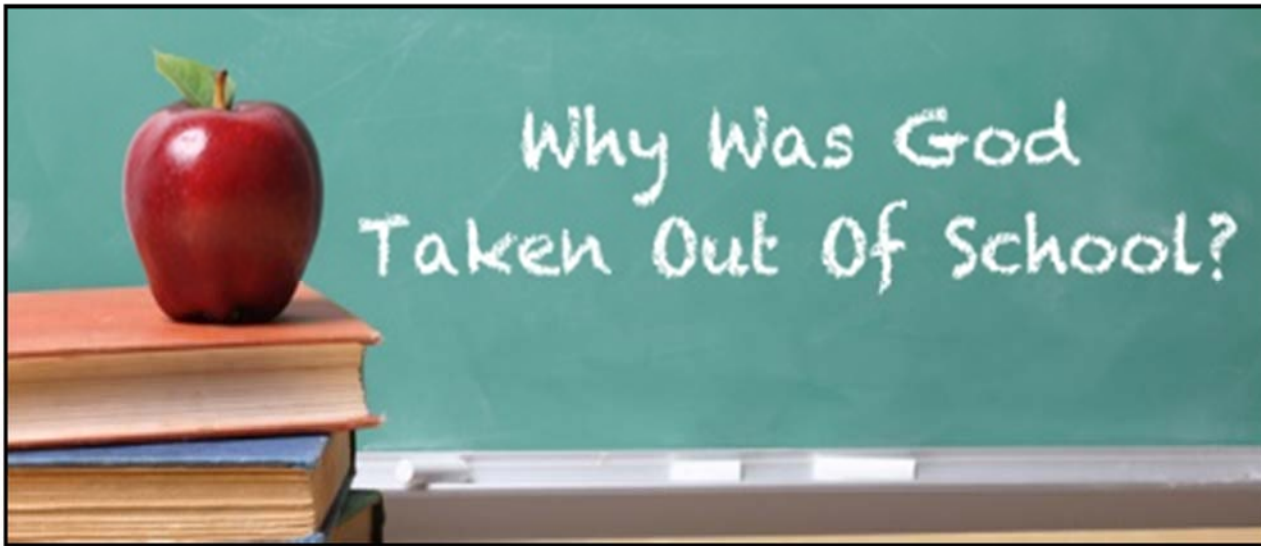
The late U.S. Supreme Court Justice, Frederick Moore, summed things up perfectly when he said, "*Nothing is more certain in modern society than the principle that there are no absolutes!*" To abandon the Ruler they had to throw away all the rules, to abandon the One Who gives the orders they had to abandon order, and the result is chaos! To get rid of God they had to get rid of the absolutes--the right and the wrong and the meaning and the reason for things--and the result is insanity, madness!

Another prediction regarding the End time which has found obvious fulfilment has to do with the tremendous and unprecedented upsurge and interest in the occult, psychic phenomena, astrological forecasts, new age belief systems, spiritism, demonology and witchcraft which the World is experiencing today: of course, if people have rejected and refused to receive the Gospel, the Truth, God's Word says that God Himself will then send them strong delusion that they might believe a lie! (2Th.2:10-12) When people refuse the Truth, there is nothing left for them to believe but a lie, so they are then wide open for the liars and the false prophets. "*For many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many!*" (Mt.24:11)



1TI.4:2. Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

They become "*seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron.*" Historically, severe wounds have often been treated by cauterizing the injury with a hot iron. The idea has been to stop the bleeding with an initially painful act that will prolong life. And that's what is happening in our world today. People have heard the truth that faith in Jesus Christ is necessary to find God, but they would rather try to save themselves through religious acts that are like the "doctrines of demons" in Verse 1. At first it is painful, but the wound in the soul that comes from rejecting the Lord must be stopped from bleeding and all too many choose to become "seared in their own conscience," eventually no longer feeling the pain of rejecting God.



Satan has deceived most of the people who are on Earth today and has led them astray, out of the Will of God and against God! So that now they have taken God and the Bible out of their schools and Christ even out of Christmas, out of their governments and even out of some of their churches, where they merely preach social service and pious platitudes of the social gospel!--Modernists who no longer believe the Bible, who no

longer believe in Jesus as the Son of God, nor in Salvation and its need by Mankind! (*Ps.14:1; Ac.20:30*)

All these horrors of today are the result of unbelief in God and His Son, Jesus Christ, His Salvation on the cross and their rejection of His Love! Their anti-Christ evil has resulted in selfishness, cruelty, horrible wars and terrible hell-bombs! They make vile music, the sounds of Hell, ugly modern art, ugly fiendish weird movies, cartoons depicting devils, monsters, witches and the children of Hell itself! They have turned God's paradise on Earth into the Devil's own Hell! (*Heb.3:12; Ro.16:17-18; Jude 10-20*)

1TI.4:3 forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.



There are cults and sects which prohibit sex and marriage, beginning with the Catholic Church prohibiting marriage to the priests and nuns! And you know what Paul calls that?--The doctrine of devils in the Last Days! He said there'll come false prophets, false teachers teaching not to eat meat and forbidding to marry. If they won't let them marry, the Bible says they burn in their lusts, men with men working that which is unseemly. (*Rom.1:27*) So that's a false doctrine; we certainly highly agree with their stand against birth control, abortion and most other things, although they are not very strong on salvation by grace. But that business of celibacy has caused nothing but trouble and is still one of their biggest problems, and it should be!

GEN.2:18 *And the LORD God said, it is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him.*

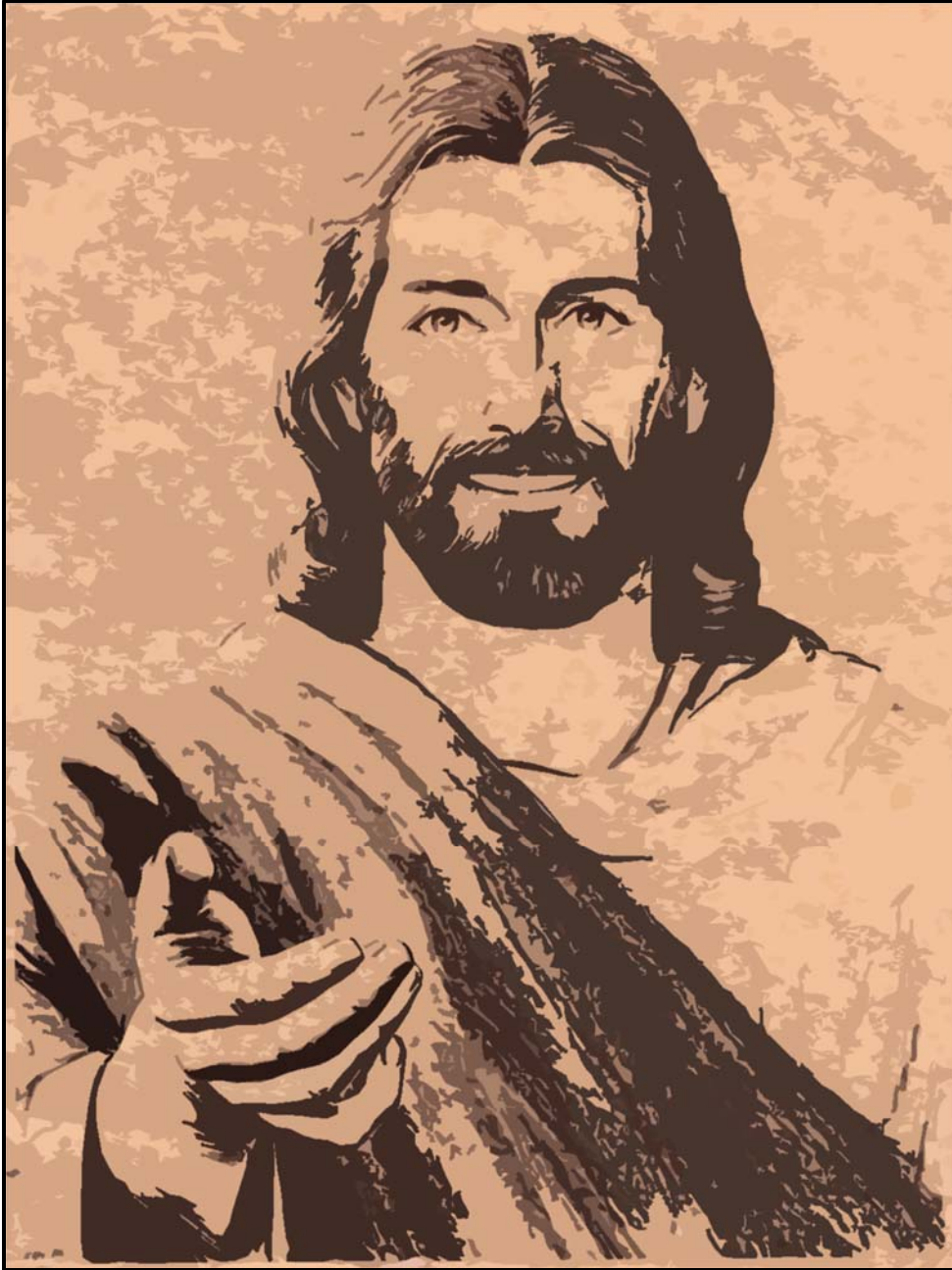
At the present time, outspoken advocates are attempting to redefine marriage. No longer, in their minds, is marriage to be defined as one man, one woman, joining together as one, "*until death do us part.*" It has already been redefined because matrimony is for the most part considered to be a temporary state in which marriage lasts "*until we get tired of each other.*" Now advocates are attempting to dispose of the idea that marriage is between a man and a woman. And where will the advocates go next? - The final step is that they will "*forbid marriage*" altogether, as though something is wrong with those who marry.

Paul discusses those who "advocate abstaining from foods" *in Romans Chapter 14.* "*One person, he said, "may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him"* (*Romans 14:2-3*). In other words, to eat or not eat certain foods is not the point. In the future, groups that forbids certain food substances will gain prominence. Whether we eat certain foods or not does not matter, except that such insistence will be another sign that the end of all things may be near.

COL.2:16 *Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink...*

1TI.4:4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:

1TI.4:5 For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.



LUK.10:8 And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, **eat such things as are set before you:**

The Apostle Paul said,

"I am persuaded that nothing is unclean of itself, for every creature of God is good and nothing to be refused if it be received with a word of thanksgiving and prayer. But him who thinks that is a sin, to him it is sin!" (Tit.1:15; Ro.14:14; Ro.14:23.)

If you are persuaded by the lies and opinions of others and you believe eating some meat or certain food is a sin, then to you it becomes a sin!

1TI.4:6 If thou **put the brethren in remembrance of these things**, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, **nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine**, whereunto thou hast attained.



THE LAST DAYS

Are we living in the last days? What are they going to be like?

2nd Timothy Chapter 3



2TI.3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

When asked about the "last days," Jesus was very specific. He said: "...You will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, **but the end is NOT yet.** For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be **famines, pestilences, and earthquakes** in various places. All these are the **beginning of sorrows...**"
(Mat.24:6-8)

2PE.3:3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts...

1TI.4:1-2 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits

and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron...

The "last days" will be "difficult" as the Lord's Words and the next verses in Timothy reveal. We have all seen that wars are terrible and so are earthquakes, but awful as they are, something just as horrible, though more subtle, will emerge in humanity like an all-pervading disease. Humanity will be poisoned by an in-your-face arrogance, pride-fullness, and just plain meanness.

2TI.3:2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

JUD.1:16 These are *murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.*

PSA.10:3 For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire, and blesses **the covetous**, whom the LORD abhorreth.

We are now looking, in this and in the next few verses, at the way people will act and think during "the

last days" of this age. And the amazing thing, as you read about the way humanity is going to be, is that we are a long way down that path already. When it says, "men" in this verse, think both men and women because the author is expressing the nature of mankind, male or female.

Many religions today worship themselves--self-realization, meditation, get into yourself, and discover yourself! Find self! Make SELF your god! Worship yourself! You are your own god! This is what many of the ancient mystical religions teach as well as the modern versions of them, resulting sometimes in demon-possession! Because as people begin to worship themselves and love themselves above God--"lovers of self rather than lovers of God" as the Apostle says --then that leaves the door of their hearts wide open to Satan himself, because HE is the head of the religion of those who love themselves and their possessions most of all! --Anything but worship God! Anything but worship Jesus Christ the Messiah! "Worship yourself! Worship your possessions! Worship your things!



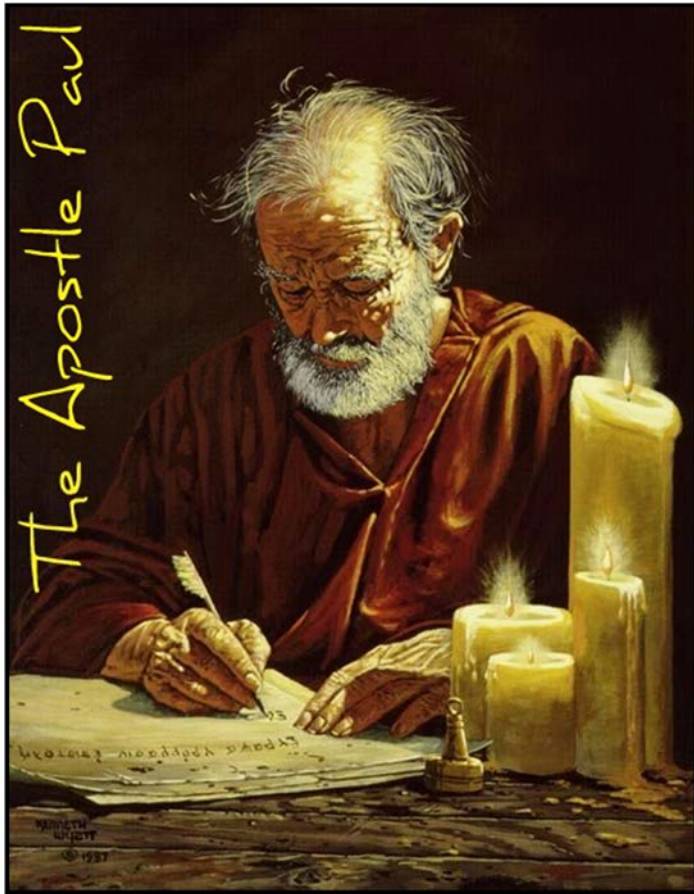
2TI.3:3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

They were also "Without natural affection" in the days of Noah, before the flood.--So much so that it was a common practice for mothers to "cause their children to pass through the fire." (Lev.18:21; Ps.106:36-40) This is referring to their practice of offering up their babies to the devil-god, Moloch, a huge idol which had moveable arms, hinged at the elbows, and a big yawning mouth with a huge fire built inside. They'd offer the babies to this idol, placing them on its open hands, and the priest of Moloch behind the idol would turn a lever or pull a rope and the baby would be thrown into the idol's mouth, alive, into the fire!--No wonder the Lord wiped them out in the flood of His judgments!

Well, they're doing it again today! Only now in our "enlightened" modern generation they're doing it with knives!--Abortion is one of the major sins of this generation! God says, "In thy skirts is found the blood of the souls of the poor innocents: I have not found it by secret search, but upon all these!" (Jer.2:34) They are killing them now by the tens of thousands, murdering their own children because they just don't want to have to take care of them! --People today are not only "without natural affection", but they have absolutely

no respect for the sanctity of life, the holiness of life, God-given life, and are murdering little babies while they're still in the stomachs of their mothers!--How horrible!

2TI.3:4 Traitors, heady, high-minded, **lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;**



Paul the Apostle is giving us something like a "preview of coming attractions" seen before the main feature is shown at a movie theater. If you want to catch a glimpse of the future, it's right here in these verses. However, this look at what is to come is not attractive, it's grim, as we look right inside of the hearts of mankind at a specific point in future human history. And the concern is that it is a lot like the state of humanity - right now. What will humanity be like at the point when the antichrist is about to come onto the scene? When the tribulation is about to take place?

2TI.3:5 having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

If we don't personally stay dedicated and committed in our heart to the Lord and His cause, it's easy to sort of forget from whence we've come, how we were born again and what started this faith and fire for God!--And we can drift off and wind up following our own little form, our own little ceremony and our own little traditions, just going through the motions, "*as one that beateth the air, having a form of Godliness, but without the power thereof!*" (1Cor.9:26). Our life with Christ got rolling with a lot of real steam and fire, but we can wind up just coasting on former momentum if

we don't remain fresh and new with the Lord!

Christians who don't keep progressing eventually slow down to a stop because they've lost their fire and their fuel. They may keep rolling for awhile, but pretty soon they come to a standstill! When anyone comes to the point where they're just going through the motions by habit, just doing what they've been told to do, with no personal conviction or really putting their hearts into it and doing it for Jesus, then they're just coasting along on former momentum. And if you've gone to sleep and left your engine running, you'll soon run out of gas, and your engine will soon go dead and you'll soon coast to a stop!--And you'll sadly

discover that the road you're on is not level, but sloped, and you'll begin to roll backwards downhill! (Mark 2:22). So typical of some religions and churches, all forms and ceremonies, a form of Godliness without any power, "without the power thereof", which means without the Spirit, without the Lord! They're just going through all the motions and God isn't even there! They won't even listen or pay any attention to God, not even if He Himself appeared in the midst of them just like Jesus did. Did they care? Did they pay any attention?--No! They crucified Him!

2Ti.3:6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,

2Ti.3:7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

2Ti.4:3-4 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 gather up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

"The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the Word of the Lord; and what wisdom is in them?" (Jer.8:9) If these modern teachers, professors and educators have rejected God and His Word, what wisdom is in them? What have they got left?--Nothing!--"Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools!" (Rom.1:22) They, as Jesus said, are "blind leaders of the blind," and both they and their pitiful followers are going to fall into the ditch! (Mt.15:14)

It seems like the more knowledge the World gets, the bigger mess it's in, because it's all irrelevant to man's greatest needs! That's why God's Word says that **"the wisdom of this World is foolishness with God!" (1Cor.3:19)--**The wisdom of man, the wisdom of this World, is absolute, ridiculous, laughable foolishness to God!

It's pitiful how ignorant this generation is! They have abandoned God and forsaken the Lord, Who is the Source of all wisdom and all knowledge that is good, helpful and useful. They think they are becoming smarter and more scientific, but they are actually



becoming dumber and more ignorant in the things that really count!--"In the Last Days, they shall be ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the Truth!"

Because if you haven't got God and you don't have His Word, there's no purpose in living, no reason for existence, no goal, no solution and life isn't even worth living! The whole modern anti-Christ System of education has taken on the attitude that there are no absolutes!--That's their whole principle: There are no absolutes!--Nothing is certain, nothing is sure!

Their whole theme song is, "It ain't necessarily so!"--Beginning with the Bible, that "ain't" necessarily so; and history, religion, and philosophy "ain't" necessarily so. They've gone right on down the line through everything.--Creation "ain't" necessarily so, math "ain't" necessarily so, music, art, none of them are necessarily so, because there "ain't" no so!--There's nothing that's absolute and true, so there is no Truth, they say to abandon the Ruler they had to throw away all the rules, and the result is total anarchy! To abandon the One Who gives the orders they had to abandon order, and the result is total chaos! To get rid of God they had to get rid of the absolutes--the right and the wrong, the meaning and reason for things--and the result is total insanity, madness, confusion!

2TI.3:8 Now as **Jannes and Jambres** withstood Moses, so do these also **resist the truth: men of corrupt minds**, reprobate concerning the faith.

Paul is continuing to reveal what the state of mankind will be during the time in future history he referred to as "the last days," in 2nd Timothy 3:1. In describing that difficult period in the future, he reached backward to the time of Moses, when that man of God was opposed by Pharaoh's magicians.

EXO.7:11-12 *Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.*



(From John Wesley Commentaries):

“Moses had been originally instructed in the learning of the Egyptians, and was suspected to have improved in magical arts in his long retirement. The magicians are therefore sent for to vie with him. The two chiefs of them were Jannes and Jambres. Their rods became serpents; probably by the power of evil angels artfully substituting serpents in the room of the rods, God permitting the delusion to be wrought for wise and holy ends. But the serpent which Aaron's rod was turned into, swallowed up the others, which was sufficient to have convinced Pharaoh on which side the right lay. Several ancient writers speak of Jannes and Jambres, as the chief of the Egyptian magicians. Men of corrupt minds - Impure notions and wicked inclinations. Void of judgment - Quite ignorant, as well as careless, of true, spiritual religion.” End of commentaries.

2TI.3:9 But they shall proceed no further: for **their folly shall be manifest unto all men**, as theirs also was.

2TI.3:10 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,

2TI.3:11 Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; **what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.**

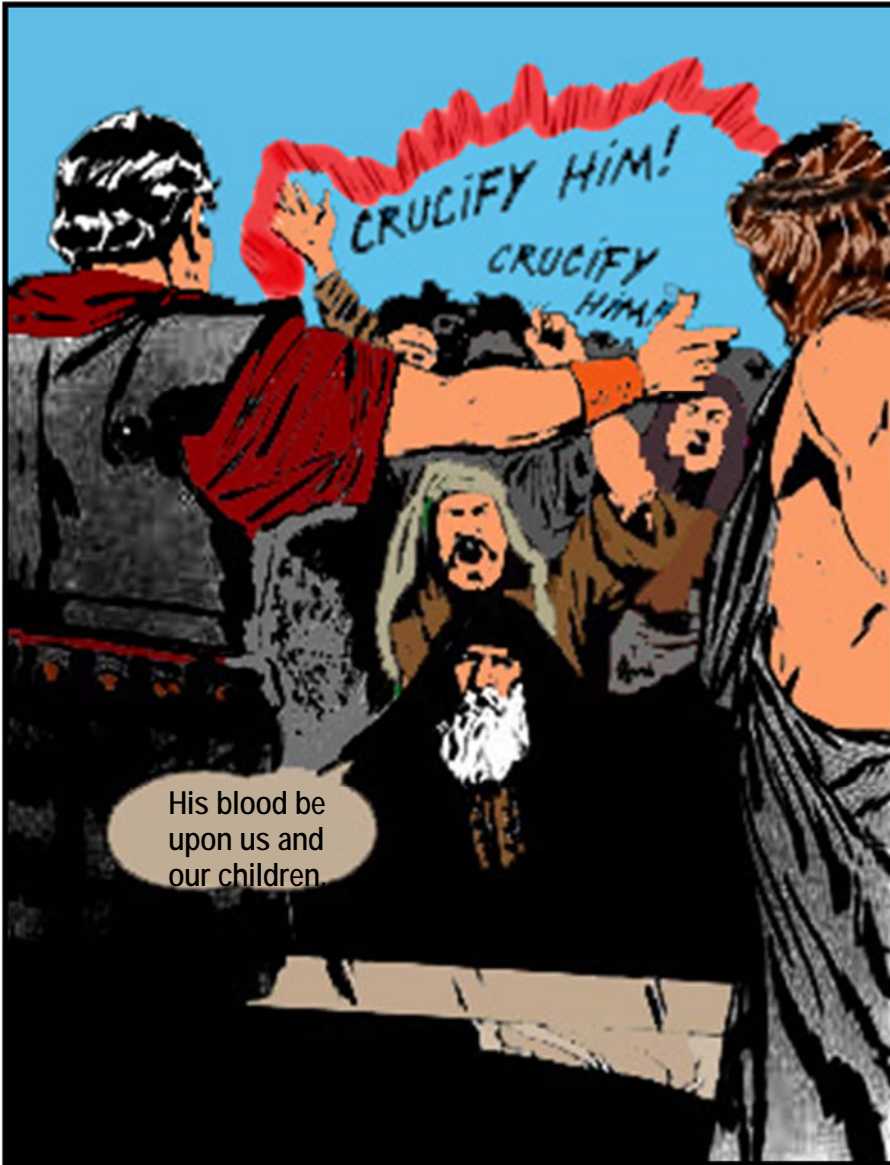
PSA.34:19 *Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivered him out of them all.*



2TI.3:12 Yea, and **all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.**

The question might be asked: "What is the 'normal' Christian life?" What should we expect? In some places, pastors have arisen who feel that if people have faith in the Lord, they will become healthy, wealthy and have a gentle life. But it should be noted that those who have such a theology are typically pastors who have grown up in affluent countries. As to God's people who have been raised in other places, it often is a miracle that they have even survived, and poverty is the norm for many who have faith in the Lord (2 Co. 1:1-10). We receive emails from Christians in Syria, Iraq and many other countries who are being

"persecuted" because of their faith in the Lord Jesus - pray for them.



Living for the Lord and the Truth is never going to be all roses and no thorns! We are bound to suffer some persecution! Jesus virtually promised it to everyone who forsakes all to follow Him!-- "*Verily I say unto you, there is no man that hath left house, or brothers, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My sake, and the Gospel's, but he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, with persecutions; and in the World to come Eternal Life!" (Mark 10:29, 30)*

If you never suffer any persecution or have any trouble, you must not be doing anything! Because the Bible says that "all that will live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution!" --Jesus even said, "Woe unto you when all men shall speak well of you, for so did their fathers to the false prophets!" (Lk.6:26) If everything is always so smooth and you never have any problems or persecution and all men think well of you, you're probably not living Godly in Christ Jesus!

Jesus said, "*The disciple is not above His Master, and if they have persecuted Me, they will also persecute you!*" (Mt.10:24; Jn.15:20) Jesus Himself, the perfect, sinless Son of God, was accused by the religionists of His day of being a demon-possessed false prophet, a mad man, a deceiver, a seditionist and a law-breaker, a glutton, drunk and a friend of sinners and harlots, a destroyer of the true faith! (Mk.3:21,22 ;

Lk.7:34 ; 23:2 ; Jn.7:12,20 ; 8:48,52 ; 10:20 ; 11:47,48) He was terribly persecuted and finally crucified for telling the Truth and giving the World God's Love!

In fact, nearly every great religious leader, reformer and revolutionist has been vilified and suffered persecution, imprisonment and death, usually at the hands of the opposing religions! But that's

Christianity--to tell the Truth even when it hurts! 'Cause when you tell some people the Truth, it hurts, and if they don't receive it they'll turn around and hurt you!

Just take a look at history!--Read the Bible!--Most of the Prophets seemed to wind up virtually alone and figured nobody was left but them! Elijah thought he was the last one. (1Kings.19:10, 14) When they tossed Jeremiah in the pit, he thought he was the last one. (Jer.38:4-6) Most of the Prophets were lonely men, they didn't have too many friends. The one thing they always had plenty of was enemies!

If the government wasn't after them, the religious system was! All the way from the Prophets of old up to the more recent men of God like Martin Luther, Savonarola, John Knox, Tyndale and some of the rest of those fellows, they had to give up their lives so others could have the Truth! Every last one of them fought the world of their day, the false religious system!--And nearly every last one of them got it in the neck for it! But as a result, you're here today hearing the Truth of God!

2TI.3:13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.



This chapter in 2nd Timothy began with the statement "... In the last days perilous times will come" (Verse 1), and this verse is a continuation of those words. In the "last days," as glimpsed in this chapter, "evil men and imposters" will exist in religion, in politics, in education and in every phase of life. They will not only spend their time "deceiving" others, but it's especially interesting and rather sad, that they are "being deceived" as well.

The world is supposed to be more civilized now, but it's not. Just read the newspapers and look around you, it's less civilized than ever! It is more savage, more cruel, more violent, more horrible, more terrible, slaughtering more people every day, wars going on around the World, more anti-Christ, more anti-God, more

unbelieving, worse than it ever was!--While they're trying to fool themselves and convince themselves and compare themselves with themselves that today they are more intelligent, more educated and more civilized.--When in the years that they have been flaunting their own pride, their own knowledge and the Knowledge of Good and Evil that Satan tempted them to gain, they have certainly accumulated more knowledge of Evil than they have of Good and have become worse and worse! Times and evil men have waxed worse and worse throughout the centuries for the past 6,000 years.

Man is just as cruel and just as torturous and just as heinous and hellish, even more so than he ever was, to the point that he now stands on the brink of total destruction, prepared to destroy both himself, the World and all of God's Creation if God did not intervene and put a stop to it all!--Which He shall very soon, thank the Lord, in order to salvage His Creation, including man. He's not going to allow man to destroy himself nor God's Creation nor His World. (Mar.13:20)

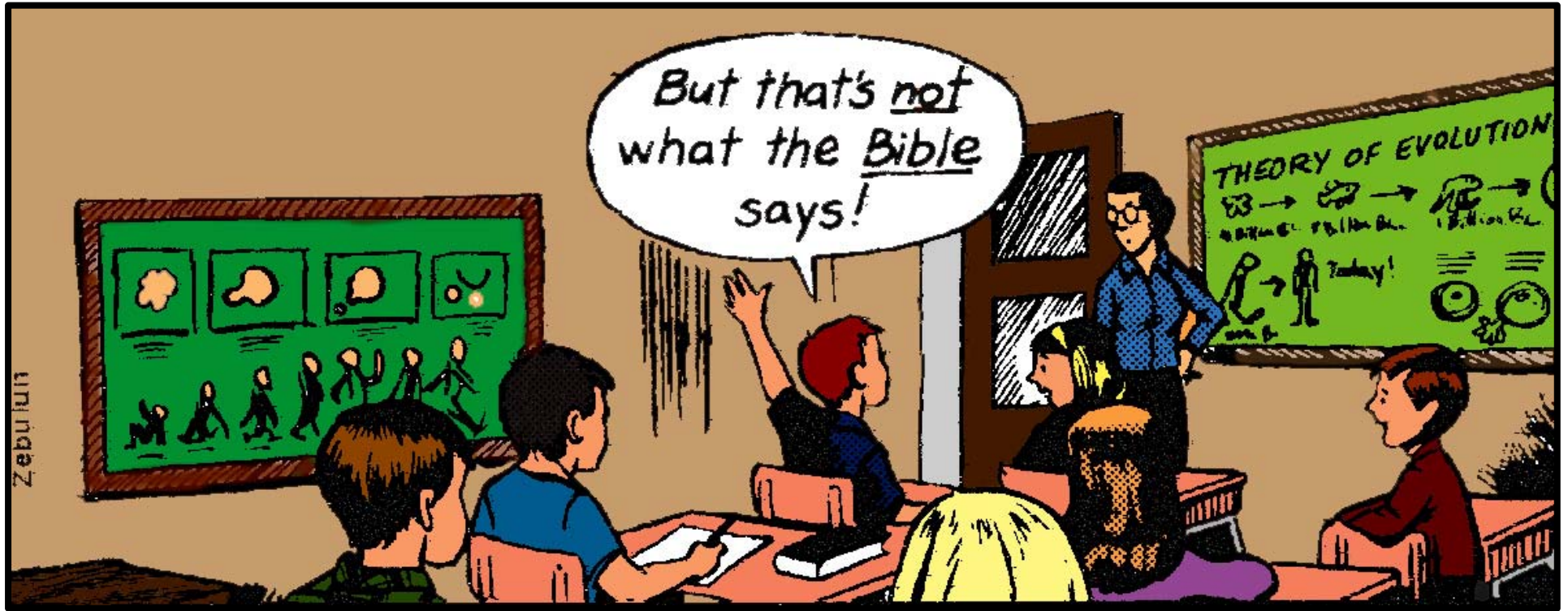
MAT.24:37-39 *But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

2TI.3:14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

2TI.3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Even children who know the scriptures can be smarter than most college presidents, professors, politicians and so-called great men, presidents, senators, you name it!-- Because they have the wisdom of the Lord and the knowledge of the Scriptures! They know more and are smarter about what really counts, from the oldest to the youngest!





2TI.3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

2PE.1:20-21 Knowing this first that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but **holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**

We believe in His Holy Book, the Bible, written by His Prophets and disciples.--Every Word of it! We believe that it is all absolutely true!--Inspired by His precious Holy Spirit, to tell you the Word about God's Love and His wonderful Salvation from sin and His coming Kingdom of Heavenly peace on Earth! We are God's Children!--Are you?

2TI.3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

You say, "I thought nobody is perfect!" Well, maybe we may say you can "**TRY**" to be perfect. It says "that the man of God may be perfect." But of course, "**for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God**". **Ro.3:23** still stands and Paul is just saying to try the best we can.

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2nd Peter Chapter 3

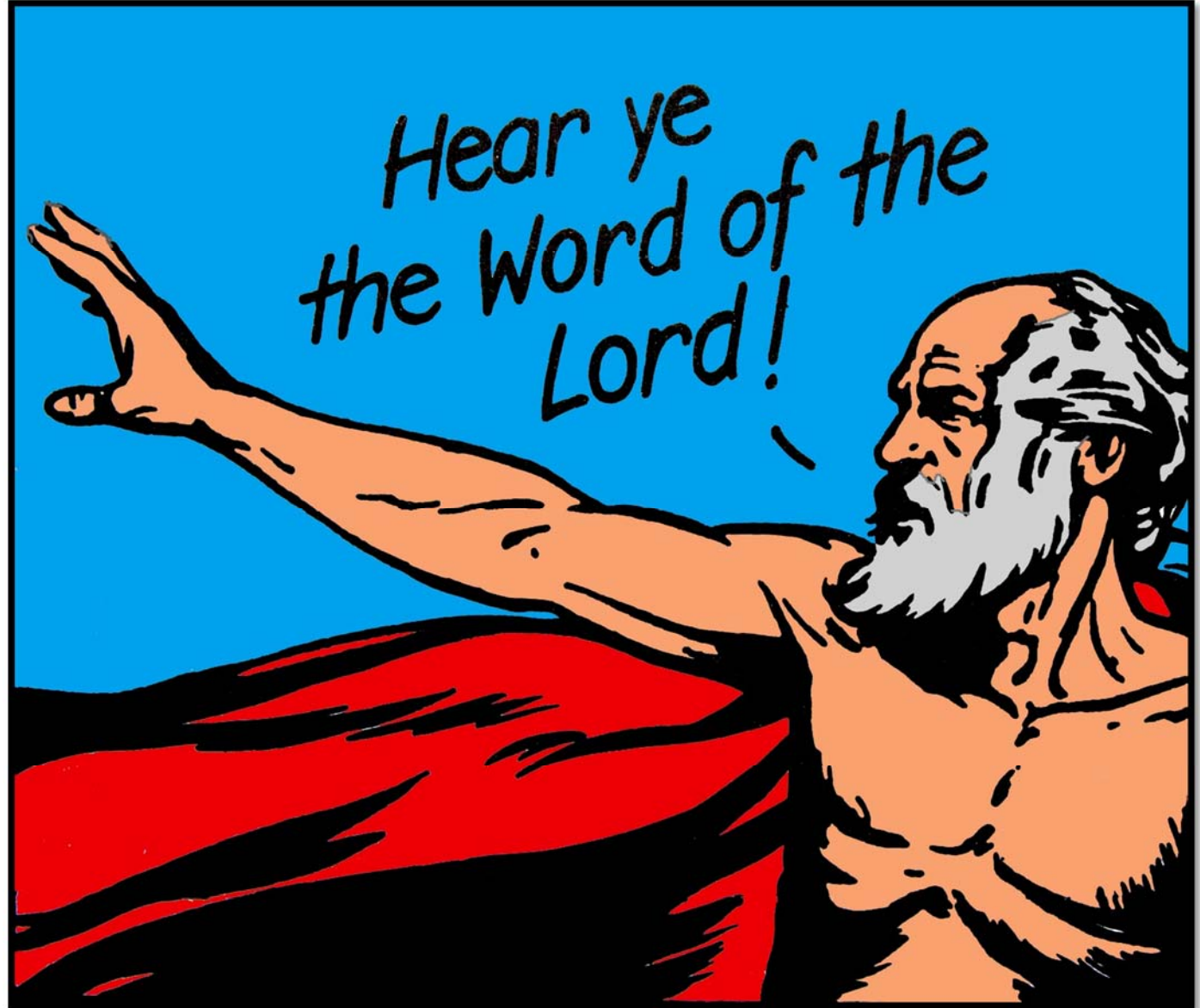
2PE.3:1 This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:

2PE.3:2 That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Savior:

2PE.3:3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

JUD.1:17-18 But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: how they told you that **there would be mockers in the last time** who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts.

1TI.4:1-2 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron...



2PE.3:4 And saying, **where is the promise of his coming?** For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.



As some in the days of the Apostles said, "All things continue as they were since the days of the fathers. Where is the sign of His coming?" In other words, "Everything's the same. There is not any danger. Business as usual."--And just like Jesus said, that they built, they planted, they married, were given in marriage and knew not until the flood came and swept them all away! He said, "*So shall it be when the Son of Man comes again.*" (Mt.24:38, 39) It shows how some people, before Jesus' second coming, will still go on, business as usual, no matter what is happening. For the nonbelievers, that will be a total surprise, they won't be expecting it! It seems like disaster,

catastrophe, emergencies like that are always a surprise to the sceptics. They are warned to stop this and stop that or do this and do that, but they never do and they are never prepared. They never expect it and they don't believe the prophets. They don't believe you. So they are always caught napping, caught by surprise and unprepared. Even though the Lord usually gives them some warning. Even they could escape if they believed, but of course if they believed they wouldn't be wicked. But it's the wicked who don't believe. That's what makes them wicked, their unbelief. The Lord doesn't hold you as responsible for even your deeds as He does for unbelief. (John 3:18, 19, 36) All mankind, let's face it, is wicked and sinful. "*We've all sinned and come short of the glory of God.*" (Ro.3:23) We're all sinners.

MAT.13:58 And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

2PE.3:5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

JOH.1:1, 3 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.*

HEB.11:3 *By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.*

GEN.1:9 *Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so.*

2PE.3:6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

2PE.3:7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

Here Peter tells the last thing that will happen to the old earth. In this chapter Peter first talks about the first destruction of the earth. The early earth was destroyed by a flood. After the second coming of Christ and the 1000 years of peace that follows, the earth is going to be destroyed by a flood of fire, coming down from heaven! The first one came from heaven too. God opened the windows of heaven, the floodgates, and He dropped all the water from above the firmament. (Gen.1:7 & 7:11)

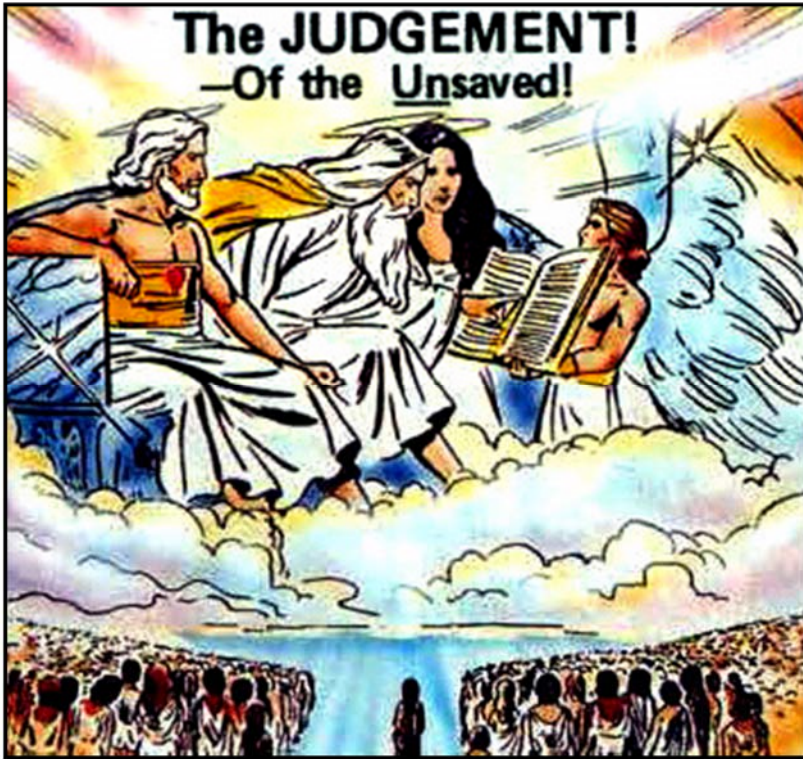
And so they landed after a year and ten days on the Ark, and they were glad to get their feet on dry ground. The first thing that Noah did was to give thanks and he sacrificed, and built an altar to the Lord and what did God do in return? He put the rainbow in the sky as a sign of His promise, that He would never let the whole world be covered by a flood of water again. Now, the world will not be wiped out by water anymore. What is it going to be wiped out by next time? Fire! Next time it will be a flood of fire by which He purifies the world.

"But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store." Storing them up for what? He's saving the World between the floods of water and fire! Kept in store, "Reserved unto fire against (before) the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." When does the flood of fire happen? Just



before the Day of Judgment! Isn't that what it also says in the 20th Chapter of Revelation, where the flood of fire destroys Gog and Magog and then right after that is the Great White Throne Judgment?

REV.20:7-12 Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, **Gog and Magog**, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. **And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them...** Then I saw a **great white throne** and Him who 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, standing before God, and books were opened.** And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. **And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.**



And it's all right here also in Peter, you can piece it together. The rest of this chapter will continue to explain on that subject.

2PE.3:8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

2PE.3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not

willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

2PE.3:10 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.

"But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." **Do you know why he's saying that?--Because it says it's been a long time since the flood, that doesn't mean that God's forgotten that He's going to finally judge the World with fire! How does he make the new earth?--Burning up the old! We're talking about the first destruction of the**

surface of the earth being with a flood of water, and the last destruction of the earth with a flood of fire! How many years between?--2,400 from the Flood to Jesus, plus 2,000 from Jesus to now is how many?--4,400. Plus another 1,000 for the Millennium is 5,400 years from the first destruction of the Earth by the flood of water to the last destruction of the surface of the earth with the flood of fire!

Many Bible teachers have taught that the whole earth and everything will be destroyed, that this new earth will be an entirely new Planet, but God' not going to let His Creation be destroyed like that that easily! The only part of the earth that needs to be cleaned up is the surface of the earth! The only part He cleaned up in the first destruction, the flood of water, was the surface of the earth! Except that in the next flood, the flood of fire, something additional is going to be destroyed besides the surface of the earth and that's the atmosphere!

The air around the earth is going to be destroyed in the final flood of fire! He says not to worry just because God's going to be waiting a long time, it doesn't mean it's not going to happen! ***"The Lord is not slack concerning His promises, as some men count slackness, but is longsuffering to us-ward." "Not willing that any should perish", He tries to get as many people saved as He can, "but that all should come to repentance" and "who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth." (1Ti.2:4)*** This is the heart of God: love, patience, mercy and salvation before judgment.

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night". What does that mean? How does a thief come in the night? Does the good man of the house know exactly when he's coming? No, it means by surprise! We don't know yet exactly when He's coming, and if the Lord is coming as a thief in the night, it will be a surprise to most people.--But it won't be a surprise to us! This is a verse, by the way, that some of the Pre-Tribulation 'Rapturists' use to support their doctrine, "He comes as a thief in the night, so nobody knows when it's going to happen." But that's not so! Those who are watching are going to know what's going to happen because they study and understand the Bible and its prophecies.



1TH.5:4-6 *But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.*

Now in the 10th verse Peter is talking about the "day of the Lord". Does this mean only the second coming of Jesus?--No! He says, "The day of the Lord...in 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!" Whew!--And in the 12th verse, as a continuation of that Scripture, "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!"

The phrase "day of the Lord" usually identifies events that take place at the end of history and is often closely associated with the phrase "that day." The phrase "the day of the Lord" is used nineteen times in the Old Testament (Isaiah 2:12; 13:6, 9; Ezekiel 13:5, 30:3; Joel 1:15, 2:1,11,31; 3:14; Amos 5:18,20; Obadiah 15; Zephaniah 1:7,14; Zechariah 14:1; Malachi. 4:5) and four times in the New Testament (Acts 2:20; 2 Thessalonians 2:2; 2 Peter 3:10). It is also alluded to in other passages (Revelation 6:17; 16:14).

It is used for different events like the Rapture and the Return and Second coming of Jesus or the Battle of Armageddon. More generally speaking, "the day of the Lord" is spoken of almost always in connection with the Day of Judgment. Sometimes you use "day" for just one day, sometimes the Bible, and human English speech at least, uses that word "day" for a period of several days, meaning a time. It is the time of God's judgments, His final judgments on the wicked of that day.

Isaiah says that the heavens shall depart as a garment, and "they shall be rolled up like a scroll and vanish away!" (Isa.34:4, Rev.6:14) This is the heavens, now, that doesn't mean the Heavenly City. It doesn't even mean the stars and the planets, the Sun and Moon, etc. but it means the atmospheric heavens! Even the scientists used to call them the atmospheric heavens, but they don't use that word "heavens"



much anymore though. They all want to get away from the Bible, spiritual things and God, etc., so even heaven isn't a very popular word any more. So when the final Wrath and Judgment of God come upon the surface of the earth, like it did in the flood of waters, there will be a flood of fire!

"And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places." So what is this describing here?--Not the seven vials of the Wrath of God spoken of in Revelation chapter 16 which happened after the rapture, but the final Wrath of God after the Millennium! At the end of the Millennium at the battle of Gog and Magog, there is going to be what we could describe as the final Wrath of God, the final flood of fire: the whole earth burned up, the atmosphere explodes and burns up the surface of the earth, burns up the Devil and all of his followers, the armies of Gog and Magog. That's the greatest Wrath of God ever! He flooded the world once with water, but that is nothing to completely burning up the surface of the earth!



2PE.3:11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

2PE.3:12 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?

"Of old hast Thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of Thy hands. They shall perish (the old atmospheric heavens and the old surface of the earth), but Thou shalt endure" (Psalm 102:22, 25–26). He's saying even when the old world perishes and He sets up the new heaven and new earth, He will still endure. The atmospheric heavens are going to perish, but He's going to create a new beautiful atmospheric heavens and heaven on earth in the new heaven and new earth which follow the Millennium.

“Yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt Thou change them, and they shall be changed” (Psalm 102:26). When you change your clothes, you don’t throw away your body too. You just take off the raiment, the surface clothing, and that’s what He’s going to do to the earth one of these days. The earth today is clothed with its dirty surface and its polluted atmosphere, but He’s going to remove them both by fire and make a completely clean new earth and new heavens.—Clean air, no pollution, no contamination upon the earth, no poisonous gases and chemicals; it’ll all be washed clean with fire one of these days.

There’s no other way God could ever get rid of all this pollution and all this junk flying around in the air! There are thousands of satellites already in orbit around the Earth, besides all the pieces of junk!--Spent cartridges, and spent rockets flying around up there too, as the recent movie “Gravity” so vividly showed. No wonder He’s got to destroy both the heavens and the earth! The Heavens shall be rolled back like a scroll, He says, and depart with a great noise! God’s not going to allow His whole creation to be totally destroyed! God’s Word says they shall endure as long as His throne! He says in several different places His throne shall endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, as long as the earth! (Ps.89:36, 37)



“...The heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat” What are the elements? Oxygen, hydrogen, helium, nitrogen, there are over 100 elements and some of these gases are atmosphere elements. The elements are going to melt with fervent heat. We’ll not go into such details or guesswork here, we just know generally that the atmosphere is going to explode and destroy the surface of the earth! The Lord is going to remake it perfect and beautiful like He did in the beginning in the Garden of

Eden in the days of Adam and Eve! Even the earth, the ball will still be here, and He's going to re-do the surface with a new earth with no more sea, think of that! (Re.21:1) It'll all be beautiful rolling hills, trees, grass and gardens!

2PE.3:13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwells righteousness.

REV.21:1-2 Now 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. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.



When the Millennium is over we know that God will make a new earth, a nice clean beautiful lovely earth! It's going to be like it was in the days of the Garden of Eden. He's going to create it all new, He's going to create everything even more beautiful! The Heavenly City shall be coming down out of heaven to the new earth, "wherein dwells righteousness," Praise God! And then we will be able to enjoy the Heavenly City and live in it permanently and forever from then on.

REV.21:4-5 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: **for the former things are passed away.** And he that sat upon the throne said, **Behold, I make all things new.** And he said unto me, Write: **for these words are true and faithful.**



2PE.3:14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

We are not ignorant of “such things”, we know it will happen!

2PE.3:15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

2PE.3:16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

2PE.3:17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye

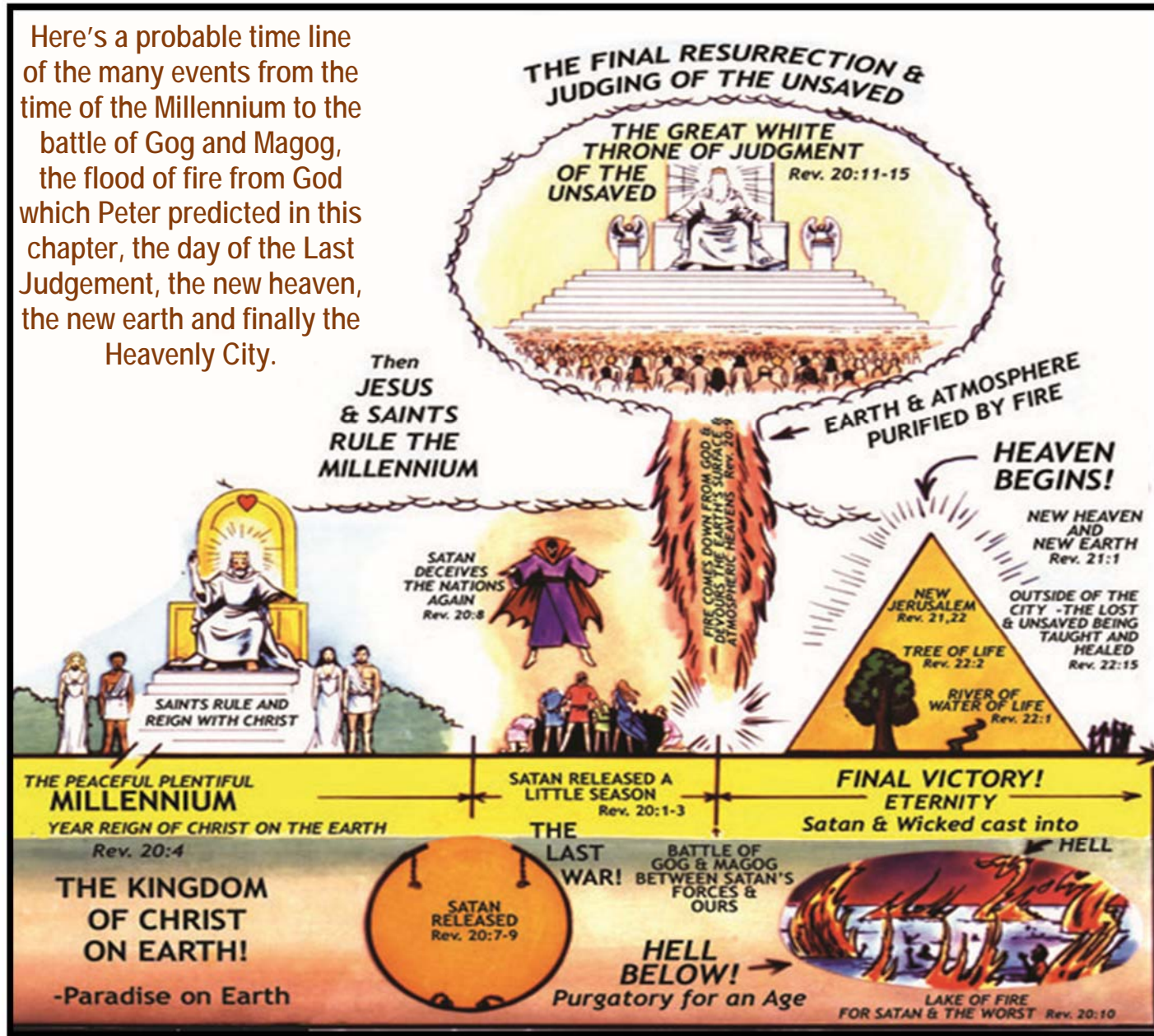
also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.

2PE.3:18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen.

Peter encourages us that since we “know these things” (this preview of the future), we should keep the faith and grow in Him, “in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”, reading faithfully His Word and growing and being prepared. Are you?

MAT.24:25 Behold, I have told you before.

Here's a probable time line of the many events from the time of the Millennium to the battle of Gog and Magog, the flood of fire from God which Peter predicted in this chapter, the day of the Last Judgement, the new heaven, the new earth and finally the Heavenly City.



Bibliography

Quotes, selections and drawings were also taken from “The Book of the Future” produced by Michael Roy, and the excellent books, “The Rise and Fall of the Antichrist” and “From the End to Eternity” by Scott MacGregor. Many drawings were also taken from the book “Thrilling Pictures of the Future!” illustrated by Al Eastman, Noel Lawrence, Max Belmont, Bill Philips and Michael Christian. The Bible verses are in black ink and the commentaries are in brown.