

LAST THINGS
A
STUDY
OF
THOSE THINGS
SOON
TO
COME

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How to Study Your Bible

1. Begin in Prayer 1 Cor 2: 9-14
2. Read the Bible Neh. 8: 1-3
3. Study the Bible Neh. 8:8
4. Meditate upon it Deut. 6:6-9; Ps. 1
5. Pass the Bible on to others Heb. 5: 12

How to Study Each Chapter

1. The Theme
2. The most important verse
3. The most prominent word
4. The teaching about Christ
5. The command to obey
6. The promise to claim
7. The new truth learned Psalm 119:18

Also every verse or passage has at least 3 applications

1. Past: this is the historical application
2. Present: This is a devotional or spiritual application
3. Future: This is a doctrinal or prophetic application

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Introduction

In this study we will be looking at those things that are to happen in the near future. These characters and events will be prominent in the culmination of time as we know it and a moving out into eternity. The first part of this study will be on the prominent characters in this coming time of trouble. We will look at today to see how close we are to what is described as being part of the tribulation. We will also be looking at the three main views that have been held and are still held to some degree by many churches of the end of this age. Those being the pre-wrath rapture, the mid tribulation rapture and post tribulation rapture. There are also the three main views of the upcoming millennial time and those are pre-millennial, a-millennial, and post millennial. As always we will allow the Bible (KJV) to be the final authority, and that rightly divided.

In this first portion of our study we will be looking at the most prominent characters to be on scene at that time. The most important of course being the Lord Jesus Christ and His future ministry. We will also look at Satan and his activities along with his two cohorts that being the Anti-Christ and the False Prophet.

To begin we will look at the Saviour in His three fold ministry past present and future. We will develop more of the future ministry as we move towards the end of the study.

JESUS

HIS FUTURE MINISTRY

Jesus has a threefold ministry as Prophet, Priest, and King. These three were offices established in the Old Testament and they are fulfilled in Jesus Christ. God the Father ordered three special anointing's with oil that is the three mentioned above. These three were shadowed in the Old Testament by the prophets of God, by the priestly order as they ministered the sacrifices and by the throne of David. Jesus is then Prophet, Priest, and King as ordered by God. We are going to briefly look at each of these offices to lay the foundation for His future.

Let us look at His anointing, His title the Christ means the anointed one look at what Peter said in Matthew 16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. This then is the disciples answer to Jesus question to everyone. Who do you say He is? When the Anointed one is mentioned our minds turn to Isaiah 61:1-3 "The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified." this is the passage Jesus read in the synagogue. He stated He came in fulfillment of these Old Testament prophecies. In Acts 2:36 Peter said this "let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ" This is Simon Peter's preaching of the resurrection of Christ in great power and authority which brought about 3,000 conversions.

The early Christians lifted their voices to God in prayer as they quoted David in Psalm 2:2 recorded in Acts 4:26-27 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, *saying*, . We have here the record of the beginning of mans display of hatred toward Jesus and God that is soon going to break into the final rebellion. Peter again declared the anointing of Jesus with the Holy Spirit and power in Acts 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

We move now to His work as Prophet, first it was foretold some fourteen centuries before His actual birth. God spoke to Moses in Deuteronomy 18:18 "I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him" here God is telling Moses that he would raise up a greater Prophet and he would speak for God. Jesus said that he spoke for the Father and now that he is gone back to Heaven there is nothing else to say. Nearly fifteen centuries later Peter proclaimed the fulfillment of Jehovah's promise in Acts 3:18 this is a fulfillment of Isaiah 43:25 I, *even I, am* he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins. In verse 22 of Acts 3 the Jews expected two different people and Peter is showing them that Jesus fulfilled both. Then in verse 26 Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities. This is their last chance to accept Jesus as Messiah. They did not and God knew they wouldn't.

Let's look for a second at the meaning of the word "Prophet" the term means "one who speaks for God" and this is exactly what Jesus did as seen in John 12: 49-50 For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak. Jesus also said in John 14:

9-10 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works that his words and works were of the Father.

So we see that Jesus was the anointed prophet of God. When He went into the Synagogue in Luke 4 He took the scroll and opened it to Isaiah 61:1-3 and read them to the men sitting there He read down to verse 2a and stopped because He had not come to enact vengeance but to bring salvation. He will fulfill the rest when He comes again.

Peter preached in the house of Cornelius that Christ was the anointed prophet of God as recorded in Acts 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. Peter states the facts about Jesus Christ. Where did that anointing take place? At Jesus baptism in Matthew 3:16-17 with this baptism Jesus is anointed into His office of Prophet. As a Prophet Jesus authenticated the Old Testament because He spoke for God and as God. Jesus answered them, in John 10: 34-35 *Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods? If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;* Jesus here uses technical exegesis to confound the Pharisees, He said that God called the prophets sons of God so since Gods word is binding he has the same right. Jesus spoke with authority not from authority as we do today. In Luke 7:16 Jesus raises the young son from Nain from death and the people declared Him a great prophet.

Jesus as a prophet foretold the future just as the Old Testament prophet had insight into the future and warned the people so did Jesus in Mark 13:23-24 But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things. But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, here He issues a warning to

the people during the Olivet discourse. The future was as clear to Jesus as the present is to us. In Matthew chapters 24 & 25 Jesus foretells what was going to be happening just before He returned and even a cursory reading of these two chapters will show that it is happening today as never before in history. Jesus prophetic ministry ended at the cross.

The second office Jesus has is that of High Priest our mediator. Jesus intercedes with God on behalf of all guilty sinners Hebrews 4: 14-15 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are, yet* without sin. Jesus is the only mediator between God and man 1 Tim 2:5. A mediator is one who stands between two adversaries Jesus accomplished this by His death on the cross and His resurrection and return to the Father.

In the Old Testament there are three things the priest was to do and Jesus fulfilled them. First he was to offer sacrifices for the people this is "reconciliation" second he was to go within the veil to make intercession for the people this is "intercession" and third he came out to bless the people this "benediction."

Jesus was a priest after the order of Melchisedec as we read of here in Hebrews 7:21 (For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, The Lord swears and will not repent, Thou *art* a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec:) As Melchisedec was both priest and king so our Lord Jesus is our royal priest. In Zechariah 6:13 we have the crowning of Joshua after Israel's return from captivity which typified the crowning of Messiah.

Now we come to the one that will be most prominent as we see the culmination of this age we live in that of King. Just as He fulfilled the first two He will as surely fulfill this one also. The Father will establish Him as King look at 1 Timothy 6:14, 15 That thou keep *this* commandment without spot, unrebukable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: Which in his times he shall shew, *who is* the blessed and

only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; at the appropriate time God will openly make Jesus known to the world as King of King and Lord of Lord the Sovereign of the universe. Jesus is not now the King of earth His time has not yet come in John 14:30 Jesus tells us there is another in control and that is Satan. Paul tells us that he is "the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the sons of disobedience." Jesus was born "king of the Jews" Matthew 2:2 the Magi called him this, Pilate had this written on His name plate at the cross Matthew 27:37. His crucifixion marked the world's total rejection of God's anointed Ruler as seen in Hebrews 10:12-13. Jesus is now waiting the "times or seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power" Acts 1:7. Before the Lord ascended back into glory He was asked by His disciples this question "Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" Jesus gave them the same answer that He had taught all along and that is that it was God's secret. God's time is his own secret and for any of us to speculate is wrong. When all of the gentiles are brought in and the church is complete then God will begin again to deal with Israel.

The word of God is filled with prophecies of Messiah as king. Jacob on his death bed, said "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be" Genesis 49:10. Shiloh means "to whom it belongs"-rest, Shiloh is a name for Jesus Christ. Even Balaam forced against his will to prophecy blessings upon Israel predicted Christ as King Numbers 24:17, 19 I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth Out of Jacob shall come he that shall have dominion, and shall destroy him that remaineth of the city. Here we see Balaam predicting the coming of the Messiah- ruler and that He will conquer all his enemies.

The first Messianic prophecy in the Psalms is given by God the Father in Psalm 2:6-8 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the LORD hath

said unto me, Thou *art* my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give *thee* the heathen *for* thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth *for* thy possession. "Set" means to be installed as king. This will happen at Jerusalem during the millennium. He is going to get control of everyone and the earth, verse 12 of this Psalm instructs us to do homage to the Son the King, read also Psalm 110: 1-3. Now Isaiah 9:6-7 speaks of this King. Jesus is the wonderful and supernatural ruler. He is our eternal Father His government and peace shall be endless and he will rule from David's throne. This statement is in reference to the Davidic Covenant as seen in 2 Samuel 7: 8-16.

In the prophecy of Jeremiah 23: 5-6 he wrote "David shall never lack a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel" right now no one sits on the throne but soon possibly sooner than most think this prophecy will be fulfilled.

Now who are the subjects of the King, first Jesus Christ will be King over the Jews. God the Father will at the right time cause all Israel to return to the Land from around the world and Jesus will establish His throne Romans 11:26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: this is from Isaiah 59:20, 21 it tells us that Israel will be saved as a nation all at once and Christ will turn them from sin. Equally true is the fact that Jesus Christ will be King over the nations look at Psalm 72:11 Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him. Every ruler whether it be President or Prime Minister will bow to Jesus as King without exception. Daniel in his book in chapter 7:14 describes the Kings character. The Lord's power and kingdom cannot be broken or destroyed. Also in Revelation 5: 1-7 we have His description especially verse 5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

He is here called the Lion of the tribe of Judah this is from Genesis 49:9, also the "Root of David" is from Isaiah 11:1, 10. John is assured that Messiah is competent and worthy to open the seal and redeem the earth.

Finally there is the coming to this world of a golden era, not brought in by the church as some would teach. This time will be inaugurated by the return of Christ and it will be established by His throne. Even this age will be a record of man's utter failure as recorded in Ezekiel 21: 26-27. There is only one hope for the Christian as we live in this evil world and that is the blessed hope recorded for us by Paul in his letter to Titus (Titus 2: 13). We should be looking toward heaven for His return as in 1 Thess. 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." Then with His glorified saints, Christ will return to this earth as "King of Kings, and Lord of Lords" Revelation 11:15 "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become *the kingdoms* of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever" and 19:16 "And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." Also Zechariah 14:9 And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.

CHAPTER TWO

SATAN

When we study any subject that is related to Satan or of himself in particular we will face his opposition. One of the best tools of Satan is to keep people thinking that he does not really exist. He will try everything to keep your mind distracted while you go through this lesson.

Satan is real the Lord Jesus spoke of him and his cohorts. We have in the King James his titles, names, origin, works, power, and limitations. We will be going back to the beginning when Satan openly defied God and fell from his place of honor to become the nemesis of man and the work of God.

The subject of Satan is very prominent in the Word of God. They reveal him to be a personal corruptive and destructive force in the affairs of man. We have in the Bible a continuing revelation of this evil person. Starting in Genesis the battle between God and Satan moved to the Earth. As you move through the Bible Satan is revealed more and more to be the sinister evil force that he is. We must be aware that he even appears as a minister of light and as the Anti-Christ will become incarnate. Next to knowing all we can about the Saviour Jesus Christ we must know the truth about Satan as he is said to be like a "roaring lion seeking whom he may devour" 1 Peter 5:8.

Let's take a look now at the origin of our adversary the Devil. First he is a created being, he was created as the greatest of all the angelic hosts Ezekiel 28: 15 *Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.* Not only was he created perfect he had a heavenly title that of "Lucifer, son of the morning" as seen in Isaiah 14:12. Through Isaiah God addressed him as Lucifer and through Ezekiel he addressed him as the "King of Tyrus" moving him to the lowest depths of moral depravity. In Ezekiel 28:12-15 God goes beyond the earthly king of Tyrus and speaks to Satan as being "full of wisdom and perfect in beauty" and he had "been in Eden the garden of God – thou art the anointed cherub that covereth".

In his unfallen state Lucifer is described and it is not as some red suited, long tailed pitch fork carrying cartoon character as he is so often portrayed. He is in reality the embodiment of beauty on the surface. That is why all his traps appear to be good or pleasant to the eye. He was the consummation of perfection and wisdom. Even with giving Satan the place of the anointed cherub that covereth a position overlooking the very throne of God it was not enough for him.

We will now move to the sin and fall of Satan. So what did change Lucifer into the one we commonly call the Devil? For the answer we must go to the prophet Isaiah in chapter 14 verses 13 & 14 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. When you read these words you find one common thread and that is pride. So he was full of pride before he became a liar in the Garden of Eden. These same five statements embody what today's New Age movement is all about. Lucifer became Satan by choosing his own will over God's will. God had no choice but to deal with Satan once he stopped being God centered and became self centered. His sentence is recorded in Isaiah 14:12 "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground and Ezekiel 28: 16 therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

In the Bible Lucifer has several names, I will list them and a brief definition

1. Satan- "Adversary" 1 Peter 5:8
2. Devil—"Slanderer" Rev. 12:9
3. Beelzebub—"Prince of Demons" Matthew 12:24
4. Belial—"Low one" 2 Cor. 6:15
5. That Old Serpent—Revelation 12: 9
6. God of this World" 2 Cor. 4:4
7. Prince of this World John 12: 31
8. Prince of the Power of the Air Eph. 2:2

9. Dragon- Revelation 20:2 one that devours all in its sight, carrion eaters

10. Angel of Light—2 Cor. 11:14

11. Accuser of the Brethren – Rev. 12:10

12. Father of Lies John 8:44 he told the first one to Eve

There are more but these certainly will give one a good idea of his character and his desire toward people.

We will look next at his sphere of activity and then lastly his limitations.

We can see from the Bible that Satan has access to the throne of God to be the accuser of the brethren. We see this first here in Job 1:6 “Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them” here he is coming before the Lord on a specified day along with other angels and he again gains audience in Job 2:1 and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD. I must add that he still has access even today to accuse Christians before the Lord as we read here in Rev. 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. We can see from these words that even until the end Satan will continue attacking believers before God.

If Satan has access to heaven then he certainly has access to the earth. In verse 7 of Job chapter 1 we read “Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.” Now this verse stands out in great contrast to the false doctrine of the A-Millennialist that he is already bound in hell. It is obvious from Rev. 12:10 and here that he is running around at will.

Satan started in Eden by inhabiting a serpent to seduce Eve into disobeying God and to thwart His eternal plan for His supreme creation man. The next direct statement of Satan being involved in the earths affairs is found in 1st Chronicles 21:1 “And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel” he knew God wanted Israel to rely on Him alone, so Satan convinced David to rely on themselves. Today he stands up against the Church trying to impose self reliance into the church so the church will not live by faith as

we are commanded to do but live by sight instead. Paul says in Ephesians 2:2 that he is the "prince of the power of the air" and in 6:12 that he rules the darkness of this world and wickedness in high places or Government offices.

Satan has a job to do and he started in Genesis 3 and on until Matthew 4 he has tried to stop God's plan for man. That plan was for Messiah to come and deliver His people Satan worked to stop this from happening all through history. In Matthew he had his greatest opportunity when after Jesus baptism he came face to face with Him in the wilderness after Jesus had fasted for 40 days.

Satan came at Jesus with 3 temptations that encompass all the temptations we will face. He came with the "pride of life, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes in these he used half truths from God's word. Jesus however replied back with the pure word of God and won each attack because Satan cannot withstand the true word.

In Luke 22:3 "Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot" we see here that Satan took full control of Judas to betray Jesus. He also used Ananias and Sapphira, he convinced them to do what he always did and that is to tell a half truth about the property they sold and the money they were giving from it. However the church was young and pure and that half truth caused the Holy Spirit to kill them instantly.

Satan has worked long and hard to deceive the world's populace about the gospel. Let's see this in 2nd Corinthians 4:4 "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." Satan cleverly sucks people into his ways that we cannot see and then will not see the sin for what it is. Paul told Timothy that Satan traps men we see this in 2nd Timothy 2:26 "the snare of the devil." What are some of these snares you may be asking? Here are a few the New age movement, Holistic healing, Metal music, soap operas, love stories, pop psychology, yoga, meditations with crystals, false religions and there are many more than these. Satan uses craftiness (the wiles of the devil Eph. 6:11) to go about removing the Word of

God from man's heart as we read here in Matthew 13:19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart Satan here takes away the word from one who hears but believes not.

Satan and his minions continually work to hinder God's ministers as they go about the Father's business. For example in 1st Thess. 2:18 Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us here he was through circumstances stopping Paul's next trip to see them. There is another way he works and that is using Godly actions against a believer for example in 2nd Cor. 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices. Here we have a man who has asked forgiveness of God now Paul tells the Church to get him back in fellowship so that Satan cannot continue to harass him with his past sin. Another example is how Satan is given ministers from time to time to sift to see where their faith is for instance in Luke 22:31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat the sifter God allows Satan to use is the trials that come into our lives to see how well we will stand!

Satan uses tares to attack churches from the inside for example in Matthew 13: 38-39 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. Satan places in congregations pretenders or false professors of being born again so that they might destroy the church from within by constantly stirring up strife and confusion.

Satan is constantly going about causing problems for the Lord's ministers for example we can see it in Paul's testimony in 2nd Cor. 12:7 "And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure" God allowed this and he sometimes will allow similar things in our lives to produce the same or desired affects.

Now before one would become to concerned Satan has some very real limitations that are in direct contrast to God the Father.

1st Satan is not omnipotent or all powerful. He is limited in power to what God says he can do to someone. We can see this in Job 2:6 And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life from this we can see that Satan moves only in God's permissive will. Even in all the trials allowed upon Job he did not deny or accuse God as Satan wanted him to.

2nd Satan is not omniscient or all knowing. He is wise but he does not know everything he must use his demons to watch out for the sick, lame, young and very old. In 1 Peter 5:8 Peter says "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:" he must watch for these types of Christians to attack that is why God says for us to fellowship together so we can draw strength to fend off his attacks.

3rd Satan is not omnipresent or he is not everywhere at once. He cannot be in every place at one time as God is. For instance when he was facing Jesus in the wilderness he was there and no where else. Since he cannot be everywhere he has his demonic agents his demons, dispatched at his pleasure. He has a kingdom and it is ordered and he will do nothing to destroy it.

As powerful as Satan is we must never forget our Father is Omnipotent, Omnipresent, and Omnipotent. He is greater than Satan and all his angels put together and in the end he will dispose of Satan in the Lake of Fire.

The Antichrist And The False Prophet

There are two men in the Bible that Hollywood has taken great liberties with to portray them in a highly skewed set of images. Now since they are Bible characters it seems that it would be the Church's responsibility to properly educate people as to who these two men are and what their role will be during the last times of the earth.

Satan as is his way mimics God in what he does. In these two men Satan takes up his abode or his tabernacle this is his imitation of the Holy Spirit indwelling all believers. Just as God the Father becomes the incarnate Son; Satan is going to be incarnate in the person who will become the antichrist.

These two men complete the unholy trinity to counter the blessed holy trinity of the Father the Son and the Spirit.

Just as the Son of God has many names so also does the Antichrist the following are some of them and where they can be found in the Bible.

1. The Little Horn-Dan. 7:8 The horn that rises up and overthrows three of the ten horns. Horns are always the "symbol of power" three countries now which three countries is not yet revealed but they are most certainly in the news on a daily basis.
2. Another shall arise...and speak against the most High Dan. 7:24-25
3. The Prince in Dan. 9:26
4. The Desolater in Dan. 9:27
5. The king of fierce countenance in Dan. 8:23-25 when Daniel wrote this title it would be particularly about Antiochus Epiphanes and to also prefigure the Antichrist. Antiochus was one of Alexander the great's four top generals that he divided the Grecian empire into. He profaned the temple by pouring pigs blood on it.

Here are some New Testament names for this man.

1. The abomination of desolation- the desolator of Daniel is named by Jesus in Matthew 24:15 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:)

2. "The man of sin" 2 Thess. 2:3
3. "son of perdition" 2 Thess 2:3 Judas also is given this title
4. "that wicked" 2 Thess. 2:8
5. "Antichrist" now "Anti" has two meanings 1st a false Christ and 2nd when used with "the" denotes a person who is the opposite of Christ. Notice Johns words here in 1 John 2:18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time one can see by these words that even in Johns day there already were those who were opposed to Christ at work in the church. There are also these verses in 1John 2:22, 4:3; 2John 7.
6. "The conqueror on the white horse" from Rev. 6:2. This is he who is to be revealed after the church is gone and at the start of the last seven years of Daniel's seventieth week. He rides out when Jesus opens the first seal on the scroll that will contain God's judgment of the earth. Notice also that he rides a white horse to imitate Christ in Rev. 19 and has a bow with no arrows instead of a sword to indicate a man bringing false peace.
7. The great dragon in Rev. 12:3-4,9
8. That old serpent in Rev 12:9
9. The Devil in Rev. 12:9,12
10. Satan in Rev. 12:9
11. The beast out of the sea in Rev. 13:1 the "sea" typifies the masses of people constantly in motion.

The antichrist will be a man out of the mass of people or "sea" of people. There are some things about him that we can know one is that he will be in political power in the European common market which is the revived Roman Empire. Satan will have total control of this man who will eventually take over and rule the world and he will be more than a man.

This man will make a covenant or peace treaty with Israel at the beginning of his reign as world leader and in the middle of the seven weeks of tribulation as recorded here in Daniel 9:27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one

week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate. At this point he will turn on the nation of Israel God's chosen people. This is laid out for us in Revelation chapter 12.

The time of his control will be short lived as stated in Rev. 12:12 Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. That short period of time is stated just a few verses later in Rev. 13:5 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. This is also called "time, times, and half a time" and 1,260 days all of which add up to three and one half years.

The Antichrist is not a system of evil, nor an anti-Christian organization, but instead, a single individual being, a person yet to appear. In support of this we appealed to the declaration of our Lord recorded in John 5:43; "I am come in My Father's name, and ye receive Me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive". Here the Saviour both compares and contrasts the Man of Sin with Himself. The point of comparison is that, like the Saviour, he shall offer himself to Israel; the contrast is, that unlike Christ who was rejected by the Jews, the false messiah shall be "received" by them. If, then, the Antichrist may be compared and contrasted with the Christ of God, he, too, must be a person, an individual being.

Again; we call attention to the expression used by the apostle Paul in 2 Thess. 2: - "That Man of Sin", "the Son of Perdition", he that opposeth and exalteth himself, "the Wicked One whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth", "he whose coming is after the working of Satan" - all these point as distinctly to a single individual as did the Messianic predictions of the Old Testament point to the person of our Lord Jesus Christ. Assured, then, that "the Antichrist" signifies a specific individual, our next concern is to turn to the Scriptures

and learn what God has been pleased to reveal concerning this Personification of Evil.

I. THE ANTICHRIST WILL BE A JEW.

The Antichrist will be a Jew, though his connections, his governmental position, his sphere of dominion, will by no means confine him to the Israelite people. It should, however, be pointed out that there is no express declaration of Scripture which says in so many words that this daring Rebel will be "a Jew"; nevertheless, the hints given are so plain, the conclusions which must be drawn from certain statements of Holy Writ are so obvious, and the requirements of the case are so inevitable, that we are forced to believe he must be a Jew. To these "hints", "conclusions" and "requirements" we now turn.

1. In Ezek. 21:25-27 we read: "and thou, profane wicked prince of Israel, whose day is come, when iniquity shall have an end. Thus saith the Lord God; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: this shall not be the same: exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high. I will overturn, overturn, overturn it: and it shall be no more until he comes whose right it is, and I will give it him". The dispensational place and scope of this passage, is not hard to determine. The time-mark is given in v. 25: it is "*when iniquity shall have an end.*" It is the End-Time which is in view, then, the End of the Age, when "the transgressors are come to the full" (Dan. 8:23 and cf. 11:36 - "*Till the indignation be accomplished*"). At that time Israel shall have a Prince, a Prince who is crowned (v. 26), and a Prince whose day is said to be come when iniquity shall have an end". Now, as to who this Prince is, there is surely no room for doubt. The only Prince whom Israel will have in that day, is the Son of Perdition, here termed their Prince because he will be masquerading as Messiah the Prince (see Dan. 9:25)! Another unmistakable mark of identification is here given, in that he is expressly denominated "*thou, profane wicked Prince*" - assuredly, it is the Man of Sin who is here in view, that impious one who shall "*oppose and exalt himself above all that is called God*". But what should be noted particularly, is, that this profane and wicked character is here named "Prince of Israel." He must, therefore, be of the Abrahamic stock, a Jew!

2. In Ezek. 28:2-10 a remarkable description is given us of the Antichrist under the figure of "*the Prince of Tyrus*", just as in w. 12- 19 we have another most striking delineation of Satan under the figure of "*the king of Tyrus*". In a later chapter we

hope to show that, beyond a doubt, it is the Antichrist who is in view in the first section of this chapter. There is only one thing that we would now point out from this passage: in v.10 it is said of him "*Thou shalt die the deaths of the uncircumcised,*" which is a very strong hint that he ought not to die the deaths of the "*uncircumcised*" because he belonged to the Circumcision! Should it be said that this verse cannot apply to the Antichrist because he will be destroyed by Christ Himself at His coming, the objection is very easily disposed of by a reference to Rev. 13:14, which tells of the Antichrist being wounded to death by a sword and rising from the dead - which is prior to his ultimate destruction at the hands of the Saviour.

3. In Dan. 11:36, 37 we are told, "And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: that that is determined shall be done. Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers." passage, it is evident, refers to and describes none other than the coming Antichrist. But what we wish to call special attention to is the last sentence quoted - "*The God of his fathers.*" What are we to understand by this expression? Why, surely, that he is a Jew, an Israelite, and that his fathers after the flesh were Abraham, Isaac and Jacob - for such is the invariable meaning of "the fathers" throughout the Old Testament Scriptures.

4. In Matt. 12:43-45 we have another remarkable scripture which will be considered briefly, in a later section of this chapter, when we shall endeavor to show that "The Unclean Spirit" here is none other than the Son of Perdition, and that the "house from which he goes out and into which he returns, is the Nation of Israel. If this can be established, then we have another proof that he will be a Jew, for this "house", which is Israel, is here termed by Antichrist "my house". Just as Solomon was of "*the House of David,*" so Antichrist shall be of the House of Israel.

5. In John 5:43 we have a further word which helps us to fix the nationality of this coming One. In speaking of the false messiah, the Lord Jesus referred to him as follows, "*Another shall come in his own name.*" There are four different words all translated "Another" in our English versions. One of them is employed but once, and a second but five times, so these need not detain us now. The remaining two are used frequently, and with a clear distinction between them. The first signifies "another" of the same kind or genus - see Matt. 10:23; 13:24; 26:71, etc. The second means "another" of a totally different

kind, - see Mark 16:12; Luke 14:31; Acts 7:18; Rom. 7:23. Now the striking thing is that the word used by our Lord in John 5:43 is another of the same genus, not another of a different order. Christ, the Son of Abraham, the Son of David, had presented Himself to Israel, and they rejected Him; but "*another*" of the same Abrahamic stock should come to them, and him they would "*receive*." If the coming Antichrist were to be a Gentile, the Lord would have employed the word "*another*" indicating of a different kind; the fact that He used the one that shows that he will be a Jew is a strong proof.

6. The very name "*Antichrist*" argues strongly his *Jewish* nationality. This title "Antichrist" has a double significance. It means that he will be one who shall be "*opposed*" to Christ, one who will be His enemy. But it also purports that he will be a *mock* Christ, an *imitation* Christ, anti-Christ, a *pseudo* Christ. It intimates that he will ape Christ. He will pose as the real Messiah of Israel. In such case he must be a Jew.

1. This mock Christ will be "received" by Israel. The Jews will be deceived by Him. They will believe that he is indeed their long-expected Messiah. They will accept him as such. Proofs of this will be furnished in a later chapter. But if this pseudo Christ succeeds in palming himself off on the Jews as their true Messiah he must be a Jew, for it is unthinkable that they would be deceived by any Gentile.

Before passing to the next point, I would add, that it was the common belief among Christians during the first four centuries A.D., that the Antichrist would come from the tribe of Dan. Whether this will be the case or no, we do not know. Gen. 49:17, 18 may have ultimate reference to this Son of Perdition. Certainly Dan is the most mysterious of all the twelve tribes.

THE ANTICHRIST WILL BE JUDAS REINCARNATED.

1. In Psalm 55 much is said of the Antichrist in his relation to Israel. Among other things we read there, "The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart: his words were softer than oil, yet were they drawn swords" (v. 21). The occasion for this sad plaint is given in the previous verse - "He had put forth his hands against such as be at peace with him: he hath *broken his covenant*". The reference is to Antichrist breaking his seven-year Covenant with the Jews (see Dan. 9:27; 11:21-24). Now if the entire Psalm be read through with these things in mind, it will be seen that it sets forth the sorrows of Israel and the sighings of the godly remnant during the End-Time. But the remarkable thing is that when we come to w. 11-14 we find that which has a double application and fulfillment -

"wickedness is in the midst thereof: deceit and guile depart not from her streets. For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him: But it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance. We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company". These verses describe not only the base treachery of Judas toward Christ, but they also announce how he shall yet, when reincarnated in the Antichrist, *betray and desert Israel*. The relation of Antichrist to Israel will be precisely the same as that of Judas to Christ of old. He will pose as the friend of the Jews, but later he will come out in his true character. In the Tribulation period, the Nation of Israel shall taste the bitterness of betrayal and desertion by one who masqueraded as a "familiar friend". Hence, we have here the first hint that the Antichrist will be Judas reincarnated.

2. "And your covenant with Death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with Hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it" (Isa. 28:18). The "Covenant" referred to is that seven-year one which is mentioned in Dan. 9:27. But here the one with whom this Covenant is made is termed "Death and Hell". This is a title of the Antichrist, as "the Resurrection and the Life" is of the true Christ. Nor is this verse in Isa. 28 the only one where the Son of Perdition is so denominated. In Rev. 6 a four-fold picture of him is given - the antithesis of the four-fold portrayal of the Lord Jesus in the Gospels. Here he is seen as the rider on differently colored horses, which bring before us four stages in his awful career, and when we come to the last of them the Holy Spirit exposes his true identity by telling us, "and his name that sat on him was Death and Hell followed with him" (Rev. 6:8). Now "Hell" or "hades" is the place which receives the souls of the dead, and the fact that this awful name is here applied to Antichrist intimates that he has come from there.

3. Above, we referred to Matt. 12:41-43 to prove that Antichrist will be a super-human being, a fallen and unclean spirit; we turn to it again in order to show that this coming incarnation of Satan has previously been upon earth. The history of this "Unclean Spirit" is divided into three stages. First, as having dwelt in "a man"; second, as having gone out of a man, and walking through dry places, seeking rest and finding none - this has reference to his present condition during the interval between his two appearances on earth. Third, he says, "I will return to my house". This Unclean Spirit, then, who has already been here, who is now away in a place where rest is not to be found, is to come back again!

4. In John 17:12 we have a word which, more plainly still, shows that the Antichrist will be Judas reincarnated, for here he is termed by Christ "The Son of Perdition". But first, let us consider the teaching of Scripture concerning Judas Iscariot. Who was he? He was a "man" (Matt. 26:24). But was he more than a man? Let Scripture make answer. In John 6:70 we read, "Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a Devil?" It is hardly necessary to say that in the Greek there are two different words for "Devil" and "demon". There are many demons, but only one Devil. Further, in no other passage is the word "devil" applied to any one but to Satan himself. Judas then was the Devil incarnate, just as the Lord Jesus was God incarnate. Christ Himself said so, and we dare not doubt His word.

As we have seen, in John 17:12 Christ termed Judas "the Son of Perdition", and 2 Thess. 2:3 we find that the Antichrist is similarly designated - "That Man of Sin be revealed, the Son of Perdition". These are the only two places in all the Bible where his name occurs, and the fact that Judas was termed by Christ not a "son of perdition", but "*the* Son of Perdition", and the fact that the Man of Sin is so named prove that they are one and the same person. What other conclusion can a simple and unprejudiced reader of the Bible come to?

5. In Rev. 11:7 we have the first reference to "the Beast" in the Apocalypse: "The Beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit." Here the Antichrist is seen issuing forth from the Abyss. What is the Abyss? It is the abode of lost spirits, the place of their incarceration and torment - see Rev. 20:1-3, and Luke 8:31, "deep" is the "abyss" and cf. Matt. 9:28. The question naturally arises, How did he get there? And when was he sent there? We answer, When Judas Iscariot died! *The Antichrist will be Judas Iscariot reincarnated.* In proof of this we appeal to Acts 1:25 where we are told, "*That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.*" Of no one else in the entire Bible is it said that at death he went "to his own place." Put these two scriptures together: Judas went "to his own place", the Beast ascends out of the Abyss.

6. In Rev. 17:8 we read, "The Beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the Bottomless Pit, and go into perdition". This verse is generally understood to refer to the revived Roman Empire, and while allowing that such an application is warrantable, yet we are persuaded it is a mistake to limit it to this. In the Apocalypse, the Roman Empire and its final and satanic Head are very closely connected, so much so, that at times it is difficult to distinguish between them. But in Rev. 17 they are distinguishable.

In v. 8 we are told that the Beast "*shall ascend out of the Bottomless Pit,*" and that he shall go into "*perdition.*" In v. 11 we are told, "*And the Beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seventh, and goeth into perdition.*" Now nearly all expositors are agreed that the Beast of v. 11 - the "eighth" (head, and form of government of the Roman Empire) - is the Antichrist himself; then why not admit the same of v.8? In both, the designation is the same - "the Beast"; and in both, we are told he "*goeth into perdition*".

We take it, then, that what is predicted of "the Beast" in 17:8 is true of both the Roman Empire and its last head, the Antichrist: of the former, in the sense that it is infernal in its character. Viewing it now as a declaration of the Antichrist, what does it tell us about him? Four things; First, he "was" Second, he "is not" Third, he shall "ascend out of the Bottomless Pit" Fourth; he shall "go into perdition." The various time-marks here concern the Beast in his relation to the earth. First, he "was" i.e. on the earth. Second, he "is not," now on the earth (Gen. 5:24. "*Enoch was not for God took him*"; that is. "was not" any longer on earth). Third, he shall "*ascend out of the Bottomless Pit,*" where he is now, which agrees with 11:7. Fourth, he shall "*go into perdition.*" We learn then from this scripture that at the time the Apocalypse was written the Beast "was not" then on the earth, but that *he had been on it formerly.* Further, we learn that in John's day the Beast was then in the Bottomless Pit but should yet ascend out of it. Here then is further evidence that the Antichrist who is yet to appear *has been on earth before.*

The False Prophet

The false Prophet is described in Rev. 13:11-18 in verse 11 he has "two horns like a lamb," but he is no lamb. When he speaks, he shall sound like a dragon or Satan.

Rev. 13 has 10 identifying features of this false prophet 10 being the number of the gentiles.

1. he will be out of the earth (carnal)
2. he will control all religions
3. he will be motivated by Satan
4. he will promote the worship of the beast
5. he will perform counterfeit signs and wonders
6. he will deceive the world
7. he will give power to the image of the beast
8. he will kill all who refuse to worship the image

9. he will control the world economics

10. he will help implement the mark of the beast

one of the amazing facts of history is that it has never been possible to rule without some "religious" devotion notice I said religious not Christian.

The false prophet will bring all religions of the world together we can see this already in the works. For example back in Sept. 30th 2001 18 religions met in Kazakhstan. It was the congress of World and Traditional Religions. Here are some of the leaders that were there.

1. Sec.- Gen. of Muslim world League
2. Chief Rabbi of Israel- John Metzger
3. The Vatican Cardinal Joseh Tonko
4. the Russian Orthodox Church
5. The Hindus
6. Pakistani Muslims
7. Taoists and Buddhists of China
8. Shinto's of Japan
9. Sec-Gen. of the Lutheran World federation

10. Orthodox Church of Constantinople

In August 2003 the Millennium World Peace Summit was opened by Kofi Anon of the United Nations.

I believe these provide proof of the world moving toward the direction of a world with one religion.

The False Prophet is tied to a city sitting on seven hills in Rev. 17: 7-9 and that controls many countries in 17-18. Only one city in the world fits this description both in John's day and today that city is Rome.

The False Prophet is a dangerous individual because of his appearance of being religious. Any one who proposes to guide and command the minds, hearts and souls of people has in his power an authority that is unmatched in any other walk of life. This false prophet will be able to do miracles as seen here in Rev. 13:13-14 "And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast". One of the disturbing things going on now in the church is the growing claims by televangelist of all of

their miracles even of raising the dead of course none are ever verifiable.

He will make all of his followers to make an image of the Anti-Christ and cause them to worship it. He will be so evil that for anyone not to worship the image he will have them executed as we read here in Rev. 13:14-15 "saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed." Nebuchadnezzar was the first one to try this back in Daniel 3:1 and he failed at it where God fearing Jews were concerned.

One of the False Prophets greatest acts of evil is the forcing of people to take the mark of the beast either on their hand or forehead so they can continue to purchase goods and services. We have this amazing number in Rev. 13:18 "Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six" this is man's number it the falling short of perfection of God's number 7. man was created on the 6th day he is to work 6 days and in Jesus day the land was to be planted for 6 years and then rested; and a slave could only remain so for 6 years only to be freed on the 7th.

Here are a few possibilities as to what or how this mark will come to pass. First some said it was the upc code placed on product labels for inventory control with each long point being a 6. This and the WWW of the internet which also has been put out as the mark because W in the Hebrew alphabet equals 6; they both fail because his name is not 3 6's put together but the total number of his name. So WWW actually equals 18 not 666; some have put up that it will be 666 plus one's Social Security and or even 666, Social Security and ones zip code.

Most recently and coming ever closer is the new bio-chip technology using rfid or radio frequency identity. The ranges of these chips are 2 to 12 inches and there size is that of a grain of rice. They are said not to be able to be tracked by satellite and that they only hold one 10-15 digit number. Although they are

using them more often and they are caring more types of information. In a recent poll 47% of Americans said they would take a biochip I.D. one chip to replace all forms of credit and debit cards and medical cards!

Our Government knows us by a number our Social Security number, so most people that will be left behind will think little of taking a similar or different number and the water is being slowly warmed every day.

The one thing the False Prophet will never disclose to the people who take the mark and that is they will be doomed to suffer his fate also as we read here in Rev. 14:9-10 If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb

The greatest news for mankind is that these two men the Antichrist and the False Prophet is both certain and forever. Their judgment will be by God and their destination is the Lake of Fire as we read here in Rev. 19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. That is their fate and also for Satan a little later and for the millions who take the mark.

The Antichrist is going to come on the scene in the near future that is sure and he may already be climbing the political ladder in Europe. His false prophet will come in line right with him and cause through religious talk and false miracles multitudes to follow him and worship the beast. The church will be gone others who have never heard the gospel will hear the gospel and have to decide between the mark or accepting Christ. To refuse the mark is to die by the hand of the false prophet making that one a martyr for Christ found in heaven. To accept the mark assures one of a place in the lake of fire with their master.

The Second Coming Of Christ

This is one of the most well covered subjects in all of scriptures. There are far more verses on the second coming of Christ than on His first coming. Some one has placed the count of verses at 8 to 1 for the second over the first coming.

Every Old Testament Prophet writes more about the second coming than the first. They often were placing both within the same verse. There are some 320 references to Jesus second coming in the New Testament.

Now without the second coming the first coming is incomplete. The second coming simply cannot be ignored by any serious student of the word of God. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit placed a great emphasis on the subject and men and women should not ignore its importance.

Here is a brief comparison of Jesus first and second coming before we look into the details of the Second coming.

First	Second
Small star	Bright & Morning Star
A Baby	King of Kings
Lowly Nazarene	Lion of Judah
Lay down His Life	Reign Supreme

When we read 1 Peter 1:8-12 here "Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost

sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into”. Here we see that the Old Testament prophets prophesied of Christ’s sufferings and His glory. However they did not fully understand the meaning of the message given by the Holy Spirit. This message is that their prophecy that would come in different time periods separated by an indefinite period of time.

When kyou study this subject you will find that the 2nd coming of Christ is a sure promise. Jesus is coming to take the church out of this world and later to establish His kingdom. This blessed hope should be the greatest incentive for a believer to live a righteous life of serving and taking the gospel to the world.

The Second coming is a recurring theme of the Bible.

From the very beginning in the book of Genesis 3:15 we find the first promise and direct prophecy of Christ. So let’s read it here “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel” most people think of this as the prophecy of Christ’s first coming, but there is more. You see on the cross Jesus reached all the way back to the garden and all the way forward to the first day of eternity.

This verse reveals both comings; the first is seen in the phrase “thou (speaking of the serpent) shalt bruise His heel. This was the cross.

The second part of Christ’s coming is seen in the phrase “shall bruise thy head” referring to the seed of the woman bruising the serpent. This will take place when the serpents head is crushed by the King.

Here are four men as examples of those who looked steadfastly for the Second Coming of Christ. Our first person is Job as he is the writer of the oldest book it is logical to start there. Job makes a definite statement about the second coming as we see here in Job 19:25 “For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth.” Even in a time of great loss Job knew that

the Messiah was going to be here on the earth in the last days. Job also knew that he would see Messiah the redeemer in a resurrected body. Notice his words "He shall stand at the latter day." We also need to read verse 26 "And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:"

Secondly we have King David when he wrote the 2nd Psalm he was writing about the coming King. This Psalm is about the world's rulers being against this King as we read here in the first three verses of Psalm 2: 1-3 "Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us." Kings here are the political leaders and "rulers" are the religious leaders. When Jesus has returned and is King on Mt. Zion, the world will be in subjection to King Jesus.

In Psalm 2:4-5 "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure." Laughter here is of one who thinks it preposterous what man is trying to do. Verse 5 here is a reference to the time of the Tribulation. In verse 6 here "Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion" these words are a reference to the second part of the Lord's second coming when He will establish His throne in Jerusalem and reign there for a thousand years.

Our third person is the Prophet Isaiah, he prophesied of both the first and second comings of Jesus. Isaiah saw his first coming in Is. 7:14 "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" and in 9:6a "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given" These are references to Christ Jesus first coming. The word "Immanuel" is "God with us" and Jesus is "save from sin" this is not a contradiction in names as Jesus cannot save us without being God with us. Israel as a nation rejected Christ at His first coming.

Isaiah also saw Jesus Christ sitting on the throne of David over His Kingdom here in 9:7 "Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever" this will happen when he returns to establish his government upon Himself. Let's take a brief look at the titles of Jesus when He sits on the throne. Wonderful, this word means "secret as we read in Judges 13:18 And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Why askest thou thus after my name, seeing it is secret? Counsellor to all men; The mighty God, He has all power; The everlasting Father, that is He is creator of all things; The Prince of Peace true peace will only come when Christ reigns.

The fourth is from the New Testament that is Paul the apostle. Paul gives us a library of material about the return of the Lord. Some 50 times; Paul speaks to the 2nd coming that is 1 in 30 verses. Here are just a few

1st cor. 15:51-53 this is the Lord's second coming the first part.

Philippians 3:20-21 our life is in Heaven and this gives us our desire to look for Jesus.

1st Thess. 1:10; 4:13-18 "wait" in this passage is in a very active way, when Jesus comes He will keep us from the wrath.

1st Timothy 6:14-15 Paul says keep had been given until Jesus appears for us.

Titus 2:13 also 1st John 3:1-3 "blessed hope" here is a purifying hope, all those looking for Jesus will endeavor to keep themselves pure. The event in Titus here is the next happening in God's program for the church. Paul affirms the deity of Jesus by declaring that He is our Great God and our Saviour. We are to be looking for him.

Here are some comments of what others said of His return. Jude in his letter in verse 14 said "And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints" this is an uncountable number that will come back with Jesus.

Peter in his letter 1st Peter 5:4 "And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away" every under shepherd should keep this in mind. Jesus is coming to give out due reward! Peter also spoke of Jesus return in Acts 3:20 and 2nd Peter 1:16 here he knows it is true from his eyewitness experience which happened in Luke 9: 28-36.

James preached Jesus second coming in chapter 5 verses 7-8 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. In this ever worsening world we need to have patience in waiting for the Lords coming.

The Apostle John also preached this coming in 1st John 2:28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming. John was certain Jesus was going to return and he would see Him. John again speaks of it in 1st John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. What John is saying is this; I do not know right now see what I am going to look like but when Jesus comes back I will. This blessed hope is to keep us from being ashamed. This hope will also make us watchful as Jesus says in Mark 13: 35-37 a watchful person is one who lives carefully.

The announcement of Jesus is of an incomparable nature. This is so because His return is always mentioned in connection with clouds as these next verses will show us. we start with Rev. 1:7 "Behold He cometh with clouds" this is the announcement of Jesus coming in the glory (Shekinah) clouds. This is the same clouds that received Him when He left from the Mount of Olives in Acts 1:11 as we read "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." Two of heavens messengers tell the apostles to quit looking up

the same Jesus (personnel visible) that just left in the glory cloud was coming back to earth the same way.

Daniel wrote of it in 7:13 "I saw in the night visions, and , behold, one like the Son of Man came with the clouds of Heaven". In Jesus sermon on the Mount He said HE would return in the clouds lets read here Matt. 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. There those who believe that just prior to Christ's physical return the glory cloud will appear as it did in the Old Testament.

I believe it should be abundantly clear from what we have seen and read so far that the idea of liberal theology's desire and attempts remove and refute Jesus second coming are futile and against the Word of God.

John was present when our Lord ascended. He personally heard the angel's when they said HE would return the way John saw Him leave and that is what John opens Revelation with "behold he cometh with clouds".

In the wilderness, the people were led at night by a pillar of fire and during the day by the cloud as recorded in Exodus 13:21-22 and 14:19-20. This is the same cloud as the one used of our Lord's return. This is the same cloud as the one that overshadowed Jesus and the disciples in Matthew 17:5 "While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them"

As Jesus went away in the clouds, he will come again in the clouds. His return is just as sure..

The first part of Jesus return He will come as a thief in the night. We have already read in Rev. 1:7 that He will come with clouds and every eye will see Him. However it does not say that every eye will see Him at the same time or in the same way. Those who will see come as a thief will be the church the lost will see Him come in power and judgment.

His secret return is to take for himself the pearl of great price which is the church. The church is the most precious thing on earth where Jesus is concerned. Jesus will come quickly

secretly, quietly to take a few names as we read in Rev. 3:3. Each and every person is to be awake for Christ will take the church suddenly; we need to be ready as in Zech. 13:6.

To the world the disappearance of the church, the body of Christ will be as though a thief broke in and got them. The devil has for years been laying a foundation to explain this act away. They are saying today the world would be better off without Christians.

Lets look here in Matt. 24:43 But know this, that if the goodman 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. Jesus is going to come for His as a thief does suddenly without warning. For a purpose only the thief knows as a thief does not take everything just those things that are precious, and he doesn't come to stay and he always leaves more than he takes. So too Jesus will take His bride and leave behind the lost masses.

Paul wrote of this same thing in 1st Thess. 5:1-2,4 where he says that we the church are to be looking for a person as times and seasons are for the nation Israel during the Tribulation. That day will come suddenly when it is least expected.

The same figure of speech is mentioned in Rev. 16:15 where Jesus says "Behold I come as a thief in the night." This is a direct reference to the Lord fighting Israel's battle at Armageddon.

He is coming for His church, which is described for us in 1st Thess. 4: 13-18. This rendezvous will be in the air. It is only the redeemed that will be called out of the grave at this time. Then those believers alive at that time will be caught up and changed to meet them in the air. Paul is talking about what Jesus had said in John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. Jesus is speaking of His own, His believers in Him who are a part of Him.

This secret call of Christ for His church is taught in the Bible through types. Let's start back in the Old Testament for the oldest one that is the man Enoch. His story is best recorded in the great chapter of faith in Hebrews 11 down in verse 5 By

faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.” Just as Enoch was before the judgment of the flood and God removed him. Those who truly belong to Christ will also be removed prior to the onset of the Tribulation.

This is one reason those who are saved are called the “church” as the word means the “called out ones” or the called away like Enoch was.

One need only move up just a little while to Noah. Jesus in Luke 17:26 compares the time of Noah to the same type of time that will be just before His return. In Noah’s day while the world partied and fought and lived the sinful lifestyle, he built an ark that God gave the plans for and then took the animals and his family aboard and God shut the door. God took Noah out before the flood.

We are living in a day where man has concluded we are god. He is all and in all, therefore we have no one to answer to; and no need for any one to come for us. We will establish the kingdom for ourselves!

The same happened in Lot’s day as Jesus said in Luke 17:28-30. God could not execute judgment until Lot was removed as we read in Gen. 19:22 “Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do any thing till thou be come thither”. The moment we leave the tribulation will start. The Lord’s Supper looks back to the cross and forward to His return for us. it is a betrothal pledge during Christ absence from us.

So the Lord shall come secretly for His bride. He shall come, and no one knows when except God the Father as we read here in Matt. 24:36 “But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only”.

The second part of Jesus return will be open for all to see as we read in Jude 14 “And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints”. The saints here are the ones HE took out when HE came as a thief in the night; the church.

The same Jesus that left bodily from the Mt. of Olives is going to return to the same spot and once again put His feet there as prophesied in Zech. 14:4 And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

At this return to the Mount of Olives He will not be the suffering Saviour. Just the opposite He will be the coming King as we read again in Zechariah 14:9 And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one this is also confirmed in Daniel 2:44-45.

Jesus describes His return in detail in Matthew 24:4-31 where He describes the signs of His return such as "false Christ's; wars and rumors of wars in verse 6; famines, pestilences, earthquakes in vs 7. Persecution of believers, false prophets in verses 9-11. Anti-Semitism will be rampant even as the rest of these will be on the increase as the church age draws to a close.

One thing of the church is not a nation we are a body. Israel is warned of false prophets the church is warned against false teachers.

In that day "the gospel of the Kingdom will be preached to the world in verse 14" Jesus changed it to "come unto me all that labor" in 20:28. Today we proclaim the gospel of Grace!

These are signs leading to the visible return of Jesus. The "abomination of desolation" is the beast the Anti-Christ. Jesus uses Daniel's account to teach them and us the truth of the Antichrist. Jesus gives a warning of him in Matthew 24:15-26.

Jesus says the coming of the Son of Man will be as lighting from east to the west in Matt. 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. Jesus will need no forerunner this time the whole world will see Him. Notice also here verse 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 this will take place at end of the tribulation just as Christ arrives here.

In verse 30 Jesus says He is coming back. This will begin with a point of light out shining the sun in the distance. It will come towards earth as it nears the light will unfold as bright cloud streaming with a beam of light. This cloud will appear to be on the wings of a whirlwind as it reaches the top of the Mount of Olives. It will open up to reveal to the awe stricken terrified beholders.

He has outlined the conditions and told us HE was to return with power and great glory.

Jesus shall return as "King of Kings and Lord of Lords as stated here in Rev. 19:16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. Jesus return is portrayed in 19:11-16.

Here are 10 signs of the times leading up to the second coming of Jesus.

1. Post Millennial scoffing of the 2nd coming
2. the Apostasy 2nd Th. 2:3
3. false Teachers 2nd Peter 2:1-2; rampant today
4. Spiritualism as in 1st Tim. 4:1
5. Perilous times 2nd 3:1-5
6. Heaped up treasures as in John 5:1-6
7. a Laodiceans Church Rev. 3:14-22
8. the fig tree sign in Matt. 24 Israel reborn in 1948
9. Distress of nations in Luke 21:24-27 the world today is in turmoil of change and economic problems.
10. Days like Noah and Lot Luke 17:26-30

The King and His Kingdom

In this part we will be rightly dividing the Kingdom of God from the Kingdom of Heaven. The Kingdom of Heaven is the period of time that is covered in Rev. 20. In this chapter the length of time is stated and restated 6 times for emphasis; that time is 1,000 years. The common term for this time is the Millennium. This word is not in the bible however it is a scriptural truth. The word comes from two Latin words, "mille" which is one thousand and "annum" which is "years." So from these two words we have the millennium or thousand years.

This subject is not to be argued over or debated at all as it is clearly presented here in the Word of God and all His words are true. The appropriate term for this time period is the "Kingdom of Heaven." Satan has taken a word that is not in the Bible and used it to cause a great number of arguments that would cause people to divide over a word.

Here are in brief the 3 main views of this word the Millennium.

1. Post-Millennium this theory says preaching the gospel will convert the world creating a society of saints. It is at this point that Christ will be invited back to establish His throne. This theory was made popular by Daniel Whitly a Unitarian minister 1638-1726. This view was very popular until WW1 it is still held by some church groups today.
2. A-Millennium this view teaches that there will be no Millennial reign at all. That the church inherits all the promises of Israel. In this view Isaiah's beautiful

prophecy of the bear and the cow in Is. 11:7 doesn't mean what it says, neither does all of the other 800 prophecies of the Kingdom of Heaven. If this is so then all of the prophecies of Christ dying for us might be storied away. This view is held by many in the region where I live.

3. Pre-Millennium this view is consistent with all of scripture and prophecy. That Messiah will return to earth just prior to the beginning of His 1,000 year reign as King of Kings. This view was held by Christ, the Apostles, the early church father, and all the way down to today by those Christians who rightly divide the bible.

The Kingdom of Heaven is a term used by Matthew in his gospel 32 times. This is as it should be with Matthew presenting Jesus as the Messiah King of the Old Testament prophecies. When Jesus was rejected as King during His first coming, the Kingdom of Heaven was postponed and Jesus ascended into glory. Jesus taught of the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven in Matthew's gospel. It has been said that "you cannot have a King without a kingdom or a kingdom without a king." So all of these Kingdom dominion builders today are building their own, they are not building Christ's.

When Jesus comes again He will return as King and shall reign over His kingdom for 1,000 years. There is a volume of Scripture, in both of the Testaments which presents the Kingdom of our Lord.

Since the Bible declares the Kingdom in both Old and New Testaments lets take a look at a couple from each to establish the truth of the Kingdom of Heaven. There are 350 references in the Old Testament and 320 references in the New Testament about the Kingdom of Heaven and Jesus reigning on the earth.

John the Baptist is our first speaker as He announced the Kingdom as being at hand in Matthew 3:2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. This is the rule of the Heavens over the earth; the Kingdom was present in the person of the King. The only reality of the kingdom today is in all those who accept Jesus as king. They

are placed as citizens of the king's kingdom, but in an even more intimate relationship than that of bride and groom.

Malachi records these words in Mal. 3:1 Behold I will send my messenger and he shall prepare the way for the coming king! This is his words in regard to Messiah's forerunner John the Baptist.

Jesus Himself announced, the Kingdom as "at hand" as we read here in Matthew 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Now the phrase "at hand" involves the personage of the King. When He visibly returns, to a visible country, a visible people, and he will establish a visible kingdom. Jesus words here are to real people who understand his statement as because they knew the Old Testament.

The twelve apostles announced the kingdom of Heaven as "at hand" just read there words here in Matt. 10:7 And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. They were instructed to go to the whole house of Israel. The seventy were sent out by the Lord Jesus and told to announce the Kingdom as "nigh unto you" in Luke 10:9.

There is also the testimony of the Old Testament to the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus came the first time to be King over a kingdom this is what the prophets foretold. The King and His Kingdom were to be real, literal, and actual.

Notice Isaiah's words in Isaiah 2:2 and 4 And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. Mountains here are symbols for kingdoms, so the kingdom of heaven will be established above all other kingdoms and bring peace. We also find these words in Isaiah 9:7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of

the LORD of hosts will perform this. David had but one throne and it was in Jerusalem. Jesus will in the future reign from that throne during the Millennium. Isaiah adds more to this in chapter 11 verse 6-7 and 11 these are yet to be fulfilled.

Jeremiah in chapter 23 verse 5 of says "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth." Coniah was on the throne at this time and Jeremiah tells him here that God would in the future will raise up a king from David's line. His kingdom would prosper; Jesus came from Nathan a son of David. Jeremiah has this to add in verses 3 and 6 And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. All of this is in reference to this yet future coming king and kingdom.

Listen to the prophet Habakkuk in chapter 2 verse 14 For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. This is God's goal for the earth that every one is full of the knowledge of the Lord Jesus and it will happen when Christ Jesus sits upon the throne of David in Jerusalem.

The Prophet Zechariah adds to this in his prophecy chapter 14:9 And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one. Let's add to this Zeph. 3:9 For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent. The Lord's Kingdom will extend over the whole earth. There will be one language for everyone to use in serving the king. I believe these verses have given us the purpose of our heavenly Father in establishing the Kingdom for Jesus.

As one looks at the Bible, one will find that the Father had a very clear and determined purpose to build a kingdom here on earth for His Son and His people Israel. The one salient truth

is that the Lord has not deviated from that purpose as it runs throughout the Bible.

We can see that in the Old Testament there is a prophetic picture painted of the Messiah King throughout. In the New Testament it is an historic perspective.

He is none other than the promised seed of David, the Messiah. Here are just a few of verses that portray Him as the Messiah

1. In Gen. 3:15, He is to be the Seed of a woman.
2. In Gen. 9:26, He is to come from the line of Shem
3. In Gen. 12:1-3, we see Messiah is of the seed of Abraham
4. In Gen. 17: 19, we find Messiah is to come of Isaac
5. In Gen. 28:14-15, Messiah is a descendant of Jacob
6. In Gen. 49:10, He is to belong to the tribe of Judah
7. In 2 Samuel 7:12&16, He will be the Son of David.
8. In Psalm 89:3-4& 35-37, we find Messiah the Son of David has his place on the throne established forever and that unconditionally.
9. In Jeremiah 33: 17-26, the prophet confirms this unconditional promise. This man is not on Earth now, nor has he been, He is right now seated at the right hand of the Father as one can read in Psalm 110:1
10. Isaiah 11:1-2, 10 the prophet reaffirms the unconditional promise again.

This Messiah King will be the very Son of God, as the Bible clearly speaks of Jesus as a King.

1. In Isaiah 7:14 & 9:6-7, He is to be of divine heritage.
2. In Luke 1: 31-33, 35 this is a prophecy of Isaiah that certainly came to pass.
3. In Micah 5:2, the King birth place is specifically mentioned in advance.
4. In Matthew 2:1-2, the prophecy of Micah came to the least detail as Jesus was born King of the Jews.
5. In the prophet Daniel 9: 26 the king was to be cut off, or killed but not for himself. No the king was to die as an offering for our sin.
6. In Psalm 22, the Psalmist describes that death in very great detail hundreds of years in advance.

7. In Isaiah chapter 53, the death of Jesus Christ is again described and it would be completely fulfilled
8. In Psalm 16:10, here we have a prophecy of the king's resurrection from the dead.
9. In Acts 2:25-28, Peter while preaching quotes this prophecy and affirms Jesus resurrection.
10. In Luke 19:11-15, Jesus spoke a parable and revealed the fact of His going away because the disciples thought He was going to set up the Kingdom immediately.
11. In Acts 15:13-18, Jesus kingdom and His return is again reaffirmed.

The king in all of these scriptures is no other but the Lord Jesus Christ. He will be a real King over a real Kingdom of Israel sitting on a literal throne in Jerusalem ruling with a rod of iron.

The very term "Kingdom of Heaven" is a distinctly New Testament term and only found in the book of Matthew as he presents Jesus as King of the Jews. Matthew uses this term some 32 times from chapter 4 and on through the rest of the book.

This Kingdom is one that is limited to time and space. The time is from Jesus first coming to the end of this earthly kingdom at the end of the 1,000 year's. You see Jesus came as a King at His birth, as the wise men came seeking the one born King of the Jews. However the Jews rejected their rightful King in favor of Caesar. Jesus died as a king, a rejected king, Governor Pilate had it placed on the placard over His head on the cross. Jesus was buried as a King and He was resurrected as the King of the Jews.

When Jesus ascended back to heaven after 40 days the kingdom was postponed and the mysteries of the kingdom that Jesus had taught back in Matthew 13 were brought into play including the mystery of the church.

The disciples asked Jesus just before he ascended in Acts 1:6 "wilt thou at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" Jesus answer was "It is not for you to know the times or seasons" in the very next verse. Jesus will return one day and establish His kingdom and we the church will rule with him as we read

here in Rev. 1:6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever and 5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth along with 2 Timothy 2:12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us we shall be heirs as in Romans 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

When Jesus returns as King to this earth He will return according to Rev. 19: 11-16 where it proclaims Him as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. In verses 13 & 15 here And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. & And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. This is a reference to Isaiah 63:1-6 as verse 14 is a reference back to the prophecy in Psalm 2:6-9. The word "vesture" means a "garment" and Jesus will have His name prominently displayed on it so that all those who are gathered against Him will surely know who it is that is against them.

When Jesus comes it will be according to the scriptures "in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." At the end of the great battle of Armageddon, Jesus will take His place on the throne of David in Jerusalem. This battle is described in Matthew 24:27-31 this place "Armageddon" has been the scene of battles since Nebuchadnezzar camped there. It is in the valley of Jehoshaphat, on the Plain of Esdraelon. Now in the book of Joel chapter 3 verse 13 it says "Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the vats overflow; for their wickedness is great" notice the word harvest this word is a picture of the end of the age. This battle is also described in the following passages Zech. 14:1-4; Rev. 16:13-16, & 19:17-19. This battle is the conflict between the Lord Jesus and the Anti-Christ and his army. This is the final fulfillment of Genesis 3:15 where the Seed of the woman defeats the serpent.

We find this doom of both the Anti-Christ and False Prophet in Rev. 19:20 where we read “And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone” we see from this that these two beat their master into the lake of fire by about 1,000 years.

From the throne Jesus will make judgment upon the Gentile nations according to Matthew 25:31-46 this judgment will be in relation to how these nations treated the Jewish people during the time Jesus was gone and especially during the tribulation. Those who protect and provide for them will continue as a nation, in the kingdom, those nations which do not will cease to continue as a nation. The King will also judge the nation of Israel according to Ezekiel 20: 33-38.

During Christ reign on earth of 1,000 years called the Millennium the adversary the Devil or Satan will be bound in the bottomless pit for the entire time as we read here in Rev. 20:2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years Satan's power is weakened enough so that an ordinary angel to bind him with a supernatural chain and place him in the pit. Once he is put away this age of darkness will become a world of light for 1,000 years.

The Kingdom will last for these 1,000 years and for the emphasis the Lord has it recorded 6 times in 6 verses in Rev. 20 from verse 2 thru 7. In verse 4 we find that the martyrs during the tribulation will reign with Jesus for the 1,000 years. In verse 5 we are told that the unsaved dead will stay in the ground for at least 1,000 years after the saved dead are resurrected. In verse 6 we will be priests and reign for 1,000 years. The first resurrection began with Christ the first fruits and ends with those who are martyred during the tribulation. In verse 7 Satan is turned loose after the 1,000 years to try all those who are born during those years. this will include those who survive the destruction of the tribulation. Satan will seduce millions into following him to the last battle of Armageddon.

The only way this old world will ever know peace and true prosperity is for the "Prince of Peace" to return to the city of peace Jerusalem. David in Psalm 122:6-8 that we are to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. This peace will come when Jesus comes to earth again.

Jesus will have absolute obedience as Paul writes in Phil 2: 10-11 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. This comes from a prophecy of Isaiah in Isaiah 45:23 where it says "I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear."

What will be the prevailing conditions during the Kingdom age? First Israel will be the Head nation of all nations as prophesied by Isaiah in Isaiah 61:5 "And strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the alien shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers" we see from this that Israel will be so prosperous that everyone will go there to find work! Also here in Zech 8: 23 "In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you" we that ten gentiles will go up to Jerusalem with every Jew for there they know the Lord is and they now are seeking to see Him who they rejected¹

Second the Church is going to reign with Christ during this time as plainly stated in the following verses 2 Tim. 2: 11-12; 1st Thess. 4:17 and 1st Cor. 6:2-3. From these we know that wherever the Lord is there the church will be also. We will both reign with Him and judge angels and the world.

Third as previously stated Satan will be bound for this time and the antichrist and false prophet will already have been cast into the lake of fire.

Fourth according to Zech 14:16 the nations will worship the Lord or they will not see any rain. These remnant nations will

have to go to Jerusalem and offer sacrifices. The reverse of today where the Jew is scattered among all nations

Fifth we must come to understand the spiritual condition of man during this Kingdom. Human nature never changes, there will be adoration of Christ by all but it will not be genuine. For the multitude it will be a false obedience because Christ will rule with a rod of iron. Since man is still in the flesh the old nature is still present, so when Satan is released after the 1,000 years to test all those born during this time many will follow him willingly. This will lead to the second battle of Armageddon where again Satan will be defeated, only this time he will be cast into the lake of fire to join the antichrist and false prophet.

Sixth is the physical condition of man during this time. The one singular marked change will be the life span of those who live during this time period, as many of them will live to be 900 to 1,000 years old. There will be good health for all, no suffering as we see in Isaiah 35: 5-6 “Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert”

In Isaiah 65:20 There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed we see from this that when a person openly rebels against Christ during this time, they will have until they reach the age of 100 years old to repent before they are cut off.

During this time the Earth also will be restored as there will be no more famines, earthquakes, pestilences as you can see from reading these verses, Isaiah 32:15, 35:1, 65:18-25. even the animals will return to there pre flood ways as we see in Isaiah 11:6-9 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the

hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea and 65:25 The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD. The law of the jungle will cease under the law of the king.

Once the 1,000 years of the Kingdom is complete Jesus will give the Kingdom up to the Father as we read in 1 Cor. 15:24 "deliver up the Kingdom to God, even the Father". Now the Kingdom of God is forever or everlasting as David wrote in Psalm 103:19.

There are four distinct differences between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven.

1. The Kingdom of God is universal, read Luke 13:28-29
The Kingdom of Heaven is on Earth 1 Cor. 15:24
2. The Kingdom of God is entered only by the new birth Jh 3:3
Kingdom of Heaven a profession may be real or false Mt. 25:1
3. Kingdom of God not without outward show Luke 17:20
Kingdom of Heaven is organic glory on earth
4. Kingdom of Heaven merges into Kingdom of God when Christ delivers the Kingdom to the Father in 1 Cor. 15: 24-28

The New Heaven And New Earth

The subject of Heaven is one that invokes in our mind all that is beautiful, happy, reunion with loved ones, a state of tranquility. What ever brings us great joy in our life we often call heavenly, for example a desert that is just right?

The word "heaven" is found in the Bible some 600 times, of that amount very few references are about the Heaven of heavens or the third heaven, where are God's throne and His dwelling place. Of this Heaven there is very little said and as there are just some things God has not revealed to us, and that for our own good. Heaven is so full of God's glory that we could not stand to view it lest we die. The fact of this is written in Deut. 29:29 "The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law."

There is one thing that is a certainty and it is that everyone will spend eternity in one of two places. God prepared both of these one is Heaven His dwelling place and the place for those who are saved. The other is of course Hell, which was prepared for the devil and his angels; it was enlarged to accept all those who would reject salvation. Now that we have mentioned Hell we will leave that subject just as God would give the unholy line of people and then move on with the Holy line. Now we will focus on the part that is important for all who are believers.

The word heaven in our bibles actually takes in six different words in the Hebrew and Greek languages, and must be dealt with by reading the context in which they are used. Each of these words we use for Heaven will fall into the 3 different Heavens that are actually being talked about.

1st there is the atmospheric heaven, where we live

2nd the planetary heaven, which is the sun, moon, etc

3rd the Heaven of Heavens, the dwelling place of God

There have been a few men who have had the privilege of getting a small glimpse into the third Heaven. Each time this has happened, the observer was totally overcome and fully overwhelmed at what they beheld if even for a second.

Our first person is the martyr Stephen; he had a glimpse into heaven. What he saw was Jesus standing at the right hand of the Father. This moment is found here in Acts 6:15 "And all that sat in the council, looking stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel". Now what he saw is found in Acts 7:54-60 especially these two verses 55& 56 But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. As they were stoning Stephen, he kept his eyes on Heaven awaiting Jesus to come and receive the very first martyr.

Our second is the apostle Paul and he records his view of heaven here in 2 Cor. 12: 2 "I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven."

Notice that Paul dates the experience for us. His first missionary journey in Acts 14: 19-20; here is where we find that Paul is dragged outside the gates of Lystra and stoned to death. When they were sure he was dead they went back to their daily lives. Paul's spirit left and went to the 3rd heaven, the new location of Paradise. Then here in verse 4 he says "How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to

utter” it is well to take a serious note and underline this in your Bible as there are many today who claim to have gone to the 3rd Heaven and they say all sorts of things as to what is up there. Paul says that he saw it all and heard words spoken to him and then he says that they are “unspeakable”. One last note about this passage is this Paul exhibits true humility in stating that “I knew a man” instead of lifting himself up.

Our third person is of course the apostle John. This man was given more than one opportunity to glimpse heaven. Notice his words here in Rev. 1:17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: John fell at Jesus feet like a dead person, this is not falling out in the spirit this is falling before a holy and awesome God whose glory and power are too much for our mortal minds and bodies can take in. when we see Jesus, even in our glorified bodies we will not walk up to Him with an easy familiarity.

John was called up to heaven and there he was allowed to view the throne room and all its glory. He was given opportunity to see Jesus on His throne and the 24 elders which represent the church sitting round Him; and the angels gathered to do His bidding as one can read here in Rev. 4:1-11. The key verse is found in verse 1 where here it says After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will show thee things which must be hereafter. This is one of four open doors; this one is the door way by which the church will meet the Lord, John is given an invitation to come and see all that will happen after that moment when the church is taken out of this world.

Again, John saw the door opened and this time it was not the throne room but the imminent return of Jesus as we read in Rev. 19:11-16. And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture

dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. Here Jesus is King of kings and Lord of Lords.

I hope every one realizes that Heaven is a real place, it is not a condition of the mind or a figure of speech or some other crazy idea raised by man. In John 14:2 here we read In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you the term father's house used here is a reference to the entire universe being God's house or dwelling place. Jesus that in this house is many dwelling places, but He was going to go away and build a special place just for us!

Another thing to note is that our true citizenship is in heaven as Paul reveals to us in Phi. 3:20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: To act as a citizen every one in Philippi carried on life as it was in Rome. So also should we the church be acting like a colony of people from our capital Heaven.

Heaven even has it's own library, heaven contains many books of one kind, and one book that is very different. The many books contain every word and deed of the unsaved person. This is indicated by Jesus in his talking in Matt. 12:36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment and also in the gospel of Luke 12:2-3 For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known. Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops.

Millions of religionist has always wanted to be judged on their good works, here's there chance. There is the "book" this book

is the book of life. In this book are the names of all of the redeemed. Let's read here Rev. 20:12 "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." Out of the books all of mankind will be judged for their works whether they are good or bad. But their destination is determined by the "Book of Life" alone.

For all the saints of God heaven is a place of rest and of peace just read Luke 19:38 Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest. In heaven we will know each other according to 1 cor. 13:12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. Here we misjudge others, we cannot express our true feelings, but there we will have no trouble.

Heaven is a place of pure rest, rest from trials and labors of this life as we read in Rev. 14:13 Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them. Those in heaven know what is happening here according to Luke 15: 7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance, and verse 10 Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth; Rev. 6:11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled also Heb. 12:1-2 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the

shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. Since so many are watching us let us run the race of life with patience, to obtain the victory.

Heaven is a place where every care is left behind and taken from our memories. Here every need will be supplied because of where one is and who is the provider there, that being God the Father and the Son.

In Revelation 21 verses 3-4 we will find seven of the things God will do for His own in the glory of heaven as follows.

1. God Himself shall be with them
2. be their God
3. wipe away all tears from their eyes
4. no more death
5. neither sorrow
6. nor crying
7. Neither—any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Christ will dwell (tabernacle) with His peoples, plural this will include the Bride, Israel, the nations of eternity according to Rev. 21: 24,26 and Rev. 7:9-17.

In Rev. 21 verse 1 John records these words "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea" John says that there is going to be a judging by fire according to Peter. Now fire always speaks of judgment. The idea that He will destroy this earth and its surrounding heaven is not valid. He will not destroy but he will renovate and purify this planet of its sin. The key is in the word "new," in this verse the word means new in quality as opposed to something entirely new. So what we have is this, God is going to totally renovate this earth for the last Adam to live with his new creation, here are some references Is. 65:17, 66:22 and 48:10.

One other part of this verse in Rev 21 it is "passed away" this word means to "change of one place or kind to another".

Entrance into Eternity

1. There will be a total of absence of sin and temptation.
2. The earth will become the satellite of the New Jerusalem

3. The law of gravity will be revised for traffic between earth and the New Jerusalem.
4. No sun for light, God will supply it and there will be no night.
5. No longer any sea on Earth.
6. Presence of Christ and God along with the throne it will usher in a new day.

This earth will be changed, redeemed, and regenerated after it is baptized with fire.

The Apostle Peter has this to say about this renovation, he writes in 2 Peter 3:6 here he says "Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished" this is a reference to the time of the flood. When this took place the civilization that then was perished it ceased to exist but the earth did not.

Let me make a point here that the word "perished", this word when used here in verse 6 is talking about a way of life a culture a civilization died but the earth remained after the flood over. This has been proven as an example over in the region of Iran there was found while digging for the city of Ur the remains of a very high civilization under a thick layer of mud and sand. This is also born out in the fossil record.

In verse 7 of that same chapter Peter adds these words "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"

The word kept means to be held in check by the same Word of God and is stored up (reserved) with fire, waiting the time of judgment on men. Modern science has shown us that the elements that make up this world are stored with great power as proven by the Atomic bomb, which releases the power of an Atom. There is enough power in the elements of a glass of water to power an ocean liner for a long time. Peter knew this 1,900 years before Einstein suggested it.

Since the world is dominated by Satan as the prince and power of the air, this whole earth must be purged of sin and its contamination. Peter again address's this in 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 I would have you notice three words. First is the word "noise" this is a sound of the rush of wings or the splash of water, bombs make a similar noise. The second word is "elements" this word means "atomic" or the very basest of elements. The third word is "melt" this word means to "untie or unloose". So at some point in time God is going to untie the atoms of this earth in such a manor as to bring a fire on it to cleanse away all the sin. Then He will put this earth back to the way it was during the garden on Eden. Here are some references Psalm 37:9, 11, 29 and Matthew 5:5 also Isaiah 65:17.

Now that we have looked at the Earth's renovation let's look at the home of the bride of Christ the New Jerusalem the heavenly city of God. This city will be to eternity what the Earthly Jerusalem will be to the Millennium. It will not pass away just take 2nd place to our new home. Righteousness will reign in Jerusalem; it will dwell in the New one.

John gives a picture of the outside of the city in Rev. 21:9 thru the first half of verse 22. He describes this city coming down out of heaven from God; notice though no where does it come to rest on this earth only into a close orbit. This is necessary as the city is almost the size of the moon.

John was called by an angel to a great high mountain and there he saw the Lamb's home as though it was dressed for a wedding in Rev 21:9-10 Come hither, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, the city proper would for us relate to a wedding dress and its many adornments. This city has no comparison on earth, for it comes from the very presence the Father. This city is the home of the redeemed of all time. We know this is true because of the names written on the 12 gates of Pearl. The names are the 12 tribes of the children of Israel as we read in verse 12 "And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names

written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel”. This list of names on the gates matches the order of the tabernacle. Everyone on earth throughout eternity will come up to worship through these gates. In verse 11 we have this added piece of description “Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.” This city gives light; it does not reflect light as the moon does. The jasper stone is diamond in a gold setting.

The city also has 12 layers of foundation under the wall and on them the 12 names of the Apostles as we read in verse 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. These 12 men are the ones who gave the Church its writings, first churches and the first martyrs. The 12 foundations are each one type of jewel or mineral as follows

1. Jasper---- a diamond
2. Sapphire--- blue opaque/ with gold flecks
3. Chalcedon----sky blue with stripes of other colors.
4. Emerald----- a dark green color
5. Sardonyx----- red and white
6. Sardis----- a fire red
7. Chrysolite----- clear golden yellow
8. Beryl---- a sea green color
9. Topaz--- clear golden green
10. Chrysoprasus----- a blue green stone
11. Jacinth--- a violet colored stone
12. Amethyst---a flashing purple color

John also gives the dimensions of this city and it is staggering in size as verses 15-17 relate “And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel.” These measurements will work out to about 1500 miles square and 1500 miles high. This city

would stretch from New York to Denver and from the Canadian border to Florida. The wall itself is only 250 feet high; it will only serve as decoration and not for protection. Since Gods heavenly bodies are round a cube would be out of place. So he places the city in a diamond globe with a circumference of 8,164 miles, a diameter of 2,600 miles. The moons diameter is only 2,160 miles in comparison. What a sight to behold coming into view at a little closer orbit than the moon.

John also gives us a look inside of this magnificent city. In verse 21 we have the first look and “the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.” What a sight to see a street covering the entire city of the purest gold so thin you can see through it. The next sight for John was the fact that there is no temple to worship in as we read here in verse 22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. With God and Jesus both present there will never be a need for another temple. The very fact of these two being present in all their glory John says there will be no need of light in verses 23-25 “And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there” there glory will light the city and earth from the inside out.

In chapter 22 John continues what he saw by describing the water of life in verse 1 “And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb” this water comes from the throne it is the purest ever known. Also inside there are trees that are on both sides and they grow the fruit of life as in verse 2 “In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.” This fruit is

not for the church the bride; it is for the nations who will come up to worship and there will be a different fruit each month.

In verse 3 we find out what the activity will be in the city, as we read here “And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:” notice we will be doing and not sitting as so many picture saints sitting on clouds. Just as man was put into the garden to dress and keep it, so we will do what ever the Lord God wants us to be doing.

Here in verse 4 we will find that we all carry His name “And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads”. This is the most important fact of this new city, as beautiful as everything is; being in His presence and knowing that we are His, this is the best of all.

In verse 12 Jesus gives a brief vow to John “behold I come quickly, and my reward is with me”. Again in verse 16 Jesus speaks “I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star” also we have Jesus precious invitation along with the bride or church in 17 “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.” John in verse gives the response that every child of God should echo “Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.”

Heaven is a real place for the saints and just as real is new Jerusalem which is going to come into view one of these days and we will be it's eternal inhabitants until then let us purpose in our hearts to serve here with all we can.