

A
Study
Of
Some
Things
Rightly
Divided

By Pastor W. Jack Casey

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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The Need To Rightly Divide The Word

This study will be about rightly dividing the bible. This is the mandate of the Lord to every Christian. Paul writing to Timothy his son in the faith instructs him in 2 Timothy 2:15 which says "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth"

There are a couple of things to note first this is a command from God for all of us to "Study" not just read the Bible. Why should we study? So we can be "approved" or acceptable to God as a servant. To put this in modern terms would be to take training necessary to be a lawyer, or doctor, or police officer. Now you could try and do there jobs without training but the results would not be very good. These people study long years to do what they do and continue to do so throughout their careers to be the best they can be at what they do.

Second we are to be "workmen" this word obviously shows that real study requires effort (work), you cannot get the knowledge and wisdom without sweat effort. The last word is "rightly divide" this should alert us that the Bible can be wrongly divided. One way that many wrongly study is to assume that every word is to the church; this is not the case. Paul said "all scripture is good for us" but not all scripture is to us. The second wrong way is Americanizing the Bible when it is distinctly Jewish.

Therefore I hope to use the next several subjects to help us understand this important principle of "rightly" dividing god's word. In this we will also fulfill 2 Timothy 3: 16-17 which says All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine (teaching), for reproof, (of sin) for correction (of wrong teaching), for instruction in righteousness (holy living): That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished (supplied with the necessities) unto all good works.

THE
EIGHT
COVENANTS
OF
GOD
WITH
MAN

We start this series with the 8 great Covenants of God as there seems to be some misunderstanding about God's covenants as to who they were to and what they were about and how many God actually made.

First we need to define this word, now we will use Webster's dictionary as a reference and it defines "covenant" as "an agreement between persons or parties to enter into a formal agreement." There are many agreements between people in the Bible for instance marriage in the Bible is considered a covenant. One of the more notable is the one between Jonathon and David in 1 Samuel 18:3 "Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul"

These are covenants however God only made 8 covenants with man and they reveal His purpose and plan for man in the world. The Bible crystallizes around and develops from these 8 Covenants. There are several groups today who espouse the teaching that God is constantly a "covenant cutting God". They give the idea that God cuts covenants on an individual basis daily. These covenants they espouse revolve around money and health and show a serious lack of following our base verse of "Rightly Dividing" the Word and Isaiah 28's command from God to teach line upon line.

There is one important truth to mention it is the fact that God is a covenant "maker" and a covenant "keeper". His covenant is with peoples not with a person. He has so far to date kept all His covenants.

There are in these 8 covenants two different types

1. There are 6 that are unconditional covenants this means that every part of its fulfillment is on God in His "I will do"
2. There are 2 "conditional covenants" these require both parties to do something. They are rooted in the words of God "if thou wilt, then I will".

The Lost of 8 Great Covenants

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. Edenic | 5. Mosaic |
| 2. Adamic | 6. Palestinian |
| 3. Noahic | 7. Davidic |
| 4. Abrahamic | 8. New Covenant |

The Edenic Covenant Gen. 1:26-31 and 2:16-17

There are two main items to notice first are the elements of covenant.

God gave to the first man, Adam, the responsibilities of multiplying the human race, subduing the earth and having dominion over all living things. There are a total of 7 conditions.

1. They were to multiply and fill the earth with people to worship God.
2. Subdue the Earth- that is all the elements were coming under his authority such as light heat electricity and gravity. It was to provide the means to meet his needs.
3. they were to be dominant over the animal population as we read here in Psalm 8: 6-9 Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas. O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!
4. Both Adam and Eve were to restrict themselves to a vegetable diet as directed in verse 30b "I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so"
5. Adam was to tend the garden- not the way extremist today portray him. He was to look after every aspect of his home but not to worship the creation only the creator. There is a large difference between dressing the garden and using what the Lord put here for fuel and products for man's benefit.
6. They were to abstain from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. His obedience to these conditions brought continued blessings and personnel fellowship with God the Father.
7. The results of disobedience would be punishment that is immediate spiritual death and eventually physical death!

God's plan for this covenant was frustrated by Adam's disobedience as we can read in Gen. 3:1-3

The second item to note is the conditional nature of the covenant. The make up of this covenant is universal in that Adam represents all men in including our generation. The covenant was conditional being dependant on the faithfulness of Adam in obeying the conditions. When he ate the fruit he broke the covenant and received the prescribed punishment that is spiritual death and later physical death. Upon this also ended the dispensation of innocence!

The Second Covenant The Adamic Gen. 3: 14-19

With the bringing of this covenant God also starts the dispensation of conscience. With this covenant time God will deal with man through his conscience, just as he had previously dealt with them in "innocence".

The main points of the covenant are

First we see the "serpent" used by Satan is cursed in this covenant as we read in verse 14 "And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life"

Second we find that the Lord put Eve's "seed" (singular) a hint to the future virgin birth; in a perpetual state of war (enmity) with the offspring of the serpent the devil or Satan. Look here at verse 15 "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". This is a prophetic statement of ultimate victory. This covenant actually covers time until the Earth is renovated by fire and the King is on the throne. This then will be the ultimate victory. This struggle is mentioned by Christ in John 8:44-45 and by the Apostle again in 1 John 3:10 "In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother"

This prophecy in verse 15 is the first direct prophecy of Jesus Christ in scripture. This begins God's plan of redemption.

Third we have the judgment placed on Eve and all her descendants. They were and are to suffer pain in child birth and sorrow in bringing up her children as we read in verse 16 "Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children". Eve's state changed in 3 particular ways
1. She would have multiplied conception- possibly 2 or more children at each birth.

2. There would be sorrow in being a mother- this indicates that had they stayed in innocence child birth would have been painless and that raising children would have not brought sorrow to the heart.

3. She fell under the headship of her husband- for her part in the sin of eating the fruit. Eve lost her place of equality with Adam and is now to be under his federal headship and authority. Look her at Eph. 5: 22-24 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

4. God established the home and its order and relationships. In chapter 2 verse 24 we read "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh". So after setting the order of the family with the husband under Christ and the wife under her husband. Then God called them both by one name "Adam" in chapter 5 verse 2 "Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam"

5. This covenant brought a curse on the ground from God for man's sake in 3:17-18. All of the Earth would bring forth those things that would make cultivation difficult such as briars, rocks and weeds.

6. In this covenant God gave to man physical labor "in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread". Work went from an easy enjoyable task as seen in the words "dress the garden". To a body weakening death bringing chore in these words "for dust thou art and to dust shalt thou return" in verse 19.

The second major point of this covenant

Is the fact that it is an unconditional covenant? God will carry out all conditions of the Adamic covenant. Being unconditional it has no dependency upon mans actions one way or the other.

The promise of a redeemer in Gen. 3:15 was fulfilled in Christ in Gal. 4:4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

Jesus was "very man of very man and very God of very God". He was born of a Jewish woman just as predicted in the prophets.

God's grace in and through Jesus Christ can be seen in the "coats of skin". There are 2 things of note about these skins.

1. God was the one who provided the adequate covering not Adam and Eve.
2. This is obtained only through the death of the animal. Every man and woman must have a substitute between them and the wrath of God. For example Job cried for a "daysman".

Through the sacrifice of Christ pictured in the "skins" believers are clothed over with Christ's righteousness and we now possess a spiritual nature.

The Third Great Covenant

The Noahic

Gen. 8:20 to 9:27

Go moves from innocence to human conscience and now to human government. Again in this covenant there are seven parts.

1. God guaranteed the stability of the natural law following the flood in 8: 20-22 And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done. While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease". We see that there will be no added curses, no more deluges, there will be continuous seasons, etc.

2. God added meat to man's diet in 9:2-3a And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered. Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you". Man could hunt and kill any and all animals, fowl, and fish the only injunction is not to eat it with blood.

3. God placed in this covenant the preciousness of life. Capital punishment is right here established and has never been changed. God did later give Israel "cities of refuge" for accidental deaths in numbers 35: 1-34

4. God declared that the world would never again be judged by a flood in Gen. 9:11 "And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth".

5. God confirmed the covenant with a "rainbow" in Gen. 9:12-16 in the clouds. The rainbow is God's signature that the

Earth would never be destroyed by water it is reserved for fire this time.

6. This covenant is confirmed to all generations. It is an "everlasting" covenant in verse 16 "that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth." This covenant will stay in force until this Earth is renovated by fire as recorded in 2 Peter 3:6-7 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men and 10-11 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. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved.

7. The prophecy of the descendants of Noah's sons is given in verses 25-27. Shem was the one through whom the Lord Jesus would come. From Shem and his descendants would come all revelation from God?

The other important factor is this. It is another of the unconditional covenants. God declared it and He will do all He has said. Looking around one can see the proof that He is keeping His covenant. We see day and night, the four seasons, only localized floods, etc.

The rainbow has been seen by all generations as a reminder of God's declaration to Noah. Anytime you see a rainbow, stop and rejoice that God is faithful in His promise!

The Fourth Great Covenant

The Abrahamic

Gen. 12:1-4; 13:14-17; 15:1-7; 17:1-8

There are three major parts to this covenant. The first of these is God's promise to Abraham in Gen. 12:2 "And I will make of thee a great nation" This is fulfilled in 2 ways

1st Natural posterity as seen in Gen. 13:16 And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.

2nd Spiritual posterity as we read in Galatians Gen. 15:5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be also in 22: 17 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies. Compare John 8:39; Ro. 4:16-17 and 9:7-8

The first part refers to Israel, the descendants of Jacob to whom the everlasting possession of the land is promised in Gen. 17:8 And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God. Abraham was to be the Father of many nations as we can read in Chapter 17:5. This was fulfilled through Ishmael and Esau and all the nations which came from them.

The second of the 7 promises is that God promised a personnel blessing to Abraham and that Abraham's name would be great. In the words "I will bless thee" was fulfilled temporarily in flocks and herds and lands as we see in Gen. 13:14-18 and Gen 15:18-21 also 24:34-35

The 3rd promise God made in blessing Abraham name is next to Christ Abraham is the most outstanding name in the Bible. Even today it is revered by Christians, Jews and Muslims. Jesus said in John 8:56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.

The 4th promise "I will bless them that bless thee". God promises any and all nations a blessing if they blessed and honored Abraham and his seed the nation of Israel look in Gen. 12:3 And I will bless them that bless thee,

The 5th promise is to those who would mistreat Israel in these words "curse those who curse thee". Any person or country that has or will curse Israel will face heavy judgment from God. A look into history books will prove this promise out, even to this very day.

The 6th promise "in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed" the temporal or earthly fulfillment is in the time of the Millennial Kingdom as seen in Deut. 28: 8-14 and Isaiah 60: 3-5, 11, 16

The 7th and most important promise is of blessing through Abraham's "seed" this word is in the singular and speaks of one individual. This of course is the Lord Jesus Christ as we read in Gal. 3:14-16 also John 8:56-58 (it is good to underline this in your bibles).

This covenant with Abraham is also unconditional and extends to the end of time as we count it.

The first purpose of God in this covenant was the birthing of His chosen people "Israel" as a people and as a land. This covenant does not render invalid either Adam's or Noah's.

The second purpose of God was to provide redemption through Israel and her child Jesus.

The third purpose is God's sovereign one that has been and is being fulfilled right now. Christ took our place so we might have what we could not receive otherwise that is the Holy Spirit.

The Fifth Great Covenant

The Mosaic Covenant of Law

Exodus 20:1 to 31: 18

We have moved from the 1st covenant of Innocence through Human conscience, Government and promise. Now God makes another Covenant toward His people using his spokesman Moses.

In this covenant God gives to Moses the law to govern His children in their relationship with Him and each other. This law is divided into 3 separate and distinguishable parts.

1. The commandments in Chapters 19-20 of Exodus which were to govern the moral life of Israel.
2. The Judgments in Chapters 21-23 governing the social life of Israel these were the civil.
3. The ordinances in chapters 24-31 these were to govern the religious life of Israel they are ceremonial.

The base of reason for this covenant was Israel's deliverance from Egypt in 19:4 Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. This in itself came from the covenant with Abraham. God bore them on the eagles' wings of grace. He provided miraculously for them all the way to Mt. Sinai. He then offers them the choice of grace or law! But they could not have both.

This covenant revealed the holiness of God and the sinfulness of man notice these words from the Lord in Ro. 3:19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. And these in Ro. 7:13 Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.

The law could not save. God had made a covenant with Abraham 430 years before; one of promise of a redeemer who would redeem them all from sin.

The law for Israel and for Christians is a schoolmaster to lead us to the cross of Christ Gal. 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

This covenant is a conditional one in that it depends on man obeying all the law of the Lord as in Ex. 19:8 And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD. God wanted Israel to obey Him and He would make all 12 tribes priests before the rest of the world. Israel says to Him give them the law they can keep them all and will. How so much like people today who say "they keep the law" when they do not and cannot.

The covenant was broken not long after showing how sinful sin is as we can see from reading Exodus chapter 32. The covenant was set obey and be blessed or if you disobey be disciplined a good example is in Deut. 28: 5-68. notice verse 15 But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee. Verse 15 states that failure to obey all the law would bring discipline through curses, and then God proceeds to lay out the different curses. As you read verses 15-68 you can virtually see Israel's history being prewritten.

What was the relationship of the law to Christ? Jesus was born under the law as stated in Gal.4:4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law. He fulfilled or kept the law in Matt. 5: 17-18 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. He has borne the curse of the law for us as we are told in Gal. 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

The law was added to the Abrahamic covenant because of sin until the seed Jesus should come Gal. 3:19 Wherefore

then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made

The law brings condemnation faith brings salvation just read here Romans 3: 20-22 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference. Everyone should underline these in their bibles.

The Sixth Great Covenant

The Palestinain Covenant

Deuteronomy 30: 1-20

This covenant is for the land and is unconditional. It is important to see that the nation of Israel has not fully possessed the land in this covenant or under Abraham's covenant in Gen. 15:18 and Numbers 34:1-12. This covenant also has 7 distinct parts as follows.

First the covenant was to set forth the conditions regulating possession of the Promised Land. The covenant was entered into just before they entered into the land at the Jordan river as we see in Deut. 29:1 These are the words of the covenant, which the LORD commanded Moses to make with the children of Israel in the land of Moab, beside the covenant which he made with them in Horeb.

Second in the covenant God even foretells the world wide dispersion of Israel in Deut. 30:1 And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind among all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath driven thee. Because of their unfaithfulness they would be sent into many nations and they are told that in advance and it did not change any things at all were the people were concerned.

Third God foretells in this covenant the repentance of Israel in 30:2 And shalt return unto the LORD thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul; they return by grace but it will cost them dearly over the ensuing centuries.

Fourth He foretells the regathering of Israel to the land. Here in Deut. 30:3,5 That then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee 5 And the LORD thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed, and thou shalt possess it; and he will do thee good, and multiply thee above thy father. This is the first mention of

Christ's second coming. The land area of what we call Palestine will not be blessed as the covenant says it will until Jesus is on the throne.

Fifth God foretells the conversion of the restored nation of Israel in 30:6 And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live. This conversion is not a personal one as salvation is today. This is a national conversion or the converting of the entire nation at one time. This promise is restated in the prophets Jeremiah, Hosea, and Paul speaks about it in the book of Romans Chapters 9-11.

Sixth God also foretells in this covenant that judgment will be upon Israel's enemies and those who would enslave them in 30:7 And the LORD thy God will put all these curses upon thine enemies, and on them that hate thee, which persecuted thee. This will find its ultimate fulfillment during the time of Jacob's trouble or Daniel's 70th week which is covered in Revelation chapters 6-19.

Seventh He also sees the future prosperity of Israel in 30:9 And the LORD thy God will make thee plenteous in every work of thine hand, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy land, for good: for the LORD will again rejoice over thee for good, as he rejoiced over thy fathers. Israel will reign as the head of all the nations and the land will produce crops as it has never done before.

As to the unconditional part of this covenant we see that God shall (future tense) complete and fulfill this covenant. The fulfillment has nothing to do with either the Jews or with any gentile nation or leader.

Second we see Israel started in Egypt and returned to a portion of Palestine never totally claiming what was theirs.

Third because of their continuous sin they were taken captive by Assyria in the north and by Babylon in the south. After 70 years a remnant did return under Ezra and then more under Nehemiah, many however stayed in their new homes.

Lastly in 70 a.d. Jerusalem was destroyed by the Roman general Titus. Once again they were scattered only slowly

returning in any numbers until by the mid 1800's there were several hundred thousand. There has always been Jews there but not with an official home since Titus until May of 1948, one also needs to read Ez. 39: 25-29 in conjunction with this.

The Seventh Great Covenant

The Davidic Covenant

2 Samuel 7: 4-16

This is probably the most important chapter written to this point in the Bible. The prophets came to this covenant when they prophesied. The New Testament opens with the line "The book of the generation of Jesus Christ the Son of David" one needs to compare also these verses here in Luke 1:32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David

Peter began his message in here in Acts 2: 29-30 with these words "Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne". Paul also uses this in his opening to Romans 1:2-3 (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh. The New Testament closes with this same theme in Rev. 22:16 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.

There are at least 8 key parts to this covenant as follows.

First God promised David the Divine confirmation of the Throne of Israel in 2 Sam. 7:13a He shall build an house for my name this is a statement about Solomon and then in 13b here I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever this is about Jesus Christ in the then future.

Second God promised that there would be a perpetuation of David's rule. In this promise three things are made sure to David and his descendants.

1. The "house of David"- speaks of posterity in verses 11 and 13. The prophecies of the Kingdom rest in this chapter. Back in verses 1-3 he desperately wanted to build God a house. But

God said no that He would build a house for David. The Lord would credit David for wanting to build it. This is a great lesson in that you cannot out do God! One reason we are the way we are is that we do so little for God. We seldom get ourselves in a position where he can do much for us. David wanted to do something great for God, yet God did something far greater for David, so let's strive to be David's in our devotion to service.

2. A "throne" this speaks of royal authority in verse 13.

3. A "kingdom" this is that sphere of rule this is also in verse 13.

All 3 of these are confirmed by God in verse 16 as follows "And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever". Even though David sinned terribly after this, God said it would last forever. Jesus Christ would finally make the throne permanent as seen here in Rev. 5:5 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.

Third David's name would be great, even to this day David is looked upon as the founder of the Israelite monarchy.

Fourth that the people would be securely planted in the land

Fifth David's successor would build the Temple; and Solomon his son did just that.

Sixth David's successor's right to rule would not be revoked even if his son justified it. For example Solomon in his marrying all of those pagan women and bringing in their false religions.

Seventh the successor would be established forever on his throne this is a direct prophecy of Messiah.

Eighth Psalm 89: 34-37 "My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips. Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David. His seed shall endure for ever, and his throne as the sun before me. It shall be established for ever as the moon, and as a faithful witness in heaven". This is a confirmation of the covenant with David.

Ninth the prophets prophesied that Messiah would be the seed of David in passages such as Isaiah 11; Jer. 23:5 and EZ. 37:25. This is also an unconditional covenant there are two reason for this.

First because Jesus the Son of God is also the Son of David and HE shall be the ultimate fulfillment of this covenant. Jesus will set up His Kingdom and the throne of David forever as we read in Is. 9:6-7 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. 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.

Second the angel Gabriel confirmed this before Jesus birth to his mother Mary a descendant of David.

The Eighth Great Covenant

The New Covenant

Jer. 31:31-33 and Heb. 8:7-13

The time of this covenant taking place is at the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom its duration is in Jer. 31:37 "Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD."

This covenant was established on the greatest foundation possible the sacrifice of Jesus as seen in Romans 8:2-4 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit

Israel will be brought into this New Covenant according to what we read here in Jer. 31:31-33 "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people." This is while Israel is in her own land (this is not for the church). This one is not based on Law written in stone, but on grace written o their hearts.

This covenant secures the eternal blessings and joy under the Abrahamic covenant. What is this blessing of Abraham? It was that he would produce a Saviour for the people.

This new covenant is for the Jew. God says "I will make a new covenant with Israel and Judah here in Heb. 8:8 Behold,

the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:

This covenant also is unconditional as it speaks to resurrection and eternal completeness.

God has declared what He will do for those who believe without any conditions. Read John 5:24; 6:37 and 10:28 for comparison.

There is no type of work or effort of responsibility to help accomplish this covenant. It is finished by God, sealed so by Christ on the cross in His final words "it is finished".

Some concluding words on the importance of these covenants and their unfolding message from God.

1. In the Edenic Covenant there is a need for a redeemer
2. In the Adamic Covenant He is the promised Seed
3. In the Noahic Covenant all divine revelation will come through the line of Shem of whom Jesus is descended.
4. In the Abrahamic Covenant He is the seed of Abraham
5. In the Mosaic He bore the curse of the Law for us as He hung on a tree.
6. In the Palestinian Covenant Jesus lived as a Jew in the Land.
7. In the Davidic Covenant He is the greater Son of David the Soon coming King
8. In the New Covenant He is the foundation for the Jew in their future Kingdom that is sealed by His sacrifice.

Why four Gospels

As we continue in the things "rightly divided" we will take up the subject "why are there four gospels?"

Before we get into our subject of dividing the gospels I want to do a little background work on some of the prominent groups in the gospels. These groups of people fit into each of the messages of the gospels as we will see along with some others.

After the return to the land under Ezra and Nehemiah the political situation changed with 6 different ruling kingdoms from Persia up to Rome in Christ time. it was Julius Caesar that had Herod the great put on the throne as governor and in 40 b.c. he was placed as King of Judea up through Christ birth.

Just as the political scene changed so did the religious scene. There were new religious groups and new institutions and new laws. The new laws were the "oral laws". The "oral" laws were passed on this way until the 2nd century A.D. when they were written into the Jewish "Talmud" which still holds equal authority the Law of Moses. Jesus refuted this law in Matt. 15:1-9 6 times overall. Instead of 'ye have heard it said" Jesus said "but I say unto you it is written".

You see there are yet today many oral traditions held as close as the word of God and believed to be in the word of God when instead it should be "it is written".

Following here is a few of the groups and the two new institutions that the gospels would be addressing.

This first groups is the religious

We start with the Pharisee they had developed during the time between the testaments. They held the oral law came from Moses down thru the generations to them. They were the great interpreters of this law. Their name means "separatists" they were strict legalists.

Next we have the "Sadducees" on the other hand they rejected the oral law. These men held only to the written law of the Pentateuch. They denied any aspect of the spirit world for example "angels, immortality, and the resurrection". Their name means "righteous ones" they were more self righteous than anything else.

The next group was also the group known as the "scribes." They started out during the captivity as transcribers of the scrolls now by Jesus time they had become "expounders, teachers, and guardians of all the Old Testament scriptures. They were highly respected by the people and the other religious groups. Jesus however did not see them that way; His view was of a corrupted outwardly pious bunch as noted in Matt. 23:13-18. If one were to look for a comparative group today, pick anyone out of our liberal theological schools.

Here are the two new religious institutions

The first was the synagogue this group did exist before the captivity and is quite present in Jesus day. So sometime during the captivity it came into existence. Since at times there was no temple and the people wanted a place to meet to read and hear the scriptures so they created synagogues'. They were led congregationally not with a priest and required around 13 men to have one in a village. A Rabbi oversaw each this title means master or teacher. Jesus while here was called this on several occasions.

The first century church; and our current worship styles and systems and the titles such as Elder, bishop, and Deacon come from the synagogues'.

Lastly is the "Sanhedrin" which by the time of Christ had become the supreme civil and religious tribunal of the nation of Israel. Their name "Sanhedrin" means "council" and was made up of the High Priest, 24 chief priests, one for each of the 24 orders of priests, 24 "elders of the people" as seen in Matt. 21:23 and 22 Scribes who interpreted the law. This made 71 members. These are the ones chiefly responsible for the execution of Christ. To this the gospel of Matthew is written as his is the only gospel written originally in Hebrew. It is the language of the Jew and they would listen to its message.

The next group of people is the strong people the Roman Empire. They ruled for a millennium with strong justice and law that were fair on the one hand and extremely cruel on the other. Our laws today have been based in part on their law. A Dr. Gregory said "the organized martial might of Rome, demanded submission and remorselessly crushed men and

nation into its mold. The gospel of Mark will speak well to this group and is written toward this type of people as it is full of action, doing, and going.

The third group of peoples is the thinkers or the thinking man. Luke will write to these people as he is writing to the Greek. The Greek culture and art changed the world during their golden Paraclean age. The Greeks wanted a perfect man, Luke who was a doctor and a Greek wrote to the effect of "I poured Jesus in a test tube in my clinic, and I put the acid of Greek philosophy on him and my stethoscope on His heart he is the perfect Son of Man.

The last major group is the wretched man. They needed a Saviour whether rich or poor they are all but wretched souls. John wrote to these people, to all people of the one who came to bring that which is greater than wealth it is life and that more abundantly!

Some collective statements on the 4 Gospels

First there is a need for each person coming to study the New Testament to approach it with the right idea. There is one dominating all encompassing thought to the New Testament and that is "fulfillment."

Second this is the keynote of the New Testament. In the opening gospel of Matthew this word "fulfillment" is used 12 times in Chapters 1:22; 2:15, 17, 23; 4:14; 8:17; 12:17; 13:35; 21:4; 26:56; 27:9 & 35.

Jesus opened His ministry in Matthew 3:15 with the words "thus it becomes us to fulfill" again in Matthew 5:17 Jesus says "I came to fulfill."

Mark starts out in Chapter 1 verse 15 with the words "the time is fulfilled"

Luke starts Jesus ministry in 4:21 with "scripture fulfilled in your ears."

John's gospel has "fulfilled" in 7 places as follows chapters 12:38; 13:18; 15:25; 17:12; 19:24, 28, & 36.

Third the New Testament is the answer to the Old Testament or the fulfillment of the Old. For example from Gen. 4 on you have a continuous line of animal sacrifices. These are all fulfilled in Christ's sacrifices on the cross.

In the Old Testament He is coming—IN the gospels He has come—in the church letters He has come in by the Holy Spirit—and in the Book of Revelation He is coming again.

The four gospels give a unique look at the Lord Jesus with each having a particular emphasis. We know that 4 is the number of witness where the Bible is concerned. With four being the number of witness the gospels go together to form a full picture of Jesus the God-Man our Saviour and Lord.

There is a significant parallel found in the book of Ezekiel 1:10's description of the four beasts and the gospels. It says "they four had the face of a "man" and the face of a "lion" on the right side; and they four had the face of an "ox" on the left side; they four also had the face of an "eagle."

Now the Lion is a symbol of strength and kingship

The man- the highest intelligence

The Ox- animal of humble service

The Eagle- heavenliness and divinity

So in the gospels we see the parallel

Matthew- Messiah King- the Lion of Judah

Mark- Jehovah's Servant- the Ox

Luke- Son of Man- face of man

John- Son of God- the Eagle

As "Sovereign" King He comes to reign

As "Servant" He comes to serve and suffer

As "Son of Man" He comes to share and sympathize

As "Son of God" he come to Redeem from sin

In these four we see Sovereignty, humility, humanity and deity.



Let's now take a look at a synopsis of the four gospels using the four faces of the Seraphim in Ezekiel 1.

1st Matthew- The Lion; the Lion was the emblem on the banner of Judah. This is the royal tribe of King David. Here in Matthew Jesus is the "Lion of the tribe of Judah" the "root of David" (Rev. 5:5 and Is. 11:1, 10). He is "the King, the Lord our Righteousness" from Jer. 23:5.

In the opening sentence we have the key to the book (1:1). We will see Mark does not say this and Luke goes to Adam while John goes back to eternity past.

Mark- the Ox is a lowly beast of burden and service. In Mark we find a gospel of "action" with no genealogy. Instead of lineage we have the constant "activity" of Christ. The characteristic words of this book are "and" and "straightway".

3rd Luke- The face of Man; Luke raises up Jesus' manhood as he tells of His parents, His birth and even that He is still called "King and Saviour." Luke even reveals some of Jesus youth in Luke 2:41-52.

4th John- the face of an Eagle, John goes back to eternity to start his gospel by saying "In the beginning was the Word and the Word (Jesus) was with God; and the Word (Jesus) was God" John 1:1-4. John shows Jesus in His deity using terms such as "Son of God" 1: 18& 34; "Word", "Light", "Life" and the "Son". God manifest in the flesh He is the God-Man.

There are differences in the Four
Matthew writes with the Hebrew mind as seen in the multitude of Old Testament references.

Mark was the traveling companion of both Peter and Paul in Paul's last years if you'll recall he requested Mark come to him in Rome. Mark writes primarily to the Roman mind showing Jesus as the Miracle worker always on the go doing well!

Luke now Luke was Paul's constant companion and doctor, he is a Greek or a Hellenist Jew. He writes to the Greek mind which always sought perfection in man as seen in their art and sculpture. He puts forth the perfect sinless man Jesus.

John he is the last writer in the Bible as he wrote his books around 90 AD . John writes of the divine nature of Jesus. This gospel is one delivered to the church. However it is more thn

that as he reveals Jesus the Saviour to the whole world with out racial distinction. Now Jesus is the divine "grace and truth" through the "word that became flesh and dwelt among us."

There are different endings that make for a complete end to the gospels.

Matthew ends with the resurrection in chapter 28

Mark ends with the Ascension in Mark 16:19-20

Luke ends with a blessed promise of the Holy Spirit in Luke 24:49

John ends with the promise of the Lord's return in John 21:20-23

Now in summary

Matthew the gospel of the Messiah King should end with the resurrection proof of His Messiahship

Mark the lowly Servant exalted to Glory and Honor.

Luke, he writes of the ideal man with the promise of a comforter to come to mankind.

John he writes of the divine Son ending with the Lord's promise to return for those who are His.

So we can see the Holy Spirit using these four men to write a complete portrait of the Lord Jesus!

Matthew The Lion Face Of the Seraphim



This man was a “publican” according to his own hand in chapter 10:3 “and Matthew the publican”. This was a Jew who had become a tax collector for Rome who was hated by all. By accepting this line of work Levi (Matthew’s other name see Lk. 5:27) became part of the baser class of citizen known as publican and sinners. In chapter 9 verse 9 “And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him” here he becomes one of Jesus disciples and in chapter 10 verses 2-3.

It is from his Jewish life that he will write to his brethren of this one named Jesus, showing Him as King, the son of David, the Son of Abraham. Matthew wrote this letter in Hebrew as it is the only language the Jews would accept as valid. This has been established by biblical historians and archeologists. Here is a brief summary of their conclusions; first the writings of Papias who was a church father who was saved under Philip and Bartholomew. Papias was an associate of Polycarp the Martyr and Justus of Jerusalem also of Ignatius of Antioch all of these attest to Matthew writing in Hebrew.

Eusebius in the 3rd century wrote “Matthew having in the first instance delivered his gospel to his countrymen in their own language”. It is the only language they would accept where

religion was concerned. The Christian historian Dr. Kurtz said "Judaism prepared salvation for mankind, and heathenism prepared mankind for salvation."

Matthews theme about Jesus throughout the book is "that it might be fulfilled" refers to the Old Testament prophecies of the Messiah King that all Jews had been waiting for.

The book of Matthew has three major sections.

First we have the introduction of Jesus in ch. 1 -4:11 these cover Jesus genealogy, His birth, His baptism, and His temptation.

Second is Jesus ministry in Galilee from 4:12 through ch. 18. This includes His great teaching in chapters 5-7 which is the Sermon on the Mount. Then we have His work in ch. 8-10 and the people's reaction to Him in ch 11 through 18.

Third is Jesus move to Judea in ch. 19 through 28. Here Jesus is presented in Judea as King in ch.19 to 25. Matthew will then give his view of the events of the crucifixion in ch. 26-27.

Finally in ch. 28 Matthew covers Jesus resurrection from his Jewish point of view.

Let's now take a closer look into each of these three starting with Matthew introducing Jesus. Matthew starts with a genealogy he had to do this because the Jew knew that Messiah was coming from one family and one tribe. Matthew goes from Abraham to David and David to Joseph a total of 42 generations notice ch1:17 So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are fourteen generations. This genealogy is to show that Jesus had to be virgin born. However this is Joseph's line and he could not be the father of Jesus as he has in his line a man named Jeconiah (1:11-12). This man had a curse put on him in Jeremiah 22:24-30 this disqualifies his line but Mary's line could as we will see in Luke she comes from David also.

Here are some of the prophecies of Jesus birth and their fulfillment in Matthew.

Prophecy

Fulfillment

Is. 7:14	Matt. 1:22-23
Is. 11:1	Matt. 2:23
Jer. 31:15	Matt. 2:17-18
Hos. 11:1	Matt. 2:15
Micah 5:2	Matt. 2:5-6

Now after His baptism in chapter 3 the Holy Spirit takes Jesus into the wilderness (this was an area on the east side of the Jordan River) to be tempted by Satan after fasting for 40 days. Jesus was tempted as 100% man, He withheld His deity so might experience the same body, soul, and spirit temptations we do yet without sin.

Next we look here at Jesus ministry in Galilee from ch4:12 through ch. 18. Notice verse 12 "Now when Jesus had heard that John was cast into prison, he departed into Galilee;" In chapters 5 through 7 Jesus gives the great Sermon on the Mount in it there are 3 major portions. First in chapter 5 through ch. 6:18 Jesus is preaching about "virtues, morals, and peoples motives". Second in 6:19 through 7:6 the message shifts to material possessions, temporal affairs, and social interaction." And third in ch 7:7 to 7:27 Jesus turns to "encouragement, summary, and final exhortation."

This great sermon is the law of the coming kingdom and in it Jesus says 14 times "I say unto you" as He address's the Law of Moses. There are some very good and practical pieces of advice for living even today found in it such as.

1. the two ways- 7:13
2. the two gates 7:14
3. the two foundations 7:21-23
4. the two foundations 7:24-27

This section on Galilee covers 10 of Jesus miracles in ch. 8-10 as listed here.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. 8: 1-4 a leper healed | 6. 9:1-8 a palsied man healed |
| 2. 8:5-13 a servant healed | 7. 9:18-22 woman with issue |
| 3. 8:14-15 Peter's mother in law | 8. 9:23-26 maid from the dead |
| 4. 8:23-27 calming the sea | 9. 9:27-31 blind man healed |
| 5. 8:28-34 demoniac delivered | 10. 9:32-34 dumb able to speak |

In verse 35 it says He healed many more; these 10 are given in detail to show the types of healings He did.

In chapter 10 Jesus picks out the 12 men who will be His disciples. These would in turn be trained to train others. Matthew gives more detail concerning Jesus instructions to the 12 than the other 3 writers will.

The third and last part of Jesus ministry in Galilee covered by Matthew is the reaction of the people to Jesus in chapters 11 through 18.

Matthew sets Jesus as the one coming King of the Jews. The word "Kingdom" is used 55 times the people understood this and remembered God's words from Exodus 19:6.

After Jesus taught on the Kingdom here are some of His results from the people.

1. questioning by John the Baptist in 11:2-15
2. cities unrepentant in 11:20-30
3. unreasonable Pharisee in 12:10,14,24
4. the unbelieving multitudes 13:13-15
5. facing the traditional scribes in 15: 1-2
6. the "proof" desired by Pharisees & Sadducees 16:1

In chapter 13 Jesus gives the great "parables of the kingdom of heaven."

After the Jews rejected Jesus He moved to Caesarea Philippi and introduced a new greater truth the "church" the called out ones in ch. 16:17-18.

From Galilee Jesus moved south to Judea for the remaining time recorded in Matthew. We see this shift in ch. 19:1 And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these sayings, he departed from Galilee, and came into the coasts of Judaea beyond Jordan.

In chapters 19 through 25 Jesus is presented as King to those in Judea. This is where Jesus makes His public appearance at Jerusalem in ch. 19 & 20. Jesus knew what the outcome would be lets read 20:17-19 and 28 And Jesus going up to Jerusalem took the twelve disciples apart in the way, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death,

And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again. Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

In chapter 21: 1-17 we have the Lord's triumphal entry offering Himself as Israel's Messiah King fulfilling Zech. 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

From 21:18 through ch 23 we see the conflict arising as the Jewish religious leaders reject Him; and he in turn rejects them. We see this in His going from 8 blessings given in Galilee to now pronouncing 8 woes.

Now chapters 24 & 25 comprise the Olivet discourse of those things to come upon Jerusalem and Israel. The last words of the discourse conclude His triumphal entry.

Now in chapters 26&27 we have the events of Christ's crucifixion. We see first in ch. 26 verses 1-56 that Jesus goes apart with the 12 and goes over all that was to happen in 26:12. Then here in verse 25 Jesus reveals Judas betrayal while sitting at the Passover meal.

In verse 28 Jesus declares His blood as the blood of the New Testament.

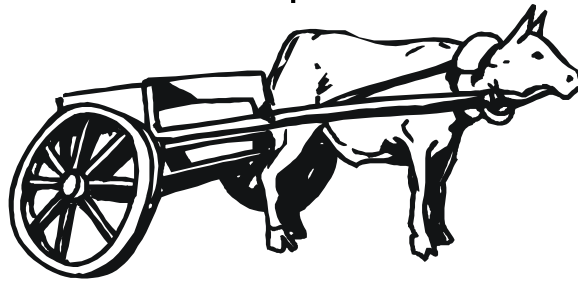
Secondly we find Jesus before the Sanhedrin in verses 57-70 they are the ones who condemned Him for His claim of being Israel's Messiah. During this unlawful trial Jesus said nothing until verse 64 when He says "thou hast said" they charged Him with blasphemy and sentenced Him in verse 66 What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death. Jesus is then taken to Pilate as the Romans would not allow the Jews to execute anyone. We see this in chapter 27:1-26

Fourth in chapter 27:27-66 we have Matthew's account of the crucifixion. He gives a more vivid description than the others as he includes the pitch dark of mid-day, the earth quake, the cleaving of the rocks, the graves opening, and what would most catch the Jew's attention the rending of the veil from top to bottom.

Lastly we have chapter 28 where Matthew gives his view of the resurrection in only 20 verses. Matthew doesn't need a lot of space as he is not after theological ideas and concepts he only states facts

1. the angel announces it in verses 1-7
2. the Lord is seen in 8-10
3. the Jewish authorities lie about it in 11-15
4. the eleven receive their commission in 16-20

Mark The Ox Face Of the Seraphim



Mark is the second of the gospels in order of placement in the New Testament. It was however by its date of writing the first gospel actually penned down as Mark wrote it about 65 AD.

This is one of the 3 gospels known as the "synoptic" gospels; the word means "to give a like view" which the first 3 do. John is the gospel of Jesus the Son of God or God Incarnate.

Mark is also known as John Mark in other passages in the scriptures; John is his Jewish name and Mark is his Roman name. He was a son of one of the many Mary's in the New Testament as we read of her in Acts 12:12.

Mark traveled with Paul on his first mission journey but could not handle the hardness of the journey and turned back. He then traveled with Barnabas for a time however most are fairly certain that the contents of his gospel came from Peter. For a reference look here at 1st Peter 5:13 The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth Marcus my son.

Mark starts Jesus as a servant, telling what Jesus did showing Jesus at work. The mighty works of Jesus were to prove who He was and who He came from. A servant does not need a record of their birth or a long genealogy.

Mark in chapter 1 says what Matthew takes 8 chapters to say; why? Because Mark records the work of Jesus but not much of what Jesus said.

Mark records 20 miracles in detail along with the word "straightway" which he uses 42, it means immediately. Now Matthew uses it 7 times Luke only once this shows the difference in the writers focus.

Mark makes chapter 10 verse 45 the central message, Jesus is Jehovah's servant. This is what the Roman mind could easily understand as they had millions of slaves and were constantly buying and selling them. To hear of one that was going to give himself to buy others freedom would certainly peak their interest, just read here in Phil 2:7-8 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Mark structured this book under inspiration using 4 of the great doctrines of scripture.

1. Sanctification in his introduction Ch1: 1-13
2. Service in Ch. 1:14- 8:30
3. Sacrifice in Ch. 8:31 -Ch. 15
4. Resurrection & Ascension in Ch 16

First is Mark's introduction of Sanctification in Ch. 1:1-13.

Mark jumps right in, in 1:1 notice carefully it is not the beginning of Jesus; no it is the beginning of the gospel. Then over the next 12 verses there are 4 voices that announce Jesus

1. in verse 1 Mark calls Him "Jesus the Son of God"
2. in v 3 Isaiah says "prepare ye the way of the Lord"
3. in v 7 John the Baptist "there cometh one mightier"
4. in v 12 the Spirit "drives" Jesus into the wilderness to face Satan in vs. 13 "tempted of Satan"

Mark moves directly into Jesus serving in 1:14-8:30. Jesus ministry begins by preaching the "gospel of the kingdom" in 14-15. Immediately Jesus selects His first 4 disciples in verses 16-20.

Jesus then taught the people in v 21; the people were astonished and amazed in v 22 at His doctrine or teaching. The reason was the Rabbi's taught from authority whereas Jesus taught as authority bringing a new clarity and force to the Old Testament Scriptures. His fame spreads rapidly as we

can see from the words of verse 45; all of this and more in just the first chapter.

In chapter two we find an equally swift reaction to what has happened in chapter one.

1st the scribes in vs 7

2nd the Pharisees in vs. 16 and vs 24

Jesus delivers a perfect scriptural answer to the scribes in vs 8-11 and to the Pharisees in vs 17.

We have witnessed two power laden chapters and in chapter 3 Jesus calls and ordains His 12 disciples to the ministry to Israel.

Once this is done Jesus returns in chapter 4 to teaching in parables. The word "parable" means to cast one thing alongside something similar. Jesus took those things that were common and readily understood figures such as farming, cattle, fishing, husbandry, etc. Jesus then put a scriptural truth down beside that using the common to teach the scriptural; for example fishing for fish to fishing for men.

From chapter 5 through chapter 8 verse 30 we have the continuous action of Jesus working with His disciples doing more miracles. These miracles proved who Jesus was the Christ or messiah. What Jesus did in the performance of so many miracles had never been done before or since. People flocked around Him to see a miracle and to hear Him speak. These people all loved and applauded this man Jesus. Truly He was the Son of God come in the flesh.

It would be good if this is all that happened; however Jesus faced opposition from the religious sector all during this time of ministry.

In chapter 8 verse 31 the scene turns dark as soon as Peter declares Jesus as the Christ. Jesus now begins to teach on the purpose for His working among men. Now the cross becomes the uppermost in Jesus mind and teaching. Now Mark in verse 32 adds this phrase "He spake that saying openly" neither Matthew nor Luke uses it.

Jesus moves from the "serving" servant to the promised "sacrifice" this will be the main direction from chapter 8 verse 32 through chapter 15. Here are a few of the places where Jesus mentions the cross

1. Mark 9:12: The religious leaders were right on the first part in one sense; Jesus however knew this was fulfilled in John the Baptist. The second part Jesus sets at right it is He who would suffer rejection and suffering. In Mark 9:31b and in Luke 24:7 it is "sinful men"; Jesus would be delivered into the hands of these men by the will of God using Judas Iscariot.
2. Mark 10:32-34: In 33b&34 Jesus gives a more detailed description of what was going to happen while they were at Jerusalem this time.
3. Mark 10:45 Jesus adds that His life would buy many lives!
4. Mark 14:8: Here Mary uses precious ointment on Jesus and He tells the disciples it was for His death.
5. Mark 14:24-25: Here Jesus at the Passover tells them that His blood would be symbolized in the juice of the cup.
6. Mark 10:45: This is the key verse in Mark, Jesus came to minister and die for many.

Instead of a throne Jesus knew His destiny was the cross of shame and suffering for others sins. From chapter 11 through the cross in chapter 15; mark gives a different view than Matthew and Luke. Here is just one example; the Olivet discourse in Matthew takes up 97 verses where in Mark it is covered in only 37 verses.

Mark leaves out all indictments against sinful cities (Matt. 11); Scribes & Pharisees (Matt. 23; Luke 11), and so on. Why you may ask? These are for a King to deal with not for a servant.

Even on the cross the thief is not told of going to Paradise and Jesus has no mention of legions of angels as these they are for a king.

Now in chapter 16 Mark gives his view point of the resurrection. This is one of the most important doctrines of the Bible all 4 gospels and all the sermons in the book of Acts mention it.

First Mark gives the fact of the resurrection. He mentions the women, the angel, the stone, the women going to the disciples

and telling what the angel said in vs. 7 and their amazement in vs. 8.

In verse 15 Mark gives the great commission Jesus telling the disciples to go out and tell the world. As for the last 12 verses there has been more argument over them and to little emphasis on the resurrection and commission. One needs to apply the; who, what, when and where test to see who Jesus meant these for.

Luke



We have seen Jesus the coming Messiah king, along with Mark where Jesus is the servant. Now we come to the book of Luke, here he presents Jesus as the Son of Man. Here he is the “man” face of the Seraphim.

One must keep in mind that Luke wrote to the Greek mind which was always pursuing the perfect man. This letter and it's companion or Luke's second letter are both addressed to the same person, one Theophilus.

Luke is the one writer that the least is known about as he never refers to himself. In his gospel and in Acts we read of him in his use of the words “we” and “us.” He does this when referring to Paul's missionary group. We do know he was a Physician from Paul's words in Col. 4:14 “Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you.” There are moments where his doctor's training and thinking comes out for example in Luke 4:18 and 4:23 and here in these others 5:, 5:18, 7:2, 13:11.

The heart of the message from Luke is in chapter 19:10. The book is in 4 major sections.

1st from the nativity thru his manhood in chapter 1 thru chapter 4:13.

2nd Jesus' ministry in Galilee in ch. 4:14 thru 9:50

3rd Jesus journeys to Jerusalem ch. 9:51 thru 19:44

4th Jesus sacrifice and triumph ch. 19:45 thru ch. 24

Let's look into Jesus birth to His manhood as recorded by Luke.

1. Luke gives the most detailed account of Jesus birth actually 3 times more than Matthew; where Mark and John give none whatsoever. Doctor Luke writes as a good doctor would; giving great detail.
2. Matthew and Luke give genealogies showing the Lord's ancestry. Matthew starts his with it beginning with Abraham and comes through David down through Joseph to Jesus to show Jesus right to the throne. Luke however puts his after Jesus birth to show His perfect humanity.
3. Matthew goes through Joseph, Jesus legal father. Luke gives his through Mary who was the mother of His manhood. Luke goes all the way back to Adam up to His appearance as the Son of Man.
4. The first two chapters cover 12 years then thru chapter 3 verse 23 we have the rest of his 30 years before His public ministry. In chapter 2 verse 52 it says Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. Jesus was placed in this time of testing to show us that He was controlled by the Holy Spirit. He was tested in all points just as we are yet with out sin!

We move now to Jesus ministry in Galilee in Chapter 4 verse 14 thru 50.

Luke's account is shorter than the first two as he focuses only on Jesus Himself. Jesus begins His ministry in Nazareth (only Luke relates this). Luke focuses on Jesus manhood in Luke 4: 18, 21, and 22. Also Luke alone records the abundance of fish and Peter realizing Jesus great and wonderful power in chapter 5.

In chapter 9 Jesus sends the twelve along with others out on a mission trip through Palestine in verses 1-17 it is well to take note of what Jesus says for them to take.

Luke records the Transfiguration in 9: 27-36 this was a divine testimony that Jesus was the Son of God. Now Jesus performed His last miracle in Galilee in ch 9:37-50

During these last events there are 3 references to the cross in verses 22, 31, 44.

From 9:50 thru 19:44 Jesus makes His journey to Jerusalem. Here in Luke's account in these 11 chapters only 5 miracles are recorded compared to 21 during His Galilee ministry.

In 11 Chapters Luke records a number of sayings not recorded by the others such as 13: 1-5; 31-33 and 17: 20-21.

Now from 19:54 thru chapter 24 Luke records Jesus sacrifice and triumph. Luke begins with Jesus in the temple and ends with His crucifixion, burial, and resurrection!

There are two important things to take note of from this section. First Jesus manhood as seen in His "sweat as great drops of blood" as recorded in 22:44. Second we see more of His deity in His answers, submissiveness, his resurrection, and His ministry as the risen Christ and His ascension in 24:53

Lastly some very singular points from Luke that differ from Matthew and Mark, these two mention Jesus praying twice, Luke shows much more of Jesus prayer life for instance; here are some references Luke 3:21; 5:16; 6:12; 9:18,28,29; 11:1; Luke 22:32, 44 and 23:34, 46.

Jesus taught more on prayer in Luke as we see in ch 11:9-10; 18:1, 9-14, 21:36, 22:46.

Luke also brings more but about the Holy Spirit such as Luke 1:35; 4:1, 14 18; 11:13.

Luke also covers the all inclusive ministry of Jesus in these stories

1. the two debtors 7:41-50
2. the good Samaritan 10:36-37'
3. the great supper 14:16-24
4. the lost coin 15:8-10
5. the prodigal son 15:1-32
6. the Pharisee and publican 18:9-14

Luke records the prominence of women in 7: 37-50; 10: 41; 13:10-17; 15:8; 23: 28

The Gospel
Of
John
The
Eagle face
Of the
Seraphim



This gospel brings to the full the purpose of God in Christ. we have in the other three what Jesus said, did, and felt, now John will interpret Jesus life that is instead of another look at the outside manifestation John will go inside to the Divine.

This gospel is often referred to as the "simple gospel" because John uses a very simple word structure. That is true however this gospel is very profound in the depths of the meaning of its words and truths written in it. This gospel is not for the lost, it is for the believer, you may ask is salvation in this gospel yes but it was primarily written to the Christian to grow spiritually.

The writer is the Apostle John the brother of James the sons of Zebedee. Jesus nicknamed them the sons of thunder in Mark 3:17 as their answer to a problem was for God to send fire on any that rejected Jesus. John authored this gospel, three letters that bare his name and the book of Revelation from the Island of Patmos in 95 AD while exiled there by the emperor Domitian.

This gospel is wrapped around 2 verses John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name and John 20:31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

John covers Jesus life and ministry in 5 steps.

1st The introduction of the Word 1:1-18

2nd Jesus public ministry from 1:19-12:50

3rd Jesus private upper room ministry from ch. 13-17

4th Jesus suffering and death ch. 18 &19

5th Jesus victory over death in ch. 20 & 21

What is found in the first 18 verses is so profound, so full, so deep in meaning that one could spend years searching all it's meaning. For example just these four words "word" (logos), "life", "light", "son".

Jesus is the "word" the very expression of God to all men and creation verses 1-3. Jesus was not just with God He was God.

Toward us He is "life" and "light" in verses 4-9. Jesus "word" is the illuminator of the "light" of life. Jesus the "son" is the one who "quickens" or brings to "life" that which had no life.

Jesus the Son is in verse 14&16 full of "grace &"truth". He is full of "grace" to redeem mankind and truth to reveal God as He is the God-man.

Here is a comparison of verses 1&14 to help remember the key to John's introduction.

Verse One	Verse fourteen
In the beginning was the word	And the word was made flesh
And the <u>Word</u> was with God	And dwelt among us
And the Word was God	Full of grace and truth

John closes his introduction with the words of verse 18 compare these with Col. 1: 15-19 & 1st John 5:7.

John then moves quickly into Jesus public ministry. John only records 7 miracles these were only to prove that Jesus is the Son of God John 3:2. These miracles are

1st Turning water into wine ch. 2:1-11

2nd Healing the rich man's son 4:46-54

3rd Healing the man at Bethesda ch 5: 1-18

4th Feeding the 5,000 in ch. 6:1-14

5th Walking on the water in ch. 6:15-21

6th Healing the blind man ch. 9:1-41

7th Raising of Lazarus 11: 1-57

John records Jesus encounter with Nicodemus in ch. 3, also with the Samaritan in ch. 4:1-42

Jesus gives the wonderful discourse about the good shepherd in ch. 10

In ch. 11 during Jesus last miracle of raising Lazarus he tells Martha about the resurrection in verses 25 & 26

John then moves to Jesus private ministry giving more details of the upper room than the other 3 combined. Dr. J. Vernon McGee said that over these chapters should be a sign "believers only all others keep out" as these chapters are distinctly for those who are saved disciple as it says "Jesus took His disciples". Look at what Jesus said to those 12 disciples and to us even today.

Ch. 13 we see Humility in verse 5, cleansing in verse 10 and love in verse 34.

Ch. 14 we find comfort, the second coming in verse 1-6, the promise of the Holy Spirit in verses 16-18, 26

Ch. 15 Abiding in Christ in verses 7-9, another promise of the Holy Spirit in verse 26-27

Ch. 16 the Holy Spirit's work here in verses 7-11, truth revealed by the Holy Spirit in verses 12-14

Ch. 17 Jesus our High Priestly prayer in verses 11, 17, 21, and 24.

Notice carefully that the "comforter" comes after Jesus ascends not before. The "comforter" is the Holy Spirit coming from the Father to indwell all who believe.

John goes from these private moments to Jesus time of suffering and death in ch. 18&19

Jesus leads the 12 from the upper room after His prayer out to the garden where he is arrested, tried falsely and convicted, scourged and crucified and gives up the ghost. Lets read here in Phil. 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he

humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

John record 3 trials, one before Annas in verses 12-14& 19-23; the second before Pilate in verses 28-38, who sends Jesus off to Herod in Luke and back to Pilate in 18:39

Regarding Jesus death John gives in ch. 19, 6 items to note

1. His identity in verse 19
2. His garments in verse 23
3. His mother in verses 25-27
4. His death in verses in 28-30
5. His death verified in verse 36 according to the Old Testament.
6. His body buried in verses 38-42

Here John brings Nicodemus out into the open as a believer. Only John records the great words of Christ "it is finished."

John in chapter 20&21 covers Christ victory over death. Here He arose speaking to Mary Magdalene alone, this is one of ten post resurrection appearances', the one to Thomas and the one with Peter on the seashore are two of the most well known passages. Thomas because Jesus tells Thomas to handle Him and Peter because the Lord's question is still as piercing today as then "lovest thou me" this is the key to true service. Jesus told them all to "follow-till I come" in verse 22.

There are some major omissions

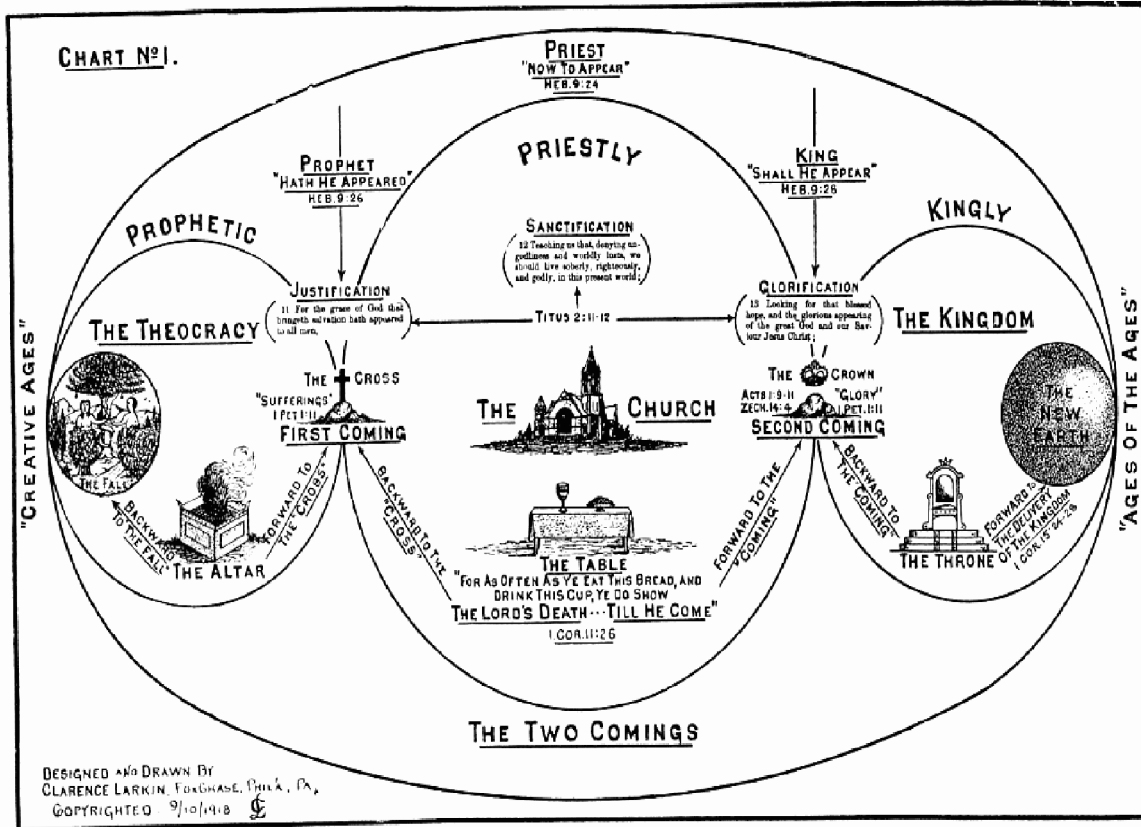
1. No genealogy
2. No account of a birth- He always was 'in the beginning"
3. Nothing of His childhood
4. Nothing of His temptation
5. Nothing of His transfiguration
6. No record of Jesus ascending
7. No great omission ch. 21:25 tells us just how much was not said.

In the gospel of John one will find an amazing parallel between the temple pieces and John giving of Jesus in His account.

Here they are side by side

Furniture	Symbol in O. T.	Meaning by type
Brazen altar	Atonement thru Sacrifice	Atonement of Christ
The Laver	Spiritual renewal	Christ cleaning us of spot or wrinkle
Table of Shewbread	Spiritual Nourishment	Christ as our living Bread
Golden candlestick	Illumination	Christ our Light
Altar of Incenses	To ask in prayer humbly	Prayer in Jesus name
The Ark	Access only thru the High Priest	Christ our access to God
The Mercy Seat	Vindication thru the Blood	Christ our mercy seat our Propitiation

Part 3 Rightly Dividing The Second Coming



The Second coming of Christ is without doubt the most covered subject in the Bible. In the Old Testament there are 8 verses covering the Second Coming for every one verse dealing with His first coming.

Most of the book of Ezekiel deals with the 2nd coming and the Millennial Kingdom. Most of the prophets have something to say about the 2nd coming. In the New Testament there are over 320 verses referring to the 2nd Coming. With this much emphasis a student of the Bible cannot ignore it.

In 1st Peter 1:8-12 "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” Peter here says that the Old Testament prophets prophesied of Messiah (Christ) his sufferings and His glory. They however did not fully understand the meaning of the message given by the Holy Spirit. His first coming was heralded by a small star, His second coming he is going to be seen by the whole world as the bright and morning star.

1 st Coming	2 nd Coming
A babe	king of Kings
Lowly Nazarene	Lion of Judah
Lay His life down	reign eternally supreme

When you study this subject 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.

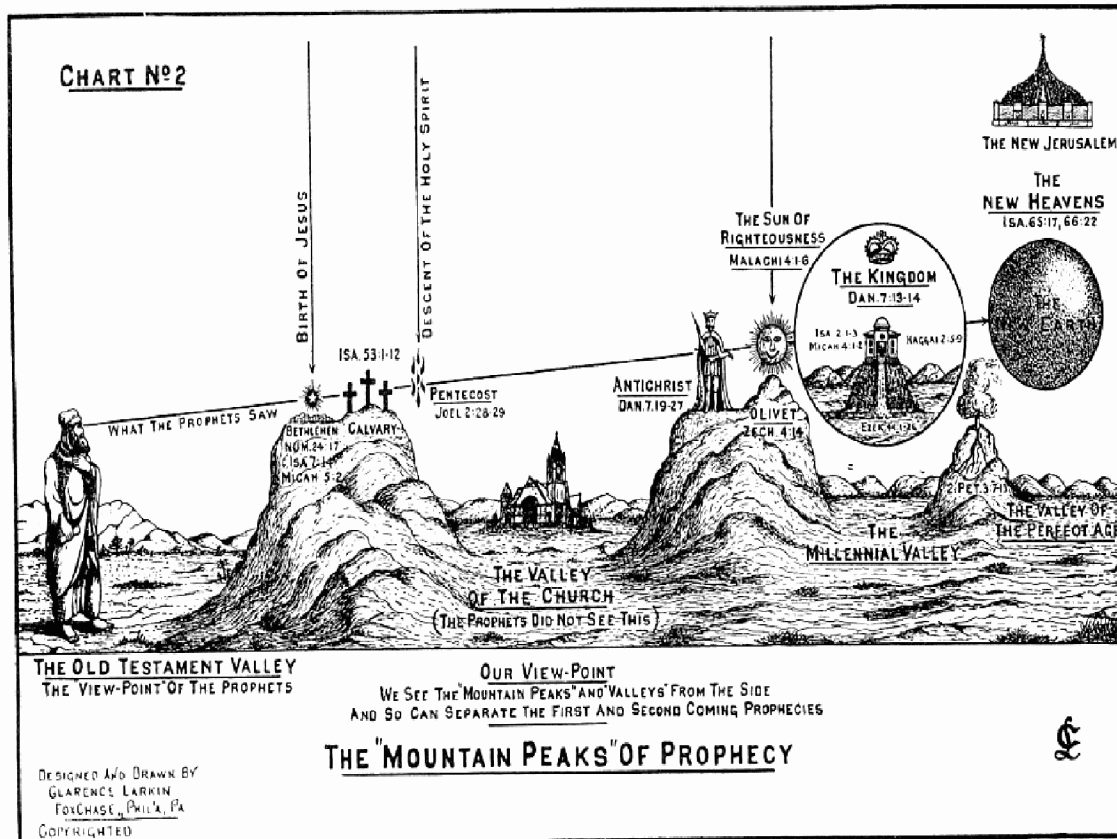
From the very beginning of the bible in Genesis 3 verse 15 we find here the 1st prophecy of Christ coming both 1st and 2nd.

On the cross Jesus reached all the way back to the Garden of Eden and all the way forward to the 1st day of eternity. Jesus gathered all those willing to accept Him to Himself.

Here are 3 examples of Old Testament men who looked for Jesus coming.

Our first person is Job, his book is the oldest in the Bible and in it Job gives a clear message of Christ 2nd coming.

Look here in chapter 19:25&26 For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:



Even in a time of great loss Job knew that the Messiah was going to be here on earth in the last days. Job also knew that he too would see Messiah the redeemer in a resurrected body.

Our second person is King David he also was looking for the 2nd coming. We see this in Psalm 2, David starts in verses 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. Showing here that these worlds rulers would be against Messiah. Notice the word Kings these are political leaders and the word "rulers" these are the religious leaders. In verse 4 we find the word "laughter" this is laughter of one who thinks it is preposterous what man is trying to do. In verses 5&6 we find the 2nd coming the second part. Verse 5 is about the tribulation and in verse 6 is Christ ruling during the Millennium from Jerusalem.

Our third person is Isaiah, he prophesied of both comings
Isaiah saw Christ in His 1st coming in chapter 7 verse 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 chapter 9 verse 6a For unto us a child
is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall
be upon his shoulder. Immanuel god with us, Jesus is “save
from sin”. He cannot save without being God with us. Israel
rejected Christ at His birth. We find those things written in
verse 6a that this will happen when he returns to establish His
government, upon Himself.

In verse 6b and 7 here “and his name shall be called
Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting
Father, The Prince of Peace. 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” Isaiah saw Christ on the throne of
David; the words found here have special meaning.

1st Wonderful—it means secret as we see in Jer. 13:18

2nd Counselor—to all men

3rd Mighty God- He is El Gibbon, he has all power

4th Everlasting Father- creator of all things

5th Prince of Peace – peace will come when Christ will reign.

Here is Paul; he also preached the second coming of Christ.
In the church letters Paul refers to this event 50 times or 1 in
30 verses. Below are several key passages.

First is 1 cor. 15:51-53, this entire chapter presents the
parade of the resurrection. These 3 verses deal with the first
part of the 2nd coming commonly referred to as the “rapture”.
Our mortal bodies must be changed to one that can stand in
the awesome glorious presence of the Lord. This change will
take place in the twinkle of an eye which is about 1/64,000 of
a second; that is so fast the human eye cannot adequately see
it happening.

Now there has been a miss teaching of the phrase “at the last
trump” this is not last as in; last in a series of trumpet blasts.
The word “last” carries the idea of last or finality or closing out

the economy of the church age. There is also the idea of a call of assembly as the Jew going into the Feasts of Trumpets.

So we can sum up this trumpet call as the Lord calling the bride from around the world to assemble together with Him.

The second passage is in 1st Thess. 1:10 and 4:13-18. There in verse ten, there are two words of great note. The first is "wait", this is not a passive word, rather it is a very active word in that while we are waiting the call to come up we are to be actively serving the Lord. The second word is "wrath to come", this is a clear statement of being delivered before judgment would fall on the earth.

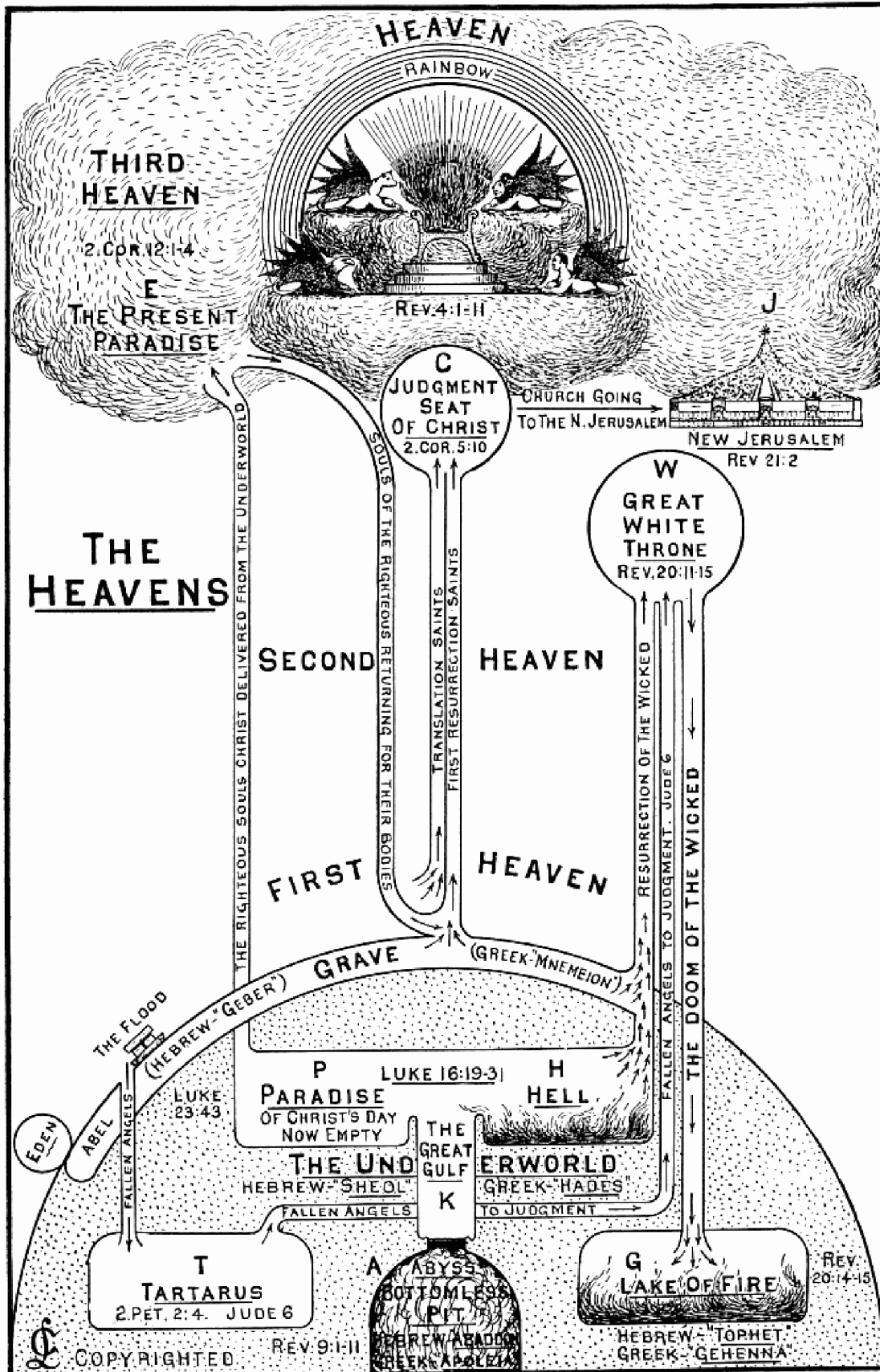
The third passage in 4:13-18 here is another definitive statement that when Christ comes in the cloud of glory just as was foretold in Acts 1:11. We will be "caught up" or snatched away as a thief in the night. This word has as a definition to be "enraptured" this is how the word rapture came to be used for this catching away.

In verse 14 we find the phrase "will God bring with Him" this is the spirits of those who had by Paul's word fallen asleep. They are coming to receive that resurrection body prepared by the Lord.

The fourth passage is in Titus 2 verse 13 this 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 and we are to be looking for Him.

Jude in his letter verse 14 also announces the second coming.

Peter; also in 1 Peter 5:4 here he states that when Jesus appears he is going to bring His reward to the under Sheppard's. This is to be one of our incentives to be faithful in serving the Lord, one need to read also 2 Peter 1:16 this is a reference back to Luke 9:28-36.



James also preached his 2nd coming in chapter 5:7-8. In this ever worsening world we need to have patience in awaiting the Lord's coming.

The Apostle John 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. Here John is certain Jesus would return and he would see him. John adds to this in chapter 3 verse 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. John says here I do not right now see what I am going to look like but I know when Jesus comes back I will.

The second coming is described in relation to clouds. In the opening verses of Revelation chapter one in verse 7 it says "behold He cometh with clouds," this is an astonishing announcement. This is the direct fulfilling of the messengers words in Acts 1:9 & 11.

Here in Acts 1 two of the Lord's messengers tell the awe struck Apostles to quit looking up. Then they hear these stunning words that this same Jesus who ascended personally and visibly into the glory clouds, would return in the same manner.

The prophet Daniel saw this in Daniel 7:13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. Here Daniel says that in a vision he saw the Lord Jesus coming in the glory clouds.

Jesus in His sermon on the mount in 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. Here he talks of these same glory clouds. There are those who believe that just prior to Christ's physical return the glory clouds will appear as it did in the Old Testament.

I would think it very clear from what we have seen and read so far that this refutes liberal theology attempt to do away with His return.

In the wilderness, the Israelites were led by a cloud during their daytime travel as recorded in Exodus 13:21-22 and 14:19-20. This is the same cloud that received Jesus.

The transformation is another example of this glorious cloud as we see here in Matt. 17:5 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him Jesus was briefly in His glory, and then this same cloud covered Jesus.

In Revelation 1:7 where John says Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him. Notice that it does not say that all will see Him in the same way or at the same time. there will be those who see Him come as a thief in the night. Just as a thief comes into a home quietly so Jesus will come to take out the church. Just read here in Rev. 3:3-4 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. Here it says the thief will only take a "few names."

To the world the disappearance of the church will be as a thief who only takes that which is valuable. The devil has for years laid out a foundation to explain this away, and to convince the world population that is left that they are better off without us.

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 here we see that Jesus is going to come for His own as a thief. He will come suddenly without warning. A thief doesn't take everything, just what is precious. A thief also never comes to stay, he will also leave behind, much more than he takes. Jesus will take His bride and leave behind the masses as we read here in Matt 24: 40-41 Then

shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

We find it described in 1st Thess. 5:1, 2, &4 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief notice verse 2 here we see that the church is to be looking for a person not times and seasons. This is also used in Rev. 16:15 "behold I come as a thief in the night" read also 1st Thess 4: 13-18 especially verses 15-17. Paul is saying here what Jesus 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.

This secret call is seen in types in the Bible. In Hebrews 11:5 we find Enoch being "translated" to heaven. Just as Enoch was before the judgment of the flood and God removed him. Those who are Christians, Christ will remove prior to the tribulation. Enoch is a gentile and he represents the church which is predominantly so. So the church will be "called out or away."

Jesus in Luke 17: 26, gives the same picture using Noah. While the world was degenerating morally God called Noah into the Ark and took him out before the flood.

Again Jesus in Luke 17:28-30 uses Lot; Sodom could not be judged until the righteous souls were removed as we read here in Gen. 19:22 Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do any thing till thou be come thither. Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar. So the Lord will take us out secretly, no one knows when this will happen except the Father. Here are a few others taken out Elijah in 2nd Kings 6; Isaiah in Is. 6; Philip in acts 8; and Paul in 2nd Cor. 12.

The Second part of Christ's coming will be open for all the world to see.

Jude in verse 14 of his letter, tells us that with Him will be "thousands" of His saints those taken out prior to the tribulation. The same Jesus, born of a virgin, the one who died

on the cross is coming back. He left from the Mt. of Olives and He will return there. We read about it 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. Also Zech. 14:9 says "He shall be king over all the earth in that day" referring to the millennial kingdom. It is also in Daniel 2:44-45 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

Jesus in Matthew 24 gives signs that will build up to this as follows.

In verse 5 there will be "false Christ's"

In verse 6 there will be "wars and rumors of war"

In verse 7 there will be increased pestilence, famines, and earthquakes

In verses 9-11 there will be persecution, false prophets, anti-Semitism will be rampant.

In verse 14 gospel of the kingdom will be preached around the world.

In verse 15 the abomination prophesied by Daniel in ch. 11:31 This takes in the beginning of the great tribulation, the first 3.5 years of Daniel's 70th week.

This abomination is typified in Antiochus Epiphane who in 170 B.C. poured pigs blood on the mercy seat. Jesus gives a warning about the Anti-Christ and the tribulation in Matthew 24:15-26.

Jesus 2nd coming will be like "lightning" coming from the east as stated here in Matt. 24: 27& 29 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.

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: Jesus will not need a forerunner this time. These will take place at the end of the tribulation just as Christ arrives.

Jesus says He is coming back in 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 this event will begin as a point of light in the distance. This light will come towards earth as it nears the light will unfold as a bright cloud streaming with rays of brilliant light. This light will appear to be on the wings of a whirlwind. Once it arrives over the Mt. of Olives it will open up to reveal to the awe struck beholders the king.

Here in closing this subject are 10 signs of the times.

1. Post Millennial scoffers- they scoff at the idea of a 2nd coming
2. Apostasy in 2nd Thess. 2:3
3. False Teachers- rampant today in 2nd Peter 2:1-2
4. Spiritualism seeing a revival in 1st Tim. 4:1
5. Perilous times listed in 2nd Tim. 3:1-5
6. Heaped up treasures on earth John 5:1-6
7. A Laodicean Church Rev. 3: 14-22
8. The rebirth of the fig tree – Matt. 24: 31-35
9. Distress of nations – Luke 21: 24-27 easily seen in the world today
10. Days like Noah & Lot- Luke 17: 26-30; 19:1-33; 2 Peter 2:6-10 and 1 Cor. 3:11-15

There is more information on the second coming of Christ and the rapture in appendix A.

Rightly Dividing This thing called Baptism

To begin this subject we must determine the meaning of the word as it is used in both the Old and New Testament.

The word "baptize" and it's similar words are all from the word "Baptizo". The word was not translated instead it was transliterated. It means to make overwhelmed or fully wet. Used in the New Testament for the ablution of baptism, Baptist, baptize and wash.

Most people would be stunned to hear that there are 7 baptisms not one. At the very least they would think, it would be a study of how different churches practice baptism, which is partly true. – Eph. 4:5 says There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, notice it says one baptism

One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism

Baptism is a controversial subject, mostly because of denominational built traditions and not on Scripture. I want us to see the Bible's view of baptism and there are 7 baptisms recorded in scripture.

Most people think when they hear the name Baptists that we put a lot of emphasis on baptizing. But we do not or at least real Baptist's don't in fact we put less emphasis on it than anybody. Because the act of water baptism doesn't do anything except get you wet. The purpose of public baptism is to identify one with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

You can trace Baptist theology and history back to the 1st Century. Unlike other churches which say they're the oldest and go all the way back to Christ, when they actually go back to the 1500's under Luther's reformation. The most prominent

one being formed in the 1830's by Alexander Campell when he left the Presbyterian Church over the practice of sprinkling of infants and adults instead of immersing as the word means.

There are those that practice infant baptism and say it's in the Bible and biblical, but it's not. Jewish babies were circumcised not baptized. Search the Bible and you'll not find one infant baptized. This practice was brought into the Roman church from pagan practices. It is a controversial subject this thing called baptism. Let's see some of the modes of baptism that are not in the bible; and one that is.

1. infant baptism- no proof
2. sprinkling as baptism- no proof
3. Pouring as baptism- no proof
4. Immersion – yes, but some go once backwards, some 3 times forward, some forward and backward.

The Baptism of Moses

Our starting text is here in I Cor. 10:1-2 Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea, one should also compare with Ex. 14. We see in that chapter that the Israelites went down into the Red Sea and the water was over them, and they were baptized unto Moses in the cloud and sea right there. They left the land of Egypt, a picture, or type of the world; they went down under the water and the waters curled up over them! They were baptized, identified with in Moses baptism long before they ever reached the Promised Land. They weren't sprinkled or immersed, they were baptized by aspersion. You see Moses and the Israelites were Baptized in a cloud of water vapor, a fog if you will.

One needs to remember we are looking for the "one baptism" – is this it? The answer must be no, Why? In our looking for the "one baptism" we acknowledge that there is more than one; also if there is more than one then there must be one real baptism. Then our answer to the above question no because this baptism is Old Testament, no not because of that, they were under grace under the blood of the Lamb. But this isn't the one baptism.

In I Cor. 8 Paul says there are "many lords" again in chapter 8 "there are many gods"; and later "there are many faiths." But to those who are believers there is but one Lord, one God, one baptism, one faith, one spirit, and only one real baptism! So we can deduce from this that there is one real baptism and all others are types of some thing.

Now if you asked the average Baptist what the "one" baptism is, they might well reply "baptism in water." Once you have said that then the Campellites have you. You see if the "one"

baptism is water then they become Campellites, as that is there mantra of you must be baptized to be saved. You see that water puts you into Christ. That's why we need to remind ourselves that water baptism is being put into water not "the church or into Christ." Statements like this will have teachers listed as a heretic or blasphemer. Those who teach against water baptism being part of salvation are neither heretic's or blasphemers. Some many years ago down south a Preacher asked "how many wants to join the Lord's army, they all stood but one who said he already had. Preacher asked him where he joined at, he told him the place, and the preacher said well you haven't joined the Lord's army why you joined the Lord's many."

The 2nd Baptism That of John the Baptist

Turn over to Matt. 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire. Here we have John the Baptist (despite some peoples opinion he did not found the Baptist church, he wasn't even a part of the church) in this passage we find him down on the banks of Jordan preaching to the mass of people who have come out to see this wild looking man telling Israel to repent. For those who do repent he is baptizing them going from one side of Jordan or the other. So what's this baptism for? John in Jn 1:23-31, here he explains his work. His repentance and baptism was to prepare the nation to receive reveal Messiah.

John said he was a friend to the bridegroom and he rejoiced to see this day and his joy was full. Jesus said of John, that none born of woman was greater! Yet even the least one in the kingdom was greater than John. Why would he say that of John, well all here who are in the kingdom have been born twice once of woman and once of the Holy Ghost. John was an Old Testament Prophet revealing Jesus as Messiah to Israel as we see in John 1:31 And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water .

John the Baptist baptism was a water baptism showing the death of sinner, who was under wrath of God. This baptism was telling the sinner that Christ coming was to take his place. When Christ comes down to the river, John says I need to be baptized of you (Jesus). Jesus said instead that John should "Suffer it to be so far now; for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness." Why did Jesus say this? Because the Bible says in the prophets that Jesus was

numbered with the transgressors. You see the transgressors; they are down by the river in Matthew chapter 2&3 confessing their sins. Then comes Jesus among them, this is where John asks what you are doing here. Jesus reply is I'm with the sinners, if I am to fulfill all righteousness I need to do as a repentant sinner and be baptized. In this Jesus took my place and yours.

3rd Baptism

That is

Baptism into Jesus

Suffering

Suffering – Mt. 20:22-24 But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able. And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father. And when the ten heard it, they were moved with indignation against the two brethren. In the verses prior to this the mother of James and John had been asking for the seats on the right and left of the throne. Jesus is responding to James & John's mom who is trying to secure better positions for her sons. Here's the question Jesus asks, can they do what he's going to do? They said they were. There's no reference, inference, or any connection of water. Jesus is way past baptism, he is on his way to that cross.

What's he referring to? The cross of Calvary, on that cross he shows the depths of that baptism. "My God" – this suffering is pictured not only as fire but as deep waters. "Waters are come unto my soul and all thy billows and waves lie hard over me." The wrath of God was falling on Jesus the Paschal lamb. The Passover lamb in Exodus was killed by all in one night. It was to be roasted (fire) and no water (sodden with water). Jesus on the cross said "I Thirst", the lamb was suffering taking our torment. David said also "friends and loved ones hast thou put away and cut me off and I lie in darkness in the deeps, like those that are dead, cut off."

What James and John said they were able, they didn't know what that really would mean for the 11 as they were martyred for Christ. James was first, then Peter and John was boiled in oil, exiled, and then executed. This is the "Baptism of Death." Many are the persons who have been through a baptism of suffering. Yet this secures nothing of its own, for God alone rewards of his sovereign will.

Look here at Rom. 6:1-3 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Notice this says there is a Baptism into Jesus death. "into His death" right here is where one group grabs these words and declares "you see there, when you are baptized up in the pool you are baptized into Jesus death." Now how could a pool of water put you into Jesus Christ? No pool of water can put you in Christ, how can water put you in Christ. The Bible says, "God is a spirit and they that worship God must worship him in spirit and truth." So how can water put you in the spirit? If you baptize someone in hard water, would that make them a hard shell Baptist? This baptism is about being placed in Christ through His death not through water.

When this group of believers when pressed, they will at times admit that they believe that when you go down in that water, your body and soul contact the blood of Jesus Christ, and the blood of Jesus is applied to you in the pool.

Someone tell me when did a city water system that is full of chlorine and fluoride and other chemicals become the sinless blood of the Lamb. There is a baptism that puts you into Jesus Christ, but it is not water. That's not possible or scriptural. No water on earth can put you in touch with the blood. There is a baptism but not here, for God is a Spirit.

4th
Baptism
For the
Nation of Israel
Acts 2: 37-38

Look at Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins. When you start your theology in the book of Acts you'll end up wrong. A person needs to learn that Acts is a transitional book, it one that like a swinging door goes back into the Old Testament and then brings the reader into the New Testament. Now here in 38 is a verse taken out of context and this is sad. To see why this verse is here look at vs. 37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do. Notice no one is asking to be saved, they are asking what must we do? The nation of Israel wants to know what to do for having nailed Jesus to the cross. That's the question and Vs. 38 is the answer. Israel your children are far off (dispersion Jews). This is not John's baptism but Simon's for Israel after the crucifixion. Look at vs. 5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven, that is to Israel, now verses 17-36. This is for a nation that killed its Messiah.

You get saved by grace, you get the Holy Ghost immediately, and then you can get dunked. So if this is for a nation, where can we go? Look at Acts 16:30-31 the Philippians' jailer, his question is different. What must I do to be saved? He is a gentile wanting salvation. Paul doesn't say repent, confess, believe, and be baptized, keep the golden rule,

find the church Christ founded, do unto others and hope for the best.

Look at the questions in Acts:

Acts 2 – What must we do – unsaved Jew

Acts 16 – What must I do to be saved – unsaved Gentile (Jailer)?

Acts 9 – Lord, what would you have me to do – saved Christian? The answer was to get up and go to somebody and they will tell you what to do.

Fifth Baptism

Of

Gentiles

Acts chapter 10

This baptism is one for the Gentiles. In this baptism Simon Peter is preaching this time in Acts Ch.10. This time God has sent him to the household of Cornelius the Roman centurion who had become a Jewish proselyte but knew there was something more and was praying for it. Peter is called by God to go down and preach the gospel to this household (family and servants) which he does now look here around vs. 39-40 And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: Him God raised up the third day, and showed him openly. Look at what happens here in verses 43-44 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins. While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. Peter is getting to the heart of the matter and is ready to deliver the invitation. He starts it in 43 then right in the middle God interrupts and cuts Peter off as he says "whosoever believeth in him shall (future tense) receive remission of sins" with the event in Vs. 44. Right then they were all baptized with the Holy Ghost before Peter even got to mention any idea of water being involved in their salvation. Peter never came close to repeating what he said in Acts chapter two. Peter then asks this question here in vs. 47 Can any man forbid water, that these should

not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we. We must see to whom he addressed this question; certainly it was not Cornelius or his household. Peter asks this of the Jews who had come with him and were standing there watching this marvelous event.

Peter now tells them to be baptized in the name (singular) not Lord Jesus Christ. Just in the Lord's name. Gentile baptism is not Jewish baptism. Gentile baptism is found in Mt. 28:19 baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. this is a command from Jesus for gentiles.

So Peter is following Mt. 28:19. The only one according to II Cor. 3 who can wear the title Lord is the Spirit. You can also use Lord with Jesus "God hath given him a name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord." You can put Lord on the Father as David did in the Psalms "The Lord said unto my Lord, sit thou at my right hand." Baptism in the name of the Lord is baptism in the name (one) of the Father, Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

For the Jew it was "repent, to be baptized in the name of Jesus for the remission of sins." For the gentile it says "go baptize all nations in the name of the Father, Son and of the Holy Ghost."

Here in Acts 10 you do not read anywhere that they were baptized in "the name of the lord." Notice back in Matthew 28:19 it says in the "name" singular of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost" one must find one word that fits these 3 and it is not "Jesus" as some say; no the one word is "Lord".

In Acts we find a man named Agabus and he says "thus saith the Holy Ghost" however in the Old Testament it is always "thus saith the Lord". Over in 2nd Corinthians 3 we find these words "now the Lord is that Spirit." you see you can take the name Lord and place it on the Holy Spirit without changing anything. You can also use lord with Jesus as we read in Phil.

2. You can also put "Lord with God the Father." David did when he said "the Lord said unto me Lord, sit thou at my right hand till I make thine enemies thy footstool."

Notice then in verse 47 Peter asks this question "is there a reason not to baptize them since they have already been baptized by the Holy Spirit. You see over in Eph. 4 we have a "spirit" baptism "for by one spirit are ye all baptized into one body (Jesus Christ).

Sixth Baptism

Spiritual Baptism

I Cor. 12:13

Paul here in this verse uses the word "spirit" and since you can't see a spirit, the Bible often says, "ghost." Why you ask? Because a ghost has a bodily shape and certainly is not that sheet looking thing floating around as we were taught in the cartoons. Paul in Eph. 5:7 says "One Spirit are yea all baptized into one body". This is speaking of the body of Christ. Each believer is in the body of Christ in particular. Listen to Paul; as he says no one has a more prominent or less prominent place in Christ. He is the head we are the body. Some are in the hand, arm, and leg just read Eph. 5:23-30. Especially verse 30 as it says for we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones."

In plain words, when you were saved, not only did the Holy Spirit come into you (Christ in you the hope of glory). He placed you in Christ. The Holy Spirit made you a part of a spiritual body. God is a Spirit and you are part of His body. There is the physical body and there is the Spiritual Body. So there is a visible body of Christ and an invisible body. Now some say there is no invisible body of Christ. If that is so what happened to Luther, Spurgeon, Morgan, and Ironside among the countless members who have already passed over, where are they; if they are not in the body. Your own family that is saved and gone from this mortal realm is in this body.

Right here is where the devil kicks in the lies to you trying to convince you that you do not have the Holy Spirit unless some external sign is attached to it. This is certainly not what the Bible says. The devil loves to get people believing they cannot be indwelt unless there is the external show. Now is you do not

know the Word of God, then this rascal the devil will keep your Christian life all messed up, as to why you didn't get it. The "it" here is the Holy Ghost that is. Look at I Cor. 12 and the last 5 verses in these Paul will describe the different parts of the body, Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? No are all prophets? No, are all teachers? No are all workers of miracles? No, Have all the gifts of healing? No do all speak with tongues? No do all interpret? No, all of these questions are written to demand a negative answer – NO. yet none of these are less than any other part of the body they are just different.

Paul in 1st Cor. 6 says our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. Some would say yes but he will not be there unless and external work happens. We need to keep in mind what 2nd Cor. 12:13 says "we are all (not some) baptized into the body."

Every Christian is in Christ. Every Christian has the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Let's look at Col. 2:8-9 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. We are complete in HIM who is the head of all things. Notice the first phrase in verse 8 Paul says we need to watchout for the traditions of men and their worldliness. Look down at verse 12-13 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses. God performed an operation on you when you were saved a spiritual surgery if you will. He takes a spiritual knife and cuts away the old life.

Someone asked Jack Hyles "What is your position on baptism." He said nothing just simulating baptizing someone. This baptism was an operation of God. This spiritual baptism puts you in Christ. When baptism is spoken of in the Bible it's a burial. Rom. 6 is not in water nor is this here, but it is a burial its submersion.

No other form of baptism does this accept immersion when you bury someone you don't stand him by a tree and throw dirt at him. You pack him down and cover them up. Burial is putting him under – resurrection is bringing him back up.

7th Baptism

The

Baptism of Fire

Matthew 3:11

Mt. 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

For our last baptism we go back to our text above. Here again we rejoin John the Baptist down by the river Jordan. Let's hear his words, he is baptizing with water, but he declares that one is coming who will baptize not just with water but also with "fire." Notice the phrase "And with fire," now some would say that this is some special baptism for believers and we're to pray for it. I don't know where that got started but it is a real sad affair and not even remotely true.

Let's read a little more in verse 12 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire. When you read this and verse 13 along with 11 they make one continuous thought. I surely hope you do not want this baptism. This verse says that Jesus will Burn up the chaff (unbelievers, pretenders) with his fan (this is the tool that they used to throw the wheat in the air for the chaff to blow away, then it would be collected and burnt with unquenchable fire). You don't want that. You do need the filling of the Holy Spirit for power which is stated several times in Acts, we need that. This baptism of fire is for the lost. When an evangelist preaches "Lord set us on fire" its different, he is talking about a Holy zeal.

This fire is burning, tormenting and continuous, when the Bible said this word was like a fire in my bones –it is the Holy zeal revival power.

This fire in Mt. 3:11-13 is the fire of hell. Look back at 8-10 the axe that is laid to the root of unbelief to cut it down and burn it. An old preacher was asked why he didn't put more hell in his sermons. His answer, "well when I put more hell in my sermons the folks make such a noise fanning themselves they can't hear me over the microphone." There really should be more of it, if there was there would be a whole lot of fanning especially in some churches. Would it not be interesting to be able to go into some of the pulpits of America and just let loose on the damnation of hell or hellfire and damnation? Some of those folks would just get all hot and bothered.

Now back to our verse, it says that Jesus will baptize with the Holy Ghost, that's for saved people and it happened in Acts chapter 2. then the next phrase "with fire" that's for the unsaved.

Now baptism means to identify with and people are put under water after they are saved. So it would be reasonable to say when the baptism of fire occurs it is a placing under the burning flames!

He (Jesus) is going to perform a baptism of fire an immersion in fire. David in the Psalms said this – cast them into deep pits and let coals of fire fall on them, and burning coals that they might not rise again. Some think that the Lake of Fire is a cruel thing and how could god put someone there. God isn't doing anything, it the individual that will go on his own to "that place created for the devil."

God wants to put people into Christ and into heaven, now that's what He wants. God has never or never will place someone in hell. Paul in Romans makes this very clear "the wages of sin is death" you earn your place there. The gift of God is eternal life. The Lord made a mansion of gold for His

own, and hell for the devil and His children which one will you choose to spend eternity in, is your choice. The wages of sin is death; the gift of God is eternal life.

One added passage in I Pet. 3:20-22 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him. This passage was brought to my attention and a question asked, so let's look at it. Peter is discussing Christ's suffering and what he has done even for those who were disobedient in Noah's days. Men were so evil that 120 years of preaching the coming judgment of God, Noah saw only 8 people survive.

Notice the last phrase of vs. 20. It says "saved THROUGH (not by) water." The 8 were saved or rescued in spite of the water. Here water is the agent of judgment not a means of salvation.

In vs. 21 Peter continues his explanation of Christ suffering by telling us that this baptism of suffering and that new life it brought is the anti-type or fulfillment of the picture Noah provided of an ark of safety. That is our safety is Jesus Christ when we are joined by faith in Him. We are saying with God that it was sufficient.

Notice Peter inserts that it's not water which can only remove the filth (dirt) of the flesh. But something much stronger that is the answer (pledge) in agreeing to conditions of a covenant. In this case agreeing with God that Christ is the answer to sin and guilty conscience by faith in his death and resurrection as seen in these two passages Rom. 10:9, Heb. 9:14, 10:22.

Now these are the 7 Bible baptisms.

- 1st. Moses through the Red Sea
- 2nd . John to the nation of Israel
- 3rd. Christ suffering on the cross
- 4th. Peter to the nation of Israel
- 5th. Peter to the Gentiles
- 6th. Saving baptism of the Holy Spirit
- 7th. Baptism of Hell fire

Appendix A

Each of these prophecies is a unique event that was never fulfilled in any other generation. By their very nature many of these predictions could not be fulfilled again in another generation. Our Lord Jesus Christ warned, "*Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draw near*" (Luke 21:28). Let's examine in detail several of these fascinating predictions to illustrate the tremendous precision of biblical prophecies as proof that God inspired the writers of the Bible.

The Rebirth of Israel

The rebirth of Israel is one of the most extraordinary and unlikely of all the prophecies in the Bible. In an earlier portion of this book we examined the marvelous precision of the prophecy in which Ezekiel predicted that Israel would be reborn in the spring of 1948.

Jesus Christ foretold the rebirth of Israel in his famous prophecy of the "*fig tree*" budding that was recorded in Matthew's Gospel. Our Lord declared in Matthew 24:32-35: "Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." No other ancient nation ever ceased to exist for a period of centuries and then returned to take its place on the stage of world history. "*Who hath heard such a thing? Who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children*" (Isaiah 66:8).

Most nations evolved gradually over the centuries, such as Egypt or France. In the time of the ancient prophecies, no one had ever witnessed a nation being created "in one day." Yet, in

his prediction, Isaiah prophesied that Israel would come into existence in "*one day*." The prophecies of Isaiah and Ezekiel were fulfilled precisely as predicted on May 15, 1948.

Predictions About the Present Arab-Israeli Conflict

However, the prophecies surrounding the rebirth of Israel did not stop with the declaration of Israel's independence in 1948. Three thousand years ago God inspired King David to predict that the reborn nation of Israel would be immediately surrounded by enemies, including the Arab nations of Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Syria. "*For, lo, thine enemies make a tumult: and they that hate thee have lifted up the head. They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones. They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance. For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee: The tabernacles of Edom, and the Ishmaelites; of Moab, and the Hagarenes; Gebal, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre; Assur also is joined with them: they have holpen the children of Lot. Selah*" (Psalm 83:2-8). In this incredible prophecy, David described the modern states of the Middle East by naming the ancient nations that have now joined with Palestinians in their attempt to destroy the Jewish state in the last days.

The Miraculous Restoration of the Hebrew Language

The prophet Zephaniah had predicted something equally impossible as the rebirth of Israel. God predicted through His prophet Zephaniah that He would restore the ancient dead language of Hebrew as the living, spoken language of Israel. Hebrew ceased to be the common language of the Jews long before the life of Christ. "*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*" (Zephaniah 3:9). No other nation has ever lost its language and later recovered it. No one is speaking ancient Egyptian or Chaldee today. A

Jewish scholar by the name of Eliazar ben Yehuda began working earlier in this century in Israel, in his attempt to revive the dead language of Hebrew with its original seven thousand words related to Temple worship as used by the priests. He invented thousands of new words for fountain pen, airplane, etc. Ultimately, Eliazar created modern Hebrew as the living language of five million Israelis. As the Jews began to return from seventy different nations to the Promised Land in 1948 after two thousand years of exile, the government and army began to unify these widely divergent peoples into a united people through teaching them the revived Hebrew language. The Jews of Israel will someday fulfill the prophecy of Zephaniah by calling "*upon the name of the Lord, to serve him with one consent.*"

The Return of the Ethiopian Jews to Israel

The prophet Zephaniah predicted another seemingly impossible prophecy when he declared that God would return the Ethiopian Jews to the land of Israel after they were separated from their Jewish brethren for almost three thousand years. In the days of King Solomon a group of Jews from each of the twelve tribes immigrated to Ethiopia with Prince Menelik, the son of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba, as detailed in my book Armageddon. The prophet foretold their return to their homeland in the last days in these words, "*From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my suppliants, even the daughter of my dispersed, shall bring mine offering*" (Zephaniah 3:10). Another prophet, Isaiah, also confirmed this prediction. "*I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughter from the ends of the earth*" (Isaiah 43:6). Isaiah predicted the miraculous return of the Jews from both Russia (the north) and from Ethiopia (the south). In the later part of the 1980s and especially in 1991 over eighty-five thousand black Jews returned home to Israel from Ethiopia in fulfillment of Zephaniah's ancient prophecy. Ezekiel 37:21 and numerous other prophecies foretold of the return of the exiles to the Holy Land.

The Astonishing Fertility of Israel

In addition to recovering their homeland, their lost language and their exiles, the prophet Isaiah predicted that Israel would become fertile again. *"He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: Israel shall blossom and bus, and fill the face of the world with fruit"* (Isaiah 27:6). The returning Jews have transformed the previously deserted and desolate land into the most agriculturally efficient land on earth according to the United Nations. Israel now supplies over 90 percent of the citrus fruit consumed by hundreds of millions in Europeans. Another prophecy connected with Israel's return was made by the prophet Joel who declared that the desert nation of Israel would experience tremendous increases of rain in the last days. *"Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month"* (Joel 2:23). As the rainfall increased dramatically by over 10 percent every decade for the last century the returning Jewish exiles planted over two hundred million trees and transformed the complete environment of the Promised Land. *"And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes"* (Isaiah 35:7).

Another curious prediction was found in Ezekiel 38 which claimed that Israel would dwell *"without walls or gates"* in the last days. In the ancient past even small villages as well as cities depended on the walls for defense against invading armies. Yet God inspired Ezekiel to record the following verse in his prophecy about the coming Russian-Arab invasion of Israel. *"And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates"* (Ezekiel 38:11). How could Ezekiel have known twenty-five centuries ago that the development of modern weapons such as bombs, airplanes

and missiles, would have made walls and gates irrelevant for defensive purposes in the last days? Even army bases and Israel's settlements in the West Bank and Gaza have no walls today.

Israel's Plans to Rebuild the Temple

The Bible contains numerous prophecies that tell us that Israel will rebuild the Temple in the last days. The prophet Isaiah wrote, *"And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it"* (Isaiah 2:2). In the Book of Revelation (11:1,2) John tells us that the angel took him into the future to measure the Temple that will exist during the seven-year tribulation period. The apostle Paul confirms this in his prophecy about the Antichrist occupying the future Temple. *"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God"* (2 Thessalonians 2:3,4). The prophet Ezekiel described his vision of the future Temple with Levites and priests worshipping God: *"And thou shalt give to the priests the Levites that be of the seed of Zadok, which approach unto me, to minister unto me, saith the Lord God, a young bullock for a sin offering"* (Ezekiel 43:19).

The Oil of Anointing

One of the most unusual aspects of the ancient Tabernacle and Temple was the oil of anointing that was specially prepared with five specific ingredients to anoint the Temple and the High Priests. Moses described God's command to Israel: *"And thou shalt make it an oil of holy ointment, an ointment compound after the art of the apothecary: it shall be an holy anointing oil. And thou shalt anoint the*

tabernacle of the congregation therewith, and the ark of the testimony" (Exodus 30:25,26). One of the five ingredients needed to make the oil was afars'mon. However, the oil and its ingredients were lost, seemingly forever, when the Romans destroyed the Temple in A.D. 70 and burned the only two groves where afars'mon trees grew. Without this special ingredient, they could never obey God's command to anoint the rebuilt Temple.

In addition, the prophet Daniel foretold that, when the Messiah returns, He will be anointed with this oil of anointing. *"Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy"* (Daniel 9:24). How could these prophecies be fulfilled when some of the key ingredients were lost forever. Incredibly, several years ago, archeologists in Israel found a clay flask buried near the Dead Sea caves filled with the ancient oil of anointing. Scientists confirmed that the oil is two thousand years old and is composed of the precise ingredients described in Exodus 30:25, 26.

Vessels For the Future Temple Worship

Ezekiel foretold that the sacred vessels and linen robes will be prepared for use in the Temple in the Millennium. *"They shall enter into my sanctuary, and they shall come near to my table, to minister unto me, and they shall keep my charge. And it shall come to pass, that when they enter in at the gates of the inner court, they shall be clothed with linen garments; and no wool shall come upon them, while they minister in the gates of the inner court and within"* (Ezekiel 44:16,17). It is significant that the Temple Institute in the Old City of Jerusalem has prepared over seventy-five of the objects, vessels, and linen priestly garments required for future Temple services. The yeshivas, or Jewish Bible colleges in Jerusalem have trained over five hundred

young men from the tribe of Levi to correctly fulfill their future duties of Temple worship and sacrifice. The prophecies describe the resumption of the sacrifice of the Ashes of the Red Heifer to produce the waters of purification (Numbers 19) needed to cleanse the defiled Temple objects, the priests, and the stones on the Temple Mount. The prophet Ezekiel confirmed that the waters of purification will be used to cleanse the future Temple and the Jewish people. *"Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you"* (Ezekiel 36:25).

The Revival of the Roman Empire

The Bible foretold the revival of the Roman Empire in the final generation when the Messiah will return to establish His eternal kingdom: *"And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potter's clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall stand for ever"* (Daniel 2:40-44). Other prophecies in Daniel 7 and Revelation 13 and 17 confirm the revival of the Roman Empire in the last days in the unique form of a ten-nation super state. Following the devastation of two world wars the leadership of Europe came together after World War II to plan the creation of a confederate form of super state bringing the major nations of Europe together for the first time

since the days of Rome. In 1957, six countries signed the Treaty of Rome laying the foundation for the future United States of Europe. Henri Spaak, the former secretary-general of NATO admitted in a BBC documentary on the European Union that "we felt like Romans on that day....We were consciously re-creating the Roman Empire once more." Since then, the Maastricht Treaty consolidated the fifteen nations of the European Union into the world's first super state. It is now an economic, political, and potentially, a military colossus that will dominate world events in the near future.

Rebuilding of Babylon

One of the most unusual of the Bible's prophecies reveals that the city of Babylon will be rebuilt and later destroyed by God at Armageddon by supernatural fire from heaven like Sodom and Gomorrah. The prophet Isaiah foretold this destruction as follows: "*Howl ye; for the day of the Lord is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty.....And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah*" (Isaiah 13:6,19). In this remarkable prediction the prophet declared that Babylon will not only exist again but it will be destroyed on the Great Day of the Lord. As unlikely as it seems, the Iraqi government of Saddam Hussein has spent over one billion dollars rebuilding the ancient city of Babylon. They intend that it will become the center of their future renewed Babylonian Empire.

Interestingly, the whole city of Babylon was built over an underground lake of asphalt and oil. God has already provided the fuel for its final destruction. In another prophecy, God foretold that the wicked city will burn forever. "*For it is the day of the Lord's vengeance, and the year of recompenses for the controversy of Zion. And the streams thereof shall be turned into pitch, and the dust thereof into brimstone, and the land thereof shall become burning pitch. It shall not be quenched night nor day; the smoke thereof shall go up forever: from generation to generation it shall lie waste; none shall pass through it forever and ever*" (Isaiah

34:8-10). Several years ago during the Gulf War we had a foretaste of this burning of Babylon when Saddam Hussein set hundreds of Kuwaiti oil wells on fire and covered the desert with smoke and fire.

One World Government

Over two thousand years ago the prophets Daniel and John described that there would be a global, world government led by the coming dictator, the Antichrist in the last days (Daniel 7:14). *"And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him"* (Revelation 13:7,8). There has never been a world government during thousands of years of human history. However, as I outlined in my last book, *Final Warning*, the elite are moving behind the scenes to produce a world government as quickly as possible. The rising power of the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, and World Court are moving us quickly beyond the days of national sovereignty and individual nations.

Deadly Pestilence

The Bible describes terrible plagues and horrible sores occurring throughout the world's population in the Great Tribulation. The plagues that will destroy hundreds of millions in the last days may include the effects of biological and chemical weapons. Zechariah also described the terrible plagues at the Battle of Armageddon: *"And this shall be the plague wherewith the Lord will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongues shall consume away in their mouth"* (Zechariah 14:12).

"So I looked, and behold an ashy pale horse,.....and its rider's name was Death, and Hades.....followed him

closely; and they were given authority and power over a fourth part of the earth, to kill with the sword and with famine and with plague (pestilence, disease) and with wild beasts of the earth" (Revelation 6:8 [amplified version]). The prophecy of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse warned us that a fourth of humanity will be killed by plague and pestilence symbolized by the fourth horseman during the Tribulation. How could this prophecy be fulfilled literally? Tragically, the AIDS epidemic throughout Africa, South America, and Asia is demonstrating how this prophecy may be fulfilled in our generation. The AIDS plague is now poised to destroy a large portion of mankind in the worst epidemic in history. Thus far it appears that no one has survived AIDS for more than twelve years. Jesus warned His disciples about plagues in the last days, "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilence, and earthquakes, in diverse places" (Matthew 24:7).

In North America and Europe the AIDS virus is still primarily infecting people within the homosexual community and those who share illegal drugs through needles. However, in the Third World huge numbers of heterosexuals in Africa, South America, and Asia are now infected with AIDS. Scientists have determined that unprotected promiscuous sexual activity between males and females facilitates the rapid transmission of the AIDS virus throughout the sexually active population in the Third World. The combination of high levels of promiscuity, an absence of sanitation, minimal AIDS education, and a lack of antibiotics or protection has produced an epidemic of sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS. The only real solution to the AIDS crisis is to return to God's laws regarding a monogamous marriage relationship between a faithful husband and wife. This is the only true "safe sex" that exists in a world of promiscuous behavior and sexually transmitted disease. In the fall of 1991, the Central Intelligence Agency produced a report on the AIDS epidemic in Africa that was staggering in its conclusions. The evidence pointed to the greatest epidemic and loss of life in human

history. The CIA report concluded that up to 75 percent of the population of Africa living in the area south of the Sahara Desert may become infected with AIDS over the next twelve years. This will mean the death by AIDS of over three hundred million people in Africa alone. We are now witnessing the greatest tragedy in history in the death of a whole continent. The mind can scarcely imagine death on this massive scale. The South African Medical Journal in July 1991, reported that a staggering 47 percent of black male and female blood donors tested positive for AIDS during 1989. The prognosis for Asia and parts of South America is tragically similar. One study showed that almost every soldier in the armies of several East African nations that could be tested were found to have been infected by the AIDS virus.

Worldwide Famine

The apostle John described his vision of the horrible famine in the last days. "*And I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand*" (Revelation 6:5). The scales represent famine, and the prophet explains that a day's wages at this time will only buy enough wheat or barley to feed the workman, not his family. The United Nations claims that over thirty million in Africa are now at risk of dying from the most devastating famine in this century. Despite the great advances in food production and food storage techniques more people are starving today than at any other time in history. The UN estimates that one billion people are in danger of starvation while another billion people lack proper nutrition. North American food reserves (grain and corn) are at the lowest level in sixty years. Wheat reserves worldwide are at the lowest level in this century as our government sends its surplus food to Russia, Bosnia, and Africa. In light of the massive changes in the world weather patterns we may witness devastating famine in the future in countries that felt themselves immune to hunger.

The Rise in Major "Killer" Earthquakes

Jesus prophesied that the last generation of this age would witness the greatest earthquakes in history. Other prophets, including Ezekiel, Zechariah, Haggai, and John predicted awesome earthquakes that would precede Christ's return. Jesus said these earthquakes will occur in "*diverse places*" (strange places). Massive earthquakes are now occurring worldwide in "*diverse places.*" Enormous forces are accumulating far beneath the massive tectonic plates supporting the continents. Scientists warn that the major earthquakes felt recently in California, Japan, and other parts of the Pacific Rim are only a foretaste of the coming "Big One," the most massive earthquake in human history. Major "killer" quakes (7.2 or greater on the Richter Scale) occurred only once per decade throughout history until our century. However, since A.D. 1900, the growth in major earthquakes has been relentless. From 1900 to 1949 it averaged three major earthquakes per decade. From 1949 the increase became awesome with 9 killer quakes in the 1950s; 13 in the 1960s; 56 in the 1970s and an amazing 74 major quakes in the 1980s. Finally, in the 1990s, at the present rate, we will experience 125 major killer quakes in this decade (Source: U.S. Geological Survey Earthquake Report, Boulder, Colorado). The prophets warned that the planet will be shaken in the last days as never before. The judgment of God will finally unleash the greatest earthquake in history as part of a series of enormous earthquakes. "*There were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth*" (Revelation 16:18).

Preparations for the Mark of the Beast

The Book of Revelation describes the end of cash and the creation of a cashless society in the last days where the possession of a certain number, "666," will be essential to enable you to "*buy or sell.*" This was an astonishing prophecy when John proclaimed it in the first century: "*And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond,*

to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. 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" (Revelation 13:16-18). However, we are already 95 percent cashless in America today. Studies reveal that less than 5 percent of the total money in our society exists as paper currency or coins. Revelation describes a time when the number 666 will be placed beneath the skin of the right hand or forehead. Recently, scientists developed a miniature computer chip the size of a dime. This tiny chip will hold as much information as contained in thirty complete sets of the Encyclopedia Britannica. This chip could also be configured in a shape the size of two grains of rice that could be injected beneath the skin. Your complete financial life records could be held by such a chip which could be read from a distance by electronic scanners. Business Week magazine reported on June 3, 1996, p.123, that MasterCard International is testing a "smart card" computer chip that includes information about your fingerprint and identity that can be embedded in a credit/debit card. Card scanners in stores and banks will scan your fingerprint and compare it to the information on the card to verify your identity. How could the apostle John have known that the future would hold such incredible technology unless God inspired him to write the words recorded in Revelation 13:16-18.

Worldwide Television Communication

Another incredible prophecy relating to our era is found in the Book of Revelation that describes worldwide television communications. The prophet John prophesied that in the future tribulation the Antichrist will kill two of God's witnesses who will stop the rain for three-and-a-half years. The prophet declared that the people living around the world will see their deaths and observe their bodies lying unburied for three-and-a-half days in Jerusalem. The whole world will hold a party,

exchanging gifts in their relief that their tormentors are dead. Then these people will watch astonished as God resurrects His two witnesses to heaven (Revelation 11:9-10). How could the news that these men were killed travel instantaneously around the world in only three-and-a-half days in any other generation than today? Only seventy years ago it would have taken a week for the news to travel from Israel to Japan or New York. However, today CNN instantly transmits pictures and sound about any important event worldwide. Over a billion people around the world can simultaneously watch the Olympic events every four years. For the first time in history, this prophecy about the whole world watching an event in Jerusalem can be literally fulfilled in this last decade.

Gospel of the Kingdom Shall Be Preached in all the World

One of the most wonderful of the prophecies concerns the prediction of Jesus Christ that: "*And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come*" (Matthew 24:14). The Bible has now been translated in more than 3,850 languages in every nation, tribe, and dialect on this planet. Electronic communication transmits the message of hope in Jesus Christ through the air waves worldwide. According to researchers on evangelism, over eighty-five thousand people accept Jesus as their personal Savior every day. We have never witnessed such an explosion of the Gospel from the first days following the Feast of Pentecost in Jerusalem until today. There were only one million Christians in China in 1949 after a century of faithful missionary work. However, the Church in China has grown astronomically despite tremendous persecution and the killing of untold millions of believers in concentration camps. Today, the lowest estimates calculate that there are more than one hundred million true followers of Christ in communist China.

Knowledge and Travel Shall Increase in the Last Days

Twenty-five centuries ago the Book of Daniel predicted that there would be an explosion of knowledge and a huge increase

in travel in the last days. Daniel wrote these words: "*But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased*" (Daniel 12:4). Throughout thousands of years of history the level of knowledge only increased incrementally. In some generations the level of general knowledge actually decreased. Yet, in the last century and a half, there has been an explosion of knowledge beyond anything ever experienced in human history. There are more scientists alive today than have lived in all of the rest of history. Recently it was calculated that the total level of human knowledge is growing so quickly that it literally doubles every twenty-four months. This is staggering in light of Daniel's inspired prediction from the ancient past. In addition, Daniel stated that a characteristic of the last days would be an awesome increase in mobility as "*many shall run to and fro.*" The speed of transportation has also exploded in the last century. Throughout history most people have never traveled faster than a galloping horse. Today men travel at over eighteen thousand miles an hour in the U.S. space shuttle Discovery. In addition, while most people in past centuries never traveled more than twenty miles from the place they were born, millions of people now travel the globe as part of their normal course of daily business or annual vacation.

Preparations for the Battle of Armageddon

Numerous prophecies deal with the climactic battle at the end of this age that will bring about the defeat of the Antichrist's armies and the ultimate victory of Jesus Christ to establish His kingdom on earth for a thousand years. The prophet John named the place of the final battle in this war between the Antichrist and the armies of the Kings of the East. "*And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon*" (Revelation 16:16). John also stated that the army of the eastern nations from the "*kings of the east*" would consist of an astonishing two hundred million soldiers. This statement was almost impossible in light of the

fact that the population of the entire Roman Empire in the days of John was only two hundred million people. *"And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them"* (Revelation 9:15-16).

However, the population of the nations of the Asian area they are growing so quickly that they could field an army in the next few years containing almost two hundred million soldiers. As a result of the cruel and evil One Child Policy, Chinese couples routinely abort any unborn baby that tests indicate will be female. They keep aborting fetuses until the tests reveal the woman has a male fetus. Then they allow the male child to be born. Numerous reports by human rights organizations reveal that China, India, and North Korea are involved in the selective abortion of female unborn infants. In addition, many in these nations kill young girls who are not wanted by their parents. As a result, the Toronto Star newspaper reported in 1995 that Chinese officials admitted that they have a staggering imbalance between boys and girls. This sexual imbalance will result in an excess of over seventy million young men in China by the year 2000 with no women for them to produce up to two hundred million excess young men of military age in the next decade. This situation could fulfill the prophecy of John about the two-hundred-million-man army from the East that will fight in the Battle of Armageddon.

A Military Highway Across Asia and the Drying Up of the Euphrates River

Another prophecy in Revelation declares that the Euphrates River will be dried up to allow this enormous army of two hundred million soldiers to cross from Asia to invade Israel: *"And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared"* (Revelation 16:12). Throughout history the Euphrates River

has been an impenetrable military barrier between East and West. However, the government of Turkey recently constructed the huge Ataturk Dam that can now dam up the waters of the Euphrates for the first time in history. The prophet John foretold a future military highway across Asia that would allow this astonishing army to march toward the final battle in Israel. John describes the building of this highway in these words: "*The way of the kings of the east might be prepared*" (Revelation 16:12). The Chinese government has spent enormous sums and expanded the lives of hundreds of thousands of construction workers building a military super-highway across Asia heading directly toward Israel. This highway has no economic purpose and no foreigners are allowed anywhere near this road. The highway has been completed through the south of China, Tibet, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. This curious prophecy about "*the way of the kings of the east*" is being fulfilled in the 1990s setting the stage for the final battle of this age.

The Staggering Odds Against These Prophecies Being Fulfilled in Our Lifetime

In this chapter we have examined a number of significant prophecies fulfilled in our lifetime that point to the Lord's return in this generation. Almost two thousand years have passed from the time of Christ until our generation. At its simplest level we can ask: What are the odds that even ten of these specific prophecies would be fulfilled by chance during our lifetime? If these prophecies could not have occurred by random chance, then their fulfillment is proof that God inspired the writers of the Bible to correctly predict these future events! In the Bible there are several types of generations. One generation is defined as the length of life of the average person - seventy or eighty years. However, a generation of governing is usually defined as forty years, as indicated in the forty-year reigns of Gideon, King David, King Solomon, et cetera. During the last two thousand years since the days of Christ, there were fifty such forty-year generations. Therefore, the odds are one chance in fifty that any one of

these specific prophecies happened by chance in our generation rather than some other generation. Examine the prediction about the rebirth of Israel, as prophesied by Matthew 24:32, as an example. There was only one chance in fifty that Israel would become a nation in our lifetime, rather than in some other generation such as A.D. 350, or A.D. 1600.

According to the laws of combined probability the chance that two or more events will occur in a given time period is equal to the chance that one event will occur multiplied by the chance that the second event would occur. If the odds are fifty to one against Israel being reborn in our lifetime by chance and the odds are also fifty to one against the revival of the Roman Empire in our generation; then the combined probability is fifty times fifty which equals one chance in twenty-five hundred. To calculate the probability of these prophecies occurring by chance:

What are the Odds That These Prophecies Were Fulfilled by Chance?

There are 40 years to a generation

There are 50 generations from Christ till today.

Therefore:

The odds are 1 in 50 of any of these prophecies occurring in our lifetime.

The odds are:

1 event = 1x50	1 in 50
2 events = 50x50	1 in 2,500
3 events =	1 in 125,000
50x50(3 times)	1 in 6.25 million
4 events =	1 in 312.5 million
50x50(4 times)	1 in 15.6 billion
5 events =	1 in 780 billion
50x50(5 times)	1 in 39 trillion
6 events =	1 in 1,950 trillion
50x50(6 times)	1 in 97,500 trillion (or
7 events =	97.5 quadrillion)

50x50(7 times)
8 events =
50x50(8 times)
9 events =
50x50(9 times)
10 events =
50x50(10 times)

Obviously, the odds against even ten prophecies occurring by random chance alone in one generation are simply staggering. The above calculation suggests that there is only one chance in 97,500 Trillion (or 97.5 Quadrillion) that these particular predictions from the Bible could be fulfilled by chance in our lifetime. Another way of looking at this is that the chance that the prophets of the Bible correctly guessed these prophecies is also one chance in 97,500 Trillion. If we calculated the odds against all twenty of these prophecies occurring by chance, the numbers would be beyond our ability to comprehend. In other words, it is simply impossible that men alone could have written the Bible without the supernatural assistance and inspiration of God.

This analysis demonstrates the truly incredible odds against even ten specific prophecies being fulfilled by chance in our generation. The odds against only ten prophecies occurring by random chance was $50 \times 50 \times 50 \times 50 \times 50 \times 50 \times 50 \times 50 \times 50 \times 50 =$ one chance in 97,500 Trillion! This number is so large that it is hard to conceive of it. However, to illustrate these incredible odds; consider this. The odds of 97,500 Trillion to one are equal to the estimated numbers of grains of sand that would fill our entire planet. Imagine that we were able to take a single grain of sand out of this staggering number of grains of sand and paint it blue. Then we blindfold you and let you search the planet for this buried grain of sand as long as you wish. Remember the entire globe consists of grains of sand and you would need to consider the possibility that the blue painted grain of sand was buried ten miles or, possibly, a thousand miles deep beneath the planet's surface. When you think you have found the right place, stop

and pick up a random grain of sand. If you were lucky enough to pick up the only grain of sand painted blue by pure chance, you would have equaled the odds of one chance in 97,500 Trillion against even these ten prophecies being fulfilled by chance in our generation. Frankly, I don't think you would find that grain of sand. Likewise, it is simply impossible that these twenty prophecies were fulfilled by random chance.

The Scriptures teach that the final generation of this age will witness the fulfillment of a staggering number of prophecies pointing to the soon return of the promised Messiah. The evidence presented in this chapter also provides astonishing evidence that proves that only God could have inspired the writers of the Scriptures to accurately predict the startling number of predictions already fulfilled in our lifetime. The words of Jesus speak especially to our generation, "*Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near*" (Luke 21:28).

Appendix B

Necessity of an Interval between the Rapture and the 2nd Coming

by: Thomas Ice

Building upon the article "The Rapture & The Second Coming: An Important Distinction" in our previous issue of *Pre-Trib Perspectives*, we now will see that a gap of time is needed between the rapture and the second coming in order to facilitate certain events spoken of in the Bible. Such a needed time interval provides strong support for pre-tribulationism.

A PRE-TRIB INTERVAL

Numerous items in the New Testament can easily be harmonized by a pre-trib. time gap of at least seven years, while other views, especially post-tribulationists, are forced to postulate scenarios that would not realistically allow for normal passage of time. The following events are best temporally harmonized with an interval of time as put forth by pretribulationism.¹

THE BEMA JUDGMENT

2 Corinthians 5:10 teaches that all believers of this age must appear before the judgment seat of Christ in heaven. This event, often known as the "bema judgment" (see also Rom. 14:10; 1 Cor. 3:10-15; 4:2-5) from the Greek word *bema*, is an event never mentioned in the detailed accounts connected with the second coming of Christ to the earth. Instead, the second coming brings with it God's judgment of unbelievers, usually expressed by some form of the word *krinô*. Thus, it can be established from the biblical text that the bema-judgment applies only to church age believers, while the *krinô*-judgment is for unbelievers. The Bible indicates that each individual within the Body of Christ will appear before the bema in association with Christ's return for the church (i.e., at the pre-

trib rapture). Dr. Robert Gromacki notes: the judgment will occur immediately after the coming of Christ for believers. . . . Earlier, Paul wrote: "Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come . . . (I Cor. 4:5). Thus, this is not an ongoing judgment that each Christian experiences on earth or right after death. It is a once-for-all event that occurs right after the appearing of Christ (I Thess. 4:13-18).² Since the normal transaction of such an evaluation would require some passage of time, the pre-trib gap of seven years nicely accounts for such a requirement.

CHRIST'S BRIDE IN HEAVEN

In conjunction with the bema judgment, Revelation 19:7-10 pictures the church as a bride who has been made ready for marriage (with "fine linen," which represents "the righteous acts of the saints") to her groom (Christ). The bride has already been clothed in preparation for her return at the second coming with Christ to the earth (Rev. 19:11-18). It follows that the church would already have to be complete and in heaven (because of the pre-trib rapture) in order to have been prepared in the way that Revelation 19 describes. This requires an interval of time which pre-tribulationism handles well. Apparently the bride's preparation and the bema judgment are different illustrations of the same event. The bema focuses on the process of judgment, while the bride pictures the results. Dr. Ed Hindson explains: Whatever view one holds in regard to our Lord's return, one thing is clear in prophetic Scripture, the marriage occurs *in heaven* (Rev. 19:7-9) *before* the triumphal return of Christ with His redeemed church at His side (Rev. 19:11-16). Non-pretribulationists are at a virtual loss to explain how the church got to heaven prior to returning with Christ at the battle of Armageddon. At best, some suggest they are "caught up" after the Tribulation only to return immediately with the Lord. This arrangement, however, leaves little or no time for the wedding! ³

THE 24 ELDERS IN HEAVEN

The 24 elders of Revelation 4:1-5:14 are best understood as representative of the church. Dr. Charles Ryrie explains: In the New Testament, elders as the highest officials in the church do represent the whole church (cf. Acts 15:6; 20:28), and in the Old Testament, twenty-four elders were appointed by King David to represent the entire Levitical priesthood (I Chron. 24). When those twenty-four elders met together in the temple precincts in Jerusalem, the entire priestly house was represented. Thus it seems more likely that the elders represent redeemed human beings, the church is included and is thus in heaven before the tribulation begins. If these elders refer to the church, then it would mean at least two things: 1) It would necessitate the rapture and reward of the church before the tribulation and would require a chronological gap for them to perform their heavenly duties during the seven-year tribulation. 2) It would also show that the completed church was already in heaven before events of the tribulation begin.

THE JUDGMENT OF GENTILES

It would be impossible for the judgment of the Gentiles to take place after the second coming if the rapture and second coming are not separated by a gap of time. How would both saved and unsaved, still in their natural bodies, be separated in judgment if all living believers are translated at the second coming. This would be impossible if the translation takes place at the second coming, but it is solved through a pre-tribulational gap. Dr. John F. Walvoord points out that if "the translation took place in connection with the second coming to the earth, there would be no need of separating the sheep from the goats at a subsequent judgment, but the separation would have taken place in the very act of the translation of the believers before Christ actually sets up His throne on earth (Matt. 25:31)."5 Once again, such a "problem" is solved by taking a pre-trib position with its gap of at least seven years.

POPULATING THE MILLENNIUM

At the second coming, non-martyred Believers who come to faith in Christ during the tribulation are not translated, but carry on ordinary occupations such as farming, building houses, and the bearing of children (Isa. 65:20-25) during the subsequent millennium. This would be impossible if all saints were translated at the second coming to the earth, as post-tribulationists teach. Because pre-tribulationists have at least a seven-year interval between the removal of the church at the rapture and the return of Christ to the earth, this is not a problem because millions of people will be saved during the interval and thus be available to populate the millennium in their natural bodies in order to fulfill Scripture. Dr. Steven McAvoy concludes: The fact that the judgment of the nations occurs *before* the millennium and thus provides for the population of the millennial earth, constitutes a strong argument for pre-tribulationism. For a post-tribulational rapture would leave no sheep for this judgment. If pre-tribulationists are correct in placing this judgment before the millennium then post-tribulationism suffers a serious blow.⁶

ISRAEL'S FUTURE

A time interval is needed so that God's program for the church, a time when Jew and Gentile are united in one body (cf. Eph. 2-3), will not become commingled in any way with His unfinished and future plan for Israel during the tribulation. Dr. Renald Showers notes: All other views of the Rapture have the church going through at least part of the 70th week, meaning that all other views mix God's 70-weeks program for Israel and Jerusalem together with His program for the church. A gap of time is needed after God completes His program with the church, so that He may conclude His plans for Israel. Only an interval of seven years, as postulated by pre-tribulationists, can God's program be harmonized in a non-conflicting manner.

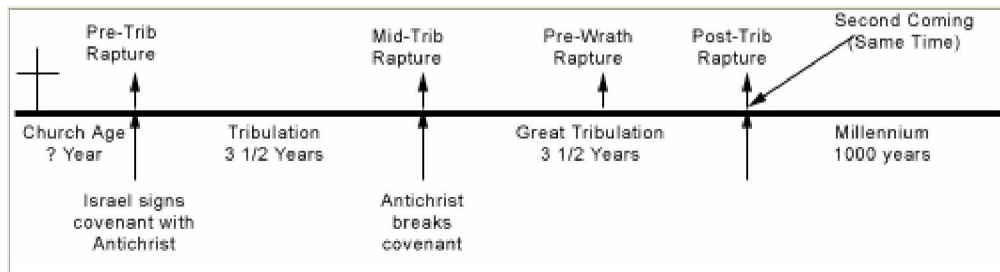
Appendix C

Why a Pre-Trib Rapture?



The Differing Theories

Before I go into why I believe that a Pre-Tribulation Rapture is the most correct, doctrinally based interpretation of scripture I feel it fair to at least present the other views of rapture timing held by other people. There are 5 main views for the timing of the rapture. The diagram below lays them out on a timeline with the Tribulation:



Let me define each theory for you:

The Pretribulational Rapture	The Rapture will occur before the tribulation period begins.
The Midtribulational Rapture	The Rapture will occur at the midpoint of the Tribulation.
The Posttribulational Rapture	The Rapture will occur at the end of the Tribulation right before the second coming of Christ back to earth; believers will be raptured up to meet Christ in the air and then will return immediately with Him back to the earth.
The Partial Rapture	Faithful, devoted believers will be raptured before the Tribulation, but the rest of believers will be left to go through the purging of the Tribulation.

The Prewrath Rapture	The Rapture will occur about three-fourths (five and a half years) of the way through the Tribulation, when the wrath of God begins to be poured out on the earth.
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Of these views the Pre and Post Tribulation Rapture theories are the most common.

What is the Rapture?

The Rapture is the Blessed Hope amongst Christians. After it occurs those who are left behind will be in a state of confusion and sorrow, they will be searching for answers. There are those who may call it the Vanishings, the disappearances or one of many other names, but you will know that millions of people vanished in the twinkling of an eye. There will be those that try to concoct many different stories of what occurred. It may be alien abductions, some freak nuclear accident or they may even say it was God removing "evil" from the world. Be mindful, it was not one of those things, it was what Christians call the Rapture. In <1 Thess 4:13-18>, <John 14:3> and <1 Cor 15:51-58> it can be seen what has occurred, the Lord himself has returned for his Church.

The word rapture comes from a fourth century Latin vulgate translation of the Greek word harpadzo(occurring in 1 Thess 4:17) and has been picked up by many as the best single word to express the event it describes. Some translators have rendered the word "caught up" or "snatched". Basically the Lord will return and with the sound of a trumpet all both those who have died in Christ (accepted Christ prior to their death) and those who are alive in Christ (current believers) will be taken up to meet the Lord in the air in the twinkling of an eye (by the way that's 1/1000th of a second).

Why do I feel the Pre-Trib Theory is the best?

I have many reasons for believing that the Pre-Tribulation Rapture position is the correct one. When one reads through the primary and supporting verses of the Rapture and takes into account the prophecies

relating to the Tribulation and the Second Coming it really becomes quite clear. Also the Rapture is not a unique concept in the Bible, for example Enoch experienced something similar to the Rapture...really? An Old Testament Rapture?...Sure, take a look at <Genesis 5:24.>

A book I recently read lays out seven key points to support a Pre-Trib view and even had an acronym to make it easy to remember:

P - Place of the church in the book of Revelation.

R - Removal of the restrainer

E - Exemption from the divine wrath

T - Twenty-four elders

R - Rapture of the Church versus the return of Christ

I - Imminence

B - Blessed hope.

P - Place of the church in the book of Revelation.

None of the key New Testament passages that deal with the Tribulation mention the presence of the church.

R - Removal of the restrainer

Though it may be hard to believe, the age in which we now live is described as the age of restraint <2 Thess 2:6-7>. Something or someone is holding back the full blast of evil that is to come when the Antichrist is unleashed. That someone is the Holy Spirit working through the church. When the church is removed, the Holy Spirit will be "removed" thus the restrainer is removed. The way I see it is at this point in time (now) the Holy Spirit is both working through the church and actively "knocking" on the hearts of men. Following the Rapture the Holy Spirit will be waiting to be asked in (so to speak).

E - Exemption from the divine wrath

The Bible promises that God's people are exempt from the coming Tribulation <1 Thess 1:9-10>, <1 Thess 5:9>, <Rev 3:10> along with others).

T - Twenty-four elders

In Revelation there are 12 references to a group of beings called the

"twenty four elders" (Rev 4:4,10;5:5;6,8,11,14;7:11,13;11:16;14:3;19:4). The fact that they are mentioned twelve times makes them key players in Bible Prophecy. There are four main views concerning the identity of these elders. There are clues throughout Revelation that lead me to believe that they represent the Raptured church. They are "the Title", "the Number", "The Position", "The Crowns", "The Clothing", "the Praise", "the Distinction" and "the Location".

R - Rapture of the Church versus the return of Christ

Set the events of the Rapture parallel to the Second Coming and you decide:

<u>Rapture</u>	<u>Second Coming</u>
Jesus coming FOR His Church. John 14:1-3, 1 Thess 4:14-17	Jesus coming WITH His Church Col 3:4, Zech 14:5, Jude 14, Rev 19:14
Caught up with Him <u>in the air</u> 1 Thess 4:13-18	Jesus' feet <u>touch the earth</u> Zech 14:4, Rev:11-21
Christians taken first, unbelievers are left behind. 1 Thess 4:13-18	Wicked are taken first, the righteous (Tribulation saints) are left behind.Matt 13:28-30
Purpose: To present the Church to Himself and to the Father 2 Cor 11:2, Rev. 19:6-9	Purpose: To execute judgment on earth and set up His Kingdom Jude 14-15,Rev 19:11-21, Zech 14:3-4
MARRIAGE: Marriage of Lamb <u>in heaven</u> after the Rapture	WAR: Marriage is followed by war <u>on earth</u> at the 2nd coming
Happens in a <u>moment</u> , in the twinkling of an eye (too fast for eyes to see) 1 Cor 15:52	Slow coming, people will see Him come back.Zech 12:10 Matt 24:30, Rev 1:7
<u>Only Christians</u> will see Him 1 John 3:2, 1 Cor 15:52	<u>Every eye</u> will see Him Rev. 1:7

Jesus descends with a shout (for resurrection) 1 Thess 4:16	No shout mentioned Rev. 19:11-21
A resurrection takes place 1 Thess 4:13-18, 1 Cor 15:51-54	No resurrection mentioned Rev 1:7, 19:11-21, Zech 12:10, 14:4-5
Can happen at any time Rev 3:3, 1 Thess 5:4-6	Occurs at end of 7 years of Tribulation Dan 9:24-27 Matt 24:29-30, 2 Thess 2:3-8
No angels are sent to gather (resurrected people don't need angels to help them)	Angels sent forth to gather people together for judgment Matt 13:39, 41, 49, 24:31, 25:31, 2 Thess 1:7-10
<u>Spirits</u> of those dead in Christ return with Jesus <u>to receive</u> their their resurrected bodies 1 Thess 4:14-16	Christians return with Jesus in <u>already resurrected</u> bodies riding on white horses. Rev 19:11-21
Jesus does not return on a white horse	Jesus returns on a white horse Rev 19:11
For the Church only (those <u>in Christ</u>) 1 Thess 4:14-17	For redeemed Israel & Gentiles Rom 11:25-27, Matt 25:31-46
A message of <u>hope</u> and <u>comfort</u> 1 Thess 4:18, Titus 2:13, 1 John 3:3	A message of <u>judgment</u> Joel 3:12-16, Rev 19:11-21, Mal 4:5

I - Imminence

The Rapture is presented in the NT as an even that from man's viewpoint could occur at any moment, and believers are to be looking for it all the time (1 Cor 1:7; 16:22, Phil 3:20; 4:5; 1 Thess 1:9-10; Titus 2:13; Heb 9:28; Jude 1:21). Only the pretrib position allows for an imminent, any moment, signless coming of Christ for His own.

B - Blessed hope.

The truth of the Rapture is intended to be a comfort and blessing to the

Lord's people. It is our "blessed hope" (Titus 2:13). The blessed hope of the Rapture is that Christ will come for the faithful prior to a time of worldwide devastation.

What Bible passages support the Pre-Trib Rapture?

There are three primary verses that teach about the Rapture: 1 Thess 4:13-18, 1 Cor 15:42-56, and John 14:1-3.

Furthermore there are MANY verses that support the Rapture position in what they speak of in context to the end times and the Rapture. Here are several supporting verses: Romans 8:16-25; Romans 14:10-12; 1 Cor 3:13-15, 4:5, 7:29-31, 15:22-23; 2 Cor 4:14, 5:1-5,10; Eph 4:30, 5:27; Phil 1:6,10, 2:16, 3:9-11; Col 3:4; 1 Thess 1:10, 2:19-20, 3:12-13, 5:9, 5:23; 1 Tim 6:14-15; 2 Tim 1:12, 4:8; Titus 2:13; Heb 10:25,37, 11:35; James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:5,7,13, 4:7, 5:4; 2 Peter 1:11; 1 John 2:28, 3:2-3; 2 John 1:8; Rev 4:1-11, 5:1-14, 22:12.

Isn't the Pre-Trib Rapture a recent view?

One of the arguments most opponents to the Rapture use is that it can't be right as it was a theory developed much later in comparison to other views. They all say that it began around 1830 through the ministry of J.N.Darby. Actually the pretrib rapture position does have historical precedent. A sermon was delivered in AD 373 by the Byzantine leader Pseudo-Ephraem entitled "On the Last Times, the Antichrist, and the End of the World" or "Sermon on the End fo the World". This includes a concept very similar to the pretrib rapture. Read that sermon by [Clicking Here](#).

When will the Rapture Occur?

Honestly, time will tell. There are no specific dates nor events that are required for the Rapture to occur. And to set a date for a projected return is not a good thing to do, no one knows but the Father (Matt 24:36, 42, 44; 25:13; Acts 1:7). If you hear someone setting a date for the Rapture you can know two things right away...He's wrong and he's not paying attention to what's written in the Bible.

Are those left behind lost? Will they have a second chance?

Since God is the God of second chances, I believe everyone will have a "second chance" if you will. If you read through Revelation, it has a purpose to cause people to repent. More importantly look at the Two Witnesses and the sealed 144,000. Their sole purpose is to evangelize and bring people back into the fold. Furthermore there are references in Revelation to the innumerable amount of people who were saved in the Tribulation (Rev 7:9-17).

Appendix D Supposed dates of Christ return

Possible Dates set for Christ return

53 AD

Even before all the books of the Bible were written, there was talk that Christ's return had already taken place. The Thessalonians panicked on Paul when they heard a rumor that the day of the Lord was at hand, and they had missed the rapture.

500

A Roman priest living in the second century predicted Christ would return in 500 AD, based on the dimensions of Noah's ark.

1000

This year goes down as one of the most heightened periods of hysteria over the return of Christ. All members of society seemed affected by the prediction that Jesus was coming back at the start of the new millennium. None of the events required by the Bible were transpiring at that time; the magic of the number 1000 was the sole reason for the expectation. During concluding months of 999 AD, everyone was on his best behavior; worldly goods were sold and given to the poor; swarms of pilgrims headed east to meet the Lord at Jerusalem; buildings went unrepaired; crops were left unplanted; and criminals were set free from jails. When the year 999 AD turned into 1000 AD, nothing happened.

1033

This year was cited as the beginning of the millennium because it marked 1,000 years since Christ's crucifixion.

1186

The "Letter of Toledo" warned everyone to hide in the caves and mountains. The world was reportedly to be destroyed with only a few spared.

1420

The Taborites of Czechoslovakia predicted every city would be annihilated by fire. Only five mountain strongholds would be saved.

1524-1526

Muntzer, a leader of German peasants, announced that the return of Christ was near. After Muntzer and his men destroyed the high and mighty, the Lord would supposedly return. This belief led to an uneven battle against government troops. He was strategically outnumbered. Muntzer claimed to have had a vision from God in which the Lord promised that He would catch the cannonballs of the enemy in the sleeves of His cloak. The prediction within the vision turned out to be false when Muntzer and his followers were mowed down by cannon fire.

1534

A repeat of the Muntzer affair occurred a few years later. This time, Jan Matthys took over the city of Munster. The city was to be the only one spared from destruction. The inhabitants of Munster, chased out by Matthys and his men, regrouped and lay siege to the city. Within a year, everyone in the city was dead.

1650-1660

The Fifth Monarchy Men looked for Jesus to establish a theocracy. They took up arms and tried to seize England by force. The movement died when the British monarchy was restored in 1660.

1666

For the citizens of London, 1666 was not a banner year. A bubonic plague outbreak killed 100,000 and the Great Fire of London struck the same year. The world seemed at an end to most Londoners. The fact that the year ended with the Beast's number—666--didn't help matters.

1809

Mary Bateman, who specialized in fortune telling, had a magic chicken that laid eggs with end-time messages on them. One message said that Christ was coming. The uproar she created ended when an unannounced visitor caught her forcing an egg into the hen's oviduct. Mary later was hanged for poisoning a wealthy client. History does not record whether the offended chicken attended the hanging.

1814

Spiritualist Joanna Southcott made the startling claim that she, by virgin birth, would produce the second Jesus Christ. Her abdomen began to swell and so did the crowds of people around her. The time for the birth came and passed; she died soon after. An autopsy revealed she had experienced a false pregnancy.

1836

John Wesley wrote that "the time, times and half a time" of Revelation 12:14 were 1058-1836, "when Christ should come" (A. M. Morris, *The Prophecies Unveiled*, p. 361).

1843-1844

William Miller was the founder of an end-times movement that was so prominent it received its own name, Millerism. From his studies of the Bible, Miller determined that the second coming would happen sometime between 1843-1844. A spectacular meteor shower in 1833 gave the movement a good push forward. The buildup of anticipation continued until March 21, 1844, when Miller's one-year timetable ran out. Some followers set another date--Oct 22, 1844. This too failed, collapsing the movement. One follower described the days after the failed predictions: "The world made merry over the old Prophet's predicament. The taunts and jeers of the 'scoffers' were well-nigh unbearable."

1859

Rev. Thomas Parker, a Massachusetts minister, looked for the millennium to start about 1859.

1881

Someone called Mother Shipton had, 400 years earlier, claimed that the world would end in 1881. A controversy hangs over the Shipton writings as to whether or not publishers doctored the text. If the date was wrong, should it matter anyway?

1910

The revisit of Halley's comet was, for many, an indication of the Lord's second coming. The earth actually passed through the gaseous tail of the comet. One

enterprising man sold comet pills to people for protection against the effects of the toxic gases.

1914

Charles Russell, after being exposed to the teachings of William Miller, founded his own organization that evolved into the Jehovah's Witnesses. In 1914, Russell predicted the return of Jesus Christ.

1918

In 1918, new math didn't help the Witnesses from striking out again.

1925

The Witnesses had no better luck in 1925. They already possessed the title of "Most Wrong Predictions." They would expand upon it in the years to come.

1941

Once again, Jehovah's Witnesses believed that Armageddon was due. Before the end of 1941, the end of all things was predicted.

1967

When the city of Jerusalem was reclaimed by the Jews in 1967, prophecy watchers declared that the "Time of the Gentiles" had come to an end.

1970

The True Light Church of Christ made its claim to fame by incorrectly forecasting the return of Jesus. A number of church members had quit their livelihoods ahead of the promised advent.

1973

A comet that turned out to be a visual disappointment nonetheless compelled one preacher to announce that it would be a sign of the Lord's return.

1975

The Jehovah's Witnesses were back at it in 1975. The failure of the forecast did not affect the growth of the movement. The *Watchtower* magazine, a major Witness periodical, has over 13 million subscribers.

1977

We all remember the killer bee scare of the late 1970's. One prophecy prognosticator linked the bees to Revelation 9:3-12. After 20 years of progression, the bees are still in Texas. I'm beginning to think of them as the killer snails.

1981

One author boldly declared that the rapture would occur before December 31, 1981, based on Christian prophecy, astronomy, and a dash of ecological fatalism. He pegged the date to Jesus' promised return to earth a generation after Israel's rebirth. He also made references to the "Jupiter Effect," a planetary alignment occurring every 179 years that supposedly could lead to earthquakes and nuclear plant meltdowns.

1982

It was all going to end in 1982, when the planets lined up and created magnetic forces that would bring Armageddon to the earth.

1982

A group called the Tara Centers placed full-page advertisements in many major newspapers for the weekend of April 24-25, 1982, announcing: "The Christ is Now Here!" They predicted that He was to make himself known "within the next

two months." After the date passed, they said that the delay was only because the "consciousness of the human race was not quite right..." Boy, all these years and we're still not ready.

1984

The Jehovah's Witnesses made sure, in 1984, that no one else would be able to top their record of most wrong doomsday predictions. The Witnesses' record currently holds at nine. The years are: 1874, 1878, 1881, 1910, 1914, 1918, 1925, 1975, and 1984. Lately, the JWs are claiming they're out of the prediction business, but it's hard to teach an old dog new tricks. They'll be back.

1987

The Harmonic Convergence was planned for August 16-17, 1987, and several New Age events were also to occur at that time. The second coming of the serpent god of peace and the Hopi dance awakening were two examples.

1988

The book, *88 Reasons Why the Rapture is in 1988*, came out only a few months before the event was to take place. What little time the book had, it used effectively. By the time the predicted dates, September 11-13, rolled around, whole churches were caught up in the excitement the book generated. I personally had friends who were measuring themselves for wings. In the dorm where we lived, my friends were also openly confronting all of the unsaved. It became my job to defuse situations. In one case, an accosted sinner was contemplating dispensary action against my now-distant friends. Finally, the days of destiny dawned and then set. No Jesus. The environment was not the same as Miller's 1844 failure. To my surprise, the taunting by the unsaved was very brief. I took it that people have very little understanding of the Bible, so they had nothing to taunt my friends with. I made one other interesting observation. Although the time for the rapture had been predicted to fall within a three-day window, September 11-13, my friends gave up hope on the morning of the 12th. I pointed out that they still had two days left, but they had been spooked, nonetheless

1989

After the passing of the deadline in *88 Reasons*, the author, Edgar Whisenant, came out with a new book called *89 Reasons Why the Rapture is in 1989*. This book sold only a fraction of the number of copies his prior release had sold.

1991

A group in Australia predicted Jesus would return through the Sydney Harbor at 9 a.m., March 31, 1991.

1991

Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan proclaimed the Gulf War would be "the War of Armageddon ... the final War."

1991

Menachem Schneerson, a Russian-born rabbi, called for the Messiah to come by September 9, 1991, the start of the Jewish New Year.

1992

A Korean group called Mission for the Coming Days had the Korea Church an uproar in the fall of 1992. They foresaw October 28, 1992 as the date for the rapture. Numerology was the basis for the date. Several camera shots that left

ghostly images on pictures were thought to be a supernatural confirmation of the date.

1993

If the year 2000 is the end of the 6,000-year cycle, then the rapture must take place in 1993, because you would need seven years of the tribulation. This was the thinking of a number of prophecy writers.

1994

In the book, 1994: *The Year of Destiny*, F. M. Riley foretold of God's plan to rapture His people. The name of his ministry is "The Last Call," and he operates out of Missouri.

1994

Pastor John Hinkle of Christ Church in Los Angeles caused quite a stir when he announced he had received a vision from God that warned of apocalyptic event on June 9, 1994. Hinkle, quoting God, said, "On Thursday June the 9th, I will rip the evil out of this world." At the time, I knew Hinkle's vision didn't match up with Scripture. From a proper reading of Bible prophecy, the only thing that God could possibly rip from the earth would be the Christian Church, and I don't think God would refer to the Church as "evil." Some people tried to interpret Hinkle's unscriptural vision to mean that God would the rip evil out of our hearts when He raptured us. Well, the date came and went with no heart surgery or rapture.

1994

Harold Camping, in his book *Are You Ready?*, predicted the Lord would return in September 1994. The book was full of numerology that added up to 1994 as the date of Christ's return.

1994

After promising they would not make anymore end time predictions, the Jehovah's Witnesses fell off the wagon and proclaimed 1994 as the conclusion of an 80-year generation; the year 1914 was the starting point.

1996

This year had a special month, according to one author who foresaw September as the time for our Lord's return. The Church Age will last 2,000 years from the time of Christ's birth in 4 BC.

1996

California psychic Sheldon Nidle predicted the end would come with the convergence of 16 million space ships and a host of angels upon the earth on December 17, 1996. Nidle explained the passing of the date by claiming the angels placed us in a holographic projection to preserve us and give us a second chance.

1997

In regard to 1997, I received several e-mail messages that pointed to this as the year when Jesus would return for His church. Two of the more widely known time frames were Monte Judah's prediction that the tribulation would begin in February/March and another prediction based on numerology and the Psalms that targeted May 14 as the date of the rapture.

1997

When Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat signed their peace pact on the White

House lawn on September 13, 1993, some saw the events as the beginning of tribulation. With the signing of the peace agreement, Daniel's 1,260-day countdown was underway. By adding 1,260 days to September 1993, you arrive at February 24, 1997.

1997

Stan Johnson of the Prophecy Club saw a "90 percent" chance that the tribulation would start September 12, 1997. He based his conclusion on several end-time signs: that would be Jesus' 2,000th birthday and it would also be the Day of Atonement, although it wouldn't be what is currently the Jewish Day of Atonement. Further supporting evidence came from Romanian pastor Dumitru Duduman. In several heavenly visions, Dumitru claimed to have seen the Book of Life. In one of his earlier visions, there were several pages yet to be completed. In his last vision, he noticed the Book of Life only had one page left. Doing some rough calculating, Johnson and friends figured the latest time frame for the completion of the book would have to be September 1997.

1998

Numerology: Because 666 times three equals 1998, some people point to this year as being prophetically significant. Someone called me long distance just so he could pass on to me this earth-shattering news.

1998

A Taiwanese cult operating out of Garland, Texas predicted Christ would return on March 31 of 1998. The group's leader, Heng-ming Chen, announced God would return and then invite the cult members aboard a UFO.

The group abandoned their prediction when a precursor event failed to take place. The cult's leader had said that God would appear on every channel 18 of every TV in the world. Maybe God realized at the last minute, the Playboy Network was channel 18 on several cable systems, and He didn't want to have Christians watching a porn channel.

1998

On April 30, 1998, Israel was to turn 50 and many believed this birthday would mark the beginning of the tribulation. The reasoning behind this date has to do with God's age requirement for the priesthood, which is between 30-50.

1998

1998 Marilyn Agee, in her book, *The End of the Age*, had her sights set on May 31, 1998. This date was to conclude the 6,000-year cycle from the time of Adam. Agee looked for the rapture to take place on Pentecost, which is also known as "the Feast of Weeks." Another indicator of this date was the fact that the Holy Spirit did not descend upon the apostles until 50 days after Christ's resurrection. Israel was born in 1948; add the 50 days as years and you come up with

After her May 31 rapture date failed, Agee, unable to face up to her error, continued her date setting by using various Scripture references to point to June 7, 14, 21 and about 10 other dates.

1999

Well, you can't call Marilyn Agee a quitter. After bombing out badly several time in 1998, Marilyn set a new date for the rapture: May 21 or 22 of this year.

1999

TV newscaster-turned-psychic Charles Criswell King had said in 1968 that the world as we know it would cease to exist on August 18, 1999.

1999

Philip Berg, a rabbi at the Kabbalah Learning Center in New York, proclaimed that the end might arrive on September 11, 1999, when "a ball of fire will descend . . . destroying almost all of mankind, all vegetation, all forms of life."

2000

Numerology: If you divide 2,000 by 3, you will get the devil's number: 666.6666666666667.

2000

The names of the people and organizations that called for the return of Christ at the turn of the century is too long to be listed here. I would say that if there were a day on which Christ could not return, it must have been January 1, 2000. To come at an unknown time means to come at an unknown time. I think January 2, 2000 would have been a more likely day for Him to call His Church home--right after the big let down.

2000

On May 5, 2000, all of the planets were supposed to have been in alignment. This was said to cause the earth to suffer earthquakes, volcanic eruption, and various other nasty stuff. A similar alignment occurred in 1982 and nothing happened. People failed to realize that the other nine planets only exert a very tiny gravitational pull on the earth. If you were to add up the gravitational force from the rest of the planets, the total would only amount to a fraction of the tug the moon has on the earth.

2000

According to Michael Rood, the end times have a prophetically complicated connection to Israel's spring barley harvest. The Day of the Lord began on May 5, 2000. Rood's fall feast calendar called for the Russian Gog-Magog invasion of Israel to take place at sundown on October 28, 2000.

2000-2001

Dr. Dale SumburĔru looked for March 22, 1997 to be "the date when all the dramatic events leading through the tribulation to the return of Christ should begin" The actual date of Christ's return could be somewhere between July 2000 and March 2001. Dr. SumburĔru is more general about the timing of Christ's second coming than most writers. He states, "The day the Lord returns is currently unknown because He said [Jesus] these days are cut short and it is not yet clear by how much and in what manner they are cut short. If the above assumptions are not correct, my margin of error would be in weeks, or perhaps months."

2002

Priests from Cuba's Afro-Caribbean Yoruba religion predicted a dramatic year of tragedy and crisis for the world in 2002, ranging from coups and war to disease and flooding.

2004

This date for Jesus' return is based upon psalmology, numerology, the biblical 360 days per year, Jewish holidays, and "biblical astronomy." To figure out this date, you'll need a calculator, a slide rule, and plenty of scratch paper.

2011-2018

For the past several decades, Jack Van Impe has hinted at nearly every year as being the time for the rapture. Normally, he has only gone out one or two years from the current calendar year. However, Jack's latest projection for the rapture goes out several years. His new math uses 51 years as the length of a generation. If you add 51 years to 1967, the year Israel recaptured Jerusalem, you get 2018. Once you subtract the seven-year tribulation period, you arrive at 2011.

2012

New Age writers cite Mayan and Aztec calendars that predict the end of the age on December 21, 2012.

2060

Sir Isaac Newton, Britain's greatest scientist spent 50 years and wrote 4,500 pages trying to predict when the end of the world was coming. The most definitive date he set for the apocalypse, which he scribbled on a scrap of paper, was 2060.